



MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 29, 2024 | 1st Sunday after Christmas

10:00 AM A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor

Jeffrey Fornoff, Music Director

PRELUDE "What Child IS This" Christopher Uehlein

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing a new song to God, who has done marvelous things.

God has spoken to us through a Child. Let us all worship at the manger.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

God has given us a song to sing. Let our voices soar with good tidings.

* CONGREGATION STANDS AS COMFORTABLE CONGREGATION RESPONSE IN **BOLD Italic**

Key to abbreviations: OT: Old Testament; NT: New Testament UMH: The United Methodist Hymnal
TFWS: The Faith We Sing ++ Indicates Someone's Favorite Hymn

*PRAYER OF CENTERING

Amazing God, once more you have sought us out and brought us to the manger. You have interrupted our routines to penetrate our dreariness with your good news. You have gathered this unlikely assortment of people to become a transforming community of faith, a holy people. Set your vision before us now and awaken our feet to follow your path to unlikely places where saving grace is revealed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN "Angels from the Realms of Glory" UMH 220

THE BIDDING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

BLESSING

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE and NOISY OFFERING

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 OT p.3

God announces in the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve's punishment for their rebellion and that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

CAROL "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" UMH 196

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18 OT p.18

God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth shall obtain blessing.

CAROL "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 1-2) UMH 211++

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 OT p.638

The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness

CAROL "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (verses 1-2) UMH 216++

FOURTH LESSON Micah 5:2-5a OT p.865

The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor, and peace for all of God's creation

CAROL "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (verses 1, 3) UMH 230

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38 NT p.56-57

The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son, whose kingdom shall never end.

CAROL Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" UMH 240++

SIXTH LESSON	Luke 2:1-7	NT p. 58
	<i>Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.</i>	
CAROL	"The First Noel" (verse 1)	UMH 245
SEVENTH LESSON	Luke 2:8-16	NT p. 58
	<i>The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.</i>	
CAROL	"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" (verses 1-2)	UMH 251++
EIGHTH LESSON	Matthew 2:1-11	NT p. 2
	<i>The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.</i>	
CAROL	"We Three Kings" (verses 1, 4)	UMH 254
NINTH LESSON	John 1:1-14	NT p. 91-92
*CAROL	"O Come, All Ye Faithful"	UMH 234++
PASTORAL PRAYER		
*PASSING THE PEACE		
OFFERING/OFFERTORY	"Rock-a-Bye, My Dear Little Boy Rocking"	Czech Carol
*DOXOLOGY	"What Child Is This" (verses 1,3)	UMH 219
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION		
	<i>Almighty and everlasting God, thank you for all we have and for all we are.</i>	
	<i>Thank you for the faithfulness of your love revealed to us through Jesus Christ. We thank you for the privilege of responding to your generosity with these gifts and with our lives, as we dedicate them to your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</i>	
*CAROL	"Angels We Have Heard on High"	UMH 238
*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING		
	May the Christ who by his Incarnation gathered into One all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be upon you and remain with you always.	
	Amen.	
	Go forth in peace and joy.	
	Thanks be to God. Alleluia!	
POSTLUDE	"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"	Philipp Nicolai, harm. J.S.Bach

GREETERS | Gail Darcy **LITURGIST** | Pam Houskeeper
FELLOWSHIP | Linda Grady

IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL/CHILD CARE (IN COMMUNITY RM/NURSERY AFTER CHILDREN'S MESSAGE)

CHOIR PRACTICE: SUNDAYS 8:30AM SANCTUARY

BELL CHOIR PRACTICE: SUNDAYS 11:30AM SANCTUARY

CRAFTY LADIES: WILL RESUME IN SPRING

MEETING SCHEDULE and MEETING ZOOM LINK: bit.ly/MUMCZoom

- **Monday, December 30, 6:30PM** **Church Council/Trustees Budget Mtg (H)**
- **Tuesday, Jan. 7th 6:30 PM** **Trustees Meeting (Conference Rm)**
- **Friday, Jan. 10th 6:00-8:00PM** **Pizza and Game Night (RSVP to Office)**
- **Friday, Jan. 17th 6:00 PM** **Food Pantry @ Good Shepherd**
- **Tuesday, Jan. 21st 6:30 PM** **Finance Meeting (H)**
- **Tuesday, Jan 28th 6:30 PM** **Church Council (H)**

PRAYER LIST **Jim Schneider, The Tedesco Family, John Rodriguez, Cath Kanen, Michele Burrell, Lori Rothman, Richard Holt, Geoff & Pam Sackett, Camilla, Armando Avila, Gene Gillen, Jay Norejko, Marlene Horan, Jonathan Clements, Bobbie Myer, Arlene Moglia, Michael Gilmore, The Whateley Family, Marie Fornoff, Agnes Halsey, Martha Peldunas, David Kent, James Bennet, Joan Pauley, Ali Fitzgerald, Roger Fitzgerald, Debbie Conklin, Lori Sheppard, Nancy McKeen, Steve Urban, Brian Sheppard, Rose Belcastro, Barbara Urban, Lee Malone, Ellen Lee, Henry Salidino, Bill Davis, Jim Lordi, Christine Pasquarosa, Patty Reynolds, Casey Peguero, Linda Klee, Dianne Siconolfi**

Next Sunday, Epiphany Sunday, January 5, 2025, you are invited to celebrate a Baby Shower for Mary and Joseph during the regular 10 a.m. service. We will remember the Magi as we bring our gifts to the altar. DIAPERS SIZE 4 AND UP are especially needed as well as wipes, diaper rash cream, gas drops, sleepers, nail clippers and socks. All donations will be delivered to Baby Blessings Pantry at Dingmans Ferry United Methodist Church. Thank you for your support of this vital ministry!



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