

Order of Service at the United Reformed Church

January 18, 2026 9:30 a.m.

APPROACHING GOD

Prelude *Andantino (Interlude)* Chauver
(A time of silence to prepare our hearts to worship; please silence your cell phone)

Word for 2026: **Practice**.

People: *May we practice becoming. (Pause. Breathe. Begin worship.)*

Salutation

Grace and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Call to Worship

We gather not because we have mastered wisdom—but because we are learning how to practice it.

We come seeking understanding, not shortcuts.

Wisdom calls us to slow down, to listen more deeply, to choose what gives life.

Teach us to value what truly matters.

Let us worship God, who shapes hearts, guards lives, and forms us through faithful practice.

*Opening Hymn (#859 Red LUYH Book)

Be Thou My Vision

Call to Confession

Wisdom teaches us that life flows from the heart—yet we often neglect what is forming us. We practice habits that drain us, listen to voices that confuse us, and guard many things—except the place where our lives begin. Before God and one another, let us tell the truth about what we have been practicing, and ask for hearts trained in wisdom. Let us confess together.

Prayer of Confession

God of wisdom and truth, You call us to guard our hearts, for from them flow the

springs of life. Yet we confess that we have been careless with our inner lives. We have practiced distraction instead of discernment. We have rehearsed fear instead of trust. We have allowed voices—loud, familiar, or convenient—to shape us more than your wisdom. We confess that we do not always attend to what is forming us. We react when we are invited to reflect. We rush when we are called to listen. Forgive us for neglecting the work of the heart. Train us again in wisdom. Teach us to practice what gives life. Guard our hearts, O God, and begin your renewing work in us now. Amen.
(a moment for silent confession)

Words of Assurance

Hear the good news. God does not turn away from us when we tell the truth about our lives. When we name what has been forming us, grace meets us there. In Christ, we are forgiven, our hearts are not abandoned, and we are invited to begin again. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Preparation (Projection)
Please Remain Seated

Goodness of God

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Proverbs 4:5-9; 21-23

The Word of God, for the People of God!
Thanks be to God!

Inside Out

Sermon

RESPONDING TO GOD

Offertory
Promised Land
an American Folk Tune setting: John Carter (lyrics inserted)

Tune (Old Hundreth)

*Doxology
*Prayer of Dedication

*Affirmation of Faith

Prayers of The People and The Lord's Prayer

Announcements

*Closing Hymn (Insert)

Yield Not To Temptation

*Benediction

Postlude

Every Year the Christ Child Comes to Earth

setting: Beck

Our Invitation

Welcome to United Reformed Church! As we join together in prayer, song, and praise to God, we pray that the blessings and fellowship you find here will enrich your life. *If you are physically able, an asterisk (*) indicates an invitation to stand.*

Bold text signifies opportunities for the congregation to read and respond responsively.

Consistory Nominations

The Nominating Committee is pleased to report that the following people have agreed to serve on the Consistory - Tracy Hagberg and Kimberly Rembis for a two year term as elder and Lorraine Sinski for a two year term as deacon. Their names are being posted for three consecutive Sundays preceding the Congregational Meeting on January 25th. If there are any concerns or questions please advise the elders.

Pastor Office Hours: Wednesday 5-7 PM; Sunday 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Church Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Thurs 9AM-2PM; Wed 3-7 PM

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Lillian Hines

pastorlillianhines@gmail.com

Director of Music: Jeffrey Kunick

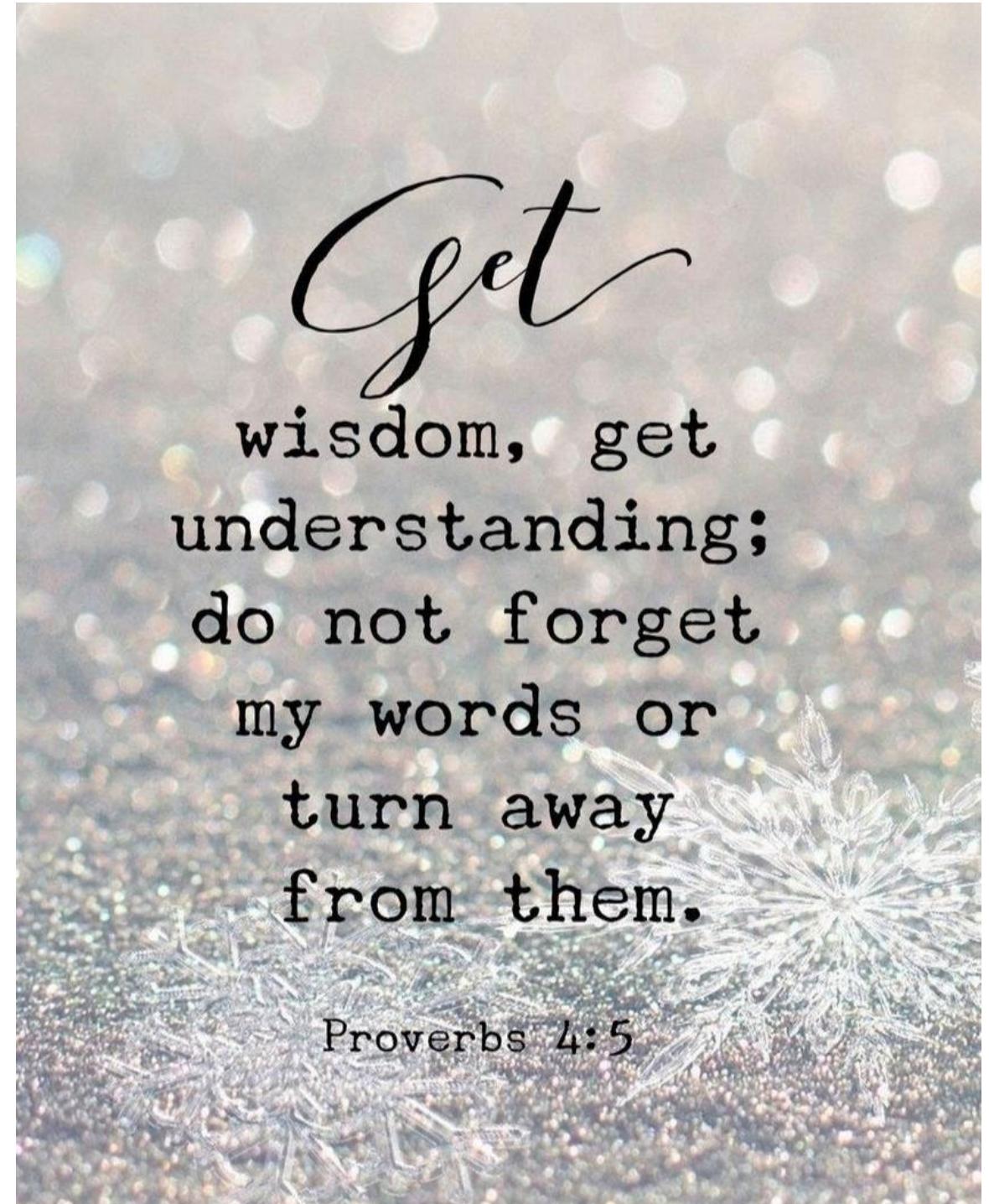
Office Administrator: Kimberly Rembis

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Church Phone: 973/365-1666

Pastor's Cell Phone: 609/248-0494

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Proverbs 4:5