

United Presbyterian Church

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

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



Worship Services: Sunday 11:00 am & Thursdays 7:30

January 2025 Newsletter



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

Greetings to you in the holy and mighty name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our blessed Redeemer. I trust God this message finds you in good health and high spirits, rejoicing in the joy of the Lord and experiencing the peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding.

I join the throngs in December of each year, scouring the stationary aisle in office supply stores looking for daily planners for the upcoming calendar year. Then, with glee, I select a "cute" planner with an array of stickers to help me stay organized and on task. Next, I develop New Year's resolutions, annotate them on my planner, and choose a Scripture to guide me to a deeper walk with God.

This year, that verse is Acts 2:42: ***"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer."*** This verse poignantly reminds us of the foundational habits and practices of the early Church—observances that remain vital for spiritual growth today. It emphasizes the importance of learning from the apostles, fellowshiping with others, sharing meals, and praying together.

It highlights the importance of regularly engaging in the spiritual disciplines with others and submitting ourselves to God's will to do good works that glorify God by helping others (For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life—Ephesians 2:10).

In the spirit of Acts 2:42, I invite you to spend a few minutes each day this year reading, reflecting on,

and practicing the spiritual disciplines. May God grant us grace to find joy in our shared commitment to spiritual growth.

However, before moving forward, let us look back and thank God for some of the ministries we engaged in during December. I am deeply grateful for your active participation and support. By the grace of God, we delved into the Advent study *Underdogs and Outsiders* by Tom Fuerst. The study reminded us that although Jesus was perfect, the human family he was born into was imperfect, like ours. Moreover, the study highlighted the following adages. Often, God uses the most unlikely people and unusual circumstances to fulfill his will. God looks beyond our faults, sees our needs, and cares about us.

We also fellowshiped through the weekly book club reading and discussion of *A Voice in the Wind* by Francine Rivers. The food ministry and Christmas gift bags stuffed with personal hygiene products and snacks given to Aristicare and Dudley House residents are examples of our fellowshiping beyond the walls of the church building.

Let us take a moment to thank God for a meaningful Christmas Eve service with an inspiring and uplifting musical offering – handbell choir and drum ensemble selections - led by Donna Garzinky. The service also included the Lord's supper (Holy Communion), a short meditation on hope, and a reflective candlelight service. Your participation and dedication made it truly special.

Under the inspiration and leadership of the Holy Spirit, we continued to pursue cultivating a consistent prayer life through early morning devotions Monday through Friday at 6:00 a.m. This activity created a powerful rhythm of prayer and reflection to start our days with God. The Advent study and the Christmas Eve service also offered time for focused spiritual reflection, bringing us closer to God and one another.

~ Continued on page 3 ~

WORSHIP SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON & ONLINE

Church Office: Tele: 908-756-2666

Sunday Worship Service

Pastor Allegra Hoots

11:00am

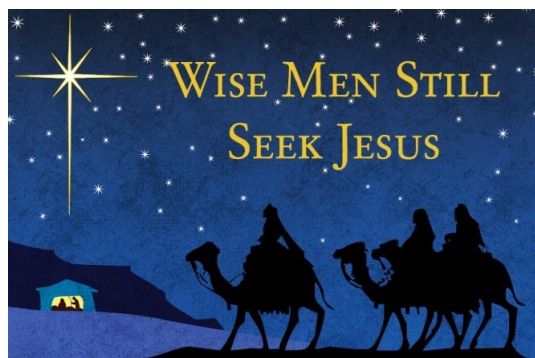
In the Sanctuary & Via YouTube

(<https://bit.ly/3jyylpg>)

Contemporary Worship Service

Thursdays @ 7:30pm—Via YouTube*

<https://bit.ly/3J7whly>



Daily Devotional

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

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

Sunday School Children & Adults

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

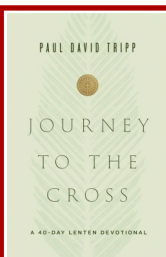
Middle School & High School:] Rooms are on the
Elementary School:] Administration level



Adults meet each Sunday at 10am

Adults: Lind Room
Theme: **'Claiming Identity: Struggle & Faith, How Identity is Formed, and Identity in Christ'**

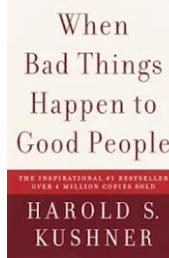
- Call the Church Office for more info -
- Let us know if you need transportation -



Lenten studies begins on March 5th (Ash Wednesday). Our studies will be from the book: **"Journey to the Cross: A 40-Day Lenten Devotional"**. Arthur—Paul David Tripp.



Next book club selection will be **"When Bad Things Happen to Good People"**, a 1981 publication by Harold Kushner, a Conservative rabbi



Upcoming Events

See calendars for more activities and events

January

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

February

Date	Time	Event
1		Black History Month begins
2	11:00am	Communion Service & Agape Meal
17		Presidents Day
19	7:30pm	Session Meeting

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

Pastor's Message

Cont. from page 1

Looking to the future and greatly anticipating another year of growing in grace, let me update you on upcoming study opportunities. Beginning on March 5th (Ash Wednesday), we will embark on Journey to the Cross: A 40-Day Lenten Devotional by Paul David Tripp. This devotional encourages daily reflection on Christ's sacrifice as we prepare our hearts for Easter, providing an opportunity to deepen our understanding of God's love and grace during this sacred season. We cannot wait to delve into this journey together.

Following this, our next book club selection is When Bad Things Happen to Good People, a 1981 publication by Harold Kushner, a Conservative rabbi. This insightful book invites us to explore themes of faith, resilience, and the presence of God amidst adversity. We look forward to engaging in meaningful discussions that foster spiritual growth and empathy within our church community. Both books are available online through Amazon, Audible, and other major booksellers.

May this year be a season of abundant spiritual growth and deepened unity as we faithfully devote ourselves to Christ and one another. May God bless everyone and heap a mountain of favor upon the most vulnerable members of society. May the Spirit of the living God penetrate the darkness, enveloping those living in a sea of hopelessness. I pray in the mighty and holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Peace, blessings, and Godspeed in 2025!

Pastor Allegra

Happy
NEW YEAR
2025



What Is Epiphany? Bible Meaning and Holiday Traditions

Epiphany is a time of revelation. Jesus revealed himself to the Israelites and the Gentiles as represented by the Wise Men. God doesn't play favorites but receives all whose hearts long for him.

Epiphany will be widely celebrated on Monday, January 6, 2025. Others may celebrate on Sunday, January 5, 2025.

Epiphany, also called Theophany, is a celebration of God manifesting as the baby Jesus and revealing Himself to the world. The holiday also marks the day the Magi, or the three kings, visited the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. Jesus' baptism is also celebrated during Epiphany. The holiday is also sometimes known as Three Kings Day.

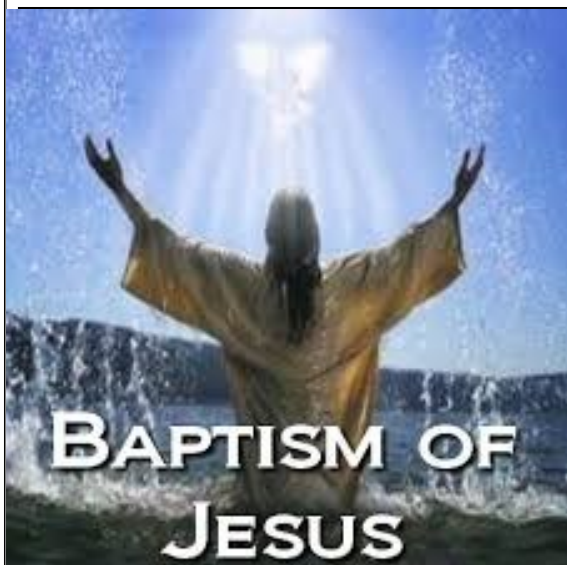
What Is the Meaning of Epiphany?

The message of Epiphany can be interpreted in several ways, and none are right or wrong. Some believe it is a message of faith in divine light, which guided the Magi to Bethlehem. Others interpret it as a celebration of Jesus coming to unite the world as the true "king of kings" and that He came to be a savior to all people.

In the Bible, the Epiphany is Jesus' visit from the Magi, aristocratic men from the east (often referred to as kings or wise men) who followed a star to see the newborn baby Jesus in Bethlehem. The Magi brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold was considered a symbol of kings, frankincense a perfume representing divinity and myrrh an anointing and embalming oil that symbolized death.

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/epiphany-the/>





January 12, 2025

Why do we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord?

This day commemorates the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist. On this occasion, Jesus entered into His ministry and acquired His first disciples; St. John proclaimed Christ the Lamb of God, whose way he had prepared; and the Triune nature of the Godhead was manifested. The Church generally celebrates the Baptism of the Lord on the Sunday after January 6. In 2025, the Baptism of the Lord is observed on Sunday, January 12.

At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus presents himself to John to be baptized in the Jordan. The heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends as a dove and we hear the voice of God: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased".

At this festival of the Christian year, we not only remember Jesus' baptism, but we celebrate our own: the baptism we share with Christ. Accordingly, this Sunday is an appropriate time to celebrate the sacrament of baptism or the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant. It also foreshadows the season of Lent, as Jesus was immediately driven into the wilderness for 40 days after his own baptism.

The congregation makes promises to nurture each baptized child

Meaning of baptism in PCUSA

In the Presbyterian Church (USA), we believe that the Sacrament of Baptism is the sign and seal of God's grace and covenant in Christ. The waters of baptism are a reminder to all of us of God's faithfulness, that in Christ each of us are made new, and that we are welcomed with open arms into the covenant family of the church.

We baptize children as a witness to the belief that God's love claims us before we are even able to respond in faith, asking that parents make a promise during the service to help their child grow in their faith. But although we believe that parents will play an absolutely vital role in this growth process, this entire church family is with them every step of the way, as the congregation makes promises to nurture each baptized child as well.

<https://pcusa.org/events/baptism-lord/january-12th-2025-1200am>
<https://www.fourthchurch.org/baptism/index.html>





January 18th to 25th

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (see John 17.21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The event that touches off this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

WHEN: Traditionally the week of prayer is celebrated between 18-25 January, between the feasts of St Peter and St Paul. In the southern hemisphere, where January is a vacation time, churches often find other days to celebrate it, for example around Pentecost, which is also a symbolic date for unity.

In order to prepare for the annual celebration, ecumenical partners in a particular region are invited to produce a basic liturgical text on a biblical theme. Then an international editorial team of World Council of Churches (WCC) and Roman Catholic representatives refines this text to ensure that it can be prayed throughout the world, and to link it with the search for the visible unity of the church.

Keep It Simple

By Criswell Freeman

But godliness with contentment is a great gain. For we brought nothing into the world. And we can take nothing out. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. I Timothy 6.: 6-9 HCSB

You live in a world where simplicity is in short supply. Think for a moment about the complexity of your everyday life and compare it to the lives of your ancestors. Certainly, you are the beneficiary of many technological innovations, but those innovations have a price: In all likelihood, your world is highly complex. Consequently, you have too many distractions (if you choose to let them distract you) and too many things to worry about (if you choose to worry about them).

Unless you take firm control of your time and your life, you may be overwhelmed by an ever-increasing tidal wave of complexity that threatens your happiness and your sanity. But your Heavenly Father understands the joy of living simply. So do yourself a favor: Keep your life as simple as possible. By simplifying your life, you are destined to improve it.

*Out of the freedom from worry that God's generosity provides comes
an impulse toward simplicity rather than accumulation.*
John Piper.

A Prayer to Start Your Day

Dear Lord, help me to understand the joys of simplicity. Life is complicated enough without my adding to the confusion. Wherever I happen to be, help me to keep it simple—very simple. Amen.



The Purpose of Education - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Excerpted from Morehouse College Student Paper, 1947 Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction. The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character-- that is the goal of true education.

On **January 20, 2025**, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday will mark the 30th anniversary as a National Day of Service.

On January 20, 2025, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday will mark the 30th anniversary as a National Day of Service. This day was established to honor the life and legacy of Dr. King, and to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

Americans celebrated the first official Martin Luther King Day, which is the only federal holiday commemorating an African-American, on Monday, January 20, 1986. In 1994, Congress designated the holiday as a national day of service and marking the third Monday in January every year as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service - a "Day On, Not a Day Off."

Dr. King advocated for nonviolent resistance to overcome injustice as a means of lifting racial oppression. He created change with organized sit-ins, marches, and peaceful demonstrations that highlighted issues of inequality. Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964; he was the youngest person to ever receive this high honor. He followed in the footsteps of his grandfather and father by entering the ministry to become a Baptist minister. On April 4, 1968, at the age of 39, he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee as he stood on the balcony of his hotel. Dr. King traveled to Memphis, Tennessee to lead a march in support of striking sanitation workers.

We remember Dr. King as a husband, father, friend, and fierce advocate for the betterment of all people. Honor his memory by organizing, volunteering, and spreading the word. Remember to **MAKE IT A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF**, for you and those around you.

<https://www.dodea.edu/news/observance-calendar/martin-luther-king-jr-day#:~:text=On%20January%2020%2C%202025%2C%20the,National%20Day%20of%20Service.>

FRONTIERS INTERNATIONAL PLAINFIELD AREA CLUB PRESENTS

The 49th Annual
REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
MEMORIAL BREAKFAST
LONGEST-RUNNING MLK MEMORIAL CELEBRATION OF ITS KIND

Plainfield High School, 950 Park Ave, Plainfield, NJ 07060

PURCHASE
TICKETS TODAY!



MONDAY 20
JAN 25
9:00 AM EST

Register or Donate today at bit.ly/mlk49tix
Questions? Call (908) 868-8704 or Email plainfieldfrontiers@gmail.com

Frontiers International of Plainfield, NJ will host the 49th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast at Plainfield High School on January 20th at 9:00am.

This celebration is the longest running MLK Memorial Celebration of its kind.

You may register or donate at:
bit.ly/mlk49tix or
call (908) 868-8704

Email: plainfieldfrontiers@gmail.com
General Admission —\$25
Seniors or Students—\$15

Give children the foundation of truth they need each day!



Youths of United Presbyterian Church

We see Christ in others, and they can see Him in us

*May you know that God loves you so much.
His love for you is so deep that He entrusted you with being His model in this world.*

*May you feel the weight of this responsibility,
and may it also bring you great joy.
Reflect God to everyone you meet through your words, actions, and attitudes.*

May many people come to know, love, and serve God by watching your life and example.

<https://ministryspark.com/blessings-for-children/>

During the December 8th, 2024 Youth Sunday service, Pastor Hoots, blessed the children present.
Above is the group in prayer.

**Invest in our children's future by giving to the Crawford/Walton Memorial Fund
See page 7 for more details.**

NOTES OF APPRECIATION FROM OUR STUDENTS



Ms. Neekah Hinds

On Sunday, December 1st Another of our college students, Neekah Hinds, shared her appreciation to the congregation and contributors for scholarships awarded to her from the Crawford Walton Fund and snack bags provided by the Board of Deacons. The snacks serve as a reminder to our students at exam time, that the UPC family is with them. Neekah maintains a 4.0 GPA.

Gratitude



L-R: Ms. Neekah Hinds & Mrs. Ginni Hansen,
Chair-Board of Deacons



During our Christmas Eve service, December 24th, UPC was blessed with the performance of the bell choir and drum ensemble directed by Ms. Donna Garzinsky. This musical performance along with the beautiful sound of our organ, greatly enhanced our Christmas Eve Service.

This was a wonderful time to come together with friends and family to celebrate and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

The service included many carols, scripture readings, and a beautiful message from Pastor Hoots.



UPC Bell Choir & Drum Ensemble



Featured above is the drum ensemble and performance by Ms. Donna Garzinsky, Director and Ms. Sue Terry. The Bell Choir is not shown.

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



*On December 6th, 2024, the matriarch of the Falowo family, **Mrs. Victoria Olayinka Falowo**, was funeralized. The family travelled to their homeland of Nigeria for the customary arrangements.*

Let us continue to keep the family in prayer.

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-plan-heres-how-to-get-started-on-one.html>

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Father God, we lift up all those who are facing illness today. We ask that You would bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of Your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

NOTE:

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

Emory Dawson
Helen Foerster
Amy Grier
Laura Hady
O'Harold Hoots
Frank Klikus
Liz Mangan
Winnie Neal
Errol Neil
Bobett Neil
Sheila Neil
Yvonne Neil
Marianna Perry
Pat Perry
Brenda Rodgers
Gail Stokes
Izaiyah Stokes

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
20 Janice Bofah
21 Madison Darius

February

5 Tania Hemans
7 BJ Klikus
12 Brenda Rodgers
27 Kayode Falowo

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
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	Avril Lecky
July	
August	
September	JoAnn Edwards
October	Marcia Marsh Hinds
November	Yetunde Falowo
December	

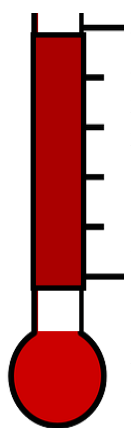
United Presbyterian Church BUILDING FUND

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



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.

14,128



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 younger child(ren)

Jesus, the One and Only

Theme: Jesus is God's one-and-only, chosen Son

Object: A cheap watch

Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22



Selling cheap, fake designer purses, sunglasses, and watches has become a multi-million dollar business. Whether it be on the street corner or an online store, lots of people make money selling deceptive products.

Do any of you know what a Rolex is? (Pause for responses.) A Rolex is a fancy watch brand that is very expensive. At first glance, a fake Rolex watch might seem like a good deal. (Hold up the watch and pass it around to kids.) After all, a real Rolex would cost thousands of dollars, and a fake one would cost just a few dollars. What's the big deal? Who will know the difference? (Pause for responses.)

Well, after a few weeks, the imitation Rolex no longer keeps time. Oh well, it still looks good, you can wear it as a bracelet. But soon the finish begins to rub off and it isn't very pretty. Suddenly, what seemed like a good deal no longer seems like such a good deal after all!

Have you ever seen a fake brand or object that looked like the real thing? Explain.

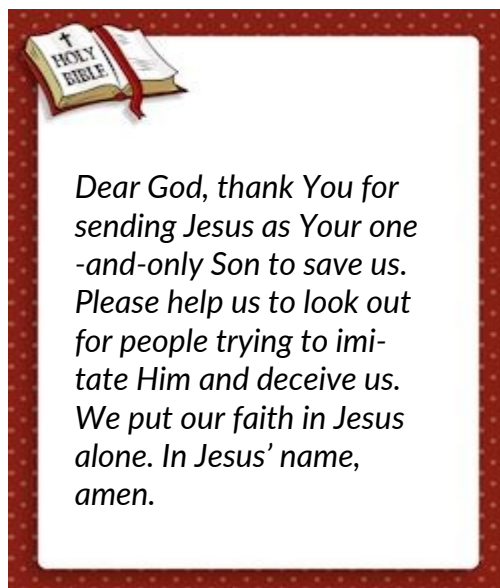
How could you tell the difference between the fake version and the real version of the item you mentioned?

Buying an imitation watch might not be a great loss. After all, it only costs a few dollars. But when it comes to your relationship with God, it is important to put your faith in the only real Savior, Jesus. There is much more at stake than money. That's because Jesus is the only way to heaven. Many people have claimed to be God or the Messiah, and there are false teachers who claim to know the way to heaven. But Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)

In the Bible, many wondered if John the Baptist was God's Son, but John was quick to correct people, saying there was One who would come who was more powerful than him, and whose sandal straps he wasn't worthy to untie.

John the Baptist later baptized Jesus, and the Holy Spirit came to Jesus in the form of a dove, as a loud voice said, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Jesus is God's one-and-only Son, so we must put our faith in Him alone and watch out for fake teachers. We'll learn more about that today.



Jesus, the One and Only

Complete the sentences by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the page. You can check your answers in Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 (NIV)



John the Baptist Baptizes Jesus

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the _____. John answered them all, "I baptize you with _____. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose _____ I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy _____ and with _____.

When all the people were being baptized, _____ was baptized too. And as he was _____, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a _____. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my _____, whom I _____; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 (NIV)

praying dove	Spirit love	water fire	Son sandals	Jesus Christ
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Baptism of Jesus—Coloring Page



Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John [...] 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. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."
(Matthew 3:13-17)



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

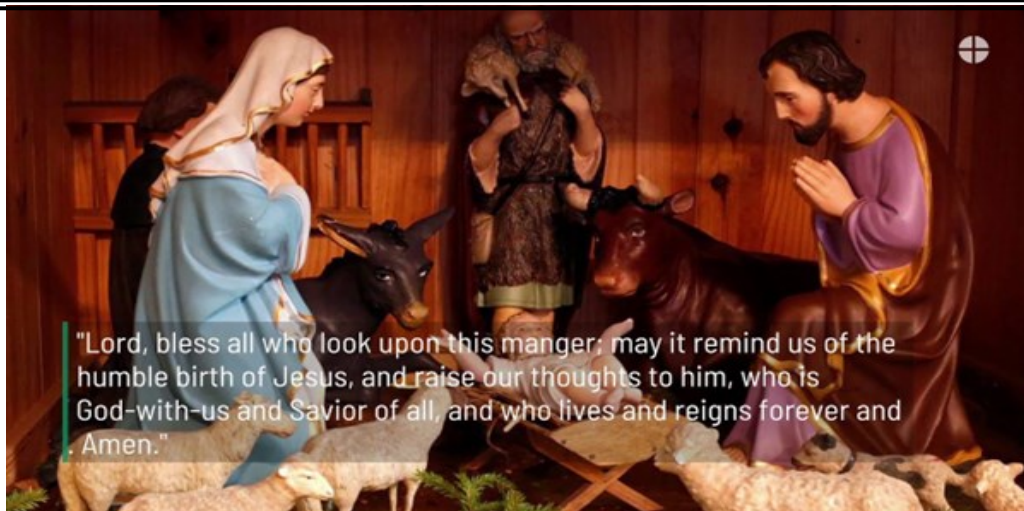
If you are in need of a home delivered meal and reside in Union County, you
may be eligible if you meet the following criteria:

- 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.

Important:

Deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 20th of each month. Leave your news in the Church Office or email it to upcnews525@gmail.com. Have information that you would like to share? A poem? A prayer request? A new child/grandchild? Send it!



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: Mon-Fri 10am-12pm

Newsletter

Editors

Avril Lecky
George Hansen
Hugh Lecky

Contributors

Pastor Allegra Hoots
Bola Falowo
Ginni Hansen
Jean Scott

BOARD OF ELDERS & DEACONS

Elders

Alaric Tate (Clerk)
Emory Dawson
Bola Falowo
Tania Hemans
Avril Lecky
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



United Presbyterian Church

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

January 2025

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	4
			6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion NEW YEARS DAY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream Communion Service 7:30pm Book Club	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion EPIPHANY	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	10am Admin Committee Mtg.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream Youth Sunday 7:30pm Book Club BAPTISM OF JESUS	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	Ecumenical Week of Prayer starts (1/18-25)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream 7:30pm Book Club	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	
Ecumenical Week of Prayer starts (1/18-25)						
26	27	28	29	30	31	
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream Dedication Sunday 7:30pm Book Club	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	

NOTE:

THE CALENDAR REFLECTS REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. **CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.**

Communion & Deacon Sunday — 1st Sunday Monthly

Youth Sunday—2nd Sunday monthly

Dedication Sunday—4th Sunday Monthly

Committee Meetings (unless stated otherwise):

2nd Saturday @ 10:00am: Administration Meeting

3rd Wednesday @ 7:30pm: Session Meeting

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



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February 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Computer Logon Info — Sunday Worship: https://bit.ly/3jyyllpg 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 11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream Communion Service AGAPE MEAL 7:30pm Book Club	3 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	4 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	5 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Contemporary Worship	7 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	8 TBD - Administration Mtg
9 11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream YOUTH SUNDAY 7:30pm Book Club	10 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	11 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	12 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	13 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Contemporary Worship	14 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	15
16 11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream 7:30pm Book Club	17 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion PRESIDENTS DAY	18 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	19 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Session Mtg	20 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Contemporary Worship	21 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	22
23 11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream DEDICATION SUNDAY 7:30pm Book Club	24 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	25 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	26 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	27 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Contemporary Worship	28 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	

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

Fold here to mail



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Church**
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