

The Cornerstone

The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Psalm 118:22-23

VOLUME LXXIII NUMBER 46

November 20, 2025

ALL IN.

with Thanksgiving and Praise

Psalm 107: 1-9 & 2 Corinthians 10-15

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds^[a] to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous^l hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (Acts 2:43-47)

For the past two weeks we have been exploring what it means to be "All In" with our faith. Asking ourselves how we might take another step to be "All In" in our walk of discipleship with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We reflected on the risk of saying YES for ministry that unites all our many gifts and talents to provide and serve God's love for the common good, making the world which we have been gifted a better place for all God's beloved children. And this past Sunday, we were asked to go "All In" with our commitments to God for our 2026 ministry year. (If you were unable to be with us last week, there are pledge cards available on the sanctuary entrance tables.)

So, what better way and time to go "All In" for a God that has gone "All In" for each of us through his Son, Jesus Christ; than for Old First and First UMC to *come together* as our Acts scripture shares and celebrate *all that we have in common* through praise, worship and fellowship this Sunday for our Thanksgiving Service. I am very much looking forward to seeing all of us together this Sunday. **Jill**



NOTE: If ever you would like an emailed or printed copy of a sermon(s), please contact the FUMCO office or Jill by email or phone.

I share this prayer by Carol Tomer.

*Now, dear ones, go in peace with good courage,
and with trust in the God who has given life to the whole creation,
and with gratitude for the God who has given us to each other,
to know and to love in our pilgrimage on earth.*

*Give this world your love, love that God gives to you to share,
love embodied in Jesus, love sustained by the Holy Spirit.*

Give one another your love, your heart, your care, in all ways possible.

*Let us promise our love to one another,
for better or for worse, in sickness and in health,
so long as we shall walk this journey together,
now and in God's eternity.*

*And know that God is blessing you and keeping you in these very days.
God's face is shining on you.*

*God is always being gracious to you, no matter what.
And God is looking upon you with favor and giving you peace.
Amen. Jill*

Taken from: *Autumn* by Ruth Burgess; Wild Goose Publications, 2021

If you would like to make a special Thanksgiving Offering this Sunday, envelopes will be in the pew racks for your convenience. This additional giving will go to supporting our Shared Ministry (so please mark it with your church name). Shared ministry is our church's pledge to the denomination sent through our GNJ Annual Conference. These funds support the ministries of our denomination's global and domestic missions, including UMCOR – The United Methodist Committee on Relief. All donations given to UMCOR go directly to communities in need, such as Asheville, N.C. because our shared ministries allow the structure to exist, train, and be present to show God's love. If you find that you are able to make a Thanksgiving Offering, know you are changing the lives of your neighbors. Or you may mail your offering to the church office earmarked for Thanksgiving. Thank you!



**Sunday, Nov. 23rd 10:00 a.m. Joint
Community Thanksgiving Service**

**First UMC of Oakhurst &
Old First UMC will join together for a Thanksgiving
Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. Please note this
adjusted worship time for both churches.
Following the service we will enjoy a fellowship
breakfast.**



Adopt-A-Family/ Interfaith Neighbors



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Once again we will be sharing our Christmas joy by partnering with our friends at Interfaith Neighbors in the Adopt-A-Family Christmas program.

In lieu of gifts, gift cards will be provided to the families along with a small assortment of Christmas cheer. If you would like to brighten a family's Christmas, please make your gift payable to **First United Methodist Church-Oakhurst** and in the memo line note: **Adopt-A-Family Christmas**.

Contributions can be mailed to the church or please make use of the designated yellow envelopes in the sanctuary and place your gift in the offering plate on Sunday morning. For on-line donations, please designate your gift for **Adopt-A-Family Christmas**.

Deadline: **December 11th, Thursday**

With thanks,
The Outreach Committee



Saturday, January 24 – Saturday, January 31, 2026

**We are heading to West Virginia
to aid our neighbors in need.**

ALL are welcome to participate!!!

No skills needed – learn on the job.

**Every talent will be utilized...cooks, listeners, errand runners, and of course those
willing to paint, hammer, and learn something new. We don't yet know our
projects but we know the meaningful message of love we provide AND receive.**

Interested? Questions?

Contact Robyn Korsen robynpt21@comcast.net



In addition to raising money for missions through an annual pledge and year-round fundraising, United Women In Faith set aside two special days a year to focus on a "Call to Prayer and Self-denial" and a "World Thank Offering."

The World Thank Offering is an opportunity for personal Thanksgiving, and for participation in global mission outreach. Through this offering, mission projects in all 50 states and in almost 100 countries are supported. These vary from support to schools, hospitals and clinics, daycare centers and homes for senior citizens, educational training courses to prevent soil erosion to leadership development and nutritional courses and medical training. The funds collected are used in the total program of mission carried on through UWIF.

Many of us collect money over the course of the year, giving thanks and appreciation in either a blue and white World Thank Offering box or a container we have personally made for the purpose.

Being in mission is sharing our lives and gifts with others that all may be whole persons through Jesus Christ. Mission is creating a new society as we do away with those things that create barriers. It is working to eliminate racism, sexism, and loneliness. Mission is Christ's challenge to us to bring the possibility of food, shelter, and fulfillment to all of humanity.

To contribute to this mission work, please set aside a collection box and give with thanksgiving during the year. Attached is a monthly calendar that will give you some ideas and incentives to place money in your container during the year. Even the whole family could get involved! All money should be turned in at the end of November the following year.

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Maher at 732-513-8413 or speak with a member of the UWIF.

CLUSTER UM CHURCH CALENDAR

Old First (Jill Hubbard-Smith) 197 Locust Ave., West Long Branch (Stream: Facebook)
Wayside (David Geller) 1229 West Park Ave., Ocean (Stream: YouTube)
Oceanport (Donna Nielson) 50 Mail St., Oceanport (Stream: YouTube)
St. Luke's (Chungmi Kang) 535 Broadway, Long Branch
Embury (Chungmi Kang) 49 Church St., Little Silver
FUMCO (Jill Hubbard-Smith) 103 Monmouth Rd., Oakhurst (Stream: YouTube, Facebook)

2025

Nov. 23	10:00 a.m.	Thanksgiving Breakfast	Embury
Nov. 23	11:00 a.m.	Thanksgiving Breakfast	FUMCO
Nov. 23	Noon	Thanksgiving Lunch	St. Luke's
Nov. 30	2:30 p.m.	<i>One Silent Night</i> Choraliers of Eatontown/Northern Cluster Choir Reformation Lutheran Church	
Dec. 7	4:00 p.m.	<i>One Silent Night</i>	West Grove
Dec. 7	5:00 p.m.	Vespers & Tea	FUMCO
Dec. 14	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Party Covered Dish	FUMCO
Dec. 21	Noon	Christmas Lunch	St. Luke's
Dec. 21	5:00 p.m.	Blue Christmas	FUMCO
Dec. 28	5:00 p.m.	Free Community Spaghetti Dinner	FUMCO with Old First

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 p.m. - Family Candlelight Service - FUMCO
5:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service – Embury
7:00 p.m. – Candlelight Service – St. Luke's
7:30 p.m. – Candlelight Service – Old First
7:30 p.m. - Candlelight Service - Oceanport
9:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service - Wayside
11:00 p.m. - Candlelight & Communion – FUMCO

2026

Jan. 17	5:00 p.m.	Chicken Dinner	Oceanport
Jan. 24-31		Mission Trip to WV	
Feb. 17	5:00 p.m.	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	Oceanport
Aug. 19	5:00 p.m.	Peach Festival	Oceanport





**Christ the King
November 23, 2025**

Counters: Mary Bailey, Cheryl McLoughlin, John Montgomery

Greeter: Joy More

Usher: Gerry Busfield

Acolyte: Kitty Amato

Lay Reader: Chip Stoll

Altar Flowers:

**Given in loving memory of Frances (Sis) Miller
by her niece, Sharron Meadows.
Given in loving memory of Carol Allen's birthday
by Abby.**

First Sunday of Advent



**1st Sunday of Adent
November 30, 2025**

Counters: Mary Bailey, Cheryl McLoughlin, John Montgomery

Greeter: Judy Smith

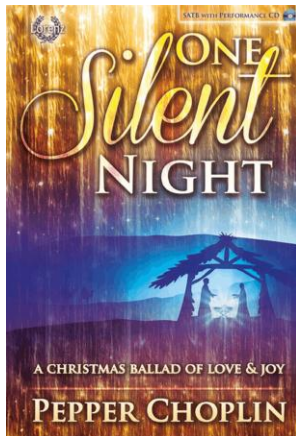
Usher: Jay Aretino

Acolyte: Faye Snorton

Lay Reader: Judy Gorra

Altar Flowers:

**Given in loving memory of Charles Anthony
Arrigo by Randy Danielson.
Given in honor of Shirley Bailey's birthday by
her family.**



ONE SILENT NIGHT

**Presented by the Choraliers
of Eatontown & The
Northern Cluster Choir at
The Lutheran Church of the
Reformation, Broadway,
West Long Branch 11/30 at
2:30 p.m.**



**Every 4th Tuesday of the
month at 10 am Jill and
friends meet at the Blue
Swan Diner in Ocean for an
informal gathering. **All are
invited!****

**Next gathering is 12/16
(please note the date change for December).**



**The 2026
calendars are here! A huge thank you to Fiore-
Buckley Funeral Home for their donation again this
year. These calendars are full of exquisite scenic
photos. You may pick up as many as you'd like-they
are on the table on the second floor foyer**

**Congratulations to
Mike & Alina Haider
who were married on
November 14th.**





November is a 5th Sunday month. Your donations to this fund help with upkeep of the church properties. Please use the yellow envelopes for your donations. The Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee thank you!



Please provide peanut butter, canned proteins, canned beans, pasta, pasta

sauce, flour, sugar, condiments, canned vegetables, olive oil, spices, formula, and baby food. The Outreach Committee thanks you for supporting this long-standing mission of our church.

Tsedalech, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of November by Diane Maher.

**OUR NOVEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING
BENEFITS
HOPE SCHOOL**



The third Sunday of every month is a FREE to all community spaghetti dinner hosted by the Outreach Committee and Old First UMC. You are invited to Fellowship Hall for a dinner of salad, bread, spaghetti with your choice of marinara, meatballs, or sausages, and dessert. Birthdays are also celebrated with a cake for those celebrating their birthday during that month. You may eat in or take out. Service starts at 5 p.m. Please spread the word. Date for December: 28th.



children's Christmas choir

Calling all children and youth for a Christmas Choir! Do you have a child or youth in your life that would like to sing at Christmastime? Our Music Director Miss Denise is hoping to get a group together!

If interested, please have a parent email FUMCOMusicDirector@gmail.com for more information!

*Please be
Praying for...*

Our homebound: David Miller, Bev Itell, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Cary Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Elaine Gould

Sunnyside Manor, Wall: Nancy Burt

At home: Avery Fallon

Imperial Care, Neptune: Peg Kuchen

Our church family worshipping at a distance: Barbara Novick, Jean Gillette, Laura Eble, Jack & Caroline Chesbro



Something to think about:

Have pride in how far you've come. Have faith in how far you'll go.

WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS



Nov. 16-Nov. 22

Jeremiah 23 1-6
Luke 1:68-79
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43



Coffee Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED

Do you have what it takes to be a fellowship host? YES, YOU DO!

Please sign up in the upstairs kitchen. The very simple requirements to be a fellowship host are posted

on the poster board. Or you may speak with Bonnie McNamara.



UP FOR GRABS

In Blair Chapel, the side sanctuary, and Wesley Hall there are cushioned folding chairs that are free for the taking. The chairs are being replaced with a different kind of chair and before discarding them they are being offered to all of you. For more information or to set up a time to take them, call the church office 732-531-1150.

There are several chairs still left for the taking.

The Little Free Pantry



Please think of stocking shelf-stable milk, powdered milk, soup, stew, chili, whole grain cereal, toiletries, hygiene products, baby food, applesauce, canned beans, canned chicken, canned tuna, canned salmon, SPAM, canned ham, canned vegetables, olive oil, canola oil, crackers, dried herbs, spices, canned fruit, dried fruit, granola bars, instant mashed potatoes, meals in a box, nuts, pasta, peanut butter, & rice.

A good idea this week:
Energy Drinks



COLORING PAGE

