

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
February 1, 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
Our altar reflects 3 themes of love. Eros, romantic love, is represented by wedding rings. Phileo, brotherly love, represented by an offering plate, shows our church is in ministry to our brothers and sisters around the world. Agape, unconditional love and sacrifice, is represented by the cross.

PRELUDE *I Am a Child of God* arr. Howe
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 *I Love You, Lord* TFWS 2068
**I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice
to worship you, O my soul rejoice.
Take joy, my King, in what you hear,
may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.**

*INVITATION TO WORSHIP
God of our hearts...here we are! We’ve come with thirsty hearts,
praying that your word will satisfy us.
We come with aching hearts,
praying for good news to comfort us.
We come with overflowing hearts,
praying for a chance to share your love.
**You, who knows our hearts and hears our prayers,
be with us now in this time of worship. Amen.**

*SHARING THE LOVE OF THE CHRIST
We invite you to turn to the person next to you and greet them saying,
“May the warmth of Christ’s love be with you”
You are invited to respond by saying,
“And also with you”

*HYMN OF PRAISE *Loving Spirit* TFWS 2123

CENTERING PRAYER
**God of all love, thank you for the precious gift of love you have given
to the world and to us. Thank you for blessing me every day with this
love and the power and strength that we get from you every single
day. Perfect in us this gift of love, that we may be able to express it
and share it with others. Amen.**

WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD
LESSONS FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES *Proverbs 30:18-19*
Song of Solomon 8:6-7
May God bless our reading, hearing, and understanding.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF RESPONSE *When Love Is Found* UMH 643

SERMON *More Love: Eros* Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith

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

ANTHEM *Remembrance* Maher & Redman
Chancel Choir

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION TFWS 2257-a
GREAT THANKSGIVING *Sanctus* TFWS 2257-b
CONSECRATION *Memorial Acclamation* TFWS 2257-c
BLESSING *Amen* TFWS 2257-d

LORD’S PRAYER
SHARING THE BREAD OF LIFE AND THE CUP OF SALVATION
The invitation to share God’s covenant love through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ is extended to all. Come and be filled with the body and blood of Christ, knowing you are beloved and rooted in that love as you go forth to love all God’s children. We will serve by **intinction**. You are invited to come by way of the center aisle, receive a piece of the bread, dip it into the cup, and partake. Return to your seats by the side aisles. You are invited to reflect in song as all are being served. **There are gluten-free bread and juice available, please let us know as you arrive.** The chancel rail is always available if you would like to pause for prayer.

SONGS DURING COMMUNION
Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast UMH 616
Take Our Bread UMH 640

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
**God of abundant love, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in
which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into
the world in the strength of your Spirit, giving ourselves for others,
bearing witness to your name, and sharing love in the name of
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO THE MINISTRY OF GOD
They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love TFWS 2223 vs. 4
**All praise the Creator, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God’s only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION
**Generous God, we thank you for the abundance of gifts you pour
into our lives, and we offer them back to you now for your
blessing. We ask that you would continue to inspire within us
generous hearts, as we share your great love, made known to us
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*HYMN OF DEDICATION *All You Need Is Love* Lennon & McCartney
**Love, love, love
Love, love, love
Love, love, love
There's nothing you can do that can't be done
Nothing you can sing that can't be sung
Nothing you can say but you can learn how to play the game
It's easy
Nothing you can make that can't be made
No one you can save that can't be saved
Nothing you can do but you can learn how to be you in time
It's easy
All you need is love
All you need is love
All you need is love, love
Love is all you need**

*SENDING FORTH

*LIGHT OF CHRIST LEADS US INTO THE WORLD
Celebrate Love TFWS 2073, refrain only
**Celebrate love, love, love. Celebrate love, love, love.
Celebrate love-so amazing.
He’s creating his wonderful love in you.**

*POSTLUDE *In Nomine* Alwood
*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*

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

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 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 revjmhs@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEBRUARY’S COMMUNION OFFERING benefits Church World Service’s blanket ministry.

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS are still needed. New hosts are always welcome. It’s easy to do and it’s a good way to catch up with your church friends.

WESLEY PRAYER CHALLENGE-Pastor Hubbard-Smith started the year with daily readings from *The Wesley Prayer Challenge* by Chris Folmsbee. You are invited to a ZOOM discussion on understanding the meaning behind Wesley’s Covenant Prayer and how we might live it out in our daily lives. You need not have read the book to join in. More information can be found in *The Cornerstone*.

Our Leadership Team This Morning

Acolyte: Robert Scott
Counters: Patty Aria, John Montgomery, Judy Gorra
Fellowship Host: Kitty Amato
Greeter: Jeff Ragle
Lay Reader: John Montgomery
Usher: Gerry Busfield

ALTAR FLOWERS

Given in loving memory of Betty Beckmann by Peggy Ann, Kenneth, & Kimberly.
Given by Maha Boutros in honor of grandson, David’s birthday, February 1st and husband, Awni’s birthday, February 3rd.

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.

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.
Worship & Communion-In Person & Posted 11 a.m. (Old First)

Monday, February 2

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

Tuesday, February 3

Women’s Covenant Group – Library 8:30 a.m.
Naranon – Wesley Hall 11 a.m.
Scouts – Fellowship Hall 6:30 p.m.
Wesley Prayer Challenge – Online 7 p.m.
Lydia Circle Meeting – Wesley Hall 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 4

AA – Wesley Hall 7:30 a.m.
Knitting Ministry – Library 1 p.m.

Thursday, February 5

Alanon – Wesley Hall 10 a.m.
Brownies Show Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall 4:15 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary 6:30 p.m.
OA – Wesley Hall 6:30 p.m.

Friday, February 6

AA – Wesley Hall 7 p.m.

Sunday, February 8

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)
Adult Sunday School – Wesley Hall 11 a.m.



More Love: Eros

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

CCLI #1588788

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