

# The Feast of the Epiphany

New Goshenhoppen United Church of Christ



1070 Church Road † East Greenville PA 18041  
[www.newgoshucc.org](http://www.newgoshucc.org) † 215-679-2041

*“Sharing the light, faith and love of Jesus with all people.”*

January 4, 2026

**8:00 a.m. In Person Worship - Sanctuary**  
**10:30 a.m. In person and Livestream Worship in Sanctuary**

# **Welcome to New Goshenhoppen Church!**

On the Feast Day of Epiphany as part of church history is the custom of blessing homes at the New Year. A family would hold a short service of prayer to ask God's blessing on their dwelling and on all who live, work with, and visit them.

Take chalk and mark about the entrance or on the doorstep of your front door as follows: **20 + C M B + 26**

While doing the marking, someone says:

*The magi of old known as Caspar* [mark the **C**],  
... *Melchoir* [mark the **M**],  
... *and Balthasar* [mark the **B**],  
... *followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us two thousand* [mark the **20**]  
... *and twenty-six years ago* [mark the **26**]  
**May Christ bless our home** [mark the + after the 20]  
... *and remain with us throughout this coming year* [mark the + before the 26].

Prayer of Blessing:

*Holy God, you revealed your beloved Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Make it a place of welcome and peace to all who enter. Fill us with the light of Christ, so that our concern for others will reflect your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

If you wish, you can also read a passage from Scripture – John 1:1-14 and then end with the Lord's Prayer.

C M B above the door also stands for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which is Latin for **May Christ Bless This House!**

Blessings upon you and your house in 2026! - +PD

**We Praise and Confess**  
*The \* invites you to rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude

Chiming of the Trinity

Call to Worship

O come, let us worship the Lord  
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!**

O come, let us worship the Lord  
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious  
light!**

O come, let us worship the Lord  
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden  
plan,**

making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the  
gospel!

**O come, let us worship the Lord,  
for God has done wondrous things!**

\*Christmas Carol: No. 147

***The First Noel*** – English Carol

\*Greeting

The grace of God. has dawned upon the world with healing for  
all humankind. [Titus 2:11]

**And also with you.**

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus  
our Lord. [1 Timothy 1:2]

**Amen.**

## Invitation to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,

**we enter your presence humbly, aware that we approach you from a world that chooses to walk in darkness, apart from you. Each one of us has ignored and even denied the enlightening power of Jesus Christ. We confess now our sins to you, God of power and might. Penetrate our darkness by the power of Christ's light, that we may live in the joy of knowing and loving you and each other.<sup>1</sup>**

*Silence*

### Declaration of Pardon

Pastor: *The good news of the gospel is this: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. [1 John 1:9]*

**People: In Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

\*Praise

O Lord, open our lips.

**And our mouth shall show forth Your praise.**

\*Epiphany Carol: No. 150

**As with Gladness Men of Old** - Dix

\*Collect

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. . .

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<sup>1</sup> Webber, R. (1994). *The services of the Christian year* (Vol. 5, p. 202). Star Song Pub. Group.

## ***We Hear and Respond***

From the Prophets

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.

<sup>3</sup> And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes all around, and see;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from afar,  
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and exult,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.<sup>2</sup>

The Word of the Lord, the Light of the World.

**Thanks be to God!**

From a Letter of the Apostle Paul

Ephesians 3:1-12

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you,<sup>3</sup> how the mystery was

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<sup>2</sup> *Revised Common Lectionary* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. <sup>3</sup>

\*Christmas Carol: No. 144

***In the Bleak Midwinter*** - Cranham

\*Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

St. Matthew 2:1-12

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

**Glory to Christ our Savior.**

**2** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to

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<sup>3</sup> *Revised Common Lectionary* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

be born.<sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.<sup>4</sup>

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

\*Affirmation of Faith

**The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

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<sup>4</sup> *Revised Common Lectionary*. (2009). Faithlife.

**was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

The Word of God Proclaimed

Dr Williams – "PD"

## ***On a Quest***

Welcome and Announcement

Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings  
Give via PayPal, a Credit Card, or Debit Card by  
scanning the QR code with your camera



Offertory

\*Offertory Response: No. 606

***The Doxology***

\*Offertory Prayer

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Choral Great Thanksgiving

Tune: *Adeste Fideles*

The Lord be with you.

**And with you, His servant.**

Come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

**With hearts uplifted; thanks to Him we render;**

**With joy we come before Him,  
in gratefulness implore Him,  
With thankful hearts adore Him evermore.**

Thanks and praise be to You. . .and join their unending hymn:

The Sanctus

Tune: *Mendelssohn*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!  
Heav'n and earth cannot contain all the glory of Your name!**

**Hail, hosanna, God most high!  
Blest is He who now draws nigh.**

**In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing;  
Hail, hosanna! Praises due be forever, Lord to You!**

Consecration and Epiclesis

The Lord's Prayer

TUNE: *Carol*

**Our Father, Lord, on heav'n's high throne  
Most holy be Your name.  
Your kingdom come, Your will be done  
On earth-in heav'n the same.  
Give us this day the food we need;  
Forgiven may we be;  
Into temptation do not lead;  
From evil set us free.**

**Yours is the Kingdom; unto You  
In grateful love we bow:  
And yours the pow'r, Lord let us view  
Your mighty presence now.  
The glory Yours; Your praise be sung  
By angel hosts and men  
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue forevermore, Amen!**

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

*Please receive as directed by the Pastor.*

Thanksgiving

\*Dismissal: No. 314

***Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness*** – Christ be our Light

Following the Light of Christ into the World

***We go. . .***

***To share the light, faith and love of Jesus  
with all people!***

\*Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude

***Toccata on "Carmen Ohio"*** – Carolyn Hamlin

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## JANUARY 4, 2026

The People of New Goshenhoppen, Ministers

Rev. Dr. David A. Williams, Senior Pastor and Organist

Rev. Dr. Deborah Rahn Clemens, Pastor Emerita

Rev. Erick Kern, Associate Pastor

Rev. Elaine Ely, Minister of Grief Support

Kelly Johannsen, Lay Minister of Visitation

Susan Hemperly, Senior Choir Accompanist

Cindy Biehn, Administrative Secretary

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**WELCOME VISITORS** ~ we're glad you are joining us for worship! Please sign the visitor card located in the pew rack and drop in the offering plate.

**WiFi PASSWORD:** Network: NewGoshGuest, password: **wearethechurch**

**2025 YEARBOOK:** The deadline for all New Goshenhoppen Yearbook reports for the year 2025 has been set for Monday, January 12, 2026. Committee chairpersons, First Monday Meals, Library, Women's Fellowship, and Pastoral and Christian Education Staff are kindly requested to submit reports to the Church Office by this date. Please mark your calendars so that this date is honored. Thank you for your cooperation.

**FIRST MONDAY MEAL:** Chilly temps call for a warm, rich, savory bowl of chili! Join us Monday, January 5 for just that...a bowl of chili, bag of cheez-its, cornbread, applesauce and a sweet treat! *Take-out style* serving will be from 6:00-7:00 p.m. here at New Gosh. Your host ... New Gosh Christian Education Committee. If you prefer to dine in, Pennsburg UCC will be offering pork, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, green beans, dinner roll and dessert. Dinner there is served promptly at 6:00 p.m. *All are welcome!*

**BINGO PRIZES:** Each month, Women's Fellowship collects small items for specific needs within our Christian community. We currently are accepting donations of small items for bingo prizes for Pennsburg Manor. There is a container in the Social Room for your contributions. Thank you for your participation in this ministry.

## **MEMORIAL GIFTS**

***The church is grateful for financial gifts received in the name of loved ones and friends.***

### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND**

**In loving memory of Susan Rose Bauman Harpel**  
by her family—Dennis, Nicole, Nathan and Westley

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**In memory of Doris Bieler**  
by Melissa & Jim Jamison

### **GENERAL FUND**

**In memory of Susan Harpel**  
by Janis & Tim Croissette  
by the Trinkle Family (Cody, Krystal, Emmy, and Austin)

**In memory of Doris Bieler**  
by Teresa Marks  
by Robert O. Jarman

**In memory of departed loved ones from the Haas Family**  
by the sisters and brothers

### **CEMETERY FUND**

**In memory of brother, Rick Schuler**  
by Gary Schuler

**LOST RING:** A gold, men's ring with a large, black coral stone framed by diamond chips has been lost. There is a reward for finding the ring. It may have been lost in the cemetery or Fellowship Hall following the funeral last Friday. If found, please return it to the Church Office. Thank you!

**CARE PACKAGES:** During the month of January items will be collected by the Health & Welfare Committee to create care packages for our young adult members attending college and in the military. Donation boxes will be in the Social Room and on the stage in the Fellowship Hall from Sunday, January 4 through Sunday, January 25 if you would like to contribute. Suggested items include pens, post-it notes, small office supplies, granola bars, candy, gum, mints and individually packaged snacks. Please note: College students are asked to provide a current mailing address to the Church Office by Friday, January 23, 2026, in order to receive a care package. Contact Cindy Roma at [croma1014@gmail.com](mailto:croma1014@gmail.com) if you have any questions about this project.

**BULLETINS** are presented in loving memory of Glenna & Harold Bitting by daughter and son-in-law, Jane & John Lumm.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented in memory of departed loved ones by Conrad Fisher; and in loving memory of parents, Vera & Charles H. Kulp and Florence & Curtis Seasholtz; sisters, Gail Himmelwright and Peggy Fulmer; brothers, Norman C. Kulp and Daniel Seasholtz; grandson, Michael James Giovanelli; and nephew, Seth Fulmer by Ralph & Nancy Seasholtz and family.

**ATTENDANCE: 12/24/25** – 3:00 p.m. 203; 9:00 p.m. 105; Livestream 40.

**12/28/25** – 8:00 a.m. 39; 10:30 a.m. 33; Livestream 54; Sunday School 31.

**OPERATING INCOME 12/24/25 and 12/28/25:** Current & Benevolences including EFT \$12,968; Building, Improvement & Maintenance including EFT \$680.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS:**

Year to Date Income	\$683,762.75
Less Investment Withdrawals	<u>\$59,424.00</u>
	\$624,338.75
Year to Date Expenses	\$663,528.47
Special Income	\$151,785.00
Special Projects Expenses	\$58,675.13
Capital Campaign Income	\$26,354.87
Meadows Paid Back Year to Date	\$98,400.00

**SCOUTING NEWS:** **Cub Scouts** is for boys and girls Kindergarten to 5th grade. If interested in joining, please call or text Kyle Moyer at 610-360-0924. **Scouts BSA** is for 11 to 18 year olds. If interested in joining, please call or text Scott Spaar at 484-431-3178.

## **ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK**

Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary) - Communion
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education Building)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestreamed) – Communion
Mon.	6:00 p.m.	First Monday Meal (Kitchen/Fellowship Hall)
	6:30 p.m.	Christian Education Committee (Bible Fellowship Room)
Tues.	8:00 a.m.	Quilting (Pathfinder Room)
	9:30 a.m.	Quiet Days (various rooms)
	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts (lower-level classrooms)
Wed.	6:30 p.m.	Property, Park, and Cemetery Committees (Bible Fellowship Room)
Thurs.	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study (Senior High Room)
	6:00 p.m.	Cardio Drumming (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study (Senior High Room)
Fri.	6:15 p.m.	Girl Scouts (Heidelberg, Apostles', 4 <sup>th</sup> grade classroom)
Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary) – Baptismal Renewal
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education Building)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestreamed) – Baptismal Renewal
	11:30 a.m.	Youth Faith builder Lunch/Meeting/Games (Fellowship Hall)

### **Thank you to our Service Participants**

8:00 a.m.	Narthex: Janet Weikel Roberts' Church Office: Frank Eidle Elevator: Stacie Miller Upper Narthex: Lois Anastas Liturgist/Acolyte: Bruce Adam
10:30 a.m.	Narthex: Denise Fox Roberts' Church Office: Terry Dworkin Elevator: Peter Hemperly Upper Narthex: Sheri Ackerman Liturgist/Acolyte: Thomas Bancroft

## 147 The First Nowell

1 The first Nowell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor  
 2 They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the  
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave came from coun-try far; to seek for a king was their hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

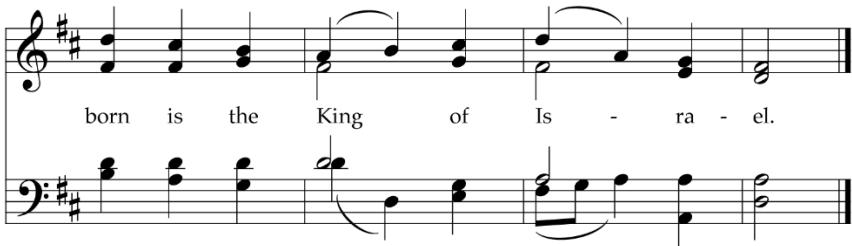
their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep. great light, and so it con-tin-ued both day and night. in-tent, and to fol-low the star wher-ev-er it went. and stay, right o-ver the place where Je-sus lay.

Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus / né*) as well to "news" (*nova / nouvelle*).

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



born is the King of Is - - ra - el.

5 Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and  
frankincense.

6 Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought.

*Refrain*

## As with Gladness Men of Old 150



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;  
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,  
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy man-ger, rude and bare,  
 4 Ho-ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;  
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heaven and earth a - dore;  
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.  
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
 all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heaven-ly king.  
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.



The first three stanzas here use an as / so structure to draw parallels between the coming of the Magi and the spiritual lives of the singers, summed up in the prayer of the fourth stanza. Even though this adapted German tune was named for him, the author did not care for it.

TEXT: William Chatterton Dix, c. 1858

MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

DIX

7.7.7.7.7.7

## In the Bleak Midwinter

144

1 In the bleak mid-winter, frost - y wind made moan;  
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;  
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there;  
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a-phim thronged the air;  
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
 but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

**606** Praise God, from Whom  
All Blessings Flow  
Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise \*him, all creatures  
here be - low; praise \*him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

\*Or "God"

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709  
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

OLD HUNDREDTH  
LM

# Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314

## Christ, Be Our Light

Em Am7 Bm7 Esus Em

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun-gry. Long-ing for  
 4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo-ple, man - y the

Am7 Bm7 Esus Em Am7

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, Your word a - lone  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Make us your bread,  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your build - ing,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your ser - vants  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be

D G C Am Dsus D

your ho - ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.  
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

*Refrain*

G C G Em Bm Em

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Am7 D G Dsus D Em Em7

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

C Am7 D G Am7 G

church gath - ered to - day.

By blending biblical images and current vignettes in the present tense, this hymn connects Christ's promise that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) and his charge to his followers to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is part of the church's servant calling.