



Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. (Luke 2:14) King James Version

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward [humanity] (Luke 2:14)
Allegra S. Hoots, M.Div. ¹*

Greetings to you in the mighty and holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our blessed Redeemer. As always, I trust God that all is well with each of you, and that you are continuing to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus. It is also my prayer that you are rejoicing in the joy of the Lord, which is our strength, and experiencing the peace of Christ that surpasses human understanding.

As we step into December, our hearts turn to Advent and Christmas, a time of great anticipation and expectation. Advent invites us to wait with joyful hope, remembering the words of the prophet Isaiah: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given” (Isaiah 9:6). We wait in confidence, knowing that God has already fulfilled His promise in Christ., to send the Savior.

This season is filled with lights, music, gatherings, and the aromatic smells of cinnamon, apples, and pumpkin. The sensory delights of this season—the sights that dazzle, the sounds that uplift, and the smells that comfort—point us beyond themselves to a deeper reality: the true Light of the world, Jesus Christ, who came to dwell among us (John 1:14). The beauty of the season reminds us of the beauty of God’s love, revealed in the gift of His Son.

Advent calls us to prepare our hearts. As Isaiah declared, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Isaiah 9:2). That light is Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah—not a mighty warrior, but a humble child laid in a manger in Bethlehem. In this season of waiting, we are strengthened by the words of Romans 15:13: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

The waiting of Advent blossoms into Christmas wonder. What we held in hope now bursts forth in joy. In Bethlehem, promise became flesh, and we are reminded that God’s love is not distant or abstract, but personal, near, and tender. As Scripture proclaims, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

This is the heart of our celebration—the joy of knowing that God’s greatest gift is for each of us, and for all the world. Christmas is not only the remembrance of Christ’s birth, but the rejoicing that God has come to dwell among us, bringing salvation, peace, and everlasting life. Like candlelight breaking the winter night, His presence warms and illumines our lives with hope.

Contd. on page 3....

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/3jyylpg>)

Contemporary Worship Service

Thursdays @ 7:30pm—Via YouTube*

<https://bit.ly/3j7why>



Daily Devotions

Mondays to Fridays @ 6:00am to 6:15am—Via Zoom

(<https://bit.ly/40BeoBK>)

Daily Scripture Reading

upcc.app



Classes for Children & Adults

Children: 1st & 3rd Sundays at 10am; 2nd Sunday at 11am

Middle School & High School:] Rooms are on the
Elementary School:] Administration level

Adults: Meet each Sunday at 10am Lind Room

September 14th through November 23rd, 2025

Theme: **"Romans: An All-in-One Study on Salvation and New Life"**

- Call the Church Office for more info or for transportation -

DAILY ADVENT STUDY

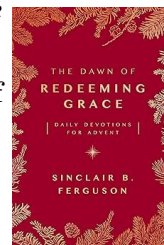
7:30pm via Zoom: bit.ly/40BeoBK

Book: The Dawn of Redeeming Grace by Sinclair Ferguson

Join us daily for reflections on the birth of Christ and the hope it brings.

ALL ARE WELCOME

NOTE: This ends 12/23/2025



Upcoming Events

See calendars for more activities and events

December

Date	Time	Event
Sundays	7:30pm	Advent Studies (Ends Dec 23rd)
22	11:am	Christmas Service
24	7:00pm	Christmas (Eve) Service
26		Kwanzaa
31	11:00pm	New Year's Eve (Watch night) Service

January

Date	Time	Event
1		New Year's Day
6		Epiphany
12		Baptism of Jesus
11	10:00am	Administration Committee Meeting
15	7:30pm	Session Meeting
20		Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Sundays	7:30pm	Book Club

FOR VIRTUAL EVENTS:

TO CONNECT BY COMPUTER OR TELEPHONE, GO TO THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION:

<http://www.upccplainfield.org/>

Christmas—December 25th



The Greatest Gift of All
Matthew 1:21

Christmas marks the anniversary of Jesus' birth, which Christians refer to as the "incarnation"—the belief that God assumed human form in Jesus Christ. According to the Gospel of John, "The Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14). This holiday is observed as an expression of

gratitude for this embodiment of God and serves as a reminder of the significance of representing one's faith through acts of love, generosity, and service, thereby contributing positively to society.

The tradition of celebrating Christmas began around the 3rd century CE, sparked by an interest in celebrating key events in Jesus's life. December 25 was chosen for Christmas because it coincided with the Roman festival marking the sun's return after the winter solstice. In other Christian regions, different dates were emphasized—such as January 6, which marked the Baptism of Jesus in the east and the visit of the Three Kings in the west. Today, many Orthodox Christian churches observe Christmas on or around January 7, following the Julian calendar.

In Western tradition, Christmas is celebrated for 12 days from December 25 to January 6, ending with Epiphany, which marks the three kings' visit to Bethlehem. According to Matthew and Luke, Jesus was born in Bethlehem, symbolically linked to the House of David. Modern customs such as carols, candles, and trees highlight the holiday's focus on Jesus' birth and encourage Christians to follow his teachings of love, peace, and justice.

[s://www.brandeis.edu/spiritual-life/resources/guide-to-observances/christmas.html](https://www.brandeis.edu/spiritual-life/resources/guide-to-observances/christmas.html)

Pastor's Message

Contd. from page 1

So as we gather with family and friends, as we sing carols and light candles, may God grant us the grace to remember that these are signs pointing us to the true Light of the world.

Let us rejoice together, echoing the angels' song:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward [humanity]" (Luke 2:14).

May this Advent season renew our hope, deepen our joy, and strengthen our faith. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ—the greatest gift ever given—may your hearts be filled with peace and gladness. Merry Christmas!

Please join me in prayer:

May the light of Christ, born in Bethlehem, shine brightly in our hearts this Advent.

May His joy strengthen us, His peace sustain us, and His love guide us into the New Year.

As we await His coming again in glory, may we walk in hope, rejoice in His salvation, and proclaim with confidence: "Emmanuel—God with us!" (Matthew 1:23).

Peace, love, and continued blessings,

Pastor Allegra

¹ The two versions of the text are included to highlight the nuance of the Greek word translated as "men" in the King James Version. The Greek term literally means "humankind", not specifically to the male gender, and may be rendered as "humans," "mortals," or "humanity."

Some translations, such as the NASB, interpret the phrase differently: "...peace among people with whom God is pleased." In these renderings, "goodwill" is understood as God's favor toward the morally upright, reflecting a theme consistent throughout Scripture.

Please refer to the Beatitudes (Matthew 5 and Luke 6) for a concise summary of God's blessing on those who live in peace and righteousness. The Beatitudes reflect the kinds of actions

and dispositions that God blesses—humility, mercy, peacemaking, and a hunger for righteousness—as Jesus taught. They show us the positive behaviors that draw God's favor and embody His goodwill.

Please refer to 1 Corinthians 14:33, Proverbs 6:16-19, James 4:11 and 1 Timothy 5:13 as examples which highlight behaviors that do not lead to God's goodwill, such as pride, gossip, sowing discord, or speaking evil against one another

Taken together, these passages provide a fuller picture: God's blessing rests upon those who practice the teachings of Jesus, while those who persist in destructive or divisive actions stand outside of that blessing. My intent is to hold both sides in view so that the meaning of "good will" is clear.



Advent is a Christian liturgical season of preparation and anticipation that precedes Christmas, beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and lasting until Christmas Eve.

Nov. 30 to Dec. 24, 2025

Advent is a four-week season before Christmas, marked by anticipation and preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ.

The Advent period begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve.

Advent's main goal is to inspire spiritual reflection and preparation for Jesus's arrival. Since the Middle Ages, this tradition has encouraged people to consider the meaning of Christ's birth and his future return.

Definition of Advent:

"Advent" means the arrival of something significant. In Christian theology, it marks God's coming to earth as Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Unlike Christmas, Advent focuses on the anticipation before Jesus's birth.

Historical Context of Advent:

Advent was once a season for preparing for Christ's baptism and Second Coming, but since the sixth century, it has mainly centered on reflecting on Jesus' first coming before Christmas.

Understanding the Second Advent

The Second Advent is the expected return of Jesus Christ, when he will establish his kingdom and judge humanity. Christians are encouraged to await this event, as reflected in Revelation 22:20 and the phrase "Maranatha" in 1 Corinthians 16:22, which continues to be used in worship today.

How do Christians Celebrate Advent?

Many Christians observe Advent with calendars, ornaments, devotionals, wreaths, or candles at home. Churches commemorate Advent more formally through themed sermons: hope, faith, joy, and peace, lighting a candle each week and concluding with the Christmas candle on Christmas Eve or Day.



What do the Advent Candles Mean?

The four Advent candles are each lit on the Sundays of Advent. Usually, three are violet and one is pink to represent joy; some traditions add a fifth white candle for Christ's purity, lit at Christmas.

Week 1: Hope – The prophecy candle anticipates the Messiah's arrival foretold by prophets like Isaiah.

Week 2: Faith – The Bethlehem candle reflects Joseph and Mary's trust in Gabriel's promise and their journey, fulfilling Micah's prophecy about Bethlehem.

Week 3: Joy – The shepherd's candle celebrates the angel's joyful message.

Week 4: Peace – The angel's candle signifies God's peace with humanity (Luke 2:14).

Christmas: Purity – The central Christ candle, lit on Christmas Day, represents Christ's sinlessness.

What is an Advent Wreath?

The Advent wreath, made of evergreen branches symbolizing eternal life, is a common Christmas decoration. Evergreens stay green all year, even in winter. Wreaths are placed on front doors or around Advent candles, sometimes with holly berries to represent Christ's death.



How is Advent Relevant to My Life?

Advent highlights the link between the Old and New Testaments, focusing on the hope of the Messiah's arrival to save the Church from sin. In Genesis, God promises a Messiah who will defeat Satan (Genesis 3:15). Advent is a time of expectation for God's promise to conquer death and Satan through Christ.

Jesus's birth marks Him as Immanuel, meaning "God with us."

<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/life-and-relationships/holidays/advent/what-is-advent.html>

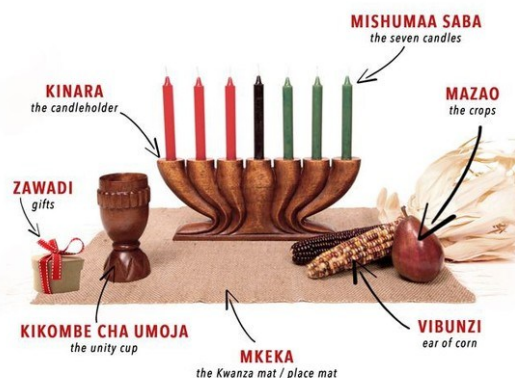
Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

Kwanzaa

Fri, Dec 26, 2025 – Thu, Jan 1, 2026

HAPPY KWANZAA

- SEVEN MAIN SYMBOLS -



Kwanzaa is a time for families and communities to come together to remember the past and to celebrate African American culture.

Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan-African holiday that celebrates history, values, family, community and culture. The ideas and concepts of Kwanzaa are expressed in the Swahili language, one of the most widely spoken languages in Africa. The seven principles which form its core were drawn from communitarian values found throughout the African continent. These principles are: Umoja, Kujichagulia, Ujima, Ujamaa, Nia, Kuumba, and Imani (Faith). Kwanzaa gets its name from the Swahili phrase, “matunda ya kwanza” meaning “first fruits” and is rooted in first fruit celebrations which are found in cultures throughout Africa both in ancient and modern times.

Umoja (Unity): To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.

Kujichagulia (Self-Determination): To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

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.

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics): To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Nia (Purpose): To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

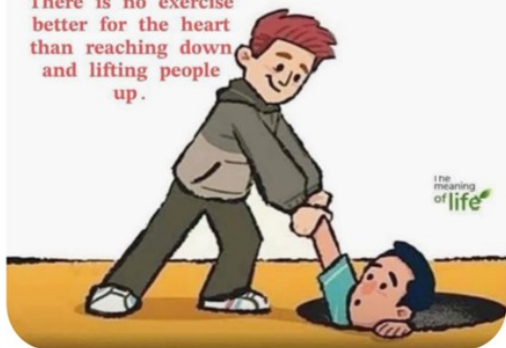
Kuumba (Creativity): To do always as much as we can to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Imani (Faith): To believe with all our hearts in our people and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

<https://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org/>

Our prime purpose in
this life is to **help others**.
And if you can’t help
them, **at least don’t**
hurt them.

There is no exercise
better for the heart
than reaching down
and lifting people
up.



"Dear Lord,
don't let us miss You this Christmas season.
Help us to simplify our activities and traditions
so we can focus our celebration on Your birth.
Thank You for being the Prince of Peace, and I
ask You for that supernatural peace to reign in
our hearts. Thank You for the simple but life-
changing message of Your love for us. In Jesus'
Name, Amen."

—Melanie Chitwood



***BLESSING OF
THE ANIMALS
WAS HELD ON
NOVEMBER 8TH***

Psalm 36:6-7

⁶ Your righteousness is
like the highest
mountains,
your justice like the
great deep.

You, Lord, preserve
both people and animals.

⁷ How priceless is your
unfailing love, O God!

People take refuge in
the shadow of your wings.

"Almighty God, who has poured upon us the new light of your Incarnate Word;
Grant that the same light enkindled in our hearts may shine forth in our lives through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." —Book of Common Prayer

<https://www.southernliving.com/holidays-occasions/christmas/christmas-prayer>

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



HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

December 10, 2025

Amid the restless spirits and often-tough diplomacy of the United Nations, the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations helps inspire, equip, and connect Presbyterians for ministry as faithful disciples of Jesus in the global community. We educate with the hope of helping individuals live out God's call in Christ to live with compassion, seek peace, and pursue justice wherever they go.

According to UNICEF, approximately 300,000 children under 18 are participating in armed conflicts worldwide, even though international laws forbid the use of child soldiers. Recognizing Jesus's welcoming attitude toward children, Presbyterians have joined others globally in trying to address this issue through the Red Hand Campaign. This campaign sends an unmistakable message: children must not be forced into military service. More than 300,000 red handprints have been presented to world leaders as part of this effort. The campaign advocates for every nation to adopt and enforce the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which prohibits the involvement of children in armed conflict.

Today's major challenges, such as climate change and recovering from the Covid pandemic, can feel overwhelming, especially for young people. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) addresses issues like poverty, hunger, racism, climate and gender justice, peacemaking, and human dignity through its Matthew 25 vision, focusing on supporting vulnerable communities and promoting equity.

<https://pcusa.org/events/human-rights-day/december-10th-2025-0800am>

God grant you the light of Christmas,
which is faith; the warmth of
Christmas, which is purity; the
righteousness of Christmas, which
is justice; the belief in Christmas,
which is truth; the all of Christmas,
which is Christ.

WILDA ENGLISH

Southern Living

Betty Jean (BJ) Klikus



It is with great sadness that we share the loss of Betty Jean (BJ) Klikus, who transitioned peacefully on November 18th. A service to celebrate her life was held on November 24th at the United Presbyterian Church Plainfield. She was laid to rest at St. Mary's Cemetery, Watchung, NJ. She will be missed.

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.

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-planners-how-to-get-started-on-one.html>

Just as Your word says, "Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for You are my praise," I place my hope and confidence in Your promises.

Pastor Rich Bitterman

NOTE: Remember our brothers and sisters listed. Call or visit if you are able to.

Emory Dawson	Bobett Neil
Joanne Edwards	Sheila Neil
Helen Foerster	Yvonne Neil
Barbara Goodwin	Marianna Perry
O'Harold Hoots	Pat Perry
Frank Klikus	Brenda Rodgers
Liz Mangan	Gail Stokes
Errol Neil	Izaiyah Stokes

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
24 Pat Perry
26 Jessica Bofah
Olivia Seelee
27 Gabrielle Greene
28 Virginia Hansen
29 Jennifer Youngsam

January

6 Bola Falowo
15 Izaiyah Stokes
17 Christopher Lecky
19 Jessica Dawson
20 Janice Bofah
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.
The 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 ~

2025 UPC's Liturgists

A liturgist assists the pastor in leading worship. They may lead congregational participation such as the Call to Worship and the Opening Prayer. Their role is outlined by the Pastor.

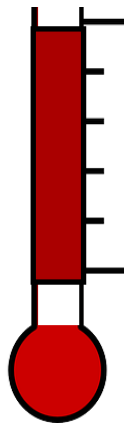
January	George Hansen
February	Al Tate
March	Daniel Bofah
April	Jean Scott
May	Tania Hemans
June	
July	
August	
September	JoAnn Edwards
October	Marcia Marsh Hinds
November	Yetunde Falowo
December	Tania Hemans/Avril Lecky

United Presbyterian Church BUILDING FUND

As of 12/1/2025 the total collected is \$14,128.82



14,128



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.

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 of 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".

Administration Committee

CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

Ready for the Christ of Christmas

Theme: John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus.

Object: A bag of candy with a piece of candy for each child

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-12

Today we're going to talk about what it means to be ready. To help us out, I have a bag of candy. When I ask, "Are you ready?" the kids who can show me what it means to be ready will get a piece of candy.

What does it look like when we're ready? (Allow kids to answer.)

That's right! Being ready means that we are patient, we wait, and we watch.

Okay, are you ready to start our lesson today? (Give a few kids who are ready a piece of candy and say things like, "I see you're ready because you are waiting patiently" or "I see you're ready because you are watching me.")

Are you ready for Christmas? (Give a few kids who are ready a piece of candy and affirm the way they're ready.)

You will hear that question many times over the next several weeks. Let's find out what people mean when they ask that question.

- Raise your hand if your Christmas tree is up and your house is decorated.
- Raise your hand if you've finished your Christmas shopping.
- Raise your hand if you've been practicing for a Christmas program.

There's another question that we should be asking ourselves today. It's more important than "Are you ready for Christmas?" The more important question is "Are you ready for the Christ of Christmas?" (Give a few kids who are ready a piece of candy and affirm the way they're ready.)

Many years ago, a man named John the Baptist preached about what it means to be ready for Jesus. Are you ready to answer a question? (Give a few kids who are ready a piece of candy and affirm the way they're ready.)

What do you think it means to be ready for Jesus?

John the Baptist was a different kind of man. He wore clothes made of camel's hair with a belt around his waist. His diet was rather unusual as well. He ate a diet of locusts and wild honey. Do you know what a locust is? Many of us today might call it a grasshopper. I'm not sure I would want to eat grasshoppers and honey. How about you?

John the Baptist traveled throughout the wilderness of Judea. His message to the people was to get ready for Jesus. John would shout loudly, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

Are you ready for Jesus? (Give a few kids who are ready a piece of candy and affirm the way they're ready.)

Many people were ready for Jesus. So they came to John the Baptist. They confessed their sins to God and were baptized by John in the Jordan River.

After John baptized the people, he told them, "I baptize you with water for repentance. But there is one coming who is more powerful than I. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Are you ready for Jesus this Christmas? (Give a few kids who are ready a piece of candy and affirm the way they're ready.)

During this special season of the year as we get ready for Christmas, you and I need to make sure we're ready for the coming of the Christ of Christmas. We need to look into our hearts and ask God to make us clean so we can walk with Jesus each day of our life. Let's ask him to do that now.

Dear God, we want to be ready for the Christ of Christmas. Prepare our hearts for his coming. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

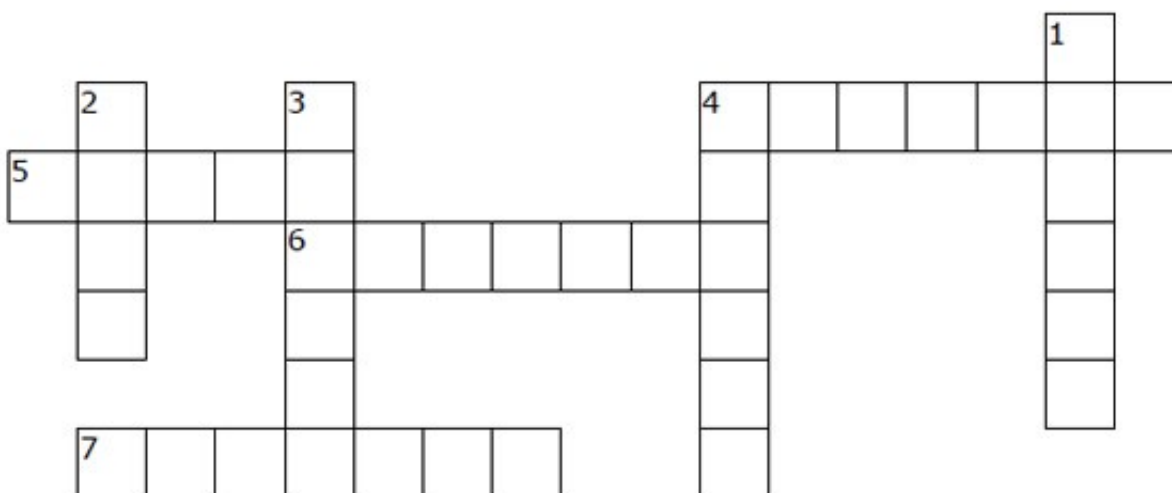
Ready for the Christ of Christmas

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 3:1 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:1-12



JOHN THE BAPTIST



ACROSS

4. One who speaks for God, or tells what will happen in the future
5. The sounds that are made when people speak or sing
6. To get ready for something that is going to happen
7. What John did to people in the Jordan River

DOWN

1. An area where there is little rain and not many plants
2. The man who preached that Jesus was coming
3. To be sorry for something bad you have done and make a change
4. To deliver a sermon

VOICE
REPENT

PREPARE
JOHN

DESERT
PREACH

PROPHET
BAPTIZE

John the Baptist –Coloring Page



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"And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins [...] And this was his message: 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'" (Mark 1:1-8)

John the Baptist Bible Coloring Page for ages 4-10

Ready for the Christ of Christmas

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 3:1-2 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:1-12



JOHN THE BAPTIST
Matthew 3

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

LORD
BAPTIZE
REPENT

PREPARE
STRAIGHT
LOCUSTS

KINGDOM
PATHS
HONEY

JOHN
PREACHING
CAMEL

HAIR
WILD
BELT

Church Administrators

Pastor Allegra Hoots

Treasurer: Ms. Wanda Breitenbach

Operations Coordinator: Mr. Davaughn Hoots

Custodian: Mr. Charles Rivers

Pastor's Office Hours

By Appointment

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

Church Office Hours: By Appointment

Newsletter

Editors

Avril Lecky
Donna Garzinsky
George Hansen
Hugh Lecky

Contributors

Pastor Allegra Hoots
Ginni Hansen
Michael Robinson
Alaric Tate

Christmas Prayer for Families

Loving God,

During this holy season of Christmas, we ask for your blessing on all families.

Let Mary's openness to your wondrous ways be an inspiration to place all trust in you.

Let Joseph's courage provide hope during times of anxiety and uncertainty.

Let Jesus' life ignite all families with a spirit of light and love.

May the grace that encircled the Holy Family widen to embrace all families.

For this we pray.

Amen.

Share Catholic
www.ShareCatholic.com

BOARD OF ELDERS & DEACONS

Elders

Alaric Tate (Clerk)
Emory Dawson
Bola Falowo
Tania Hemans
Marcia Marsh-Hinds

Board of Deacons

Virginia Hansen - Moderator
Daniel Bofah
Zorina Bowers
Yetunde Falowo
Thelma Fleming
Michael Robinson
Osquit Vanderstoop
Helen Foerster (Emeritus)

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

ISAIAH 7:14



Courtesy of Star Fish Food Pantry and Plainfield Action Services – 908-753-3519



PLAINFIELD COALITION OF EMERGENCY FOOD PROVIDERS

SOUP KITCHENS/ PREPARED FOOD

St. Mary Church – 516 West Sixth Street: Sundays 3:00 to 4:00 PM

Grace's Kitchen – 600 Cleveland Ave: Last 5 days of the month 11:30 to 1:00 PM

Salvation Army 615 Watchung Avenue: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 12:00-1:00 PM

The Lord's Kitchen 515 West 4th Street: Wednesday & Thursday 4:00 PM-6:00 PM

Muslim Community Soup Kitchen 321 Grant Avenue: Saturday 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Mt. Olive Baptist Church 216 Liberty Street: 3rd Saturday 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Crescent Ave Presbyterian Church 716 Watchung Avenue: Tuesday at 11:30 AM

FOOD PANTRIES

(non-perishable food- may include meat, bread & fresh vegetables)

Covenant United Methodist Church 631 East Front Street: Monday 3:00 - 5:00 PM

The Salvation Army 615 Watchung Avenue: Tuesday thru Thursday 9:30- 11:30AM

SHEELD/Shiloh Food Pantry 515 West 4th Street: 3rd & 4th Saturday 9:00AM - 12:00PM

New Covenant Church 225 East 7th Street: 1st & 3rd Saturday 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

& Farmers Market 1st Wednesday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Joanne Hollis Gardens Community Center - 543 W. Third St:

3rd Thursday (10:00 - 4:00 PM) (lunch break 12 PM to 1 PM)

Church of the Living God 434 E. 4th Street: 3rd Saturday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Community Church of God 417 West 6th Street: 3rd Saturday 8:30 - 10:30 AM

El Centro Hispano Americano 525 East Front Street: Tuesday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Bianca Flowers, Inc. 145 Park Avenue: 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesday 10:00 AM - 12 Noon

Greater Refuge Church of Christ 600 Grant Avenue: 2nd & 4th Tuesday 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Plainfield YMCA Food Security Project Lot 7 near Scott Drugs:

Second and Fourth Thursday - 10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Crescent Ave Presbyterian Church - Bag lunches every weekday, except Tuesdays
from 10am - 10:30am

Meals on Wheels

If you are in need of a home delivered meal and reside in Union County, you
may be eligible if you meet the following criteria:

- 60 years or older -
- Unable to shop for yourself
- Unable to prepare a meal for yourself

Please call Meals on Wheels at 908-486-5100. You must provide your name,
address, phone number and date of birth in order to process your request.



United Presbyterian Church

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

December 2025

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children/Youth: 1st & 3rd Sundays at 10am; 2nd Sunday at 11am (Enter from the Church Office entrance)
Adults: Meet each Sunday at 10am in the Lind Room

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY	11:00am SATURDAY ADVENT WORKSHOP BEGIN
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream Communion Service 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY HUMAN RIGHTS DAY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY	11:00am SATURDAY ADVENT WORKSHOP
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream YOUTH SUNDAY 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30PM: SESSION MTG	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY	11:00am SATURDAY ADVENT WORKSHOP
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm ADVENT STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:00pm CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion CHRISTMAS DAY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	CHRISTMAS & THREE KINGS DAY CELEBRATION
28	29	30	31	<div>Computer Logon Info — Sunday Worship: https://bit.ly/3jyyllpg Daily Devotion: https://bit.ly/40BeoBK Contemporary Serv: https://bit.ly/3j7whly Book Club: https://bit.ly/40BeoBK</div>		
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream Dedication Sunday	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion			
“Persevering in Christ for 200 Years”						

NOTE: THIS CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.

1st Sunday Monthly—Communion & Deacon Sunday
 2nd Sunday Monthly—Youth Sunday

3rd Wednesday @ 7:30pm—Session Meeting
 4th Sunday Monthly—Dedication Sunday

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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January 2026

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children/Youth: 1st & 3rd Sundays at 10am; 2nd Sunday at 11am (Enter from the Church Office entrance)
Adults: Meet each Sunday at 10am in the Lind Room

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Computer Logon Info — Sunday Worship: https://bit.ly/3jyylpg Daily Devotion: https://bit.ly/40BeoBK Contemporary Serv: https://bit.ly/3j7whly Advent Studies: https://bit.ly/40BeoBK Book Club: https://bit.ly/40BeoBK			1	2	3
				6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream Communion Service	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion ELECTION DAY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream YOUTH SUNDAY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream	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 7:30pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream DEDICATION SUNDAY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	
<i>"Persevering in Christ for 200 Years"</i>						

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4th Sunday Monthly—Dedication Sunday

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Fold here to mail



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525 East Front Street
Plainfield, NJ 07060

~ “Persevering in Christ for 200 Years” ~
Where God is exalted, Everyone matters, and You belong!