

# Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 25, 2026

9:30 a.m.

\*Congregation is invited to rise if able and comfortable.  
Readings in **BOLD** are to be read in unison.

Hymns: 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

*The Love of God*

arr. Baroni

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

*Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*  
Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise,  
triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.

UMH 173, v. 1

### \*INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Lord, help us draw near to the One who calls us by name and shines His light upon our path.

**We come with open hearts, ready to listen and respond.**

Jesus meets us where we are, letting His light settle over every place we stand.

**We come to follow the One who leads us into purpose and promise.**

Bring your whole self—your questions, your joys, your fears, your prayers.

**We come trusting that Christ is with us, for us, and lighting the way before us.**

Let us worship the God who calls us, guides us, and transforms us by His light.

**With gratitude and expectation, we enter this time of worship. 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,  
**“And also, with you.”**

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Here I Am to Worship*

W&S 3177

## CENTERING PRAYER

Lord, give us the strength to follow You. We confess that it is often easier to walk in our own way than in Your light. Yet we are tempted again to trust our path instead of Yours. Turn our hearts toward You and help us believe that Your way brings life. When following You feels costly or uncertain, remind us that Your light drives out fear and leads us into hope. Give us courage to walk in the light of Christ, trusting that You always go before us. Amen.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Thrive*  
Praise Team

Hall & West

## WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

### LESSONS FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

*Psalm 27:1* Pew Bible OT 503

### GOSPEL LESSON

*Matthew 4:12-23* Pew Bible NT 3

For the Word of God in Scripture  
For the Word of God among us  
For the Word of God within us

**Thanks be to God**

### HYMN OF RESPONSE

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* UMH 206

### MESSAGE

*Light Changes Everything* John Montgomery

## 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 by saying...

**Lord, Hear Our Prayer**

### PRAYERS FOR ALL GOD'S BELOVED PEOPLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

### OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO THE MINISTRY OF GOD

Offering plates are available at each door as you depart.  
You may also give online or by mail to the church office.

### MISSION MINUTE

*CWS Blanket Sunday*

### \*PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**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.**

UMH 95

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As we bring our gifts today, we offer them not out of worry, but with joyful hearts—believing Your perfect love drives out fear and Your grace gives us courage. Use these offerings, Lord, to shine Your light in our communities, to bring justice where there is need, and to help us live as people who reflect Your goodness in all we do. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ—our Rock, our Redeemer, and the Light of the world. Amen.

## \*HYMN OF DEDICATION

*This Little Light of Mine*

**This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

2. Everywhere I go...
3. All through the night...

## \*SENDING FORTH

## \*LIGHT OF CHRIST LEADS US INTO THE WORLD

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* TFWS 2241, v. 4

**Then let us go to serve in peace, the gospel to proclaim.  
God's Spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus' name.**

## \*POSTLUDE

*Please join us in Fellowship Hall for refreshments and fellowship.*

*All are Welcome!*

+++++  
**Our Service of Worship Has Ended**  
**Our Worship Through Service Begins**

*Special Thank You to John Montgomery for leading us in worship and meditation.*

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Given by Kitty Amato in loving memory of her parents, Mae & Harry Duerrler.

Given in honor of Jaxon Liam Henderson's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday by his family.

## 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 us, where we help one another 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, at 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.



### This Week We Hold in Prayer...

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

Cary Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Elaine Gould

**At home:** Peg Kuchen, Avery Fallon

**Jersey Shore Care Center:** Dave Miller

**Sunnyside Manor:** Nancy Burtt

\*\*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 [revjmhs@gmail.com](mailto:revjmhs@gmail.com).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FELLOWSHIP HOSTS ARE NEEDED** for many of the Sundays coming up. New hosts are always welcome! It's not hard to do and doesn't take up much time. If you are one who enjoys fellowship time between services, please consider becoming a host. Speak with Bonnie McNamara for information.

**WORLD VISION CHILD**-there are still months available to sponsor Tsedalech, our child in Ethiopia. Sponsorship is a \$39 donation and helps Tsedalech, her family, and community thrive.

**CHAIRS**-as many of you have noticed, the folding chairs that were once in Blair Chapel have been replaced with banquet-style chairs. Before the Board of Trustees disposes of the folding chairs, you may take as many as you'd like. They are presently being stored in Wesley Hall

## Please Join Us in Mission and Ministry where together we help each other grow in faith, love, and service.

Today

Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall 10:30 a.m.  
Adult Sunday School – Wesley Hall 11 a.m.

**Monday, January 26**

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

**Tuesday, January 27**

Women's Covenant Group – Library 8:30 a.m.  
Naranon – Wesley Hall 11 a.m.  
Scouts – Fellowship Hall 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, January 28**

AA – Wesley Hall 7:30 a.m.  
Miriam Circle Meeting – Wesley Hall 10:00 a.m.

**Thursday, January 29**

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

**Friday, January 30**

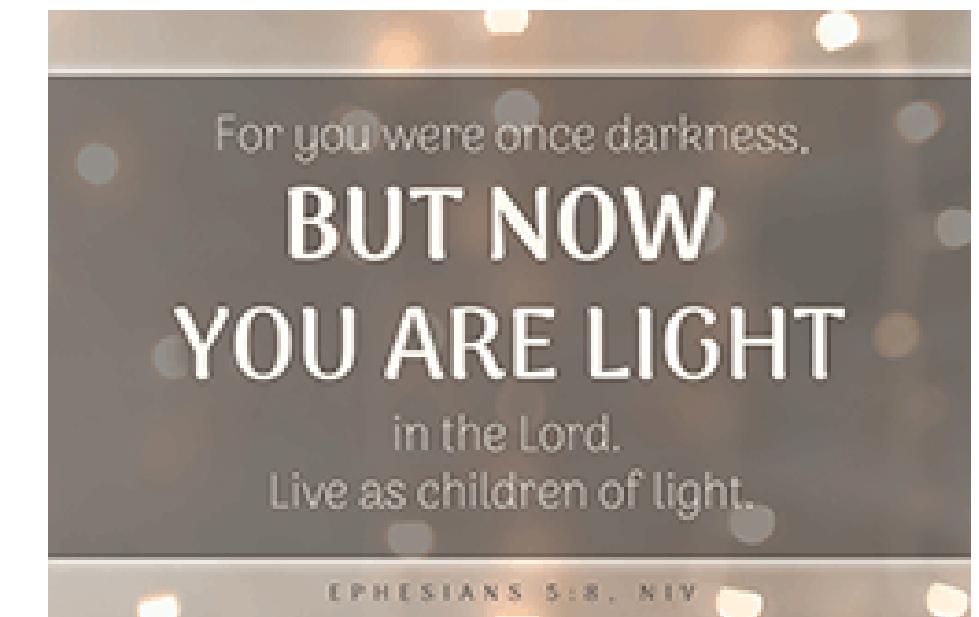
AA – Wesley Hall 7 p.m.

**Sunday, February 1**

Worship & Communion in Person & Online 9:30 a.m.  
Fellowship Time – Fellowship Hall 10:30 a.m.  
Worship & Communion In Person & Posted 11 a.m. Old First UMC  
Adult Sunday School – Wesley Hall 11 a.m.

## Our Leadership Team This Morning

Acolyte: Bonnie McNamara  
Counters: Mary Bailey, Cheryl McLoughlin, John Montgomery  
Fellowship Hosts: Ron Danielson & Randy Danielson  
Greeter: Pamela Lynch  
Lay Reader: Susan McRae  
Usher: Robin Whitney



## **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.umccchurches.org**

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FUMCOakhurst>

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