

Second Sunday of Advent
 December 7, 2025
 9:30 a.m. at First UMC
 11:00 a.m. at Old First UMC
 *Congregation is invited to rise if able and comfortable.
 Readings in **BOLD** are to be read in unison.
 Hymnals: UMH is Red or Purple-TFWS is Black-W&S is Green
 Please note that this service is being recorded and viewed on social media.

WE GATHER
 PRELUDE
 Angels We Have Heard on High
 arr. Jorgensen
 As you settle into the sanctuary, please open your phone and share the live service from your Facebook page as a way of inviting the larger community to worship.
 The FUMCO altar reflects music and instruments common to the music of the season.
 Notice the Christ candle moving through the sanctuary each Sunday as we approach Christmas Eve!

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT (9:30)
 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
 UMH 196, vs.1
 Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
 from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
 Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
 dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

*INVITATION TO WORSHIP
 Get ready, people of God! The time of hope and peace is at hand.
 We are called to action rather than reaction.
 Open your hearts to God’s word and God’s will.
 Help us to be workers for God rather than observers.
 Come, draw near to God in faith.
 We come to prepare our hearts to receive the wondrous gifts of God.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF ADVENT
 We invite you to turn to the person next to you and greet them saying,
 “May the PEACE of Advent be with you.”
 You are invited to respond by saying,
 “And also with you.”

*HYMN OF PRAISE
 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
 UMH 213

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
 Peaceful God, your presence is always with us offering hope and peace in all of the seasons of our lives. Your presence is always coming, yet we confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles. We have ignored the promise of your kingdom. We get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and

the patient faith of Mary and Joseph; that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us.
 Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to help us get ready for his coming. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS
 In this season we anticipate Christ’s light and love shining into our hearts. As you await the coming of the Christ child, know that God’s love will guard and guide you along the way.
 Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM (9:30)
 An Advent Acclamation
 arr. Nordmeyer
 Chancel Choir

WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD
 LESSON FROM THE PROPHET
 Isaiah 9:6-7
 Pew Bible OT 638
 May God Bless Our Reading, Hearing, and Understanding.
 Thanks be to God

ADVENT LIGHT OF PEACE
 Knitting Ministry (9:30)
 Morgan Schmitt (11:00)
 We come...
 ...especially those who need it most.
 Peace on the earth, goodwill to all. Let our lives echo the song of God’s grace today and every day. Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE
 It Came upon the Midnight Clear
 UMH 218, vs. 1
 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
 from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
 “Peace on the earth, good will to all from heaven’s all gracious King.”
 The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

EPISTLE LESSON
 Romans 14:17-19
 Pew Bible NT 163
 SERMON
 Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith
 Singing the Story of Christmas:
 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD
 SHARING OUR PRAYERS
 At the 9:30 service, you are invited to name your prayers for the congregation.
 After each prayer request, the congregation will respond...
 Lord, Hear Our Prayer

PRAYERS FOR ALL GOD’S BELOVED PEOPLE
 Prayer Response: This prayer we now raise,
 for peace on earth, goodwill to all!

BLESSING OF HATS & SCARVES (11:00)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
 TFWS 2257-a (9:30)
 The Lord be with you. (11:00)
 And also with you.
 Lift up your hearts.
 We lift them up to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

GREAT THANKSGIVING
 SANCTUS
 TFWS 2257-b
 CONSECRATION
 MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION
 TFWS 2257-c
 BLESSING
 GREAT AMEN
 TFWS 2257-d
 LORD’S PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD OF LIFE AND THE CUP OF SALVATION
 Come and be filled with the body and blood of Christ, knowing you are beloved and rooted in that love as you go forth to love all God’s children. We will serve by **intinction**. You are invited to come by the center aisle, receive a piece of the bread, dip it into the cup, and partake. Return to your seats by the side aisles. The chancel rail is always available if you would like to take some time to pray. You are invited to reflect in song as all are being served. There is gluten free bread and juice available at our 9:30 a.m. service.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION (9:30)
 Come to the Table of Grace
 W&S 3168
 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart
 UMH 629

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
 Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have revealed yourself to us. Now nourished at your table and strengthened by your Spirit, may we go into the world and offer your peaceful love and presence along our way in your name.
 Amen.

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO THE MINISTRY OF GOD
 *PRESENTATION (9:30)
 Emmanuel, Emanuel
 UMH 204
 Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
 God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION
 God of peace and wholeness, as we journey down this Advent road, grant us the courage to make peace. Peace in our hearts. Peace in our homes. Peace in our communities. May this offering of our tithes and selves be instruments to your desired peace for all your beloved children. Amen.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION
 It Came upon the Midnight Clear
 UMH 218, vs. 2-4

*SENDING FORTH

*LIGHT OF ADVENT LEADS US INTO THE WORLD (9:30)
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus UMH 196, vs. 2
**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.**

*POSTLUDE *Nöel Adeste Fideles* arr. Burkhardt
Please join us in FUMCO Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.
An Adult Study is offered in FUMCO's Wesley Hall at 11:00 a.m., located on the lower level of the building

**Our Service Of Worship Has Ended.
Our Worship Through Service Begins.**

Altar Flowers (FUMCO)
Given in loving memory of Betty Beckmann by Peggy Ann, Kenneth, & Kimberly.
Given in loving memory of Martin Bailey by his family.

Our Leadership Team This Morning
9:30 a.m.
Acolyte: Susan McRae
Counters: Patty Aria, John Montgomery, Judy Gorra
Fellowship Hosts: Scott & Russel Danielson
Greeter: Jack Coleman
Lay Reader: Bob Crowther
Usher: Chip Stoll
11:00 a.m.
Counter: Donna Ahrens

This Week We Hold in Prayer...



The UM Church, Bishop Cynthia Moore
KoiKoi, our church leadership & ministry,
our friends, neighbors, community, world
and all God's children
COMFORT & HEALING

Bill Strong, George Eitel, Don Whittaker, Ed Ahrens, June Holder, Arlene Shaw, Rose Byrne, Jackie Gilman, Ed Foran, Charles Murphy, Ginny & Vicky, Mary Eitel & the Stearns family
AT HOME: Avery Fallon, Peg Kuchen
OUR HOMEBOUND: David Miller, Bev Itell, Jean Gillette, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Cary Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Elaine Gould
SUNNYSIDE AT WALL: Nancy Burt
Jersey Shore Care Center: Cliff Miller

**FUMCO has a team of prayer warriors, known as the Prayer Chain.
If you have a prayer need, please contact the FUMCO office.

**If you know someone who is in need of pastoral care, please contact our pastor, Jill Hubbard-Smith 732-209-4563 or revjmhs@gmail.com.

Announcements (FUMCO)
Java with Jill has a date change for this month. The group will meet on December 16th rather than December 30th. All are invited to this informal gathering at the Blue Swan Diner in Ocean.
Advent Meditation Study: Pastor Hubbard-Smith is leading this study on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. via zoom and Wednesdays at 12 p.m. in Blair Chapel.
Christmas Eve Services will take place at 5 p.m. (FUMCO), 7 p.m. (Old First), & 11 p.m. (FUMCO)
Robin Nacarlo's Celebration of Life will be held at Fiore-Buckley Funeral Home, Oakhurst on December 10th. Visitation is from 3-6 p.m. with a service at 6 p.m.
Poinsettia orders are currently being taken for Christmas Eve. at FUMCO. If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia, please fill out an order form found in the FUMCO lobby. Deadline for orders is December 14th.

Free Community Spaghetti Dinner has a date change to December 28th rather than December 21st. The dinner starts at 5 p.m. in FUMCO's Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited!
Folding Chairs: FUMCO still has cushioned folding chairs available for the taking in Wesely Hall. Please feel free to help yourself.
Complimentary 2026 Calendars are available in the FUMCO lobby. Please help yourself.

Blue Christmas Service: For many, Christmas is not a time of joy or celebration. If you find that you are struggling at this time of year, then you are invited to this service of comfort and hope. 5 p.m. FUMCO sanctuary.
Adopt-a-Family: FUMCO's congregation is again partnering with Interfaith Neighbors to give the gift of gift cards to families who need some holiday assistance. If you would like to participate, please make a monetary donation. The Outreach Committee will obtain the cards and drop them off to Interfaith Neighbors. Please make checks payable to the church and place your donation in the yellow envelopes appropriately marked on the sanctuary entrance tables and the table in the lobby.

FUMCO's December's Communion Offering benefits the Dr. John D. Blair Scholarship fund.



Second Sunday of Advent

First UMC of Oakhurst

...is a community of faith committed to Christ, seeking to learn the needs of others and responding with Christian love.
9:30 a.m. Worship Every Sunday Morning In Person & Streaming
103 Monmouth Road, Oakhurst, NJ 07755
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Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FUMCOOakhurst>
Follow us on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/FirstUnitedMethodistChurchofOakhurst>
CCLI #1588788



11:00 a.m. Worship Every Sunday Morning In Person 197 Locust Avenue, West Long Branch & on Facebook

Mailing Address: PO Box 214, West Long Branch, NJ 07764
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