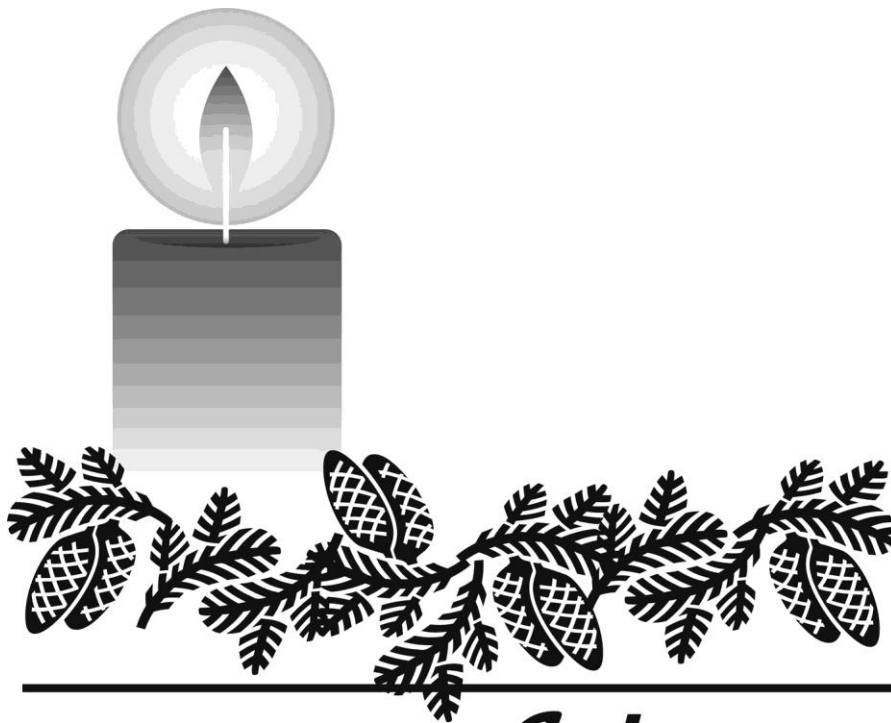


UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

*12 Yardville-Hamilton Square Road
Yardville, NJ 08620
(609) 585-5770
(609) 585-5674 fax*



www.upcnj.org
December 1, 2013

WELCOME

Welcome! You have come to hear the Word of God, and you shall hear it read and preached. But we hope that by hearing it, you will also meet the Word of God, the Living Word, Jesus, our Master and Savior. And we pray that you will leave our church equipped to serve him more faithfully and effectively.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 1, 2013

ADVENT HYMN SING

Leader: Megan Gadsby

WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING CEREMONY

Leader: The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language—the *coming* of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. *Christ is coming*. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

(First purple candle is lit. Sing verse one of “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” #2)

Come Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free.

From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;

Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

**All: Loving God, as we enter this Advent season,
We open all the dark places in our lives and memories
to the healing light of Christ.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ.**

*HYMN

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

20

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we long for and need the presence of Christ in our lives. We long for a

holy visitation but confess that we are too distracted to notice when it arrives. We long for peace but confess that we will not be still long enough to greet it. We long for the joy of new babies and angelic choirs but confess that we are too frantic to stop and look and listen. Forgive us, Lord. Forgive our misplaced priorities that crowd you out of our Advent worship and our lives. Renew in us a desire for you above all else. For the sake of Christ we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GIVE GLORY TO GOD “Joy to the World” verse 1 40
*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.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Pg. 587

Isaiah 2:1-5

- 1 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
- 2 In days to come
the mountain of the LORD’s house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
- 3 Many peoples shall come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
- 4 He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war any more.
5 O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

“Ready or Not!”

Rev. Jean Pinto

ANTHEM

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
soloist, Bob Clendening

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Pgs. 859-860

Matthew 24:36-44

36 “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

SERMON

“The Insomniac Christian”

Rev. Jean Pinto

MOMENT FOR QUIET REFLECTION

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

WE PRESENT TO GOD OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

“From Heaven Shall be This Bread”

Bayless

*WE GIVE PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD

(tune # 455)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Alleluia, Alleluia. Praise Him above ye heav'nly host; Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*PRAYER TO DEDICATE OUR GIFTS

Blessed God, we stand before you as your people, offering to you what we can in anticipation of your coming again to earth. You give us much, we give you little - yet, you are gracious to bless what we give. Please accept these small gifts and transform them into the work of your reign on this earth, as we make ready for the newborn Christ. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*COMMUNION HYMN

“Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation”

516

Joys and concerns may be written on the pew cards and given to the ushers during this hymn. They will be shared during the prayers of the people, unless you mark them confidential.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER

People: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God our shelter.

All creation makes glad your heart.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who is exalted among the nations.

Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER

**People: Christ died, having done nothing wrong;
Christ arose, having done God's will;
Christ will return, having reconciled us to God.**

PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, Hear our prayer, O Lord
Incline Thine ear to us, And grant us Thy peace.*

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE ACT OF COMMUNION

THE BREAD (Please hold the bread until all are served)

THE CUP (Please hold the cup until all are served)

COMMUNION PRAYER

How grateful we are for this family meal you have prepared for us, most gracious God. As we have gathered around your table, might we be open to receiving the gift of your love in the food we have shared. Let it nourish us when we feel depleted, sustain us when times are difficult, comfort us when we are sorrowful and enhance our joy when our cups overflow. Let it be that the meal we have shared will enable us to nurture others through the gift of this bread of life. For the meal we have eaten, O God, we are truly thankful. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*HYMN

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us

17

WE RECEIVE GOD'S BLESSING

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Go in peace, go in love, finding joy in each other.
Go in peace, go in love, in Christ we're sister and brother.
Led by His Spirit, there's strength each day,
Light for the way together.
Go in peace, go in love, may God be with you forever.**

Edelweiss

POSTLUDE

“Immortal, Invisible”

arr. Ritter

*Those who are able may stand.

The flowers today are given by Megan Gadsby in memory of Harry and Emma Stillwell.

Greeters and Ushers: Dot Schroeder and Donna Bade

Liturgist: Ron Castor

UPCOMING EVENTS December 1st – December 8th

Sunday—December 1st: 9:30 am E3 Communion Worship
9:45 am Adult Sunday School
10:15 am Coffee Hour
10:45 am Advent Hymn Sing
11:00 am Traditional Communion Worship
1:00 pm UPW Christmas Tea

Tuesday—December 3rd: 7:00 pm Education Committee

Thursday—December 5th: 9:30 am TASK
7:30 pm Choir – Cantata Rehearsal

Saturday—December 7th: 10:00 am Cantata Rehearsal

Sunday—December 8th: 9:30 am E3 Worship
9:45 am Adult Sunday School
10:45 am Advent Hymn Sing
11:00 am Traditional Worship
12:00 noon Congregational Meeting
6:00 pm Youth Group

There are large print bulletins available. Please see an usher if you need this service.

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, December 8, 2013 immediately following the 11:00 am worship service to approving the terms of call for Rev. Jean B. Pinto and for electing Elders, Deacons, and at-large-members of the 2014 Nominating Committee.

Advent Hymn Sing: Come to the 11:00 am traditional worship service a little early this Advent Season and join us for our Annual Advent Hymn Sing. Each Sunday we sing our favorite Christmas carols and hymns 15 minutes before worship begins.

The **Adult Sunday School** fall schedule has an exciting array of topics for you to choose from. If you are looking for Bible based study and reflection, please come at 9:30 for coffee and donuts. The lesson runs from 9:45 to 10:45.

The Christmas cantata will be presented during 11 a.m. worship on Sunday, December 15th and is titled "A Night for Rejoicing." We hope you will make this cantata a meaningful part of your worship this Christmas season. Bring a friend!

Final order for Gift Cards: December 8th. Complete your order form and turn it into the office with your check. See Betty Reinert with any questions or call her at 609-585-5770.

The Survivors are collecting new hats, gloves, scarves and sweatshirts (with hoods) for Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK). The deadline is today. Thank you for your past generosity and for all you do to help TASK. Collection box is in the rear of the sanctuary.

The United Presbyterian Women are having a Christmas Tea at the Melbri Tea House, 3697 Nottingham Way, Hamilton Square today at 1:00 pm.

The Survivors Senior Group will meet at Centro Grille, on the corner of Rt. 33 & Robbinsville-Edinburg Rd, Robbinsville in the Town Center, on Wed., December 11, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. for our Annual Christmas lunch. The cost is \$21.00 per person (tax & gratuity included) and you will have a choice of four (4) entrees. Make your reservation with Rita Peterson 259-7256 or email ritapete@optonline.net. If you are in need of a ride to the restaurant please feel free to give Rita a call.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S DECEMBER 14, 2013 BREAKFAST MEETING
The UPM Group will have a Breakfast Meeting at the **MASTORIS DINER – ROUTE 206, BORDENTOWN**. This will be a **DUTCH TREAT EVENT**. Come join us for the fellowship and spiritual up-lifting as we continue to share ways of socializing and serving our church. Sign up sheet in the rear of the sanctuary. Questions? Contact Jim Dixon at 609-298-3398 or e-mail jdixonsr@comcast.net.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Healing of Sue Lanning; Dan Rose; Leo Clement; Harold Peterson; Carol and Al D'Amico; Jim Dixon's sister, Judy Jaleen (hospitalized); Evan Silvestro (hospitalized with a burst aneurism); David Geijer (right shoulder); Tom Reed (Parkinson's disease); Lou Toth (tests); Priscilla (pneumonia); Angela (breast cancer); Cyndy (breast cancer); Bryan; Melissa (liver and colon cancer); Jim (in Deborah with heart and lung issues); and Ron (continued healing).

Comfort for the bereaved family of Tim Takacs.

Thanksgiving that Benita Rommel is home from the hospital and doing well. Also joy on the birth of Ashley Lynn Martino to Jennifer and Jeremy Martino. Ashley is Peachy Kozlowski's 2nd great granddaughter!

Our Mission Statement

We are called by Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to celebrate and share the love of God with grace and joy. Gracefully and joyfully we seek to share our gifts in the community through:

[Open Doors](#)

[Diverse Worship](#)

[Innovative Education](#)

[Creative Mission](#)

[Dynamic Service](#)

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

You are invited to make a commitment to follow Jesus Christ as Lord of Life, or to renew your commitment as a Christian Disciple. Please speak to the pastor who will talk and pray with you. If you are looking for a church home we invite you to join this family of faith and service. This is a caring congregation, open to all. Please let us know how we can serve you.

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: All the members of the Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Jean B. Pinto (737-8011) jeanbpinto@comcast.net

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Terry E. Fouse and Rev. John H. Milne

Organist: Michael Mraz

Choir Director: Marilyn Machmer

Church Secretary: Betty Reinert

Prayer Chain: Daytime: Carol Heberling (298-2594); Betty Reinert (585-5770)

Evening: Gail Fouse (585-3248); Joyce Vaughn (888-1187)

OUR CONGREGATION IN MISSION

Because of your stewardship commitment, the United Presbyterian Church is supporting the ministries of:

- ❖ The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) through Monmouth Presbytery; the Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly.
- ❖ Mobile Meals of Hamilton Township
- ❖ Princeton Theological Seminary Scholarship Fund
- ❖ Trenton Area Habitat for Humanity
- ❖ Trenton Area Rescue Mission
- ❖ Presbyterian Camp at Johnsonburg
- ❖ Trenton Area Soup Kitchen
- ❖ Pierson Memorial Food Bank
- ❖ Womanspace

- ❖ Homefront
- ❖ Trenton Area Campus Ministries