

Rev. Dave Welcome was born and raised in Alexandria, Indiana. In high school he played football, basketball, and ran track. On graduation he received a football scholarship to Ball State University where he played for four years. Upon graduation he began a teaching and coaching career that spans 63 years. He is a member of the Michigan Coaches Hall of Fame. Dave was the first to graduate from the NACCC Lay Ministry Program. After retiring from teaching in 1997 Dave accepted a call from Britton CCC in Britton, Michigan, to be their Senior Pastor. After 15 years Dave retired but was soon called to be the transitional minister at Mount Hope CCC in Livonia, Michigan, where he served for a year until a new full-time pastor was hired. Rev. Welcome is a songwriter, singer, musician, and recording artist. He has recorded 27 albums over the past 40 years - 14 Gospel, and 13 Oldies but Goodies with his High Point Band.

As a Congregational church, Meadowbrook traces its roots to the Pilgrims. We continue to explore our faith as a people free to interpret God's Word according to the dictates of our own conscience and in mutual support and love of one another. Not bound by any one creed or statement of faith, Congregationalists are gathered around a local church covenant in which we promise to serve alongside one another as followers of Jesus Christ.

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MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



January 11, 2026
Baptism of the Lord, First Sunday after Epiphany

ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 11, 2026

Baptism of the Lord, First Sunday after Epiphany

PRELUDE

Howland

"Deep River" Spiritual arr. by Robert Powell

Dave

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lee Gross

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

CHORAL INTROIT

Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends. Traveler blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.

*Stand in body or spirit

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 10:17-18) (read responsively)

Lee Gross

Leader: **Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble;**

Congregation: **You will strengthen their heart, You will make Your ear attentive to vindicate the orphan and the oppressed, so that humankind, which is of the earth, will no longer cause terror.**

*GATHERING HYMN

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" #155

Lee Gross

Send your Spirit among us, O God, and into each one of us. Confirm our baptism with the power of your love. Direct our ministry in the footsteps of Jesus that we may experience release from the powers of the world and extend the blessings of such freedom to those who are bound. Lift up and inspire our work and our worship. We pray in Jesus' name . . .

*THE LORD'S PRAYER (using Debts and Debtors)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: "Bless the Lord, O My Soul" #11

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 2: 11-15 | Page #49 OT

Lee Gross

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM: "Witness" arr. by Mark Patterson

Chancel Choir

A TIME OF SILENCE & MORNING PRAYER

Rev. Dave Welcome

CHORAL AMEN

OFFERTORY "Wade in the Water" #512

*DOXOLOGY (sing in unison) #563

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heavn'ly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*OFFERING PRAYER

SERMON SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 4:1-11 | Page #3 NT

Rev. Dave Welcome

CHORAL RESPONSE

Let Thy word abide in us, O Lord.

MESSAGE "A New Beginning"

Rev. Dave Welcome

*SENDING HYMN "Lord of Life and King of Glory" #513

Rev. Dave Welcome

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Toccata on 'Holy Manna'" by Joel Raney

Dave Howland

MUSICIANS: Dave Howland, Danny Reeves and Chancel Choir | **TECHNICIAN:** Moe Elmasry

GREETER: Barbara Vanderhoff | **LITURGIST:** Lee Gross

We are grateful to have Rev. Dave Welcome joining us this morning. Please see the back page for more information about Rev. Welcome. We invite everyone to join us after worship for a time of refreshment and fellowship in our Fellowship Hall.

Hosts this morning are Steve and Denise Pearson.