

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 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 **(9:30)** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Tonioli
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
We are ready, O God, to behold the presence of your Spirit among us.
Bless our spirits with openness and joy!
We have come on this journey seeking hope and peace.
You have poured your Spirit on us!
Justice and peace shall be brought to all God’s people.
No more shall fear and doubt claim us.
God is fulfilling the ancient promise of a Savior.
Our hearts rejoice at this good news of God’s love. AMEN.

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

*HYMN OF PRAISE *All Earth is Waiting* UMH 210

CENTERING PRAYER
God of Glory, your splendor will soon shine from a manger in Bethlehem into the darkness of human night bringing the joy of new life and possibilities. Open our eyes today, to Christ’s presence amid the shadows of our world so that we, like him, may become beacons

**of your justice and defenders of all for whom there is no room.
Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC **(9:30)** *His Name Shall Be* Redman & Myrin
Praise Team

WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON *Titus 3:4-7* Pew Bible NT 215
May God Bless Our Reading, Hearing, and Understanding.
Thanks be to God

ADVENT LIGHT OF JOY Young Disciples Sunday School **(9:30)**
Tammy Pedersen **(11:00)**

We come...
...reconcile us to our Creator God.
We join the angels’ song to proclaim, “Glory to the newborn King.” Let our lives echo the song of God’s grace today and every day. Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* UMH 240, vs. 1
**Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

GOSPEL LESSON *Luke 2:8-14* Pew Bible NT 58

SERMON Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith
*Singing the Story of Christmas:
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

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 LORD’S PRAYER
Prayer Response: Amid darkness all around,
shine your light and healing power.

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO THE MINISTRY OF GOD

BLESSING OF HATS & SCARVES **(11:00)**

*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 unending joy, the angels caroled glory to you in the highest heavens and peace to all people on earth. Today, we join with them and with all people to praise your holy name as we offer ourselves and our resources to the sharing of your light and joyous love. Bless these gifts that they may bring joy into the world and glory to your name. Amen

*HYMN OF DEDICATION *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (9:30)*
**Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King: peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**
Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”
**And the angels, they sing and the heavens, they ring.
Won’t you raise up your voice? Join the song of the King,
singing glory to God and peace on the earth.
Sing it out now the song of the King.**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing UMH 240 **(11:00)**

*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 **(9:30)**
Please join us in the FUMCO Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.

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

The United Methodist Church is a Global and Connectional Church which welcomes and invites the church communities to share resources and ministries. The First UMC of Oakhurst and Old First UMC have been linked with the invisible thread of heritage and now by their pastor, Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith. All are invited to share in all our joint ministries, missions, and prayers shared in this bulletin.

Staff at FUMCO

Pastor: Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith **Secretary:** Joy More
Director of Music: Denise Furda **Sexton:** Lisa Costello
Streaming Team: Chip Stoll, Rob Crowther, Johnny Tocci
Director of Wesley Nursery School: Noel Worthington
Music Director Emeritus: Gary Farquhar

Staff at Old Frist UMC

Pastor: Rev. Jill Marie Hubbard-Smith **Music Director:** George Murphy
Sexton: Bill Strong **Administrative Assistant:** Donna Ahrens
Streaming Team: Alex Eckert & Justin Wortmann

Our Leadership Team This Morning

9:30 a.m.

Acolyte: Rober Scott
Counters: Rand Danielson, Jane Gittines
Greeter: Scott Danielson
Lay Reader: Barbara Gruezke
Usher: Buster Stoll
11:00 a.m.
Counter: Donna Ahrens

WORDS OF WELCOME

Welcome to this service of worship. We pray this service offered an opportunity to engage with the Divine. If we can be of service to you in any way, please let us know. If you are looking for a church to call home, please consider joining together with us, where we help each other grow in faith, love, and service.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- There are **hearing devices** to assist you to experience the service more clearly, with our streaming team in the rear of the sanctuary. Feel free to pick one up.
- A **rocking chair** is available for the comfort of parent and baby, in Blair Chapel behind the pews.
- To access the **restrooms**, please exit the side door to the right of the lectern/chancel area. In the hall, make a left into Fellowship Hall and follow the signs.
- There are **infant changing tables** available in the restrooms.
- **Large print hymnals** are available. Please ask the usher for one if needed.

Please Join Us In Mission and Ministry

where together we help each other grow in faith, love, and service.

FUMCO: First UMC at 103 Monmouth Rd. Old First UMC: 197 Locust Ave.

Today

Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall	10:30 a.m. FUMCO
Service of Worship in Person & Posted	11 a.m. Old First
Blue Christmas Service – Sanctuary	5 p.m. FUMCO

Monday, December 22

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a.m. FUMCO
Alanon – Wesley Hall	10 a.m. FUMCO

Tuesday, December 23

Women’s Covenant Group – Library	8:30 a.m. FUMCO
Naranon – Wesley Hall	11 a.m. FUMCO
Praise Team Rehearsal – Sanctuary	6:30 p.m. FUMCO
Scouts – Fellowship Hall	7 p.m. FUMCO

Wednesday, December 24

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a.m. FUMCO
Family Christmas Eve Service – Sanctuary	5 p.m. FUMCO
Candlelight Service of Worship -	7:30 p.m. Old First
Candlelight Service of Worship – Sanctuary	11 p.m. FUMCO

Thursday, December 25 OFFICE CLOSED

Alanon – Wesley Hall	10 a.m. FUMCO
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Friday, December 26 OFFICE CLOSED

AA – Wesley Hall	7 p.m. FUMCO
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Sunday, December 28

Service of Worship in Person & Online	9:30 a.m. FUMCO
Fellowship Time – Fellowship Hall	10:30 a.m. FUMCO
Service of Worship In Person & Posted	11 a.m. Old First
Free Community Spaghetti Dinner*	5 p.m.

*Hosted by Old First & FUMCO in FUMCO’s Fellowship Hall



Fourth 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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Oakhurst.umcchurches.org

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CCLI #1588788

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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
office@oldfirstumchurch.org

