

# Welcome to Grace United Methodist Church

## *Baptism of the Lord*

January 11, 2025

### Prelude and Choral Introit

### Welcome and Announcements

### Responsive Call to Worship

**One:** When the world feels unsteady and our hearts are pulled in many directions,

**All:** We come to the One who holds us fast.

**One:** Jesus lifted His eyes to heaven and trusted the Father with all that was before Him.

**All:** We lift our eyes as well, anchoring our hope in God.

**One:** In Christ, God's glory is revealed not through control, but through faithful love.

**All:** We come to worship the God whose promises do not fail.

**One:** Come, let us place our trust once more in the One who has been our hope from the beginning.

**All:** Our anchor holds in Christ, and we come to worship.

**\*Gathering Hymn**      *Be Thou My Vision*      No. 451

### \*Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the Father, the One from whom all life comes and in whom all things hold together. We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son, who lived in perfect trust, revealed God's glory through love, and placed His life fully in the Father's hands. In Him, we find our hope and our sure foundation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who anchors us in truth, strengthens us for faithfulness, and keeps us connected to the life of God. We trust that our anchor holds, not because of our strength, but because God is faithful, now and forever. Amen.

**\*The Gloria Patri**      No. 70

### Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess that we often try to secure ourselves in things that cannot hold us. We trust our own strength, our plans, and our certainty more than we trust You. When the future feels uncertain, we grasp for control instead of resting in Your care. We grow anxious when Your timing does not match our expectations, and we forget that Jesus

entrusted everything, even His suffering, into Your hands.

Forgive us for the ways we drift from the hope You have already given us.

Draw us back to You, steady our hearts, and remind us that our lives are held by Your faithful love. Amen.

### Words of Pardon:

**One:** Hear the good news: Jesus prayed not from fear, but from trust, knowing the Father's love would not fail. In Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and held fast by grace. Nothing can separate us from the love of God made known in Jesus Christ.

**All:** Thanks be to God. Amen.

### Prayer Concerns, Praises & Pastoral Prayer

**Hymn of Preparation**      *My Hope Is Built*      No. 368

### Anthem

**Sharing the Word**      *Our Anchor Holds*      John 17:1-5

**\*Sending Hymn**      *Wonderful Words of Life*      No. 600

### \*Benediction

### Depart to Serve

\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

## Announcements

We are so happy to welcome Bishop Bill McIlilly, retired, bringing us the Word today. Bill was elected to the episcopacy at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 2012. He retired on September 1, 2024. His assignments included resident bishop of the Memphis and Tennessee Annual Conferences in 2012. Later, he was the bishop of the Nashville Episcopal Area of the United Methodist Church that included the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences that covered middle and west Tennessee and western Kentucky. Bill will be working with us today to help us vision ministries of outreach and missions for 2026 at Grace. We will meet at **1:00pm** today at **The Place on Front**.

The January, 2026 newsletter is available at <https://graceumciuka.org/events/newsletters>

The **Helpful Samaritan Food Pantry** items are **assorted cans of beans** and **Peanut Butter**.

**Prayer Concerns**

Carol Armstrong, Mary Ray, Phillip Gray, Walter Vaughn, Ben Burns, J.P. Wilemon, and Gus Martin

**Assisted Living:** Judy Hawkins, Marcell Senter

**The choir is taking a much needed break from rehearsal during the month of January.**

**Bible Study** Wednesday at 5:00pm taught by Larry Klatt will resume this week.

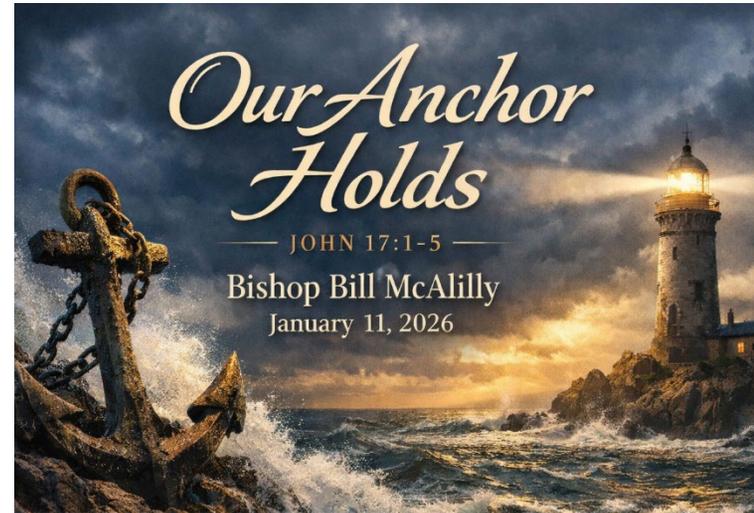
Our next **Soup Sunday** is January 18<sup>th</sup>. If you are bringing soup or volunteering, please arrive by 3:00 pm. We will begin serving at 3:30 pm.



**AA** groups meet here on Monday and Friday nights at 7pm

# Grace United Methodist Church

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205 E Eastport Street  
Iuka, Mississippi  
Sunday, January 11, 2026  
The Reverend Cheryl Farr, Pastor

The Mission of Grace United Methodist Church is to  
Magnify God through  
Love, Acceptance,  
Discipleship and Service.

Pastor, Cheryl Farr, may be contacted by text at **(662) 252-0910** or email at [cherylfarrbg@gmail.com](mailto:cherylfarrbg@gmail.com)