



United Presbyterian Church

525 East Front Street • Plainfield, NJ 07060 • 908-756-2666 • <http://www.upcplainfield.org/>

Where God is exalted, Everyone matters, and You belong!

Worship Services: Sunday 11:00 am

December 2023 Newsletter

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among mortals with whom He is well-pleased."

(Luke 2:14)

**PASTORAL
MESSAGE**



Dear Friends:

Merry Christmas and greetings to you in the holy and mighty name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our blessed Redeemer! As always, I trust God that all is well with you.

When you read this letter, the jolly and busy Christmas season will have begun. For as far back as I can remember, the time starting with Thanksgiving Day and culminating on New Year's Day is one of my favorite times of the year, with the joy of Resurrection Sunday, its only competitor.

During the Christmas season, the gathering of family and friends, the festive sights and sounds, and the cheerfulness that exudes the atmosphere emitting from some of the most unlike and unusual people and places radiate hopefulness and declare goodwill to all. Hopeful themes are highlighted in many movies like *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Miracle on 34th Street*, and several biblically based stories about Jesus' birth, including some specifically developed for children, are produced.

Some radio stations ring in the Season early on November 1 by devoting their entire playlists to belting Christmas music twenty-four hours a day through Christmas Day. The joyful sounds of Christmas songs and carols, like *Here Comes Santa Claus*, *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, *Jingle Bells*, and *White Christmas* are often blasted from loudspeakers and intermittently heard in shopping districts between the reflective traditional Christmas Carols like *O Holy Night*, *Away in a Manger*, and *O Little Town of Bethlehem* that remind listeners that Jesus is the reason for the Christmas Season.

For the youthful, overeating, shopping for toys, clothing, gift-giving, and receiving heighten the Season's expectations and optimism. Charitable giving is also a huge part of the Christmas season. Traditionally, individuals, families, churches, and other nonprofit organizations collect and distribute more food, clothing, and new toys to needy families at Christmas time than at other times.

The optimism of the Christmas season transcends the mere hope of giving and receiving material gifts and experiencing other beneficial social interactions. It inspires hope for positive change, a new career, a better lifestyle, restoring severed or fractured relationships, and peace for the individual, communities, and the world. For a little over thirty days, It is as though the Light of the world that shines in the darkness breaks through and illuminates the hearts and minds of humankind.

More importantly, it reminds us that God is alive and well. He loves the world so much that he sent his only begotten son [the baby Jesus] into the world to reconcile fallen humanity with the Creator, thus assuring mortals that eternal life – perpetual fellowship with God, is possible.

Christians have additional reasons for hopefulness during the holiday season. We observe Advent, a time of eagerly preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth on December 25th in most Western countries. With joyous expectation, we also intentionally recall Jesus' promise to return.

With Advent in mind, I invite you to join the 2023 UPC Advent studies on Sundays in December via ZOOM at 7:30 pm. You are also invited to join our Advent preparation study on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm.

The sights and sounds of the Christmas season arouse generosity of spirit, happiness, and hopefulness. For as long as the world exists, may God grant us grace to experience the joy of celebrating Christmas – the birth of Jesus Christ, God's greatest gift to the world. I pray in the mighty and holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. .

Peace, love, and blessings,

Pastor Allegra



WORSHIP SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON & ONLINE
Church Office: Tele: 908-756-2666

Sunday Worship Service

Pastor Allegra Hoots
11:00am
In the Sanctuary & Via YouTube
(<https://bit.ly/3jyy1pg>)



Contemporary Worship Service

Resumes September 14th
Thursdays @ 7:30pm—Via YouTube*
<https://bit.ly/3J7whly>

Daily Devotional

Daily @ 6:00am to 6:15am—Via Zoom
(<https://bit.ly/40BeoBK>)

Holiday Service Calendar

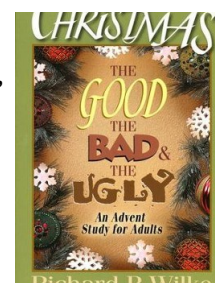
See page 3

Celebrate the Savior

Jesus is the reason for the season!

Advent Study begins

Sunday, December 3 at 7:30 PM via Zoom. (<https://bit.ly/40BeoBK>)
" In this four-week Advent study, author Richard B. Wilke focuses on people in the story of Christ's birth. There are those we associate with the joy and celebration of Christmas—the wise men, the shepherds, and Joseph. Yet the author reminds us not to forget that the evil King Herod is also part of the Christmas story, and how it is because there is evil in our world that we so desperately needed - and need - a Savior."



Sunday School

Youth & Young Adults

Dates: Sundays @ 10:00am / **Location:** Hansen Room
We encourage you to bring or send your child.
Need transportation, call the Church Office.

Adult Bible Study

Dates: Sundays @ 10:00 am; **Location:** Lind Room **JOIN US!**
Conversations based on the Bible and our society

Upcoming Events

See calendars for more activities and events

December			January		
Date	Time	Event	Date	Time	Event
3	7:30pm	Advent Book Study Starts	1		New Year's Day
9	10:00am	Administration Committee Meeting	6		Epiphany
10	1:00pm	Christmas Caroling—Join us!	7		Baptism of Jesus
20	7:30pm	Session Meeting		10:00am	Administration Committee Meeting
24	11:00am	Christmas (Eve) Service—Nativity of the Lord	15		Martin Luther King Jr. Day
31	11:00am	New Year's (New Year's Eve) Service	17	7:30pm	Session Meeting
	10:00pm	Watchnight Service	TBA	7:30pm	Joint Session & Deacons Meeting

FOR VIRTUAL EVENTS: TO CONNECT BY COMPUTER OR TELEPHONE, GO TO THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION: <http://www.upcplainfield.org/>



Special Worship Services during Advent

Christmas Service Sunday, December 24 11:00am - 12:30 pm
(No Christmas Eve Service)

New Year's Service December 31 11:00am - 12:30 pm

Watch Night Service December 31 10:00pm - 12:30 am

Advent Study Sunday, December 3 7:30pm
to December 24th

Book: *The Good, The Bad & The Ugly*
Author: Richard B. Wilke

" In this four-week Advent study, author Richard B. Wilke focuses on people in the story of Christ's birth. There are those we associate with the joy and celebration of Christmas—the wise men, the shepherds, and Joseph. Yet the author reminds us not to forget that the evil King Herod is also part of the Christmas story, and how it is because there is evil in our world that we so desperately need - and need - a Savior."



CAROLING

JOIN US ON DECEMBER 10TH

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CHURCH SERVICE
AS WE GO CAROLING TO OUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY ~ NO MEMBERSHIP NECESSARY
SMILES NECESSARY

INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS—JOIN US!!!!
Let Avril know if you will be there upcnews525@gmail.com

Thanksgiving is a time of togetherness and gratitude,

In 1 Timothy 5:17, Paul encourages us to give “double honor” to those who preach and teach.

Pastor Allegra Hoots who willingly serves and shepherds us, her congregation, was honored on November 11th by a gathering of her congregants with a dinner, presentations of music and poetry and with tributes, parody and music from youth and adult members. **Pastor, you are truly worthy of all the praise!**

When we show honor, it is not only the pastor who is blessed—the church congregation is blessed too.

During the season of Thanksgiving, we took the time to recognize and lift each other up!



L-R: Pastor Hoots, Mrs. Virginia Hansen, Ms. Jean Scott



This event was coordinated by the Fellowship Committee and supported by all.



Ms. Sue Terry

Dear Congregation,

With a joyful heart, I thank God and you for the incredible privilege of serving as your pastor. This brief message acknowledges your appreciation to Davaughn and me for our service. We are humbled and incredibly grateful for your outpouring of affection.

By the grace of God, Davaughn and I look forward with anxious anticipation to continue nurturing and enhancing this congregation's ministries. We thank God for His favor in allowing us to provide meaningful worship services and learning opportunities and develop community partnerships that offer viable networks that increase and extend United's influence in and beyond the Plainfield community.

Please pray fervently for my strength in the Lord.

Once again, thank you for your kindness and support.

Sincerely yours,

Pastor Allegra



True Meaning of Christmas: Celebrating the Savior

For Christians, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the Savior, Jesus Christ. We know that through belief in Christ we are daughters and sons of God. Heaven will one day be our home. Perhaps this will help you look at the Christmas season differently this year. A chance to truly take in the wonder and awe of the season.

Celebrating the Savior

Christmas is a time of spiritual reflection on the important foundations of the Christian faith. It's also a celebration. It's when Christians celebrate God's love for the world through the birth of the Christ child: Jesus. The Bible tells of his birth hundreds of years before, fulfilling prophecies.

The Christmas season, especially in the West, is a mix of pre-Christian, Christian, and secular traditions. What's interesting is the etymology of the word Christmas. It literally means Christian Mass. It's a shortened form of Christ's Mass.

The Christmas story is recorded in [Luke 2:4-19](#).

"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.'

Jesus was born in order to pay the price for the things we have done wrong: sin. God sent his only son to be the atonement for all our sins so that we would not be separated from God. Without Jesus, we would all die for our sins. We inherited our sinful nature from the first human beings God created, Adam and Eve. While being fully God and yet fully man, Jesus came into the world as an infant to save us all.

Most Christmas traditions vary in significance and symbolic meaning. For example, we exchange gifts because God sent us the most precious gift: his only Son. Also, three Wisemen visited Jesus and brought gifts as well. A poem titled *A Visit from St. Nicholas* penned in 1822 popularized the tradition of exchanging gifts too.

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.'

"When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:4-19)



<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/what-is-the-meaning-of-christmas.html>



What is Kwanzaa?

Tuesday, December 26th to January 1st



Maulana Karenga, created Kwanzaa as a way of uniting and empowering the African American community in the aftermath of the deadly Watts Rebellion. Having modeled his holiday on traditional African harvest festivals, he took the

name “Kwanzaa” from the Swahili phrase, “matunda ya kwanza,” which means “first fruits.” The extra “a” was added, Karenga has said, simply to accommodate seven children at the first-ever Kwanzaa celebration in 1966, each of whom wanted to represent a letter.

Many people celebrate both Kwanzaa and Christmas.

Homemade and educational gifts are encouraged.

On each day of Kwanzaa, a candle is lit for that day’s principle on the candleholder (Kinara).

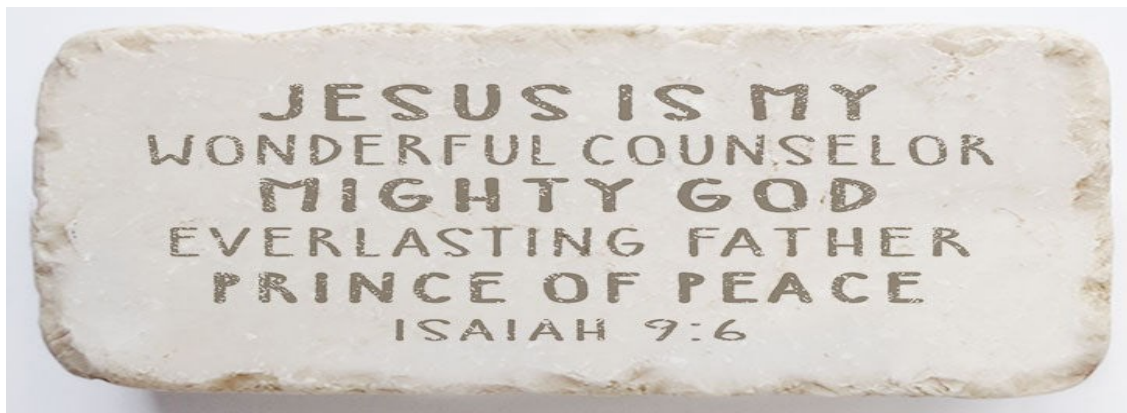
Seven symbols of Kwanzaa:

mazao (crops), mkeka (mat), kinara (candleholder), muhindi (corn), kikombe cha umoja (unity cup), zawadi (gifts) and mishumaa saba (seven candles)—that are traditionally arranged on a table. Three of the seven candles are red, representing the struggle; three of the candles are green, representing the land and hope for the future; and one of the candles is black, representing people of African descent. Some families who celebrate Kwanzaa dress up or decorate their homes in those colors.

Seven principles of Kwanzaa:

1. Umoja (Unity): To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.
2. Kujichagulia (Self-Determination): To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.
3. Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility): To build and maintain our community together and make our community’s problems our problems and to solve them together.
4. Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics): To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.
5. Nia (Purpose): To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
6. Kuumba (Creativity): To do always as much as we can to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
7. Imani (Faith): To believe with all our hearts in our people and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/seven-principles-kwanzaa>



Change Your Words ~ Change Your Mindset



Do you find yourself constantly battling negativity? Are your words, thoughts, and actions filled with negativity? The saying is *change your words, change your mindset* – meaning if you’re able to choose the words you use wisely and intentionally in your life, you will be able to also see a positive change in your mindset.

#1. Stop Complaining

There are many reasons why people complain so much. But whether it is to brag, get attention, or to remove responsibility, the end result is the same. *Complaining is usually a collection of negative words designed to highlight the negatives of a situation.*

#2. Look for the Growth Opportunities Instead

The next time you feel like complaining, or you face an obstacle or a setback, take a minute to pause and dig in. When your instinct is to complain, stop yourself and try to *see what you can learn from the setback.*

#3. Speak Positively

Use words that are positively charged so that you remind yourself that you are locked into a positive mindset. For example, imagine you are running late for an important meeting. Your instinct may be to say “Sorry I’m late” followed by an explanation. To change your words for a more positive outlook, you could choose “Thank you for your patience while you waited for me”. This shifts your mindset to a more grateful one rather than a mindset that is looking to excuse yourself from whatever kept you. This shows the people you are talking to that you are grateful for their time and patience, and will give you peace of mind knowing that you are already excused for being late.

#4. “I Have To” vs. “I Get To”

Typically when we are faced with a task that we do not want to do, we use the words ‘have to’. *Replacing have to with get to* is a simple change that has a massive impact on your mindset. This is a way of tricking your brain into seeing obligations or chores as something you actually *want to do*. For example: rather than “I *have to* do the dishes”, consider “I *get to* do the dishes so that my family can sit down together and enjoy a meal together.”

#5. Use Positive Self-Talk

The last step to change your words change your mindset is using positive self-talk. *The words we use in our heads can have a major impact on our mindset.* When you constantly speak negatively about yourself, it is easy to fall into a mindset trap of negativity.

For example, thoughts such as “I am not good enough”, or “I’ll never reach this goal” limit our thinking into a fixed mindset. It is here that we struggle to find growth. *The limiting beliefs that we hold about ourselves keep us stuck in the safety of our comfort zones, rather than taking risks. Using positive self-talk or positive affirmations for self-love will steer your thinking toward a growth mindset.*

<https://www.joyfulthroughitall.com/change-your-words-change-your-mindset/#:~:text=The%20saying%20is%20change%20your,positive%20change%20in%20your%20mindset.>

INSTEAD OF SAYING THAT	SAY THIS!
IT'S TOO HARD.	I'LL KEEP TRYING.
I CAN'T DO THAT.	HOW CAN I GET BETTER AT THAT?
I GIVE UP.	I WILL KEEP WORKING!
I'M AFRAID I'LL MAKE A MISTAKE.	MISTAKES ARE HOW WE LEARN BEST.
THEY'RE SMARTER THAN ME.	WHAT CAN I LEARN FROM THEM?
THIS IS HARD.	THIS MAY TAKE SOME TIME AND EFFORT.
I'M A FAILURE.	I CAN LEARN FROM MY MISTAKES.
I DON'T GET IT.	WHAT AM I MISSING?
I HATE TO BE WRONG.	IS THIS REALLY MY BEST WORK?
I DON'T LIKE OTHERS TO DO BETTER THAN ME.	I'M GOING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THEY DO AND TRY IT!

Have you considered a bequest to United Presbyterian Church?

Over 60% of U.S. adults have no estate planning documents in place. It has been reported that every week about \$100 million is left by people who die without a will.

Your greatest gift is often your legacy gift. People who have been blessed by the United Presbyterian Church have left legacy gifts through their estate. A bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make. As you create or update your will, trust, retirement plan or life insurance, you can specify that a gift goes to United Presbyterian Church.



What is a religious bequest?

A bequest is a gift of part of your estate made in your Will. Your estate is the total of all your assets and possessions when you pass away. By making a bequest, you will provide support for many ministries provided by the Church. Your gift may be for general Church use or for a specific purpose within the Church.



Benefits of a charitable bequest

- A bequest gift can lower your taxable estate
 - Based on your net worth, you may be able to **reduce the amount of taxes** that your family is obligated to pay
- Leave a lasting legacy gift to Focus on the Family, yielding eternal impact

Your generosity will make a difference in the lives of many individuals.

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/11/67percent-of-americans-have-no-estate-plan-heres-how-to-get-started-on-one.html>

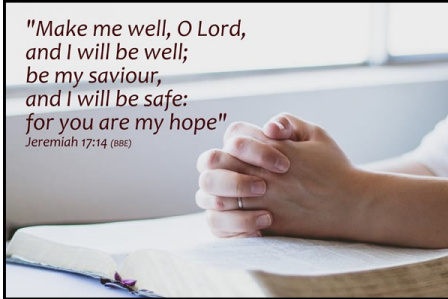
City of Plainfield—Recreation Events

For more information and activities go to: <https://bit.ly/3yvXfxK>



Mon/Wed/Fri	9am	Walk with Ease Hub Stine Sports Complex, 1410 Randolph Road
Wed Dec 14th	7pm	2022 PAAAS Student Winter Event Showcase (Free Event) Plainfield High School Auditorium (ALL ARE INVITED)
Thur & Fri Dec 14 & 15		COVID-19 & Flu Vaccine 12/14 12-3pm: 601 W. 7th St / 12/15 12-3pm: 400 E Front St. & 513 W. 6th St; 4-7pm
Wednesday Dec 27th	3:30-4:30pm	Cell Phone Photography (How to take the best pictures with your phones) Plainfield Public Library, 800 Park Ave. / Info 908-757-1111 ext 112
Saturday Dec 17th	12-6pm	Pre Kwanzaa Market Place Performing Arts Center—724 Park Ave. / For more info: 908-753-3097
Tuesday Dec 27th	11am-Noon	Rizzo's Wildlife—Live Animal Show Plainfield Public Library, 800 Park Ave.—Anne Louise Davis Rm / Info 908-757-1111 ext 112
Tuesdays	6-7pm	Zumba Performing Arts Center—724 Park Ave. / For more info: 908-753-3097
Wednesdays	6-7:30pm	Girl Scout Troop—Heart of NJ Troop 40954 Performing Arts Center—724 Park Ave.—For more info: 908-753-3097

Remember our brothers and sisters listed below.
Call them if you are able to.



- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Leroy Anglin | Errol Neil |
| Ronn Daniels | Bobett Neil |
| Emory Dawson | Sheila Neil |
| Helen Foerster | Yvonne Neil |
| O'Harold Hoots | Marianna Perry |
| BJ Klikus | Pat Perry |
| Frank Klikus | Brenda Rodgers |
| Liz Mangan | Gail Stokes |
| Vilvurn Marsh | Izaiyah Stokes |
| Winnie Neal | |

Send your Prayer requests to the Church Office
You will be placed on our prayer list



December

- 10 Macy Robinson
- 13 Javin Scott
- 16 Yetunde Falowo
- 18 Avril Lecky
- 22 Patricia Dawson
- 24 Pat Perry
- 26 Crystal Awobue
- 27 Gabrielle Greene
- 28 Ginni Hansen
- 29 Jennifer Youngsam

January

- 6 Bola Falowo
- 15 Izaiyah Stokes
- 17 Christopher Lecky
- 19 Jessica Dawson
- Stanley Awobue
- 21 Madison Darius

Flower Ministry

With your donation of \$25 or more to the Flower Fund, the Deacons will provide a beautiful floral arrangement for the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. After worship, the arrangement will also brighten the day of a member or friend of UPC who is unable to join us for worship.

Flowers may be made in honor or memory of a loved one. Honoree names will be listed in the church bulletin.

You may complete the form below or add your information to the flower chart in the Narthex.



*Blessings,
Zorina Bowers*

Name: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Amount: _____

In Memory of: _____

Thank you for your
generous support of
UPC's Flower Ministry

Board of Deacons

tithes & offering

Worship the Lord in Giving



THIS IS STEWARDSHIP!

Our gift, no matter how small, goes a very long way to support the church and the community.

To bless the Church with your tithes and offering you may:

1. Drop it off at the church office
2. Mail your check (not cash) to the church
3. Log in to <https://bit.ly/3oyj1J6> or
4. Go to the UPC website homepage and click on the "Give Now" button

~ Thank you ~

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

HELP STAR FISH FOOD PANTRY TO HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR

For monetary donations:

Make your check payable to Star Fish

For unexpired Food Donations

Drop off your items in the
Church Office or Sanctuary or

Call Avril at 732-742-8762 if pick up is needed.

HELP SOMEONE IN NEED—GIVE!



* NEED HELP BUYING GROCERIES? *

Check to see if you are eligible for food assistance (SNAP), cash assistance (WFNJ/TANF or WFNJ/GA), and health insurance (NJ Family Care/Medicaid). From here you can apply for services or learn about additional resources.

Click on this link: <https://www.njhelps.org/>

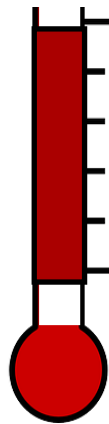
United Presbyterian Church BUILDING FUND

As of 12/2/2023 the total collected is \$13,443



The UPC administration committee wants to be certain all UPC members and friends are aware of the establishment of the Building Fund at UPC to which contributions can be made to help defray the cost of the maintenance of the facility which ensures the health and safety of the occupants of our facility.

13,443



This building fund originated in 2021. Our facility was built in 1952 and, despite our faithful maintenance efforts, the facility is showing the signs of 71 years of wear and tear. The performance of our investment accounts, collection of rental fees and the faithful and generous giving our members and friends have provided the funds for our maintenance.

Our maintenance costs, however, are mounting to a point where we need to continue our appeal to the generosity of our church community and friends. Whether a UPC member or a friend of United, we ask that you prayerfully consider contributing to the Building Fund, where 100% of your contribution will be dedicated to defraying the cost of accomplishing United's goal of ensuring a healthy and safe facility.

Contributions to the Building Fund are welcome anytime and may be accomplished in the following ways:

1. Sending a check, made out to the United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield, to Treasurer, 525 East Front Street, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060 with "Building Fund" written in the memo section of the check.

OR

2. Contributions can be made through the "Give Now" button located at the UPC website at www.upcplainfield.org Enter your contribution to the "General Fund Regular Offering". In the notes section indicate "Building Fund".

Wanda Breitenbach
Administration Committee, Acting Chair

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Parents, please read this to your younger child(ren)

Jesus is the one true light. We are his witnesses.

Theme: Jesus is the one true light. We are his witnesses.

Object: A strand of Christmas lights; construction paper; scissors; pens - one per child; tape

Scripture: John 1:6-8, 19-28



Cut circles from the construction paper to symbolize light bulbs. Make them large enough so kids can write a word or two on them.

Turn down the classroom lights, and plug in the Christmas lights so they light the room.

Our Bible reading for today tells us that God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light--Jesus--so that everyone would believe. John wasn't the light. He only came to tell others about the light. Jesus is the one true light, who gives light to everyone. Let's think about lights in our lives to help us think about that.

When do you need light or what do you need light for? Encourage kids to try to work together to name a use for light for every bulb on the Christmas strand.

At this time of year, we see lights everywhere that remind us of the coming of Jesus, the true light that John told about. Turn and tell a neighbor in one sentence about the coolest Christmas lights you've seen. Allow time.

Those lights can help us remember that Jesus is the one true light in our hearts and in our lives. Jesus brought light into the darkness of this world. Think of a way Jesus brings light into your heart and life, and write a word to tell what you're thinking on a construction paper light bulb.

Give kids construction paper light bulbs and allow time. As they finish, have them tape the paper light bulbs between the real light bulbs on the strand.

Let's pray and thank God for Jesus--the light of the world.



PRAYER: *Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to this world. We're thankful for the light He brings to our lives--the hope, joy, love, and peace He brings us. In Jesus' name, amen.*

The Light of the World

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. John 1:6, 8 (NIV)

Based on John 1:6-8, 19-28 (NIV)



R L P R O P H E T E M E S V X
F N W E G I W Y N Y Z A U N K
R K A L E C Y H N I Y C N T P
U L T I O G O A T N S H S C R
J T E J X J D P A K Y R N O I
E L R A H R A H Z J L I E N E
R W Z H O B T U Z J B S Q F S
U I I J T E B N A M E T L E T
S T X M B S L E V I T E S S S
A N U T R E H K F O W A L S O
L E I R Q N V K T E S T I F Y
E S V F E T I H D N F K G W P
M S M L S L V R D Y R R H Y L
L M D E G O D P O S G I T R S
M C B T D B E L I E V E B W Q

BETHANY
CHRIST
JORDAN
LIGHT

JOHN
TESTIFY
BAPTIZE
PROPHET

BELIEVE
NAME
JERUSALEM
ELIJAH

SENT
GOD
CONFESS
MAN

LEVITES
WATER
PRIESTS
WITNESS

Light Of The World—Coloring Page

The *LIGHT* shines in
the darkness and
the *darkness*
has *NOT* overcome it.

John 1:5



Crawford/Walton Memorial Fund

The Board of Deacons of the United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield is accepting donations for the Crawford/Walton Memorial Fund for higher Education.

This fund is dedicated to scholarships for any member pursuing an undergraduate degree or working in an undergraduate program which will lead to a specific degree. It may also be used by anyone pursuing a seminary degree.

Donations are accepted and welcomed to this fund at any time and may be accomplished in the following ways:

1. Sending a check, made out to the United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield, to Treasurer, 525 East Front Street, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060 with "Crawford/Walton Memorial Fund" written in the memo section of the check.

~ OR ~

2. Contributions can be made through the "Give Now" button located at the UPC website at www.upcplainfield.org Enter your contribution to the "General Fund Regular Offering". In the notes section indicate "Crawford/Walton Memorial Fund".

Invest in our children's future

Important:

Deadline is the 20th of each month for the Newsletter. Leave your news in the Church Office or email it to upcnews525@gmail.com

Have information that you would like to share? A poem? A prayer request? A new child/grandchild? SEE BELOW

Church Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

Church Administrators

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday to Friday
9:00am to 1:00pm

Please call the Church Office for an Appointment or to contact the Pastor

Pastor Allegra Hoots

Director of Music: Mr. Ronn Daniels
Treasurer:
Ms. Wanda Breitenbach
Custodian: Mr. Charles Rivers

Session Members

Alaric Tate (Clerk)
Emory Dawson
Patricia Dawson
Avril Lecky
Marcia Marsh-Hinds

Board of Deacons

Helen Foerster - Moderator	Desirae Hemans
Daniel Bofah	Tania Hemans
Thelma Fleming	Maggie Anglin
Virginia Hansen	Zorina Bowers

To contact the deacons for assistance
Call the church office at 908-756-2666

Newsletter

Editors

Avril Lecky
Bola Falowo
George Hansen
Hugh Lecky

Contributors

Pastor Allegra Hoots
Davaughn Hoots
Zorina Bowers

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Email: upchurch@aol.com
Stewardship: upcplainfield525@gmail.com
Newsletter: upcnews525@gmail.com
Church website: <http://upcplainfield.org>
Telephone No.: (908) 756-2666



United Presbyterian Church

525 East Front Street • Plainfield, NJ 07060 • 908-756-2666 • <http://upcplainfield.org>

December 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Computer Logon Info — Sunday Worship: https://bit.ly/3jyylpg Daily Devotion: https://bit.ly/40BeoBK Noonday Prayer: https://bit.ly/40BeoBK Contemporary Service: https://bit.ly/3J7whly					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream 10am Sunday Sch/Adult Ed Communion Sunday 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 10:30am Administration Mtg
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream 10am Sunday Sch/Adult Ed Youth Sunday CHRISTMAS CAROLING 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream 10am Sunday Sch/Adult Ed Dedication Sunday 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Session Mtg	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream CHRISTMAS SERVICE 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion
31						
NEW YEAR'S SERVICE 10pm WATCHNIGHT SERVICE						

NOTE:
 CALENDAR EVENTS MAY CHANGE BASED ON THE STATES POLICY ON GROUP MEETING. THE CALENDAR REFLECTS REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE. **CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.**

Communion & Deacon Sunday — 1st Sunday Monthly
 Youth Sunday — 2nd Sunday monthly
 Dedication Sunday — 4th Sunday Monthly

Committee Meetings (unless stated otherwise):
 2nd Saturday @ 10:00am: Administration Meeting
 3rd Wednesday @ 7:30pm: Session Meeting

If you would like to be a member on any committee or help with any project, call the Church Office at 908-756-2666.



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January 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	2 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	3 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	4 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7pm Contemporary Worship	5 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion
7 11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream Communion Service 10am Sunday School/ Adult Educ.	8 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	9 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	10 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	11 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7pm Contemporary Worship	12 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	13 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 10:30am Admin. Meeting
14 11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream Youth Sunday 10am Sunday School/ Adult Educ.	15 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BDAY	16 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	17 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Session Mtg	18 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7pm Contemporary Worship	19 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	20 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion
21 11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream 10am Sunday School/ Adult Educ.	22 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	23 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	24 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	25 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7pm Contemporary Worship	26 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	27 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion
28 11am Worship Service In-person & Livestream 10am Sunday School/ Adult Educ. Dedication Sunday	29 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	30 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	31 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	Computer Logon Info — Sunday Worship: https://bit.ly/3jyylpg Daily Devotion: https://bit.ly/40BeoBK Noonday Prayer: https://bit.ly/40BeoBK Contemporary Service: https://bit.ly/3J7whly		

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Communion — 1st Sunday Monthly
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 Dedication Sunday — 4th Sunday Monthly

Committee Meetings (unless stated otherwise):
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**United Presbyterian
Church**
525 East Front Street
Plainfield, NJ 07060

Where God is exalted, Everyone matters, and You belong!