

Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 18, 2026 9:30 a.m.
*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
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.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST
Open My Eyes, That I May See UMH 454, v. 1
Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me; place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

*INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.
As we gather in this place, allow your Spirit to fill our very being.
As we worship today, we remember our brothers and sisters who are worshiping elsewhere throughout the world. Inspire each of us to work more faithfully for justice and dignity of life everywhere.
Raise our vision above the barriers of color, culture, and creed that separate us.
Give us wisdom as we deal with one another.
Help us to recognize and to respect different ways, rather than to judge.
In the Spirit of Jesus who came not to be served, but to serve, we now must walk in the world.
We must reach out our hands with help and open our hearts in love.
Awake in us the desire to seek your way of serving you in the world. Amen.

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

*HYMN OF PRAISE *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* UMH 140

CENTERING PRAYER⁵
As we gather in your presence, we open our hearts and still our minds. We pause to listen for your voice, spoken through the prophets and revealed in Christ. Center us now, O Lord, as we seek your guidance and peace. Merciful God, you have called each of us by name from the womb, and your purpose has shaped our journey. Like your servant in Isaiah, remind us that even when we feel hidden or insignificant, your promise to restore, to uplift, and to shine your light remains. Help us recognize our calling: to be a light to the nations, to bring hope to those who wait in darkness, and to trust that our labor in you is never in vain. Loving Savior, John the Baptist proclaimed, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." May we, too, behold you with wonder and gratitude. As you called the disciples to "come and see," draw us near to your heart. Let us follow you with faith, openness, and courage. May we be renewed as we encounter your presence, and may we invite others to join this journey of transformation and love. Loving God, center us in your truth and grace. Speak to our deepest longing and quiet the distractions within and around us. Remind us that we are yours, chosen and cherished, called to bear witness to your redeeming love. May your light shine through us as we listen, pray, and respond to your call. Unite us as a congregation, forming us into a community that reflects your justice, compassion, and peace. We rest in your presence now, trusting that you go before us and remain with us. As we move forward, may your Spirit guide our thoughts, words, and actions so that all we do brings glory to your name. Amen.

ANTHEM *Let Us Love One Another* arr. Lau
Chancel Choir

WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

LESSON *Isaiah 49:1-7* Pew Bible OT 679
HYMN OF RESPONSE *I Love to Tell the Story* UMH 156
GOSPEL LESSON John 1:29-42 Pew Bible NT 92
The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE *Do You Know the Lamb of God?*
Douglas Fontenello,
Raritan Shore District Lay Leader

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

SHARING OUR PRAYERS
During this time, 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

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO THE MINISTRY OF GOD
*PRESENTATION *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 95
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Gracious God, as we reflect on your word spoken through Isaiah and revealed in Christ, we dedicate ourselves anew to your loving purpose. You have called us from before our birth, inviting each of us to shine your light and bring hope to the world. Like your servant in Isaiah, we offer our gifts, our time, and our lives, trusting that you will use even what feels small or hidden to fulfill your promise of restoration and renewal. Lord Jesus, as John proclaimed, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," we come with gratitude and awe. May our dedication draw us closer to you, that we may answer your invitation to "come and see" and follow with open hearts. Use us, O God, to bear witness to your redeeming love, to be a light to all nations, and to serve with faith, courage, and compassion. Bless and multiply all that we offer today, so that through your Spirit, justice, mercy, and peace may flow from this congregation into the world. We trust in your abiding presence and rejoice to be yours, chosen and cherished. May all we do bring glory to your name. Amen.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION *The Summons* TFWS 2130

*SENDING FORTH
*LIGHT OF CHRIST LEADS US INTO THE WORLD
Shall We Gather at the River UMH 723, v. 1
Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God? Yes, we’ll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river; gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

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

Please join us in Fellowship Hall for refreshments and fellowship.
An adult study is offered in FUMCO's Wesley Hall at 11:00 a.m.,
located on the lower level of the building



This Week We Hold in Prayer...

Our Homebound: Bev Itell, Jean Gillette,
Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens,

Cary Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Elain Gould

At home: Peg Kuchen, Avery Fallon

Jersey Shore Care Center: Dave Miller

Sunnyside Manor: Nancy Burt

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

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

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Given in loving memory of Pat Whitney by Robin Whitney & Tommy
Vignola.

Given in honor of Vivian Gill's 12th birthday by Grandma Carol Whyte.

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.
- There are **large print hymnals** available. Please ask the usher.

Please Join Us In Mission and Ministry

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

Today

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| Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall | 10:30 a.m. |
| Service of Worship in Person & Posted | 11 a.m. Old First UMC |
| Adult Sunday School – Wesley Hall | 11 a.m. |
| Free Community Dinner-Fellowship Hall | 5 p.m. |

Monday, January 19 OFFICE CLOSED

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

Tuesday, January 20

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| Women's Covenant Group – Library | 8:30 a.m. |
| Java With Jill – Blue Swan Diner | 10:00 a.m. |
| Naranon – Wesley Hall | 11 a.m. |
| Scouts – Fellowship Hall | 7 p.m. |

Wednesday, January 21

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| AA – Wesley Hall | 7:30 a.m. |
| Praise Team Rehearsal – Sanctuary | 6:30 p.m. |

Thursday, January 22

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| Alanon – Wesley Hall | 10 a.m. |
| Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary | 6:30 p.m. |

Friday, January 23

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| AA – Wesley Hall | 7 p.m. |
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Sunday, January 25

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| Service of Worship in Person & Online | 9:30 a.m. |
| Fellowship Time – Fellowship Hall | 10:30 a.m. |
| Service of Worship In Person & Posted | 11 a.m. Old First UMC |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DATE CHANGE: Java with Jill will take place this Tuesday, January 20th
rather than January 27th. The group meets at 10 a.m. at the Blue Swan
Diner. Everyone is invited.

MISSION ON THE MOVE: From January 24th-January 31st members from 3
area churches, including FUMCO will be traveling to WV to work with a
UM mission helping those in economically challenged areas with housing
repairs. The group will have some expenses for food, housing, and
transportation. If you would like to make a donation to the cause, you
may do so by leaving a donation SPECIFICALLY MARDED-MISSION TRIP in
the offering plate or the church office.

MISSING: A candle lighter has been removed from a shelf at the back of
the sanctuary. It is the personal property of one of our acolytes. Please
let the office know if you have any information on its whereabouts.



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

732-531-1150

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Oakhurst.umchurches.org

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Follow us on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/FirstUnitedMethodistChurchofOakhurst>

CCLI #1588788

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

Acolyte: Joy More

Counters: Randy Danielson, Jane Gittines

Fellowship Hosts: Judy Gorra, Soon Hur

Greeter: Barbara Gruecke

Lay Reader: Joy More

Usher: Jim Scisco