
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



*Blue Christmas:
A Service of Comfort &
Hope*

*Sunday, Dec. 21, 2025
5:00 p.m. in the
Sanctuary.*





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	5:00 p.m.	Chicken Dinner	Oceanport
Jan. 18	5:00 p.m.	Free Community Spaghetti Dinner	FUMCO with Old First
Jan. 24-31		Mission Trip to WV	
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





**4th 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:



**1st Sunday after Christmas
December 28, 2025**

Counters: 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



Our deepest condolences to Pam Miller upon the death of her husband, Cliff. Cliff passed away on December 15th. 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 12th. 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.



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 4th, 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**



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.

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 spaghetti 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.)**

*Please be
Praying for...*

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 Burt

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

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



Coffee Fellowship

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 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:

Instant coffee



Every 4th 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

