# 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 50** 

December 18, 2025



As most Charles Wesley hymns are, *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* is packed with theology. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we will take time to unpack the imagery used around light and reflect on how we are called to live out Christ's coming in our everyday lives. See you Sunday - *Jill* 







Members of the Outreach Committee pictured with the holiday gifts for Interfaith Neighbors families

# Adopt-A-Family/Interfaith Neighbors

Thank you to the congregation for its generous support of the Interfaith Neighbors Adopt-A-Family Christmas program that will brighten the holidays for our neighbors. With your generous support, our five-sponsored families will enjoy a Merry Christmas! A special thank you to the Knitting Ministry which provided twenty-five beautifully hand-crafted scarves-one for each family member.

May God bless each & every one of you this holiday season!

The Outreach Committee

#### **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)

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

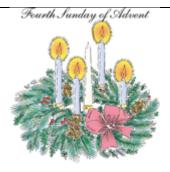
#### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

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 Jan. 18 Jan. 24-31	5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Chicken Dinner Free Community Spaghetti Dinner Mission Trip to WV	Oceanport FUMCO with Old First
Feb. 15	5:00 p.m.	Free Community Spaghetti Dinner	FUMCO with Old First
Feb. 17	5:00 p.m.	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	Oceanport
Aug. 19	5:00 p.m.	Peach Festival	Oceanport





4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent December 21, 2025

**Counters:** Randy Danielson, Jane Gittines

**Greeter: Scott Danielson** 

**Usher:** Buster Stoll

**Acolyte: Robert Scott** 

**Lay Reader:** Barbara Gruezke

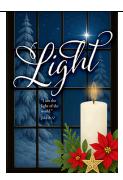
**Fellowship Host:** 



Our deepest condolences to Pam Miller upon the death of her husband, Cliff. Cliff passed away on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Visitation is 12/19 from 4-7 p.m. with a funeral service at 6:30 p.m. at Fiore-Buckley Funeral Home, 236 Monmouth Road, Oakhurst. Condolences may be sent to Pam at 192 Cliftwood Rd., Oakhurst. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Dr. John D. Blair Scholarship Fund or the Wanamassa Fire Company, 2001 Sunset Ave., Ocean, 07712.

Our deepest condolences also go to Carol Steinat upon the death of her brother, Ronald Stokes who passed away on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Arrangements are in PA. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Carol at 4102 Autumn Drive, Tinton Falls, 07753,

The Nacarlo/Haider/Landis families wish to thank the congregation for the cards, visitations, meals, and contributions to the church in memory of Robin. Your support, love, and prayers are gratefully appreciated. Special thanks to Pastor Jill for officiating a lovely and touching service.



1st Sunday after Christmas December 28, 2025

<u>Counters:</u> Mary Bailey, Cheryl McLoughlin, John Montgomery

**Greeter: Jeff Danielson** 

**Usher: Kitty Amato** 

Acolyte: Bonnie McNamara

Lay Reader: Ron Puryear

Fellowship Hosts: Jeff Danielson & Pam Lynch



We are looking for sponsors for our World Vision child, Tsedalech. All months are open except October. Sponsorship donations are \$39. Please make checks out to the church. If you'd like a dedication, please let the office know.



**Diaper Drive** 

Diapers, pull-ups, ointment, and wipes are being collected again this year from now until Epiphany Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Pastor Jill and family will match diaper to diaper before dropping off the items to The Maker's Place, a UM mission. Please leave your donations in the church office.

## **OUR DECEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING** BENEFITS THE DR. JOHN D. BLAIR **SCHOLARSHIP**

Tsedalech, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of December in memory of Kay Ayles by her family.



The third Sunday of every month is a FREE to all community spagnetti dinner hosted by the Outreach Committee and Old First UMC. You are invited to Fellowship Hall for a dinner of salad, bread, and 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. (Please note the date change for December.)



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

Priscilla Smith, Elaine Gould

At home: Avery Fallon, Peg Kuchen Sunnyside Manor, Wall: Nancy Burtt

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

Caroline Chesbro



#### Something to think about:

When it is not in God's time, we cannot force it. When it is in God's time, you cannot stop it.

#### **WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS**



### Dec. 21-Dec. 27

Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25

#### 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 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

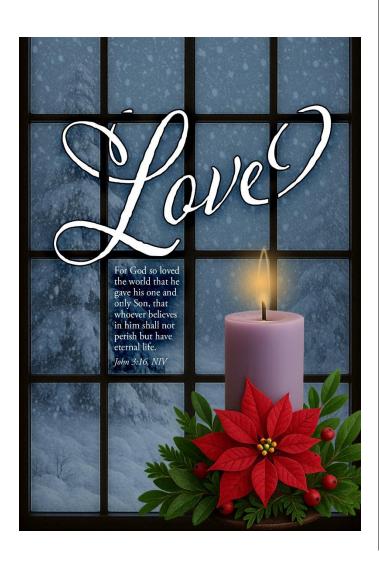


Please think of stocking shelfstable milk, powdered milk, soup, stew, chili, whole grain cereal, toiletries, hygiene

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:

Instant coffee





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



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

