

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.

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

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Sanctus

TFWS 2257-a

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

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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 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.

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.

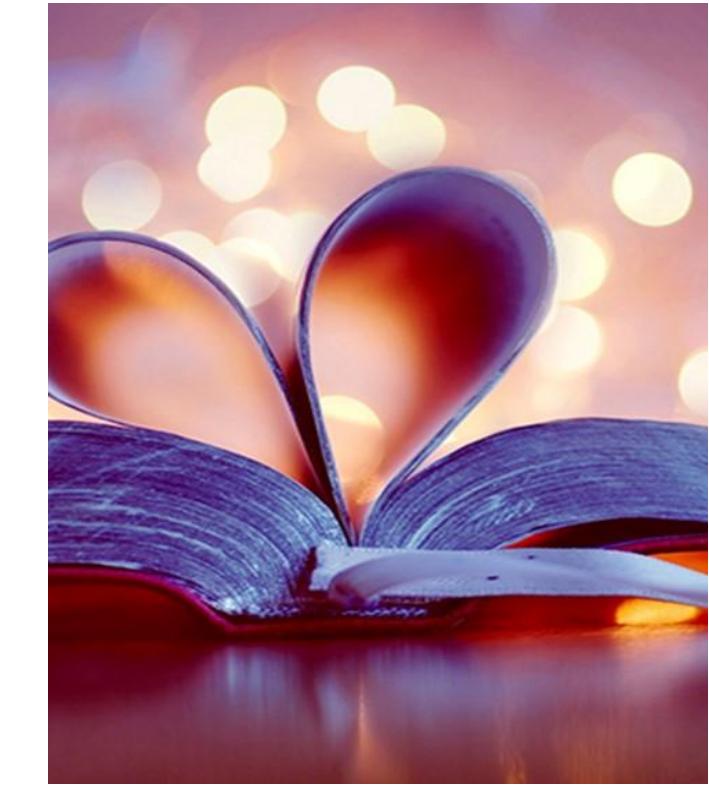
Sunday, February 8

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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Oakhurst.umcchurches.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

Director of Music: Denise Furda

Streaming Team: Chip Stoll, Rob Crowther, Johnny Tocci

Director of Wesley Nursery School: Noel Worthington

Music Director Emeritus: Gary Farquhar

Secretary: Joy More

Sexton: Lisa Costello