

**The Lord's Day**  
Sunday, January 12, 2025  
Sandy Creek United Wesleyan Church  
Reverend Brian Snyder: 315-387-3199  
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Sandy Creek, NY 13145  
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## Today's Prayer

Heavenly Father, this winter as the days get dark quicker and the weather gets colder, let us remember that you are our rock and comforter. We can always call on you for the warmth of your love and embrace. We thank you that you protect us and keep us in the winter months and that you are faithful. We ask that your Holy Spirit would lead us in your light during this season because no matter how dark things get in the world, the light of Christ overcomes it all.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

## This Morning's Message

Pastor Terry Nichols—Who Is Jesus?  
Matthew 1:21 and Matthew 16:16

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR

Everyone impacted by the fires in California  
Alice Widrig

Katie Edmonds • Julie Reid  
Patty Griffith • Ron Latella

John Ridgeway • Wayne Greenfield  
Heather Whaley • Bev Commings

Carol Miles • Lewis Carter • Deb Reitz

Kevin Bellville • Carol Merritt • Dan Conway

Mary Hesford • Annie Grant • Gary Peterson

Shaun Hull • Elaine LaCelle • Mark Freeden

Burt Goodnough • Dick Bryant • Stanley Kepner

Stanley Perzan • Beverly Snyder • Phoebe Wheeler

**MISSIONS: JOHN & TANYA JAMES, DESTINY OUTREACH MINISTRIES  
ALL MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL**

**NEXT WEEK: SUNDAY, January 19, 2025**

**Greeters:** Kelly Blair / Brooke Snyder

**Security:** Tim Redden / Brian Derby / Steve Berkman

**Today, January 12, 11:15 AM:** CAP Meeting, Mission Trip in May

**Monday, January 13, 6:00 PM:** Ladies Bible Study

**Tuesday, January 14, 9:00 AM:** Men's Bible Study

**Wednesday, January 15, 2:00 PM:** Ladies Bible study at Jeanie's house

**Wednesday, January 15, 6:00 PM:** Activ8Her Chapter Meeting

**Tuesday, February 4, 6:00—7:30 PM:** Pastor John will be teaching the *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* class at Grace Point Church, contact Pastor Justin Wilder at 315-298-6070, if you have any questions. Sign-up Sheet at the Welcome Desk.

**Saturday, January 18, Noon:** March for Life at Armory Square

**Sunday, January 26, 1:00—3:00 PM:** Senior Lunch & Fun Day, Food and Games, Sign-up at the Welcome Desk.

**The Playhouse Theater crew** seeks men/women/teens to fill several character roles in their next play. Please contact Judy Grant or Jule Lattimer for details, read-through next Sunday after church.

## The Lord is Our Rock

Life's journey often takes us through valleys of uncertainty, moments of despair and challenges that test the very core of our being. In these times of trial, we seek a source of strength, a refuge where our hearts can find comfort and our spirits can be renewed. The words of Psalms 18:2, "The Lord is my rock my fortress, and the One who rescues me, My God, my rock and strength in whom I trust and take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my high tower—my stronghold," is a powerful reminder of where we can turn in our moments of need.

When the ground beneath us feels shaky, when everything around us seems to be shifting, we can stand firm on the rock of God's love. This rock is unyielding, a foundation that remains unshaken regardless of the storms we face. It is this assurance that gives us the courage to face each day, knowing that we are anchored in something far greater than ourselves.

Calling God a fortress speaks to the protection He offers. A fortress is a place of refuge, a sanctuary where enemies cannot penetrate. In our lives, we encounter various forms of 'enemies' - fear, doubt, sorrow and adversity. Yet, within the spiritual fortress of God's embrace, we find safety. It is here we can lay down our burdens, knowing that we are shielded by His grace.

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## The Lord is Our Rock (con't)

When we reflect on Psalms 18:2, it is a timeless testament to God's unwavering support and protection. It invites us to deepen our trust, to lean into the certainty of God's presence. In our darkest hours, when the weight of the world presses heavily upon our shoulders, we can turn to this verse and remember that we are never alone.

As we carry these words in our hearts, may they fortify us against life's uncertainties. Let us embrace the truth that our strength does not come from our circumstances but from our relationship with a God who is ever-present, ever-looking, and ever-strong. The Lord is our rock, our fortress, our deliverer—our eternal source of hope and strength.

