

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*“...they will call him
Immanuel”
— which means,
“God with us.”*



Matthew 1:23

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*www.upcnj.org
December 22, 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 22, 2013

ADVENT HYMN SING

Leader: Bob Conner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING CEREMONY

Leader: We have lit three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

(Final purple candle is lit)

Sing Verse 2 of "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?" #11

*Love caused Your incarnation, love brought You down to me;
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led You to embrace
In love all loves excelling our lost and fallen race.*

All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

*HYMN

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

9

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and awesome God, your love is wider than our sight; your grace is more wonderful than we can sing. Yet you chose to visit us as a child in a manger, love us as a friend and save us as a redeemer. We admit that there is much in us that is not ready to receive you. Our world is torn by horrors in distant countries and tensions on our streets. Our communities have children hungry in school and youth hungry for work. Our lives are busy to the point of exhaustion, and we carry so much worry that turns prayer dry and flattens our joy.

Holy and awesome God, stop us long enough that we might hear a song on the darkest night, might feel your presence in the midst of common tasks and sense joy and hope that flows from the strength of your care. Come, give us a heart of praise and a song of gladness. In Jesus 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

Pgs. 591-592

Isaiah 7:10-16

10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, 11 Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. 12 But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. 13 Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. 15 He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

“What’s in a Name?”

Rev. Jean Pinto

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
 23 “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
 and they shall name him Emmanuel,”
 which means, “God is with us.” 24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25 but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

SERMON

“The God Who Sleeps Over”

Rev. Jean Pinto

MOMENT FOR QUIET REFLECTION

*HYMN

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

14

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.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.*

WE PRESENT TO GOD OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “Meditation of Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine” arr. Martin

*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

O Emmanuel, what do we have to offer to you? We, too, are like Mary, an unwed teenager soon-to-be mother without a penny to her name, her very life hanging in the balance at the whim of someone else. But God, you are faithful to your promises to provide for us when we are faithful. So, just as Mary and Joseph were blessed by being the parents of Jesus because they were faithful to you, so we, too, in our act of offering the fruit of our labor, put our trust and our lives in your almighty hands. Amen.

*HYMN “People, Look East” 12

WE RECEIVE GOD’S BLESSING

POSTLUDE “And the Glory of the Lord” G. F. Handel

*Those who are able may stand.

The flowers today are given by Ron and Adrienne Kaliszewski in memory of Ruth Kaliszewski. Also, please see the insert for the Christmas poinsettias. The large poinsettia in the center of the chancel is given by Betty Lou Dolci in memory of her mother, Etta Cathel.

Greeters and Ushers: Rita and Karl Peterson

Liturgist: Jim Dixon

UPCOMING EVENTS December 22nd – December 29th

**Sunday—December 22nd: 9:30 am E3 Worship
 9:45 am Adult Sunday School
 10:45 am Advent Hymn Sing
 11:00 am Traditional Worship**

Tuesday—December 24th:	4:00 pm Youth Group Christmas Caroling 4:00 pm Family Birthday Celebration for Jesus 8:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Communion
Wednesday—December 25th:	MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Sunday—December 29th:	9:30 am E3 Worship 11:00 am Traditional Worship

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

Christmas Caroling

This afternoon we will gather at the church at 4 p.m. to go caroling at the homes of our shut-in members. If you love to sing and want to share some Christmas joy to your neighbors join our “merry” group! We will return to the church for hot chocolate and cookies.

To ensure your contributions for 2013 are included in your year end tax statement, please make your contributions no later than December 29, 2013.

Advent and Christmas Worship Services

Sunday Morning, December 22, 2013

9:30 E3 Worship

10:45 Advent Hymn Sing

11:00 Traditional Worship

Tuesday, December 24, 2013

4:00 pm Family Birthday Celebration for Jesus

8:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Communion

Womanspace is our Mission Focus for the month of December. All mission donations received during December will go to support Womanspace.

Looking for a change in the new year? The **Adult Sunday School** offers the opportunity for learning about some Old Testament and New Testament subjects and church history over the past 1000 years as well as having some fellowship and coffee. We hope to see you on Sunday mornings at 9:30. SS Teachers

Topic	Dates	Teacher
Amos and Hosea, the Prophets	Jan 5, 12, 19 & 26	Jean Malloy
The Reformers, Martin Luther, Waldo, Calvin, Menno Simons, etc.	Feb 2, 9, 16 & 23	Jean Pinto
First Corinthians, One In Christ	Mar 2 - May 18	
	Mar 2, 9, 16, 23	Curly Rentner
	Mar 30, Apr 6, 13, 20	Peggy Ayres
	Apr 27, May 4, 11, 18	Tony Nami

PRAYER REQUESTS

Healing for Colton Thibodeau (in CHOP with a cold; and running a fever due to chronic kidney disease); Peggy Ayres' sister, Joyce Allen (hip problems).

Comfort for the bereaved family and friends of Samantha Belliveau.

Strength and support for Sania Lamkin on the death of her classmate, Samantha Belliveau.

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



Not Just Another Story

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