



MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 21, 2025 | 10:00 AM | 4th Sunday of Advent

Theme: Signs and Wonders

Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor

Jeffrey Fornoff, Music Director

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Beloved, God calls to us—like Joseph—through angels and messengers, inviting us to listen for the Spirit's guidance in the midst of half-truths and distractions.

We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.

Sometimes, angels surprise us (as they did Mary) with good news too fantastical to believe and yet too real—realer than real—to ignore.

We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.

For generations, God has sent signs of God's coming kingdom in unexpected places—the birth of a child, the wisdom of the lowly, the faithfulness of a carpenter.

We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.

Come! Let us worship God who calls out to us, inviting us to faithfulness as we watch, wait, and work for the day when the whole world knows the abundant love and grace of Emmanuel, God-with-us.

CONGREGATION STANDS AS COMFORTABLE

CONGREGATION RESPONSE IN ***BOLD Italic***

Key to abbreviations: OT: Old Testament; NT: New Testament UMH: The United Methodist Hymnal

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Janette Hendrick, Bob Bloomer,

Richard Bloomer, Steven Bloomer-Teague

*OPENING HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 5,6 & 7) UMH 211++

*PRAYER OF CENTERING

God of the impossible and unlikely; God of pregnant old women and virgins, you turn our conventional world upside down, where the hungry are fed, and the arrogant rich are turned away. Instill in us unthinkable marvels. Make us pregnant with wonder through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT "Once Upon a Manger: A Paper Bag Pageant" by Tracy Wells

ANTHEM "He is Born, the Child Divine" Arr. Walter Ehret

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Faithful God of unfolding plans, when our certainty falters and our expectations collapse, you are still at work, inviting us into grace that redefines and redeems. Let these gifts and our lives be signs of obedience, humility, and hope. May they help carry Christ into a world still longing for peace, hungry for love, and needing redemption. We pray in the name of the one who is Emmanuel—God with us. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (verses 1-4) UMH 234++

*BENEDICTION

For all that has been...***Thanks!***

For all that will be...***Yes!***

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

GREETER | Gail Darcy **NURSERY** | Linnea Geno
LITURGIST | Nancy McCallum **FELLOWSHIP** | The Genos

PRAYER LIST: Pastora Veronica, Greg Hunt, Patrick Singer, Rhonda Leister, Marshall Cooper, Mark Geleyn, Carolyn Grossmann, Linda Ryder, Marie Fornoff, Scott Seltzer, Barbara Cooper, Beth Klopfleisch, David Scheer, Mike St. Jean, Joanne Green, Sue Rhodes, Jacob Hernandez, Rebecca Suarez, Barbara Brown, Nazareth, Dianne Siconolfi, Joe Schneider, Jim Schneider, The Tedesco Family, John Rodriguez, Richard Holt, Geoff & Pam Sackett, Armando Avila, Agnes Halsey, David Kent, James Bennet, Joan Pauley, Lori Sheppard, Nancy McKeen, Steve Urban, Brian Sheppard, Barbara Urban, Lee Malone, Ellen Lee, Henry Salidino, Jim Lordi



Thank you to all who participated in our Mission Project for the Holidays. 50 children will experience a little extra joy this season as they unwrap presents. May they experience God's love and grace throughout the year as well.

Longest Night Taize Service & Vigil

followed by Soup Fellowship
Tonight, December 21st 5PM

Join us for a special service of shadow & light on the longest night of the year. Afterwards we will come together in a candlelight vigil to support those who may be unhoused or at risk to be. We will have soup, sandwiches, and fellowship. Donations for the Tri-State Warming Station Welcome. Most Needed women's underwear, as well as socks and gloves.

All are welcome.

Epiphany Sunday, January 4, 2026, you are invited to celebrate a Baby Shower for Mary and Joseph during the 10 AM 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!

IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION

CHILD CARE AVAILABLE (NURSERY LOCATED AT END OF HALL IN EDUCATION WING)

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS 10:15 IN EDUCATION WING

(CHILDREN WILL BE ESCORTED TO CLASS AFTER CHILDREN'S MESSAGE)

- **CHOIR REHEARSAL:** Sunday at 8:30 AM in the Sanctuary
- **BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL:** Sunday at 11:30 AM in Sanctuary
- **CRAFTY LADIES:** Winter Break

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

- Tonight, December 21st 5:00 PM—Longest Night Taize Service & Vigil—Followed by Soup & Sandwich Fellowship
- Wednesday, December 24th 7:00PM— Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Choir & Bells
- Sunday, December 28th 10:00AM—A Service of Lessons and Carols
- Friday, January 2nd 6:00-8:00PM—Pizza & Game Night (Fellowship Hall)
- Sunday, January 4th—10AM Epiphany Sunday “Baby Shower for Mary & Joseph”



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