



Accompaniment Play List and Sermon available on YouTube at

<http://bit.ly/OUMC01-18-2026>

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 145: 8-13 WEB

⁸ Yahweh is gracious, merciful, slow to anger,
and of great loving kindness.

⁹ Yahweh is good to all.

His tender mercies are over all his works.

¹⁰ All your works will give thanks to you,
Yahweh. Your saints will extol you.

¹¹ They will speak of the glory of your kingdom,

and talk about your power, ¹² to make known
to the sons of men his mighty acts, the glory of
the majesty of his kingdom.

¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.
Your dominion endures throughout all
generations. Yahweh is faithful in all his words,
and loving in all his deeds.

INTROIT UMH #555

"Forward Through the Ages (refrain)"

<https://youtu.be/MAy992FOJBs>

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,

move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful and gracious God,
You are slow to anger and abounding in
steadfast love; all Your works give thanks to You
and all Your faithful bless You.
Send upon us the Spirit of wisdom and
understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and reverence for You.

Awaken in each of us the gifts You have given
for the common good, that our worship may
build up Your people and bring healing to the
world.
Gather us as Your beloved children, delighting
in us as You delighted in Your Servant, Jesus
Christ. Through Him we pray. Amen.

AFFIRMATION

"Korean Creed"

UMH # 884

We believe in the one God, creator and
sustainer of all things, Father of all nations, the
source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and
love.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the
flesh, our teacher, example, and Redeemer, the
Savior of the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present
with us for guidance, for comfort, and for
strength.

We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in the life
of love and prayer, and in grace equal to every
need.

We believe in the Word of God contained in
the Old and New Testaments as the sufficient
rule both of faith and of practice.

We believe in the church, those who are united
in the living Lord for the purpose of worship
and service.

We believe in the reign of God as the divine
will realized in human society, and in the
family of God, where we are all brothers and
sisters.

We believe in the final triumph of
righteousness and in the life everlasting.
Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

1. God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient Church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

2. Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways.
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

3. Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

4. Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

ANTHEM (Suggested)**"Build Your Kingdom Here"**https://youtu.be/r-4bEbk1m_c

Rend Collective

SCRIPTURE LESSON**Isaiah 11: 1-5 WEB**

¹ A shoot will come out of the stock of Jesse,
and a branch out of his roots will bear fruit.

² Yahweh's Spirit will rest on him:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of
Yahweh.

³ His delight will be in the fear of Yahweh.
He will not judge by the sight of his eyes,
neither decide by the hearing of his ears;

⁴ but he will judge the poor with righteousness,
and decide with equity for the humble of the
earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of
his mouth; and with the breath of his lips he
will kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness will be the belt around his
waist, and faithfulness the belt around his
waist.

JOYS & CONCERNS and MORNING PRAYER

Merciful and gracious God,
You are slow to anger and abounding in
steadfast love; all Your works give thanks to
You, and all Your faithful bless You.

Send upon us the Spirit of wisdom and
understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and reverence for You,
as Isaiah proclaimed. May that same Spirit rest
upon us, shaping our thoughts, guiding our
decisions, and strengthening our hands for
service.

As Paul reminds us, You give gifts to each one
for the common good. Teach us to recognize

those gifts in ourselves and in one another, and
to use them not for pride or gain, but to build
up Your people, heal the broken, and bring
hope to the weary.

Lord, in Your mercy, gather us as Your beloved
children. Delight in us as You delighted in Your
Servant, Jesus Christ, at the waters of baptism.
Renew our hearts with Your compassion, so
that our lives may reflect Your steadfast love
and our community may be a witness to Your
grace.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who
taught us to pray...

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN UMH #555

"Forward Through the Ages"

<https://youtu.be/f18Gj60QVs>

1. Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits at the call divine;
gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,
manifold the service, one the sure reward.

Refrain:

**Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits at the call divine.**

2. Wider grows the kingdom, reign of love and light;
for it we must labor, till our faith is sight.
Prophets have proclaimed it, martyrs testified,
poets sung its glory, heroes for it died. **(Refrain)**

3. Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;
in each loss or triumph lose or triumph all.
Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole,
move we on together to the shining goal.
(Refrain)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthians 12:1-7 WEB

¹ Now concerning spiritual things, brothers, I don't want you to be ignorant. ² You know that when you were heathen, you were led away to those mute idols, however you might be led. ³ Therefore I make known to you that no man speaking by God's Spirit says, "Jesus is accursed." No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," but by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are various kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are various kinds of service, and the same Lord. ⁶ There are various kinds of workings, but the same God who works all things in all. ⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the profit of all.

MESSAGE

"For the Common Good"

Rev Jim Canody

<https://bit.ly/Sermon01-18-2026>

This morning, I want you to imagine something with me. Picture a master craftsman's workshop – perhaps a carpenter's shop or a jeweler's bench. The craftsman has dozens of tools hanging on the wall: saws, hammers, chisels, files, each one designed for a specific purpose. None of these tools exists for itself. The hammer doesn't sit there thinking, "I'm the most important tool here." The chisel doesn't envy the saw. Each tool finds its meaning, its purpose, only when it's picked up by the craftsman's hand and used to create something beautiful.

Today we're going to explore three passages that reveal a profound truth: God has given each of us gifts through His Spirit – not for our own glory, not to compete with one another,

but *for the common good*, to build something beautiful together.

Let's begin with Isaiah's ancient prophecy. Isaiah 11:2 tells us: "*The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD.*"

Isaiah was writing about the coming Messiah, but this passage also reveals something fundamental about how God's Spirit works. Notice that word "rest." The Spirit doesn't just visit occasionally or flutter by like a passing bird. The Spirit *rests* – settles down, takes up residence, abides.

Think about what happens when someone rests in your home. When my grandmother used to visit, she didn't just stand in the

doorway. She settled in. She unpacked her suitcase, arranged her things on the dresser, made herself at home. Her presence transformed the house. The kitchen smelled different—breakfasts and dinners were different than usual. Any mending's that had piled up were taken care of. Her resting presence changed everything.

This is what the Spirit does when He rests upon us. He doesn't just touch us and leave. He settles in, unpacks, transforms us from the inside out.

And look at what the Spirit brings: *wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and the fear of the Lord*. These aren't just nice religious words—they're practical gifts. *Wisdom* to make good decisions. *Understanding* to see beneath the surface of situations. *Counsel* to know what to say to someone who's hurting. *Might* to persevere when everything feels impossible. *Knowledge of God* that anchors us when storms come.

Now let's fast-forward several centuries to the apostle Paul's letter to the church in Corinth. He writes: "*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*"

This verse is the hinge on which our entire understanding of spiritual gifts must swing. "*For the common good*"—not for personal advancement, not for individual glory, not to create a spiritual hierarchy where some people are more important than others.

Let me tell you about something a pastor friend of told me about a few years back ...There was a small church in a struggling neighborhood that was trying to decide whether to invest their limited resources in a new sound system or in a community food pantry. The worship leader argued passionately for the sound system—after all, excellence in worship honors God, right? But a quiet woman in the back, someone most people barely noticed, stood up and said something I've never forgotten: "My gift is administration, and I've run the numbers. We can feed forty families for a month with what

that sound system costs. Maybe God gave us the gift of music not to impress each other, but to give hope to our neighbors."

The church chose the food pantry. Within a year, that pantry had become a gathering place where people found not just food, but community, prayer, counseling, and job opportunities. The worship leader later told me, "**I thought my gift of music was about the music. I didn't realize it was about creating a space where people could encounter God's love practically.**"

That's *the common good*. It's when we stop asking "**What can my gifts do for me?**" and start asking "**What can my gifts do for us? For them? For the kingdom?**"

Paul says "*to each one*" the Spirit is *manifested*. Not to some special elite. Not to the super-spiritual. To *each one*. That means the person sitting next to you right now has been given something by the Spirit. That means you—yes, you who sometimes wonder if you have anything to offer—you have received a *manifestation* of the Spirit *for the common good*.

Finally, let's turn to Psalm 145. Verses 8 through 10 declare: "*The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. All your works praise you, LORD; your faithful people extol you.*"

Here's what we must understand: the gifts the Spirit gives us flow from the character of the Giver. God is gracious—so spiritual gifts are acts of grace, **NOT** rewards for merit. God is compassionate—so spiritual gifts are given to extend that compassion to others. God is *slow to anger* and *rich in love*—so our gifts should never be wielded harshly or withheld selfishly.

I think of a doctor who had extraordinary diagnostic skills—a gift of knowledge, you might say. She could look at symptoms that baffled other physicians and somehow see what was really wrong. But she never made other doctors feel stupid. She never lorded her gift over anyone. Instead, she taught. She mentored. She shared what she saw. When

someone asked her once why she didn't just enjoy being the smartest person in the room, she said, "Because God's not the smartest person in the room. God's the most loving person in the room. If my intelligence doesn't serve love, what good is it?"

The psalm says "*the LORD is good to all.*" *ALL*. Not just the deserving. Not just the lovely. Not just the people who agree with us or think like us or vote like us. *ALL*. And if God has compassion on all He has made, then the gifts He gives us through His Spirit must be used with that same radical, inclusive compassion. So what does all this mean for us, here, today?

First, it means we need to identify our gifts—not to boast about them, but to steward them. The Spirit has rested upon you. What has He brought with Him? Maybe it's wisdom—you're the person people come to when they don't know what to do. Maybe it's encouragement—you have a knack for seeing the best in people and calling it out. Maybe it's service—you're happiest when your hands are busy meeting practical needs. Maybe it's giving—you find joy in making resources available to others.

Second, it means we need to release our gifts *for the common good*. I've seen too many talented, gifted people sit on the sidelines because they don't think their gift is "spiritual enough" or "important enough." Listen to me: if the Spirit gave it to you, it's spiritual. If it can serve *the common good*, it's important.

Think about it this way. In a hospital, the surgeon gets a lot of attention. But the surgeon can't save anyone without the anesthesiologist monitoring vitals, the nurses administering medications, the technicians maintaining equipment, the custodians keeping everything sterile, the administrators ensuring supplies are available. Every role matters. Every gift matters.

Third, it means we need to exercise our gifts with God's character—graciously, compassionately, patiently, lovingly. The most prophetically gifted person who speaks truth without compassion has missed the point. The

most administratively talented person who organizes without grace has misunderstood the Giver. The most generous person who gives with strings attached has forgotten that God's love is unconditional.

Let me return to where we started—that image of the craftsman's workshop. You are a tool in the Master Craftsman's hand. But unlike those inanimate tools hanging on the wall, you have a choice. You can resist the Craftsman's grip, insisting on your own purposes. You can hang unused on the wall, convinced you're not the right tool for the job. Or you can rest in His hand, trust His skill, and discover the joy of being used for something far more beautiful than you could create alone.

The Spirit has rested upon you. You have been given a manifestation of that Spirit for the common good. And the God who gave you this gift is *gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love*.

So here's my invitation this morning: Stop waiting to be someone else. Stop envying gifts you don't have. Stop minimizing gifts you do have. The Spirit has already equipped you. The question is not "Am I gifted?" The question is "Will I use my gifts *for the common good*?"

Imagine what this church could become—what this community could become—if every single one of us said yes to that question. If every gift were released. If every talent were offered. If every Spirit-given ability were employed for the common good, flowing from God's compassionate character.

That's not just a nice dream. That's the reality God is inviting us into. That's the workshop where the Master Craftsman is calling us to take our place.

Will you answer that call?

Let us pray:

Gracious God, Your Spirit rests upon us, bringing gifts we don't deserve and couldn't earn. Help us to recognize these gifts, not for our own glory, but *for the common good*. Teach us to use what You've given us with the same

grace, compassion, and love that characterize
Your own heart. Make us not a collection of
individuals, but a community – a workshop

where You are crafting something beautiful.
In Jesus' name, **Amen.**✠

HYMN UMH #384

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

<https://youtu.be/gZ257JUPhyI>

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

BENEDICTION

Go forth in the Spirit of wisdom and
understanding, counsel and might, knowledge
and reverence for the Lord.

May the gifts given to each of you be used for
the common good, and may the mercy and
steadfast love of God surround you, so that all
creation may bless His holy name. Amen.

RESPONSE UMH #555

“Forward Through the Ages”

<https://youtu.be/tkRVHoelPBY>

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,

move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

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^{1,3,5} **Forward Through the Ages**, UMH #555 Words: Frederick Lucian Hosmer ©United Methodist Hymnal. Music: Arthur S. Sullivan ©Public Domain

² **God of Grace and God of Glory**, UMH #577, Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick, Composer: John Hughes © Public Domain CCLI#43107

⁴ **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**, UMH #384, Author: Charles Wesley, Tune: Beecher, Composer: John Zundel © Words & Music in the Public Domain

OUR PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS from January 11, 2026

- The United States of America, other countries around the world, and our leaders
- War-torn areas including Ukraine, Israel & the Middle East
- Americans serving in the armed forces and in dangerous foreign diplomatic posts.
- Our missionary in Cambodia, Clara Mridula Biswas.
- Persecuted Christians
- The United Methodist Church and The Virginia Annual Conference

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lynn Bell • Laura Moore • Venezuela and Iraq • The Democratic Republic of the Congo • Tyler Nickel • Drew Edwards • Brandon Pruitt • Those affected by Hurricane Melissa • Susan Taylor • Our Youth Sunday School • Garnett Kellam • Linda Beasley | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolland Elliot • Don Bowling • Phyllis Edwards • Denis Curtis • Bobby Wood • Alice Denny • Roy Ballard • Linda Beloke • Terry Johnson • Ron McCabe • Alma Reid • Rose Dryfus • Nancy Bisker • Ken Spain | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Fletcher • Camp Occohannock • Mary Paul Harmon • Crystal Foti • Peggy Byrd • Tom and Claudia Webb • E. A. McMath • T.K. Fitchett • Betty Turlington • George McMath • Rosilee Lewis • Dianne Nickel • Travel Mercies • Unspokens |
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✠ *Special prayers for the family and friends of:*

- | | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nancy Camden • James Laws • Kermit Buggs • Emily Kellam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jimmy Fitchett • Linda Custis • Dottie Milliner • Nelda LoFaso | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roy Ballard • Dick Jenkins • Victims of gun violence |
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Please share your joys and concerns with Pastor Jim at : jimcanody@vaumc.org or call 703-861-2023

Website: <https://www.onleyumc.org/>

Google Review: <https://g.page/r/CW9SLu50qxK6EBU/review>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/OnleyUMC/>

YouTube Channel: <http://bit.ly/OUMC-YouTube>

Join our email chain: onleymethodist@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JANUARY Birthdays

Judy Bradshaw (Jan. 8)
John Annis (Jan. 17)

E.T. Eberts (Jan. 28)
Ann Weinheimer (Jan. 30)
Gordon Vincent (Jan. 31)

JANUARY Anniversaries

Al & Bev McMath (Jan. 20)

**BIBLE
STUDY**
Thursdays
@ 1pm



Youth Group
Meeting @ Epworth this
Sunday 4-6 pm



Thank you for your dedication to the ministries of Onley UMC! We greatly appreciate your gifts, tithes, and prayers. Your contributions are important to the life and mission of OUMC. **Checks, made payable to OUMC** should be mailed to: **Onley UMC, P. O. Box 216, Onley, VA 23418**



**THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING
2026 CAMP OOTB
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**

COAT CLOSET MISSION!



We continue to accept cash donations as well as coats, hats, scarves, jackets, and gloves during the year. Please either email us at jre11@verizon.net or call 757.710.1524 - leave a message to arrange pickup or drop off.

Monetary donations may be sent to Onley UMC, P O Box 216, Onley, VA 23418; please note "coat closet" in the memo section of the check.

Remaining Winter 2026 Date:

**February 7
from 9am-11am.**

Donations are being accepted
<https://bit.ly/OOTBDuckDip26>



Camp Occohannock on the Bay is one of OUR ministries- thank you for your support! WISH LIST:

You can help by supporting the camp with donations to their wishlist year round (craft items, snacks, tools, furnishings, activities, etc) found on Amazon at <https://amzn.to/4kKI8qG>