



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

Worship Services: Sunday 11:00 am & Thursday 7pm

January 2023 Newsletter

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not depend on your own understanding. And in all your ways acknowledge God, and God will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3: 5-6



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

Greetings to you in the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our blessed Redeemer. As always, I hope this message finds you in good health, rejoicing in the joy of the Lord, and continuing to grow in your knowledge of godliness.

Christians, like many others, are beginning to make new year's resolutions, those well-intended strategies for developing or enhancing areas of our lives. Many will plan to improve their physical, emotional, and spiritual health. Others will commit to working diligently to be more present in the lives of those who love them. Some will pledge to curtail their spending and get their finances in order. Others will promise to grow their faith by engaging more regularly in the spiritual disciplines – praying, studying Scripture, attending worship service, fasting, and doing charitable works. Others will pull out their fancy daily planners from previous years and determine to bring the plans previously made to fruition.

Whatever your thoughts for making changes during the new year, consider beginning with Proverbs 3: 5-6, ***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not depend on your own understanding. And in all your ways acknowledge God, and God will make your paths straight.”***

Pick a day during the first week of the new year to read and meditate on the passage. Begin by asking God to help you apply his word to your life. Then read the passage three times (you may find it helpful to read it in three different translations). Underline, highlight or jot down the phrases that you found particularly meaningful.

Then, pray about your new year's resolutions. Try whittling your list down to one or two things. Once you have done that, ask God to help you develop realistic strategies to achieve the goals of your resolutions. End with prayer by thanking God for the reassurance that he will help you accomplish your goals.

Each day review your resolutions and the strategies for fulfilling them. If you miss a day or fail to complete a task, start over, knowing God cares for you (1 Peter 5:7) and will help you get back on track.

Now, let me update you on the UPC Helping Homeless Families Initiative (HHFI). Praise God: we achieved the mission goals through the generous donations and support of members and friends. The last component of the 2022 initiative, Gifts for Girls, was completed on December 21, with a youth group member delivering the gifts to the shelter.

Well, friends, that is all for now. May the peace of Christ rule our hearts and strengthen us to run the good race that glorifies God through our good works until Christ calls us home.

Peace, blessings, and Godspeed!

Pastor Allegra

Being in Christ, it is safe to forget the past; it is possible to be sure of the future; it is possible to be diligent in the present.

Alexander MacLaren

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



Sunday Worship (Traditional)

Pastor Allegra Hoots
11:00am

In the Sanctuary & Via YouTube
<https://bit.ly/3jyylpg>

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**Contemporary Worship Service**  
Thursdays @ 7:00pm  
Via YouTube\*

**Sunday School**  
Youth & Young Adult  
Hansen Room  
10:00 am

Classes will resume on January 8, 2023



**Adult Bible Study**

Series Topic:  
**Advent Study: "Names for the Messiah"**  
Dates: Sundays @ 10:00 am  
Location: Lind Room

Dates: Classes will resume January 8, 2023

Upcoming Events

See calendars for more activities and events

| January |         |                                           | February |         |                               |
|---------|---------|-------------------------------------------|----------|---------|-------------------------------|
| Date    | Time    | Event                                     | Date     | Time    | Event                         |
| 1       |         | New Year's Day                            |          |         | <b>Black History Month</b>    |
| 6       |         | Epiphany                                  | 15       | 7:30pm  | Session Meeting               |
| 8       |         | Baptism of Jesus                          | 19       | 12:30pm | Annual Congregational Meeting |
| 14      | 10:00am | Administration Committee Meeting          | 21       |         | Presidents Day                |
| 16      |         | Martin Luther King Day                    | 27       |         | Transfiguration of our Lord   |
| 18      | 7:30pm  | Session Meeting                           |          |         |                               |
| 16      |         | Martin Luther King Jr., Birthday          |          |         |                               |
| 18-25   |         | Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins |          |         |                               |
| 19      |         | Pastor's Luncheon (RSVP required)         |          |         |                               |

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

## EPIPHANY

January 6, 2023

Liturgical colors: White & Gold—Epiphany 12 days from Christmas (12 days) to (Jan. 6).

'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word meaning 'to reveal' or 'manifest', as it is when the baby Jesus was 'revealed' or 'manifested' to the world. This is why you might hear people say they've had an epiphany, when they've just realized something.

Epiphany, also called Feast of the Epiphany, Theophany, or Three Kings' Day is a Christian holiday commemorating the first manifestation or revelation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi, and the manifestation of his divinity, as it occurred at his baptism in the Jordan River and at his first miracle, at Cana in Galilee. Epiphany is one of the three principal and oldest festival days of the Christian church. The other two are Easter and Christmas.

Epiphany is celebrated 12 days after Christmas on 6th January (or January 19th for some Orthodox Church who have Christmas on 7th January) and is the time when Christians remember the Wise Men (also sometimes called the Three Kings) who visited Jesus.

**The epiphany feast completes the season of Christmas by inviting us to discern the identity of the Christ child.** Epiphany is also when some Churches remember when Jesus was Baptized, when he was about 30, and started to teach people about God. The visit of the Wise Men and his Baptism are important times when Jesus was 'revealed' to be very important.

Epiphany Eve (also known as Twelfth Night) marks the end of the traditional Christmas celebrations and is the time when you were meant to take Christmas decorations down.

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/is-epiphany-three-kings-day-a-biblical-holiday.html>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Epiphany> - <https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/epiphany>



## BAPTISM OF JESUS

January 8, 2023

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is observed annually on the Sunday after January 6. It commemorates the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist.

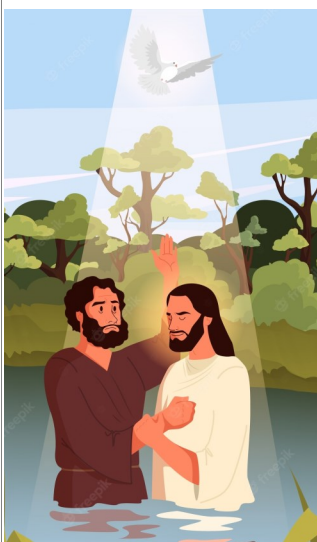
*Matthew 3:13-17: <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"..... <sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*

In Christian theology, a baptism is a kind of rebirth; a washing away of original sin and a purification of the soul. According to the Bible, the first known baptism occurred with Jesus, sometime around 30 AD, when he was baptized in the River Jordan by his disciple John later known as John the Baptist.

Jesus tells John that His baptism is "fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness". Jesus is baptized as a symbol of giving His will up to His Father and the beginning of His earthly ministry. God affirmed Jesus' baptism in a powerful way: As soon as Jesus was baptized and came up out of the water, the heavens opened. John sees the Spirit of God descending like a dove upon Jesus and they hear God's voice say "This is my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved." The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus following his baptism. This was a sign that Jesus' ministry was empowered by the Spirit and would usher in peace between humankind and God.

Jesus didn't need to repent or turn from sin, rather, his baptism served as a sign that he was the Messiah. Jesus' baptism account is a beautiful portrayal of the loving union of the Trinity – Father, Son, and Spirit. This moment in his life marked the beginning of his ministry in which he was partaking in the human experience fully as the spotless lamb of God sent to save the world.

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-stories/baptism-of-jesus-bible-story.html>



A graphic for the Annual Congregational Meeting. It features a white rectangular box with a folded paper effect, centered on a background of teal and dark blue geometric shapes. The text inside the box reads "ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING" in a sans-serif font, with "CONGREGATIONAL" in a larger, teal font and "ANNUAL" and "MEETING" in a smaller, grey font.

ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

**All Members and friends are invited to attend our annual congregation meeting on:**

**When: February 19th, 2023**

**Where: Lind Room**

**Time: Immediately following our worship service**

The following was taken from PCUSA, book of order:

At our annual meeting we may consider such business as electing officers, hearing reports of the session along with plans for the coming year, hearing reports from the board of deacons and other organizations of the church, and transacting other business as is appropriate. It shall review the adequacy of the compensation of the pastor or pastors upon report of the prior review by the session. ([G-10.0102n](#)) Public notice of the meeting shall be given on two successive Sundays.



**Martin Luther King Day 2023**  
**January 16, 2023**



“Why should there be hunger and deprivation in any land, in any city, at any table, when man has the resources and the scientific know-how to provide mankind with the basic necessities of life?”  
- Martin Luther King Jr.



This observance day commemorates the January 15, 1929, birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King was a civil rights leader, minister, and winner of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia and was assassinated April 4, 1968.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a United States holiday marking his birth and observed on the third Monday of January each year. It is one of four United States federal holidays to commemorate an individual person.

King was the chief spokesman for nonviolent activism in the civil rights movement, which successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law.

The campaign for a federal holiday in King's honor began soon after his assassination. Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law in 1983, and it was first observed in 1986. At first, some states resisted observing the holiday as such, giving it alternative names or combining it with other holidays. It was officially observed in all 50 states for the first time in 2000.

One place where this day is observed as important is in the Japanese city of Hiroshima under mayor Tadatoshi Akiba, who holds a special banquet at the mayor's office as an act of unifying his city's call for peace with King's message of human rights. (From: Wikipedia, license: CCA-SA)

<https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/martin-luther-king-day-2023/>  
[www.cute-calendar.com](http://www.cute-calendar.com)  
<https://www.hungercenter.org/blog/mlk-day-of-service-end-hunger->

***“Do good; seek justice.”***

**Week of Prayer for  
Christian Unity**

January 18-25, 2023

The theme is from Isaiah 1:17, “Do good; seek justice.” The entire scriptural passage for the theme is Isaiah 1:12-18, lamenting a lack of justice among the People of God. Yet, it also promises redemption by encouraging acts of justice.



The 2023 theme was developed with the assistance of a group of Christians in Minnesota, USA, convened by the Minnesota Council of Churches. Minneapolis, MN became a flashpoint for calls for racial justice and equity during the responses of communities to the George Floyd murder. This received world-wide attention.

***“Today, separation and oppression  
continue to be manifest ....”***

In its *Introduction to the Theme*, the organizers write: “Today, separation and oppression continue to be manifest when any single group or class is given privileges above others. The sin of racism is evident in any beliefs or practices that distinguish or elevate one “race” over another. When accompanied or sustained by imbalances in power, racial prejudice moves beyond individual relationships to the very structures of society – the systemic perpetuation of racism. Its existence has unfairly benefitted some, including churches, and burdened and excluded others, simply due to the color of their skin and the cultural associations based upon perceptions of ‘race’.”

Calling to mind our common Christian commitment to justice and mercy, we pray that the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2023 will be full of moments of conversion of heart through our ecumenical encounters, so that “all may be one.”

<https://www.atonementfriars.org/2023-week-of-prayer-theme-announced-do-good-seek-justice/>

## Children & Youth Plans for 2023

### Sunday School:

Sunday School will resume for elementary, middle, and high school young people on Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 10:00 am. Our youth leadership team is continuing in the framework that was established during the Vacation Bible School. The team consists of Bible Teacher – Patricia Dawson, Art & Crafts – Zorina Bowers & Desirea Hemans, Music – Susan Terry, Bible Games & Physical activities - Ginni & George Hansen. The Team will work together to give the young people experiences in these different types of learning and engaging. Everyone is invited to come and participate in this framework as they feel led.

### Activities for youth during coffee hour:

Some of our parents and Davaughn Hoots have volunteered to supervise the activities that the young people will participate in during the coffee hour after church.

### Children & Youth Participation

Our children & youth will participate in worship services and other Church Outreach activities. Youth will be Liturgists on the Second Sunday of each month. They will be invited to participate in other parts of worship services such as ushering, Church outreach efforts, leading games, etc.



### Meeting of The Minds:

A meeting was held on Saturday, December 17, 2022 with parents, young people, youth leaders, and friends to begin strengthening our young families community engagement inside and outside of UPC. We had a lively discussion and brainstormed ideas for our children and youth outreach efforts. This was a great beginning which welcomed parents input, their participation with meaningful conversation and feedback. A follow up meeting to discuss further plans will be held in January 2023.

### Boys & Girls Club of Union County (BGCUC):

The Boys & Girls Club of Union County will extend some of its activities at UPC. The proposed commencement date is set for February 6, 2022. More information on their activities will be announced in the coming weeks.



**Sundays @ 10:00 am  
Resumes January 8th**

Children and Young Adults —The Hansen Room  
Adults —The Lind Room

Adults, consider dropping your children off and then joining the adult group for interesting conversations based on teachings

You're Invited to the:

**Pastor's Luncheon**  
**Theme: "Beginnings"**

January 19th, 2023  
11:00am to 1:00pm

Call the Church Office to  
RSVP

908-756-2666

*The Scriptures were  
not given to increase  
our knowledge but  
to change our lives.*

*D. L. Moody*



## 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 semi-nary 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

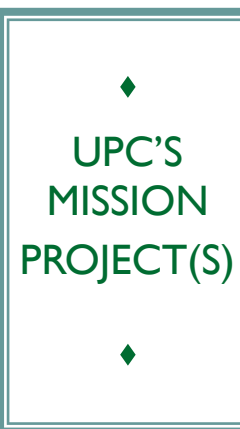
2. Contributions can be made through the "Give Now" button located at the UPC website at [www.upcplainfield.org](http://www.upcplainfield.org) Enter your contribution to the "General Fund Regular Offering". In the notes section indicate "Crawford/Walton Memorial Fund"

Conscience is our wisest counselor and teacher,  
Our most faithful and most patient friend.

Billy Graham

### Helping Homeless Families (HHF) initiative

Praise God! By his grace and through the generosity of members, we met our annual giving goals for UPC Helping Homeless Families (HHF) 2022 initiative, including a component called Gifts for Girls.

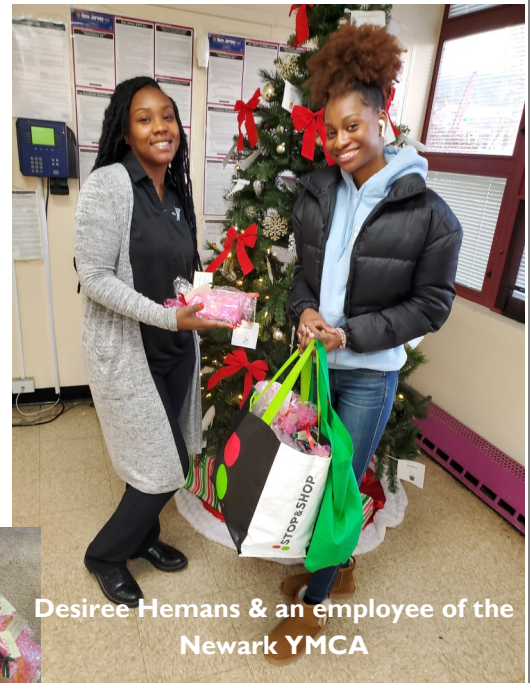


The purpose of the Gifts for Girls project was to continue creating opportunities for UPC youth group members to engage in mission work and use some of the life skills they acquired under the tutelage of Elder Patricia Dawson.

To achieve the objective, Desiree Hemans, a member of the UPC youth group, was given a \$300.00 budget to purchase and wrap beauty supplies for sixty teenage girls living in a homeless shelter in Newark, New Jersey. She completed the task with excellence, including coming under budget.

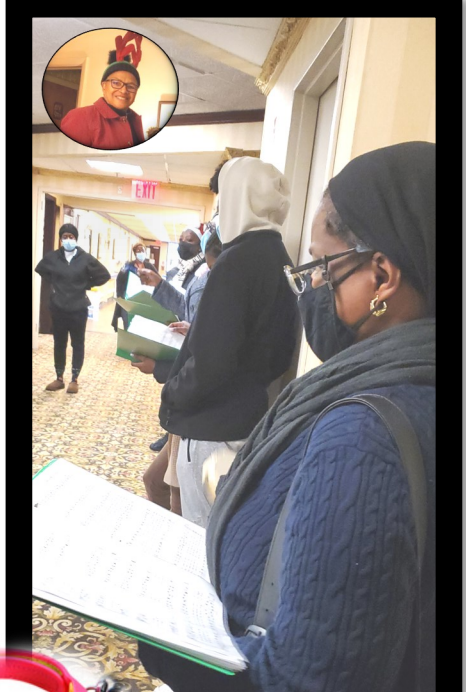
The photos shows Desiree delivering the gifts on December 21 and her creative talent used to arranged the Gifts for Girls presents in a bouquet.

Peace and blessings!



Desiree Hemans & an employee of the Newark YMCA





UPC  
CAROLERS  
2022



Jingle Bells

*I was a bit out of sorts before but in the end felt happy that I was able to participate .....MH*

On December 11th the carolers visited Richmond Towers, Arista Care Nursing Home and homes of our members and friends. Sue Terry, our director provided the song books, jingle bells and kept us in tune. Helen reminded us that UPC has been caroling in the community for over 40 years. The tradition continues. It was a wet but beautiful day.



*Thank you for carrying the torch to see so many people that appreciated our presence and sang along ....ZB*

*I found this rewarding and I was so happy doing it. ....JY*

*We had a great time and thanks to everyone who participated. The residents at Richmond Towers and I really enjoyed it. ....MR*



### PERSEVERANCE PAYS

*But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

*1 Corinthians 15:57-58 NKJV*

A well-lived life is like a marathon, not a Sprint-it calls for preparation, determination, and, of course, lots of perseverance. As an example of perfect perseverance, we Christians need look no further than Jesus Christ.

Jesus finished what He began. Despite his suffering and despite the unspeakable pain He experienced on the cross, Jesus was steadfast in his faithfulness to God. We, too, must remain faithful when we experience the inevitable hardships of life.

Are you living through tough times or facing a difficult situation? If so, just keep putting one foot in front of the other, pray for strength, and keep going. Whatever your problem, God can handle it. Your job is to keep persevering until He does.

*Perseverance is more than endurance. It is endurance combined with absolute assurance and certainty that what we are looking for is going to happen.*

*Oswald chambers*

### A PRAYER

Lord, when life is difficult, I am tempted to abandon hope in the future. But you are my God, and I can draw strength from you. Let me trust you, father, in good times and in trying times. Let's me persevere-even if my soul is troubled-and let me follow your son this day and forever. Amen.

*Taken from: Prayers to Start your Day by Criswell Freeman*

### City of Plainfield—Recreation Events

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



|                                  |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat., Feb & Mar 2023             |           | <b>Interactive Stem Program (Ages 8-13)</b><br>Registration are handled through the Mad Science website on a first-come, first served basis.<br>(201) 236-1400 <a href="https://northeastnj.madscience.org/">https://northeastnj.madscience.org/</a> |
| Mon/Wed/Fri                      | 9am       | <b>Walk with Ease</b><br>Hub Stine Sports Complex, 1410 Randolph Road                                                                                                                                                                                |
| October to December<br>Tuesdays  | 6-7:-00pm | <b>Introduction to Baton Twirling</b><br><b>Clinton Elementary School, 1302 West 4th St.</b><br>For Info: 908-753-3097                                                                                                                               |
| Wednesdays                       | 6-7:-30pm | <b>Girl Scout Troop—Heart of NJ Troop 40954</b><br>Performing Arts Center—724 Park Ave.<br>For more info: 908-753-3097                                                                                                                               |
| October to December<br>Saturdays | 9-9:45am  | <b>Yoga</b><br>Performing Arts Center—724 Park Ave. / For more info: 908-753-3097                                                                                                                                                                    |

## tithes & offering

Worship the Lord in Giving



*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*  
[2 Corinthians 9:7](#)

### 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.

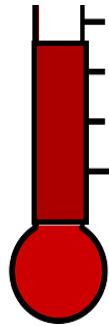
Click on this link: <https://www.njhelps.org/>

## United Presbyterian Church BUILDING FUND

As of 12/27/22 the total collected is  
**\$10,425**



10,425



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 four maintenance projects scheduled for 2022. These projects involve heating, roofing, drainage, and renovation that are essential to ensure the health and safety of the occupants of our facility.

This building fund originated in 2021. At UPC's annual meeting on Sunday February 20th a motion was made and passed for United to be more purposeful in our efforts to encourage contributions to the Building Fund. To accomplish this, UPC members and friends will be receiving a letter from United that will provide specifics of the four maintenance projects to which funds contributed to the Building Fund will be dedicated.

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](http://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

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



Lord of Heaven, I rest underneath your mighty wings of love. I dwell within your gentle heart. I know there is healing in your touch. Through the sufferings of Christ I can ask for restoration And trust in your goodness. You are my Lord, my Savior, My healer and my friend. I dwell within your gentle embrace. Amen."

UNKNOWN



womans day

- Leroy Anglin
- Emory Dawson
- Karen Edmonds
- Helen Foerster
- Sharon Graham
- O'Harold Hoots
- BJ Klikus
- Frank Klikus
- Vilvurn Marsh
- Bobett Neil
- Sheila Neil
- Marianna Perry
- Pat Perry
- James Plummer
- Gail Stokes
- Izaiyah Stokes

## 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*

Hatred stirs up conflict,  
but love covers over all wrongs.

**Proverbs 10:12**

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



### January

- 6 Bola Falowo
- 15 Izaiyah Stokes
- 17 Christopher Lecky
- 19 Jessica Dawson
- Stanley Awobue
- 24 Sarai Cherry

### February

- 5 Tania Hemans
- 7 BJ Klikus
- 27 Kayode Falowo



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

### Angels Watching Over Me

**Theme:** God's protection.

**Object:** A Bible

**Scripture:** Matthew 2:12-23

Children's Sermon: Angels Watching Over Me (Matthew 2:12-23)

Have you ever heard the song, "Angels Watching Over Me?" It is a beautiful Black Spiritual which tells about how God sends his angels to watch over us. No one knows who wrote the song, but it is believed to have originated in the southern part of the United States during the days of slavery. The song goes like this: (Sing it, if possible.)

All night, all day,  
Angels watching over me, my Lord.  
All night, all day,  
Angels watching over me.

Sun is a-setting in the west;  
Angels watching over me, my Lord.  
Sleep my child, take your rest;  
Angels watching over me.

When Jesus was born, Herod was King. When he heard about the birth of Jesus, he thought that Jesus had come to set up a kingdom here on earth and he was not at all happy about that. He tried to find out where Jesus was so that he could kill him. An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and warned him of the danger. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." That night Joseph left for Egypt with Jesus and Mary. They stayed there until Herod died.

When Herod died, God's angel spoke to Joseph in a dream again. "Get up, take the child and his mother and return to Israel. All who were out to kill the child are dead."

Isn't it wonderful that God sent angels to watch over his infant son and protect him from harm? Well, God loves all of his children. He loves you and me and he sends angels to watch over us. In Psalm 91, the Bible says:

Evil can't get close to you, harm can't get through the door.  
He ordered his angels to guard you wherever you go.  
If you stumble, they'll catch you; their job is to keep you from falling.  
(Psalm 91:11-12 - The Message)

I'm glad that we have God's angels watching over us as we walk – even in dangerous places. Be thankful that God's angels are watching over you today! (Sing) "All night, all day, angels watching over me, my Lord. All night, all day, angels watching over me, my Lord."

#### PRAYER:

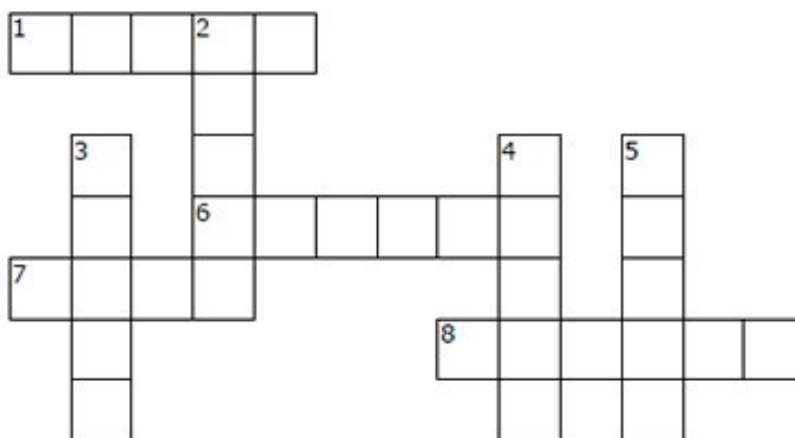
**Father, we thank you for your love and protection. Amen.**

Note: A link to a lead sheet and an MP3 accompaniment for "Angels Watching Over Me" can be found on the Group Activities page ([https://sermons4kids.com/angels\\_watching\\_group\\_activities.htm?fromSermonId=78](https://sermons4kids.com/angels_watching_group_activities.htm?fromSermonId=78)).

Crossword

# Angels Watching Over Me

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."  
Matthew 2:13 (NIV)



### ACROSS

- 1. To see images and hear voices in your mind while sleeping
- 6. To run away from someone or something; break loose; get free
- 7. To cause someone to die
- 8. A female parent

### DOWN

- 2. A heavenly servant of God
- 3. A person from the time of birth until he or she is fully grown
- 4. The king of Judea who tried to kill baby Jesus
- 5. The part of every twenty-four hour period when it is dark

|       |        |       |        |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| HEROD | NIGHT  | CHILD | KILL   |
| DREAM | ESCAPE | ANGEL | MOTHER |

## Escape to Egypt Coloring Page





**ALL MEMBERS**

**PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT**

Never too Late!

Your annual Per Capita is \$40.00 and is shared by the General Assembly, The Synod of the Northeast, The Presbytery of the Northeast. Per Capita is a member assessment used to fund the operating expenses of the governing bodies. (Book of Order; G-9.0404 d). Mark your check or envelope "Per Capita".

**Consider paying more than your share to help cover the cost of others who are unable to pay**

**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](mailto:upcnews525@gmail.com)

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

**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

**Session Members**

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

**Newsletter**

**Newsletter Editors**

Avril Lecky  
George Hansen  
Hugh Lecky  
James Plummer

**Contributors**

Pastor Allegra Hoots  
Patricia Dawson  
Helen Foerster  
Ginni Hansen  
Al Tate

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

**Church Administrators**

**Pastor Allegra Hoots**  
**Director of Music:** Mr. Ronn Daniels  
**Administrative Assistant:**  
Mr. Davaughn Hoots  
**Custodian:** Mr. Charles Rivers

**Board of Deacons**

Helen Foerster - Moderator  
Daniel Bofah  
Thelma Fleming  
Virginia Hansen  
Desirae Hemans (in training)  
Tania Hemans (in training)  
Maggie Anglin (Volunteer)  
Zorina Bowers (Volunteer)


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

**If you have information that you would like to  
share, send them to  
[upcnews525@gmail.com](mailto:upcnews525@gmail.com)**

# United Presbyterian Church

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

## January 2023

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                             | MONDAY                                                   | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | WEDNESDAY                                        | THURSDAY                                                                                     | FRIDAY                                     | SATURDAY                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                                                                                                                                  | 2                                                        | 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 4                                                | 5                                                                                            | 6                                          | 7                                                         |
|                                                    |                                                          | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                       | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br>7:00pm Contemporary Worship Service                            | 6-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><b>EPIPHANY</b> | 6-6:15am Daily Devotion                                   |
|                                                                                                                                    |                                                          | 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 9                                                | 10                                                                                           | 11                                         | 12                                                        |
| 11am Worship Service<br>In-person & Livestream<br><br>BAPTISM OF JESUS                                                             | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                               | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                       | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br>7:00pm Contemporary Worship Service                            | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                 | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>10am Administration Mtg |
| 15                                                                                                                                 | 16                                                       | 17                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 18                                               | 19                                                                                           | 20                                         | 21                                                        |
| 11am Worship Service<br>In-person & Livestream<br><br>Youth Sunday                                                                 | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br>7:30pm Session Mtg | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br>11am Pastor's Lunch<br>7:00pm-Contemporary Worship Service     | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                 | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                                |
| <b>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan 18-25</b>                                                                                |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                  |                                                                                              |                                            |                                                           |
| 22                                                                                                                                 | 23                                                       | 24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 25                                               | 26                                                                                           | 27                                         | 28                                                        |
| 11am Worship Service<br>In-person & Livestream<br><br>Dedication Sunday<br><br><b>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan 18-25</b> | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                               | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                       | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br>7:00pm Contemporary Worship Service<br><b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b> | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                 | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                                |
| 29                                                                                                                                 | 30                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                  |                                                                                              |                                            |                                                           |
| 11am Worship Service<br>In-person & Livestream                                                                                     | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                               | <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">                     Computer Logon Info —<br/>                     Sunday Worship: <a href="https://bit.ly/3jyylpg">https://bit.ly/3jyylpg</a><br/>                     Advent Studies: <a href="https://bit.ly/3JuXrzD">https://bit.ly/3JuXrzD</a> </div> |                                                  |                                                                                              |                                            |                                                           |

**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.**

# United Presbyterian Church

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## February 2023

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                                                              | MONDAY                           | TUESDAY                          | WEDNESDAY                                                          | THURSDAY                                                                | FRIDAY                           | SATURDAY                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Computer Logon Info —<br>Sunday Worship: <a href="https://bit.ly/3jyylpg">https://bit.ly/3jyylpg</a><br>Advent Studies: <a href="https://bit.ly/3JuXrzD">https://bit.ly/3JuXrzD</a> |                                  |                                  | 1<br>6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                                    | 2<br>6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br>7:00pm Contemporary Worship Service  | 3<br>6-6:15am Daily Devotion     | 4<br>6-6:15am Daily Devotion     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                  |                                  | 5<br>11am Worship Service In-person & Livestream Communion Service | 6<br>6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                                         | 7<br>6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  | 8<br>6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  |
| 12<br>11am Worship Service In-person & Livestream Youth Sunday                                                                                                                      | 13<br>6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion | 14<br>6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion | 15<br>6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br>7:30pm Session Mtg             | 16<br>6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br>7:00pm Contemporary Worship Service | 17<br>6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion | 18<br>6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion |
| 19<br>11am Worship Service In-person & Livestream ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING                                                                                                     | 20<br>6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion | 21<br>6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion | 22<br>6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                                   | 23<br>6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br>7:00pm Contemporary Worship Service | 24<br>6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion | 25<br>6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion |
| 26<br>11am Worship Service In-person & Livestream                                                                                                                                   | 27<br>6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion | 28<br>6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion |                                                                    |                                                                         |                                  |                                  |

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**Happy New Year**  
**2023**



**United Presbyterian Church**

525 East Front Street

Plainfield, NJ 07060

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