

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pleasant Valley and Camden Avenues

Moorestown, New Jersey

Christmas Eve 2008 8:00 P.M. Candle Lighting Service

Welcome! We are happy that you have come to worship here this Christmas Eve.

We invite you to open your heart to the message of the birth of Christ, proclaimed in word and music, and to sing with us the songs that proclaim his birth!

**PRELUDE** Christmas Carols  
Youth Handbell Ringers

**WELCOME**

**UNISON PRAYER:** God of love, open the hearts and minds of many this Christmas time to the good and saving news of Jesus Christ; that those whose lives are insecure, or empty, or aimless, may find in the one born at Bethlehem all that they need today, and much more besides. For his name's sake. Amen.

**OPENING HYMN 240 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**

**THE PROPHET ISAIAH SPEAKS** "...For unto us a Child is born." Isaiah 9:1-7  
*Isaiah wrote these words 700 years before the birth of Jesus!*

**HYMN 211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** Vs. 1 - 4

**THE PROPHET'S HOPE OF PEACE** Jeremiah 31: 31 - 34  
*Jeremiah describes what the Messiah will bring...*

**HYMN 219 What Child is This?** William Dix  
What Child is this who laid to rest, So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping? Come, peasant, King to own Him.  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, The King of kings salvation brings,  
while shepherds watch are keeping Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
*(Chorus) This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

**THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR** Luke 2:1-7  
*"...she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth,  
and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."*

**HYMN 234 O Come, All Ye Faithful** verses 1, 3, 6

**THE ANGELS SING** Glory to God in the Highest! Luke 2:8-14

**HYMN 204**

**Emmanuel**

**THE SHEPHERDS VISIT**

Luke 2:15-20

*"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place,  
which the Lord has made known to us."*

**PRESENTATION OF OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** The Little Drummer Boy Althouse  
Youth Choir

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE** "A Matter of Faith" Pastor Steve Donat

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**CANDLE LIGHTING AND CAROL SING**

*See insert for words for carol sing...*

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

**CLOSING HYMN 246 Joy to the World!**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*Following hymn, please extinguish all candles.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

**ACOLYTE:** Aaron Haegele

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF**

Steve Donat, Senior Pastor  
HeyYoung Horton, Associate Pastor  
Glenn Rodgers, Director of Music  
Karen Murray, Dir. of Christian Education  
Joan Flamini, Office Administrator  
Karen Halligan, Membership Secretary  
Brad Kenney, Youth Director  
Sue Harris, Parish Nurse  
Devika Gill, Pre-School Director  
Steve Bixby, Facilities Maintenance Coordinator  
Bill McIlmail, Property Coordinator

We worship here each Sunday morning at 8:30, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.  
Saturday Vespers at 5:30 p.m.  
Come and worship with us!

*Have a blessed and Christ-centered Christmas*

**NEW YEARS EVE COMMUNION - WATCH NIGHT SERVICE**

A service of Holy Communion will be held in our Sanctuary on Dec. 31, at 9:00 p.m.  
We would like to encourage you to make this a part of your evening's agenda, as we remember our family in Christ, and our only true source of hope, as we welcome in a New Year.

Church Office Contacts

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