

**Banning United Methodist Church**  
**1st Sunday After Christmas Day**  
**December 28, 2025**

**GATHERING**

<b>SPECIAL MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP</b>		Maxine Hoth
<b>WELCOMING FRIENDS AND NEWCOMERS</b>		Myrle Petty
<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		Myrle Petty
<b>PASSING OF THE PEACE</b>		Rev. Kyungsu Park

**WORSHIP OF GOD**

<b>PRELUDE</b>	<i>"Love Lifted Me" by Howard E. Smith/Ruth Schram</i>	Maxine Hoth
<b>†CALL TO WORSHIP</b>		Myrle Petty
L: Peace be with you in the name of Jesus the Christ!		
<b>P: And also with you!</b>		
L: Hear the voice of God calling.		
<b>P: With eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to love, we follow.</b>		
L: The Lord leads the way and is ready to receive us when we arrive.		
<b>P: In God's hands we travel on the journey. AMEN.</b>		
<b>†OPENING HYMN</b>	"Joy to the World"	UMH #246
<b>†OPENING PRAYER</b>		Myrle Petty
<b>O God, in mystery and silence You are present in our lives, bringing new life out of destruction, hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty. We thank You that You do not leave us alone but labor to make us whole. Help us to perceive Your unseen hand in the unfolding of our lives, and to attend to the gentle guidance of Your Spirit, that we may know the joy You give Your people. Amen.</b>		

<b>OLD TESTAMENT READING</b>	Myrle Petty
Genesis 12:1-9 NRSV	
<p><sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." <sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup>From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup>And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.</p>	

<b>GOSPEL READING</b>	Rev. Kyungsu Park
Mark 12:28-34 NRSV	
<p><sup>28</sup>One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; <sup>30</sup>you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup>The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." <sup>32</sup>Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; <sup>33</sup>and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the</p>	

strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." <sup>34</sup> When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

**SERMON HYMN** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" UMH #127

**SERMON** "Tent Pegs" Rev. Kyungsu Park

**PRAYERS** Myrle Petty

CHILDREN IN PRAYER

(After each slide: In Your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer)

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Kyungsu Park

THE LORD'S PRAYER: 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS** Myrle Petty

**OFFERTORY** "Blessed Assurance" with "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" Knapp/Bach Maxine Hoth

**†DOXOLOGY** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #95

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

**†PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Myrle Petty

Holy God, You have taught us through Your Word that the greatest commandments are to love You with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Today, as we bring our tithes and offerings, we do so as an act of love—love for You and love for the world You call us to serve. Let these gifts be more than routine giving. Let them be a reflection of our devotion, our gratitude, and our desire to live out Your commandments in real and tangible ways. Shape our hearts so that our giving flows from love, not obligation; from joy, not reluctance. Use what we offer today to strengthen Your church, uplift those in need, and advance Your kingdom of compassion and justice. And as we give, draw us closer to You, so that our lives—not just our gifts—bear witness to Your love. We offer these gifts in faith, in obedience, and in love. Amen.

## SENDING FORTH

**CLOSING HYMN** "God Be With You Til We Meet Again" UMH #672

**DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

**†BENEDICTION** Rev. Kyungsu Park

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST OUT INTO THE WORLD

**POSTLUDE** "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" by George Webb/Shackley Maxine Hoth