

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pleasant Valley and Camden Avenues

Moorestown, New Jersey

Christmas Eve 2009      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**      Youth Handbell Ringers

**WELCOME**      Worship Leader, Elmine van den Berg

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those on whom his favor rests!*

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

**THE PROPHET ISAIAH SPEAKS** "...For unto us a Child is born."      Isaiah 9:2-7

*Isaiah wrote these words 700 years before the birth of Jesus!*

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

**A NEW COVENANT PROMISED**      Jeremiah 31: 31 - 34

**HYMN 219**      What Child is This?      William Dix

What Child is this who laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?      So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, King to own Him.

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping      The King of kings salvation brings,  
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

**HEAVEN REJOICES**      Glory to God in the Highest!      Luke 2:8-14

**HYMN 204**      Emmanuel

**WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY**      *The Word Became Flesh*      John 1:1-14

**PRESENTATION OF OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**      Sicilian Bagpiper's Carol      Youth Choir

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**      "Fear NOT"      Pastor Steve Donat

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**CANDLE LIGHTING AND CAROL SING**

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

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER**      Following prayer, please extinguish all candles.

*Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving, and trust in you to take away all our fear. Amen.*

**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.

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*THE PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**\*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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