

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

CHRISTMAS EVE 2009 11:00 PM CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE

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**

O Lord Our God, with the birth of Your Son, your glory breaks on the world. Through the night hours of the darkened earth we your people watch for the coming of Your promised Son. As we wait, give us a foretaste of the joy that You will grant us when the fullness of His glory has filled the earth, who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever. Amen.

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 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 How Far Is It to Bethlehem Shaw
The Snow Lay On the Ground Sowerby
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 Gesu Bambino Yon
Adult Choir

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE "Fear NOT" Pastor Steve Donat

CANDLE LIGHTING

CAROL SINGING *(See Insert)*

CLOSING PRAYER - *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.*

Please Extinguish All Candles Following the Prayer

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

***BENEDICTION**

***THE PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

***POSTLUDE**

ACOLYTES: Rebekah Bryan and Samantha Bewley

BRASS QUARTET: Andrei Shidlowski, 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)