

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PLEASANT VALLEY AND CAMDEN AVENUES
MOORESTOWN, NEW JERSEY**

CHRISTMAS EVE 2008

10:30 PM

THE CELEBRATION OF OUR SAVIOR'S BIRTH

*Welcome! We are pleased that you have come to here worship this Christmas Eve.
We invite you to open your heart to the Good News of the birth of Christ,
proclaimed in word and music, and to sing with us and the angels
songs that celebrate his coming!*

PRELUDE

Christmas Music by Brass Quartet,
Adult Handbell Ringers, and Organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O Sing to the Lord a New Song!

People: Sing, each and every one of you, for God has done something wonderful.

Leader: God has brought us God's Son for our salvation.

People: Sing to the Lord and bless God's name, for our salvation is near!

Leader: Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth tremble!

People: Fill this whole space with songs of joy! AMEN.

***HYMN 220**

Angels From the Realms of Glory

***INVOCATION**

Lord of great joy and love, let our songs ring through the universe. Jesus Christ is born!
The darkness has been banished away. Open our hearts to celebrate this incredible blessing
of God's miraculous love for all of us...

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

UNISON PRAYER

Lord, we have rushed through Advent, just to get to this time, the time of the birth of the
Christ Child. We have tried to slow down, to wait, to watch, to listen. We have rejoiced at
the blessings given and the wonder of this incarnation. But we have to admit that we are
still very drawn to our own celebrations and obligations. Free us this night to truly
celebrate the wondrous birth of your Son. Give us the light that will warm our lives and
illuminate our pathways of service. Forgive us when we stumble and fall. Lift us again and
brush us off. Place us on the pathway to your Son. AMEN.

HYMN 240

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

SCRIPTURE READING

A New Covenant Promised

Jeremiah 31:31-34

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

The Holly and the Ivy
Adult Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

The Announcement to Mary

Luke 1:26-38

HYMN 238

Angels We Have Heard on High

SCRIPTURE READING

Prophecy Fulfilled

Luke 2:1-20

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be
done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
AMEN

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Do You Hear What I Hear
Adult Choir

Simeone

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE "A Matter of Faith"

Pastor Steve Donat

CANDLE LIGHTING

CAROL SINGING (See Insert)

CLOSING PRAYER

***RECESSIONAL HYMN 246**

Joy to the World!

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

ACOLYTES: Rebekah Bryan and Samantha Bewley

BRASS QUARTET: Andrei Shidlowksi, Bill Hosbach, Fred Reimers, and Jim Weinhouse

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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(CCLI License No. 782839)