



# PEACHTREE ROAD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
THE FOURTEENTH DAY *of* DECEMBER, 2025

EIGHT FORTY-FIVE AND ELEVEN FIFTEEN O'CLOCK

3180 PEACHTREE ROAD, NE . ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30305  
[WWW.PRUMC.ORG](http://WWW.PRUMC.ORG) . (404) 266-2373

# MORNING WORSHIP

DECEMBER 14, 2025 . 8:45 AM & 11:15 AM

## THE GATHERING

### HANDBELL PRELUDE

*O Little town of Bethlehem*

*Joy to the World*

Peachtree Carillon

### OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Nöel Étranger*

Louis-Claude Daquin  
(1685-1750)

## THE GREETING

We welcome each of you to this service!

We pray that this time together will be a blessing in your life.

*† At the sound of the bells, please prepare  
your hearts and minds for worship.*

### THE CHORAL INTROIT

Divinum Mysterium

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he of the things that are, that have been, and that future  
years shall see, evermore and evermore.

# PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

AT THE PROCESSION, \*

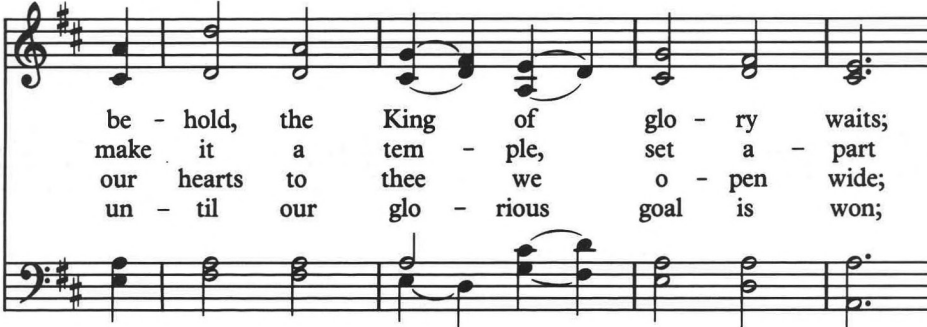
HYMN 213

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Truro



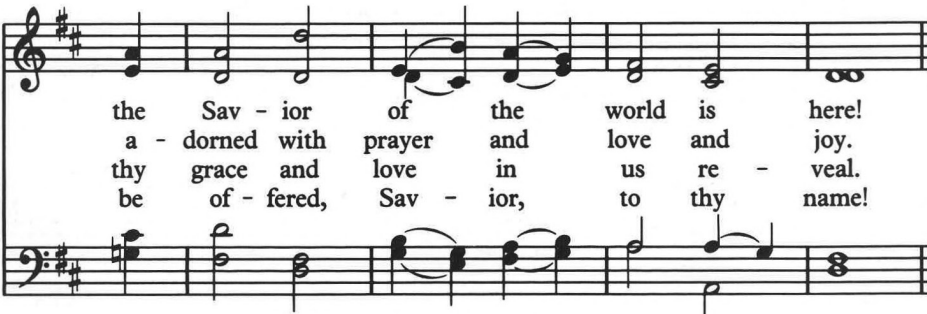
1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates;  
2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart;  
3. Re - deem - er, come, with us a - bide;  
4. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it lead us on



be - hold, the King of glo - ry waits;  
make it a tem - ple, set a - part  
our hearts to thee we o - pen wide;  
un - til our glo - rious goal is won;



the King of kings is draw - ing near;  
from earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy,  
let us thy in - ner pres - ence feel;  
e - ter - nal praise, e - ter - nal fame



the Sav - ior of the world is here!  
a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
thy grace and love in us re - veal.  
be of - fered, Sav - ior, to thy name!

*Georg Weissel, 17th Century*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION \*

*Minister:* Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

*Minister and People:* Saving God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in people and things that can't fulfill our every need. We have searched for peace in shallow places. We have mistaken joy for temporal pleasure and artificial exhilaration. We have put limits on the ways we love, excluding those who need our loving kindness the most. Forgive us when we have lost our way. Guide us to the hope in you that will renew our strength. Lead us to your peace that transcends all understanding. Fill us with your joy and love, and remind us that all things are possible in and through you

*Minister:* Hear the good news: God's love for you is sure and God's commitment to you is certain. God will never give up on you! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

*People:* In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI \*

Charles Meineke

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.

PASSING OF THE PEACE \*

\*\*

† *The people are seated.*

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Veni Emmanuel

*Choir:* O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Leader:* When Joseph got the news that Mary was with child, he was confronted by the unexpected. He was afraid of what others might say about him, but an angel of the Lord appeared to him and challenged him to set aside his fears and believe that the Lord was at work in his life.

*People:* Sometimes it's hard to embrace the unexpected. Lord, help us to set aside our fears, put our trust in you, and rejoice. We want to believe. Help our unbelief.

*Leader:* Today we light the candle of joy. May its light remind us that while we wait for the Lord, truly the Lord already is here. Hope is here. Love is here. Joy is here. We are home!

† *The Lighting of the Candle.*

*Leader:* Fill us with your joy, Lord.

*People (all sing):* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

## SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM (11:15 AM)

RESPONSE: With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that this child (*these children*), surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### HYMN

Tune: *Stuttgart*

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign; with this water  
God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

## CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

† *Following each petition, the minister says, Lord, in your mercy.*  
*The people respond: Hear our prayer.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

## MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*Adam lay ybounden*

Carson Cooman  
(b. 1982)

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond; Four thousand winter Thought he not  
too long And all was for an apple that he took, As clerics found written in their  
book. Ne had the apple taken been; Ne had never our Lady A-been hevené queen.  
Blessed be the time That apple taken was. Therefore we mourn singen *Deo gracias!*

*Anonymous 15th Century*  
*Medieval Carol*

The Chancel Choir

AT THE GOSPEL PROCESSION, \*

HYMN 219

*What Child is This*

Greensleeves

1. What child is this who, laid to rest, on Ma - ry's  
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and  
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, peas - ant,

lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
 ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tians, fear, for  
 king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

*Refrain*

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

*William C. Dix, 1865*

THE GOSPEL LESSON \*

Matthew 1:18-25

† *before the reading:*

*Cantor:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

*Choir:* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*People:* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

† *following the reading:*

*Minister:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God!

† *the Alleluia is repeated.*

SERMON

*Prepare Him Room: Loving The Un-Expected*

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

AT THE OFFERTORY,

† *An offering is collected to support the work of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church sharing God's love with the world. Please register your attendance in the Ritual of Christian Fellowship pad in your pew. Let us know if you are new, would like to become a member or are interested in more information about Peachtree Road.*

PRAYER

ANTHEM

*Now may we singen*

Cecelia McDowall  
(b. 1951)

This Babe to us that now is born, Wonderful works He hath wrought, He would not loss what was forlorn, But boldly again it brought; *And thus it is Forsooth ywis (in truth indeed). He asketh nought but that is His. Now may we singen as it is. Quod pure natus est nobis (For a child is born to us).* This bargain loved He right well, The price was high and bought full dear. Who would suffer and for us feel As did that Prince without peer? His ransom for us hath he paid; Good reason have we to be His. Be mercy asked and He be prayed, Who may deserve the heavenly bliss. To some purpose God made man; I trust well to salvation. What was his blood that from him ran But fence against damnation? Almighty God in Trinity, Thy mercy we pray with whole heart, Thy mercy may all woe make fell And dangerous dread from us to start.

*15th Century English*

The Chamber Singers

AT THE PRESENTATION \*

HYMN 95

Tune: *Old Hundredth*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below,  
praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

AT THE RETIRING PROCESSION, \*

HYMN 218

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

Carol

1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,  
2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,  
3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
4. For lo! the days are has-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,

from an - gels bend-ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;  
who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow,  
when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told

"Peace on the earth, good will to men,\* from heaven's all-gra-cious King."  
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains, they bend on hov-ering wing,  
look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift-ly on the wing.  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.  
O rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!  
and the whole world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Edmund H. Sears, 1849

## SENDING FORTH

### BENEDICTION \*

### PEACE \*

*Minister:* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People:* And also with you.

### RESPONSE \*

Tune: *Houston*

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Choir and Congregation

### CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 661

J.S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

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\* Stand as you are able.    \*\* Ushers will seat all those who are waiting.  
Please turn off all mobile and electronic devices while in the Sanctuary.

**Please Welcome to our Church Community These Children Being Baptized Today:** Kenneth Milton Goins, IV, born May 29, 2025, son of Hillary and Ken Goins; Victoria Lillian Fite, born March 26, 2025, daughter of Tori and John Fite; and Owen George Semmens, born September 4, 2025, son of Britney and John Semmens.

### The Flowers on the Altar are Given to the Glory of God

**In Loving Memory of:** Marian M. Calloway, Hasson Calloway and Alex Calloway by the Calloway family.

**In Loving Memory of:** Joe McDonald honoring his December 14th birthday by his wife, Joanna.

**In Loving Memory of:** Margaret Jane Gibson honoring her December birthday by her grandchildren Kristy and Jamil Favors and great grandchild Khai Favors.

**Altar Flowers:** *If you would like to make a donation in honor or in memory of a loved one, please contact Linda Schutte at 770.329.2075.*

**Preaching:** Rev. Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*  
Matthew 1:18-25

**Liturgists:** Rev. Karen Webster Parks, *Executive Pastor*  
Rev. Elizabeth Byrd, *Associate Minister*

**Verger:** Diane Scanlan

**Music:** Scott Atchison, *Director of Music and Organist*  
Oak Martin, *Associate Organist and Choirmaster*  
The Chancel Choir

**Lighting the Advent Candles Today:**

8:45 – Cody, Taylor, Wynn, and Saunders Wilson  
10:00 – Ashley, Philip, Blair, and Brooke Daniels  
11:15 – Dottie, Elise & Carl, Bird, Anna Blitch and Family

*For information on upcoming worship services please visit [www.prumc.org](http://www.prumc.org).*

## WELCOME TO PEACHTREE ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We are glad you are with us today! **Please check in** to help us keep in touch with our faith community.

Sign in using the red pads in your pew or check in with one click on the PRUMC App.

Thank you! We hope you will join us again in the coming weeks.



DECEMBER 14, 2025

### TODAY

#### Lunch & Learn with Missionaries Bill and Chat Coble

**Today**, 12:15 pm, Heritage Hall

Registrees will join Bill and Chat Coble for an inspiring update on PRUMC's 11-year partnership with *Start With One Kenya* and *Uzima*. Kenyan families who received clean water filters from PRUMC in the past decade are now healthy, in school or working, and able to purchase their own replacement filters. The Cobles will share the latest stories on how lives continue to improve. (Registration is now closed for this event.)

#### The Final Mood: Scott Atchison's Christmas Finale

##### The Many Moods of Christmas

**Today**, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

Under the baton of Scott Atchison, *The Many Moods of Christmas* concert has filled our sanctuary with the glory of the season. This year's performance will hold special meaning as we celebrate Scott's final presentation of this beloved tradition before his retirement in 2026. Please join us for the first of his "lasts" as Scott leads the PRUMC Chancel Choir, the Georgia Boy Choir, and full orchestra in timeless arrangements of the season. From tender carols to triumphant choruses, *The Many Moods of Christmas* remains an extraordinary expression of our church's musical heart, and a reflection of Scott's artistry, devotion, and faith. Tonight's concert and reception are generously sponsored by the Estate of Charles and Gloria Landreth. Tickets available at [prumc.org/events](http://prumc.org/events).

#### Advent Homebound Visitation

Share Christmas cheer with our homebound members this season. On Sundays in Advent, select a member's card from the altar rail. Take a treat, send a note, or make a special visit to let them know they are not forgotten. These small acts of care reflect the heart of our church community.

#### December at The Dogwood Shop

Celebrate the season with special December hours and two festive trunk shows at The Dogwood Shop! We will be open Saturdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm for holiday shopping.

**Today** Dixie Pottery: Handmade, faith-inspired pieces

### CHRISTMAS EVE

#### Christmas Eve Worship Services

Wednesday, **December 24**, Sanctuary

Come celebrate the wonder of Christ's birth through Scripture, song, and community. Whether you are drawn to a shared communion, the joy of a children's pageant, or the tradition of Lessons and Carols, we offer a service that will deepen your experience of this holy night. Our sanctuary—filled with magnificent music, meaningful messages, and warm fellowship—provides a welcoming space to greet the Light of the World. Childcare is available for ages 3 and under at the 4:00 and 6:00 pm services.

**11:00 am** Christmas Service of Holy Communion

*A celebration of the Eucharist*

**4:00 pm** Family Candlelight & Pageant

*Children's choirs and nativity pageant*

**6:00 pm** Family Candlelight & Pageant

*Children's choirs and nativity pageant*

**8:00 pm** Festival of Lessons & Carols

*With Chancel Choir & Brass*

**10:30 pm** Festival Choral Eucharist

*Eucharist celebration with Chancel Choir & Brass*

#### Water for Kenya Christmas Eve Offering

Each Christmas, our special offering provides clean water filters for an entire region in Kenya. A \$50 water filter brings life, opportunity, and lasting change. Thanks to your generosity, past recipients of filters are now community leaders, helping others access clean water. Together, we are creating a legacy of transformation, reflecting the living water Jesus promised in John 4:14. *But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.* Donate now at [prumc.org/give](http://prumc.org/give).

#### Christmas Eve Volunteer Choir

Wednesday, **December 24**, 11:00 am, Sanctuary

You are invited to sing with the choir at our first service of Christmas Eve at 11:00 am. We will have one rehearsal in the Music Suite at 10:00 am on the same day. To join, contact Ruth Sommerville at [ruths@prumc.org](mailto:ruths@prumc.org) or 404.240.8212.

## WORSHIP

### The Longest Night Prayer Service

Sunday, **December 21**, 5:30 pm, Moore Chapel

If you find the holidays difficult, or if you would like to experience a quiet service of reflection at this time of year, please join us for *The Longest Night*. Rev. Ron Greer will preach, "Our Awareness of God's Presence... In the Darkest of Nights," at this special candlelight service.

### One Service on December 28

Sunday, **December 28**, 11:15 am, Sanctuary

Extend the peace and warmth of this holy season by joining Rev. Elizabeth Byrd for one special worship service at 11:15 am on the first Sunday of Christmas.

## MUSIC & ARTS

### Help Shape the Future of Music at PRUMC

As we prepare for Scott Atchison's retirement and begin the search for our next Director of Music, your voice is vital. The Search Committee has created a brief, anonymous survey to gather the congregation's hopes and priorities for the future of our music ministry. Your input now will help inform one of the most significant leadership decisions in the life of our church. The survey takes less than ten minutes and will remain open until noon on **Monday, December 15**. Please take a moment to share your perspective and help guide this important next chapter at Peachtree Road. Scan the QR code here to complete and submit the survey.



### Christmas with The Georgia Boy Choir

**December 19 & 20**, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

Come hear the internationally acclaimed Georgia Boy Choir accompanied by orchestra and Great Organ! Enjoy sacred classics, Christmas carols, and well-loved holiday tunes, including Atlanta's largest performance of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. Tickets available at [georgiaboychoir.org](http://georgiaboychoir.org).

### Doxology & Alumni: Carol of the Bells

Wednesday, **December 24**, 7:00 pm, B125

This Christmas Eve, the Doxology Youth Choir will present *Carol of the Bells* — and we would love for our Doxology alumni to add your voice! Meet in B125 to rehearse and reconnect with old friends before the 8:00 pm Introit.

### A New Season with Youth & Children's Choirs!

Sign up by **January 15** at [prumc.org](http://prumc.org)

A wonderful new season of choir fun is waiting for your family! In choir, children and youth can grow in faith, friendship, and confidence as they learn to use their gifts—and have fun along the way. Register by January 15 at [prumc.org/events](http://prumc.org/events). For more information, contact Kathy Fletcher at [kathyf@prumc.org](mailto:kathyf@prumc.org).

## FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

### New Year's Kick-off Luncheon

Sunday, **January 4**, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, Grace Hall

Continue the spirit of the season by celebrating traditions and friendships. We will share warm worship, fellowship, and a complimentary New Year's luncheon of Southern favorites—roast pork loin, black-eyed peas, collard greens, cornbread, and apple cake. We hope to see you there!

## IF YOU ARE NEW

### Joining Day in Worship

Sunday, **January 11**, 11:15 am, Sanctuary

We are excited to welcome new members during the 11:15 worship service on January 11. For more information or to RSVP, contact Brittany Charron at [brittanyc@prumc.org](mailto:brittanyc@prumc.org).

### Tea with the Clergy

Sunday, **January 25**, 12:30 pm, Hospitality Suite

Get to know our church and ministers better at this casual afternoon gathering. Rev. Bill Britt and the clergy team will answer questions, share their vision, and help you connect to areas of interest within the church. After conversation wraps up, those who wish to take the next step in membership may join in a brief service. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Brittany Charron at [brittanyc@prumc.org](mailto:brittanyc@prumc.org).

## CHILDREN

### Breakfast in Bethlehem

Monday, **December 22**, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Grace Hall

Parents enjoy a morning out, while children (nursery - 5th grade) are invited on a wonder-filled journey to meet the nativity characters, see the Christmas story, sing carols, and create Christmas crafts! Register at [prumc.org/events](http://prumc.org/events).

### December Dates for Children

**Today** Nativity Rehearsals

**Dec 28** No Nursery or Children's Sunday School

## YOUTH

### December Dates for Youth

**Today** Middle School Christmas Party

**Dec 19** High School Christmas Party

### Renovatus Retreat

**January 30 - February 1, 2026**

Connect with God and each other through worship, games, and awesome activities. Register at [prumc.org/events](http://prumc.org/events).

## ADULTS

### **Midday Masterclass with Eric Levitan, CEO of Vivo Strength Training for Life's Journey (All Stages!)**

Sunday, **January 18**, 12:15 pm, Hospitality Suite

In this interactive Masterclass, CEO Eric Levitan will explore how movement supports aging well—enhancing physical strength, mental wellness, and social connection. Participants will receive practical guidance for building activity into daily life and engage in simple wellness practices. Designed for adults of all ages - it is never too early to get stronger. Lunch sponsored by One Lamb. Register at [prumc.org/events](https://prumc.org/events).

### **Planning for a Simpler, Better Life with Selena Bridges**

Wednesday, **January 21**, 1:00 pm, C106

Join PRUMC member Selena Bridges for an expert look at smart downsizing and best practices for planning a new chapter in a smaller home. Kendall Crye of Aging Life Care of Atlanta will also share practical tips for navigating medical and care needs with confidence. To RSVP, please contact Heather Sanders at [heathers@prumc.org](mailto:heathers@prumc.org).

## COUPLES

### **Couples Retreat at Brasstown Valley January 23-25, 2026**

Escape the busyness of life and invest in your marriage during a refreshing weekend in the north Georgia mountains. This Christ-centered retreat offers time to reconnect with your spouse, enjoy meals and activities together, and rest in a peaceful setting. Not counseling or therapy—simply an uplifting opportunity to strengthen your bond and grow in faith together. Register at [prumc.org/events](https://prumc.org/events).

## ADULT EDUCATION

### **Understanding the Psalms with Professor Joel LeMon**

Wednesdays, **January 7 - 28**, 6:30 pm, Grace Hall

Join Dr. Joel LeMon each Wednesday in January as we explore the Psalms. From their structure to the ways they express our deepest appreciation and praise for God, Dr. LeMon will guide us through an engaging overview and a richer understanding of this beautiful part of Scripture. Register at [prumc.org/events](https://prumc.org/events).

### **A.I. and Christian Ethics: A Panel Discussion**

Wednesday, **February 11**, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Grace Hall

Artificial Intelligence is transforming the way we live, work, and think — but what does this mean for people of faith? Join us for a conversation on the promises and perils of A.I. Experts in theology and technology will explore how faith informs our response to innovation, ethics, and human creativity in a changing world. Register at [prumc.org/events](https://prumc.org/events).

## ONE LAMB MENTAL WELLNESS

### **Alive & Well: Navigating College Life**

Sunday, **January 4**, 5:30 pm, Harp Center

College and early adulthood can pull priorities out of balance and cause stress that leads to discouragement. All college students are invited to come explore what it means to live in Christ's peace, which steadies you beyond your circumstances. Register at [prumc.org/events](https://prumc.org/events).

### **Choose Joy: A Kay Warren Pre-Event Book Study**

Thursdays, **January 8 - 29**, 6:30 pm, Zoom

With honesty and spiritual insight, Kay Warren reminds us that true joy is a daily choice rooted in God's presence. Led by Rev. Emily Miles. Register at [prumc.org/events](https://prumc.org/events).

### **NAMI Family-to-Family 8-Week Course**

Sundays, starting **January 11**, 2:00 - 4:30 pm

If you have family or friends with mental health challenges, NAMI provides a course to cope and problem-solve in a non-threatening, anonymous setting. For more information, contact Susan Thigpen at [thigpensusan@gmail.com](mailto:thigpensusan@gmail.com).

### **Grace-Filled Grieving with Martha Tate**

Wednesdays, **Jan 28 - March 4**, 6:00 pm, Hospitality Suite

Grief touches every part of life, and healing is often found in the company of those who understand. If you are mourning the loss of a loved one, join this compassionate support group led by Martha Tate, LCSW. Register at [prumc.org/events](https://prumc.org/events).

### **An Evening with Kay Warren**

Sunday, **February 1**, 5:00 pm, Sanctuary

Join bestselling author and mental health advocate Kay Warren for an evening of honest encouragement and practical care for ourselves and those we love. Co-founder of Saddleback Church and author of *Choose Joy*, Kay speaks with honesty and compassion about mental health, grief, and the sustaining hope of faith. Part One of the One Lamb *Step Out & Speak Up* Summit. Register at [prumc.org/events](https://prumc.org/events).

### **Suicide Prevention Training**

Monday, **February 2**, PRUMC

As part of One Lamb's suicide prevention focus, they will offer training sessions for community members, clergy, and clinicians. Sessions will equip participants to recognize warning signs, respond with confidence, and offer care that can save lives. Part Two of the One Lamb *Step Out & Speak Up* Summit. Details and registration at [prumc.org/events](https://prumc.org/events).

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To make a secure online gift, scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to be directed to our giving web page. There, you can easily complete your contribution. Thank you!

