

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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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pleasant Valley and Camden Avenues

Moorestown, New Jersey

Christmas Eve 2010 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 What Child Is This

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing Youth Handbell Ringers

WELCOME Karen Murray, Worship Leader

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

INVOCATION: Eternal God, as you came to the world in the birth of the Christ child, come to us this night. Come into our hearts and shine your light upon our path. As you brought your hope, your peace, your joy, and your love to the world in the form of the babe of Bethlehem, so bring to us his radiance and help us to glorify both Him and You. We ask that the fullness of his life might live in us, and that at his name every knee bow, and every tongue confess, that He is Lord. Amen.

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 CONVENANT PROMISED Jeremiah 31: 31 - 34

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

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

SPECIAL MUSIC Mary, Mary, What You Gonna Name That Baby
God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen Youth Choir

HYMN 204 Emmanuel

WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY *The Word Became Flesh*

John 1:1-14

PRESENTATION OF OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC O Holy Night

Bruce Scheyhing, Soloist

OFFERTORY

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE "From Darkness to Light" 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.

***CLOSING PRAYER** **The Canticle of Simeon**

Leader: The holy child of Bethlehem has come to us this night.

People: We have welcomed the Prince of Peace.

Leader: Now, like Simeon, that righteous and devout man who looked forward to the consolation of Israel and who beheld the coming of our Lord Emmanuel, we pray:

People: Lord, let your servants now depart in peace, according to your word; for our eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.

***BENEDICTION**

***THE PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

***POSTLUDE** ***The People Stand**

ACOLYTE: Aaron Haegele