



# 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!**

December 2019

11:00 a.m. Worship ~ 10:00 a.m. Adult Education



"...I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way" -- "  
a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare  
the way for the Lord'"

Mark 1:2-3

## *Christmas Greetings!*

By Pastor Allegra Hoots

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the blessed name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

For as far back as I remember, the days from Thanksgiving to Christmas morning have been my favorite time of year. As a child, I looked forward with anxious anticipation to cheerfulness that seemed to permeate the air everywhere.

It started with me sitting in front of the television in our modestly furnished living room watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, to later in the day overeating, watching holiday movies, followed by decorating our house and a Christmas tree.

The colorful decorations, caroling, and holiday parties that started on Thanksgiving pointed with optimism toward Christmas Day. Back then, the relationship between Thanksgiving and Christmas was analogous to that of John the Baptist to Jesus. As John identified Jesus as the "Light of the world," to me, Thanksgiving pointed to Christmas as a day to spend time with family and experience the thrill of exchanging gifts.

*Jesus is the  
Light of the world*

Today I think of Thanksgiving as the unofficial start to Advent – a time in the Christian calendar that looks forward to honoring the day set aside to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, God's greatest gift to the world, and a time to remember Jesus will come again.

My purpose for gift-giving at Christmas has changed. I now see it as a token of the loving, sacrificial gift the Creator made by giving Jesus to the world in order to reconcile humanity to God.

Happy Holidays!  
Allegra

*Adopt a paradigm that puts God First  
Love mercy and walk humbly with God  
Be transformed by the renewal of your mind  
Put on the armor of God*

*Communication: Cell phone is not the problem, its how it is used.*

Personal notes taken from Pastor Allegra's sermons  
A. Lecky

### Hope in Hopelessness

Hope means, "to desire something with confident expectation of its fulfillment." The state of Hopelessness has been aptly described as a type of "Hell on Earth," filled with endless despondency and despair.

Today, more and more people are finding themselves alone and depressed, and few of us have not at one time, or another felt the sting of despondency and despair.

But Good news! Help is available, not the kind the world has, wherein it wishes for the best. It is one thing to wish, and quite another to have faith based on the promises of God.

#### God is Our Source

Paul wrote that when you place your trust in God, He will fill you with peace, joy, and assurance, (Romans 15:13).

Throughout the Bible, God proves His faithfulness to His people by leading them safely through or delivering them from all their predicaments and troubles. He will never leave or forsake His people; His plans are to prosper, not to harm them (Jeremiah 29:11).

People and things will always let us down. In Psalm 33:17, the horse, often used as a symbol of power, is declared a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength, it cannot save. In Jeremiah 17:5 God sternly warns against placing our dependency on man and calls it a curse.

God wants us to trust in Him. Psalm 147:11 tells us that He is delighted when we put our trust in Him, and in Heb 10:23 we are told to rely on Him for He who promised it is faithful.

May we remember to trust and have faith when times are dark, and the path is not clear, God is our strength and refuge and in God we can seek the right path for our future. The future of the kingdom, the future of our communities and the future of UPC.

#### Trust and have faith

-Pastor Michelle

### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

June 2020 will be the 195th Anniversary of United Presbyterian Church.

How would you like to celebrate this milestone anniversary?

1825

Let one of your Session Members know.

2020

Editors of the UPC Newsletter		CONTACT INFORMATION	
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## Sunday Morning Worship

We have been blessed to have the Word delivered to us by a group of awesome ministers of God on  
**Sunday Mornings at 11:00am. JOIN US!**

Pastors will be:-

### December

1 Rev. Jennie Salas  
6 Pastor Allegra Hoots  
15 Pastor Nancy Rivera-Laboy  
22 Pastor Michelle Wildridge  
29 Pastor Michael Leach  
(Cathedral International)

### January

5 Rev. Victor Aloyo, Jr.  
12 Pastor Allegra Hoots  
19 Pastor Allegra Hoots  
26 Pastor Allegra Hoots

### Adult Education 10:00am Sundays - - - Topic "Illuminating Advent"

NOTE: No Adult class on Dec. 1st



United Presbyterian and Nuevas Fronteras will jointly celebrate the birth of Christ on?

December 24th, Christmas Eve Service

7:00 pm

Sanctuary

Rev. Victor Aloyo, Jr.

### Upcoming Events

Each Sunday: 10am – Adult Education

11am – Worship

Treasure Hour – children's time

### December

Date	Time	Event
8	11:00am	Youth Sunday
	12:30pm	Deacon's Meeting
14	4:00pm	Writers Workshop – Dreamhouse Theater
15	1:00pm	Caroling – No prerequisite All invited
19	7:30pm	Board of Session Meeting
24	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Service—Sanctuary

### January

Date	Time	Event
11	4:00pm	Writers Workshop – Dreamhouse Theater
12	11:00am	Youth Sunday
	12:30pm	Deacon's Meeting
16	7:30	Board of Session Meeting



### Christmas Giving Tree

The Christmas Giving Tree provides an excellent opportunity for those who want to make a difference to bring a smile to the faces of children in need during the holiday season. This giving opportunity is an effort of our Youth Education team, Deacons and the Outreach committee. Simply take a name(s) from the tree. Names are fictitious to maintain the privacy of our families. You will have 3 options for each child; purchase the one you are able to. Bring the gift in a plastic or shopping bag (DO NOT WRAP IT). Place the tag from the tree with the gift in the box by the tree. Items will be donated to the families before Christmas.

Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas

### Star Fish Food Pantry

Items needed: Everything but at this time, primarily:

- Jelly
- Peanut Butter
- Pasta Sauce
- Bars of bath soap

Your assistance in serving those in need in a variety of ways.



### Love your neighbor as yourself...Serving our neighbors in Plainfield since 1971

#### Mission :

To provide emergency food assistance to families of Plainfield who find themselves in need.

Star Fish was founded through the efforts of the Association of Religious Organizations, an ecumenical clergy group. The name is a combination of the Judaic Star of David and the Christian fish symbol. Founders were Eileen Cunniff, Mary Nischwitz, Rev. Herbert Saunders, Ann Hale, and Julia B. Purnell.

[Contact Us](#) for more information or to donate!

Star Fish, Inc. is a tax exempt, 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation in Plainfield, NJ.  
Your donations are tax deductible as permitted by the IRS Code - EIN 22-2145178

#### Church Administrators

**Director of Music:** Ronn Daniels  
**Executive Assistant:** Pat Perry  
**Sexton:** Sue Terry

#### Session Members (Elders)

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

#### Board of Deacons

Helen Foerster - Moderator  
Maggie Anglin  
Daniel Bofah  
Thelma Fleming  
Kayode Falowo  
Virginia Hansen  
Neekah Hinds (in training)  
Desirae Hemans (in training)  
Tania Hemans (in training)

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

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



## Lift up your Prayers for



Carl Foerster	Gail Stokes
Helen Foerster	Izaiyah Stokes
Barbara Hyney	Jamie Sweeney
BJ Klikus	Osquit Vanderstoop
Frank Klikus	

### Call or visit our members



Congratulations to  
**Mr. Carl Foerster**  
Scoutmaster  
Boy Scout Troop 5, Plainfield

Who will be honored on December 3rd by Boy Scouts of America at an Award Dinner to be held at The Westwood in Garwood, NJ. Troop 5, celebrates 107 years with 43 years under the leadership of Scoutmaster Foerster. It is the 5th oldest troop in the United States.

**Carl, Thank you!**

## Give to the Flower Ministry

Thank you for your generous support of UPC's 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, Deacon*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

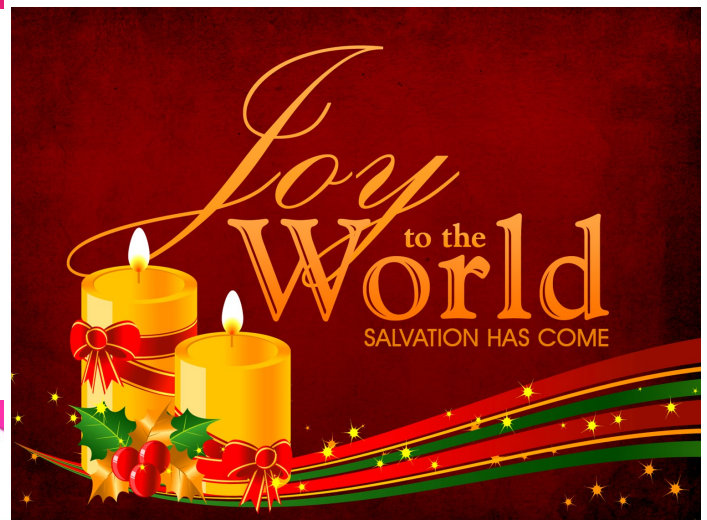
## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### December

- 10 Macy Robinson
- 13 Javin Scott
- 16 Jonathan Williams
- Yetunde Falowo
- 17 Michelle Wildridge
- 18 Avril Lecky
- 22 Patricia Dawson
- 24 Pat Perry
- 26 Crystal Awobue
- 27 Gabriele Green
- 28 Ginni Hansen
- 29 Jennifer Youngsam

### January

- 6 Bola Falowo
- 11 Barbara Hyney
- 10 Richard Lecky
- 15 Izaiyah Stokes
- 17 Christopher Lecky
- 19 Jessica Dawson
- Stanley Awobue
- 24 Sarai Cherry





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## December 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 11am Worship - Communion Sunday	2	3 11:30am Seniors Exercise Class	4 7pm A/A	5 10:00am Seniors Exercise Class	6	7 7pm A/A
8 10am Adult Educa- tion 11am Worship - Youth Sunday 12:30 Deacons Mtg	9	10 11:30am Seniors Exercise Class	11 7pm A/A	12 10:00am Seniors Exercise Class	13	14 7pm A/A Writers Workshop (Dreamhouse Theater)
15 10am Adult Educa- tion 11am Worship 1:00 pm Caroling Join us 7:30pm A/A	16	17 11:30am Seniors Exercise Class	18 7pm A/A	19 10:00am Seniors Exercise Class 7:30pm Session Mtg	20	7pm A/A
22 10am Adult Educa- tion 11am Worship 7:30pm A/A	23	24 11:30am Seniors Exercise Class **** 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day 	26 10:00am Seniors Exercise Class	27	28 7pm A/A
29 10am Adult Educa- tion 11am Worship 7:30pm A/A	30	31 11:30am Seniors Exercise Class				

The calendar reflects regularly occurring events and subject to change. Check with the Church Office for changes

### Committee Meetings (unless stated otherwise):

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

2nd Sunday following Worship: Deacons Meeting  
3rd Thursday: 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 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
Happy New Year						7pm A/A
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10am Adult Education 11am Worship - Communion Sunday School  7:30pm A/A	7:30pm Boy Scouts	11:30am Seniors Exercise Class	7pm A/A	10:00am Senior Exercise Class		7pm A/A Writers Workshop (Dreamhouse Theater)
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10am Adult Education 11am Worship - Youth Sunday 12:30 Deacons Mtg  7:30pm A/A	7:30pm Boy Scouts	11:30am Seniors Exercise Class	7pm A/A	10am Senior Exercise Class 7:30pm Session Mtg		7pm A/A
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10am Adult Education 11am Worship  7:30pm A/A	7:30pm Boy Scouts	11:30am Seniors Exercise Class	7pm A/A	10am Senior Exercise Class		7pm A/A
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10am Adult Education 11am Worship Sunday School 7:30pm A/A	7:30pm Boy Scouts	11:30am Seniors Exercise Class	7pm A/A	10am Senior Exercise Class		

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*We learn and grow together as a Church, as a people.*



Have you considered working with United Presbyterian Church in its efforts?

Do you see areas in our communities where we may become beacons of light? How can you help to shed light to a dark area—Learn about our ministries

\*\*\*\*\*

We are a community of people called into being and empowered by the Holy Spirit to study, share and serve together. We believe the Scriptures to be the witness of God's love revealed in Jesus Christ. We are aided in our understanding of the Scriptures by the book of Confession. We are a dynamic group of Christians, seeking to expand our fellowship through nurture and outreach.

**Administration Ministry**

The Administration ministry consists of various teams to include stewardship, finance, building and grounds and personnel. This team works together to manage the operation of the building and its congregants.

**Adult Education**

facilitate the spiritual growth or discipleship of believers into Christ-likeness. Reading and learning from scriptures; discuss it's place in today's world and our communities.

**Board of Deacons**

Deacons are ministers elected and installed by the Session who ministers to those in need, to the sick, to the friendless and to any in distress in accordance with the scriptural duties of the office and assumes this responsibility through the nomination and election by the Session.

**Board of Session**

The body of the Church consisting of ruling elders duly installed by the Moderator or Pastor. Full administrative responsibility, spiritual and corporate is vested in the Session who may also be Trustees. The board of session nominates members to each of the ministries. Typically, meetings of the Session is closed to the congregation but United has opened its meetings to the congregation.

**Children/Youth Ministry**

Working with your children and youth to build spiritual foundations and meaningful relationships with others.

**Choir Ministry**

Harmonizing and sharing your voice and talents with the Church team on Sundays and when needed for special events. No experience necessary.

**Fellowship Ministry**

Sharing of what we have in common, relating with one another in fellowship – unity – love based on who we are in Christ.

**Outreach Ministry**

Supports local programs for children, youth, senior citizens and other groups as needed; supports local, national and foreign missions.

**Worship Ministry**

Lead and assist the Pastor and congregation in structured corporate worship on Sundays and other events, and to encourage the Church towards and model for them a lifestyle of sincere worship that is consistent every day of the week.

Fold here to mail



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