

Dear Church family,

We will have In-person and Online Worship on **Sunday, November 19, 2023, 10am.**

**Online Worship**

Website: [www.littlefallsumc.org](http://www.littlefallsumc.org)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@lfumc](http://www.youtube.com/@lfumc)

You can join Online Worship using your home phone or cell phone.

Call 646-876-9923; enter the Meeting ID 917 9067 6301; and enter the Passcode 139139.

**Sunday Scriptures**

**2 Corinthians 9:5-12 and Matthew 25:14-30**

**Today's Message! 'Stewards'.**

If you have any concerns and joys and want to share them with the congregation, and ask the church to pray on Sunday, please let me know! You can email, call, or text me. Or you can submit your prayer concerns and joys here: [www.littlefallsumc.org/prayer](http://www.littlefallsumc.org/prayer)

Your generous financial support is significant and appreciated very much.  
We have continued our ministries with your support.

You can support God's ministry in three ways:

1. Put your offerings in the plates at the Offering Station at the in-person Worship
2. Mail your offerings and tithes to the church office: 139 Main St. Little Falls, NJ 07424
3. Make online donations at [www.littlefallsumc.org/donation](http://www.littlefallsumc.org/donation)

Again, we appreciate your generosity very much.

Please see the bulletin for other announcements!  
Have a good day! See you on Sunday!

Pastor Jin

**Little Falls United Methodist Church**

**Sunday Worship Service**

**November 19, 2023 - 10 am**



**139 Main Street, Little Falls, NJ 07424**

**Office Phone: (973) 256-0993**

**Website: [www.LittleFallsUMC.org](http://www.LittleFallsUMC.org)**

**Email: [Info@LittleFallsUMC.org](mailto:Info@LittleFallsUMC.org)**

***“A Welcoming Community of Faith, Hope,  
Mission and Outreach Sharing Christ’s Love”***

***“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World”***

**“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,  
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,  
which is your spiritual worship.” (Romans 12:1)**

## *Called to Praise*

### ‡Prepare your heart and body for Worship

#### Greeting & Announcements

- We have ‘**In-Person**’ & ‘**Online Worship**’ on **Sunday, November 19, 2023, 10am.**
- You can join our online worship via YouTube or Facebook. Type “Little Falls United Methodist Church” in the search window on YouTube or Facebook. Please use the link below to join in Online Worship. YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@lfumc](http://www.youtube.com/@lfumc)
- You can join the Online Worship by your phone. Call (646)-876-9923 and enter the Meeting ID, 917 9067 6301, and Passcode 139139.
- **Prayer Concerns & Joys** – If you would like to share your concerns and joys with the congregation, please email Pastor Jin ([jkim@littlefallsumc.org](mailto:jkim@littlefallsumc.org)) or complete the online form, [www.littlefallsumc.org/prayer](http://www.littlefallsumc.org/prayer).
- **Altar Flowers** – Thank you **Melissa & Marilyn** for providing the flowers **In Memory of Grace Jean Fylstra**. If you would like to offer the altar flowers, please contact Janet (973) 896-8936 or [ladyteddy@aol.com](mailto:ladyteddy@aol.com).
- **Fellowship Time after Worship** – Thank you **Linda Timms & Cheryle Mitchell** for hosting the coffee hour. Let us enjoy a good fellowship time every Sunday after Worship. Please help us with hosting the coffee hour. The Sign-up board is on the table in the Narthex. Please contact Cheryle or Kathy F. if you have any questions about the coffee hour.
- **Stewardship Campaign for the year 2024** – We are on the Stewardship Campaign for our church ministry for the year 2024 on **October 29, 2023**. Our offerings and tithes are an expression of our faith as we put our first priority in God’s ministry in our lives. Our offering and tithes are a form of self-denial, a form of worship, a means of serving, a way of recognizing that all of life is a gift, an attempt to give back, an expression of love and gratitude, and a means of following Jesus. Please participate in this campaign with your generous, faithful hearts. **We will dedicate our pledge cards on Sunday, November 26.** God Bless you as you fill out the pledge card and mail it back, drop it off at the church, put it in the offering plate, or add it to the Pledge Box on the Narthex.
- **Prayer Meeting** - We will have our Prayer Meeting in **the Chapel at 1:30 pm.** Meeting Date **December 6**. Terrie and Ken will lead the meeting. Please keep this prayer meeting in your hearts before our Lord, that we are open to his guidance and faithful to follow through.
- **Coffee and Bible** – We will start a new season of *Coffee and Bible* on **Thursday November 30<sup>th</sup>** at 1 pm, at Lee Lounge. We will study **the Book of Ecclesiastes** in the Old Testament in the Bible and have a conversation, having coffee for 12

weeks. Jung Ae will lead the study. Sign up online or contact Jung Ae, [cclim92@gmail.com](mailto:cclim92@gmail.com). Please join us!

- **Kids & Youths For Christ** – The next meeting will be held at 5 pm on **Thursday, December 7th**. Kids & Youths For Christ is a program for Kindergarten to grade 12 of Christian education and fun activities. K.Y.F.C. will get together every first and third Thursday **from September 21, 2023 to June 6, 2024**. All Students are welcome!
- **Treasured Memories** – “Treasured Memories” is a grief group for those who have lost their loved ones. The ongoing meeting gathers every **2nd Wednesday of the month** in Lee Lounge at 7 pm. Contact Allison for details (973) 800-4152.
- **Holiday Fair – Thank you everyone!**
- **Thanksgiving Baskets** – Thanksgiving Baskets are being given to the food pantry clients. Thank you for your participation!
- **UMW** is collecting canned goods for **CUMAC and Oasis** during the months of Donations can be placed on the marked table in the Narthex. Thank you in advance for supporting this mission project!
- **Online Donation** – Online donation is available now. Please visit the church website and click ‘Donation.’ The link is [www.LittleFallsUMC.org/donation](http://www.LittleFallsUMC.org/donation). Your financial support and generosity are greatly appreciated and essential for our church ministry and mission. Please consider sending your tithes and offerings to Little Falls UMC (139 Main St. Little Falls, NJ 07424). You can send your offerings and tithes to the church every week. Or you can send offerings and tithes for a month with a check. Thanks again for your generosity!
- **Shoprite Gift Card** – To purchase a Shoprite gift card, contact Pete (973) 595-5765 or [detroit50@aol.com](mailto:detroit50@aol.com).
- **Kohl’s Gift Card** – We are selling Kohl’s Gift Card. Contact Allison.
- **LFUMC FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED** - Many families depend on the Food Pantry on a regular basis. The Pantry needs the following non-perishable items; canned vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, adult/children’s cereal, pasta & sauce, instant potatoes/rice, tuna, chicken, sardines, fruit, apple sauce, juice, and granola bars.
- **SOCKS FOR SOULS - Do your feet get cold?** Please help Unity Circle to provide new or gently used socks to the homeless. There is a constant need. Please drop off your socks in the large white sock in the Narthex.
- **Ongoing Collection** - UMW collects postmarked stamps, can pull tabs, and the front of greeting cards (No Hallmark). Items are donated to different charities and organizations.

### ‡Call to Worship

Leader: The time for harvest is close at hand. What have you done with the gifts God has given you?

**All: We have brought our gifts to the house of the Lord.**

Leader: Praise God for the gifts and for opportunities for service that they represent.

**All: We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been blessed.**

Leader: Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.

**All: Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude. AMEN.**

**‡Praise Song**

**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

**UMH 140**

Chorus

Great is Thy faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness

Morning by morning

New mercies I see

All I have needed

Thy hand hath provided

Great is Thy faithfulness

Lord unto me

Verse 1

Great is Thy faithfulness

O God my Father

There is no shadow

Of turning with Thee

Thou changest not

Thy compassions they fail not

As Thou hast been

Thou forever wilt be

Verse 2

Summer and winter

And springtime and harvest

Sun moon and stars

In their courses above

Join with all nature

In manifold witness

To Thy great faithfulness

Mercy and love

Verse 3

Pardon for sin

And a peace that endureth

Thy own dear presence

To cheer and to guide

Strength for today

And bright hope for tomorrow

Blessings all mine

With ten thousand beside

**Children's Time**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Matthew 6:9-13**

When Jesus was on the mountain, he taught the people how to pray. Jesus said, “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” Amen.

**‡Hymn of Prayer**

**I Need Thee Every Hour**

**UMH 397**

I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord;  
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.

Refrain

I need Thee, O I need Thee;  
Every hour I need Thee;  
O bless me now, my Savior,  
I come to Thee.

I need Thee every hour, stay Thou nearby;  
Temptations lose their power when Thou art nigh.

Refrain

I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain;  
Come quickly and abide, or life is in vain.

Refrain

I need Thee every hour; teach me Thy will;  
And Thy rich promises in me fulfill.

Refrain

I need Thee every hour, most Holy One;  
O make me Thine indeed, Thou blessed Son.

Refrain

**Pausing for Silent Prayer and Confession**

**Prayers of the People (Response: God, in Your Mercy, hear our prayers.)**

One of the greatest gifts is the gift of prayer. And we have brought before you, Lord, the concerns which have been weighing on our hearts. Touch the lives of all these people and situations with you healing love. Give each one a sense of your powerful presence. Flood their lives with hope and peace. Help each one of us to be workers for you. Help us to trust in your abiding presence and love for us. Challenge us to use the gift and to honor the giver, for we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.***

### **Called to the Word**

#### **Prayer for Illumination**

**Leader:** Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today.

**All: Amen**

#### **NT Lesson**

#### **2 Corinthians 9:5-12**

<sup>5</sup> So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised, so that it may be ready as a bountiful gift and not as an extortion. <sup>6</sup> The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written, "He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." <sup>10</sup> He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, <sup>12</sup> for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

***This ends the NT Lessons.***

***Let us turn to the Gospel Lesson. Please stand, if able.***

#### **Gospel Lesson**

#### **Matthew 25:14-30**

#### **The Parable of the Talents**

<sup>14</sup> "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup> to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once <sup>16</sup> the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup> In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup> But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup> After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup> And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' <sup>23</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been

trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup> Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter,’ <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup> But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter?’ <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

**Stewards**

**Rev. Jin Kook Kim**

Good morning, Church Family! I hope you had a blessed week in God’s love and grace. I had a good time with my family last week. Thank you for giving me the time!

As parents, my wife and I have to deal with new things as my children grow. My first child wanted to have a cellphone after she entered Middle school because some of her friends were getting cell phones for the first time at that time. We said, “No. Not yet” because we thought she didn’t need it at that time, and we heard from other parents that it was hard for them to control their kids’ cell phone usage. For example, they were too occupied by cell phones, and they were texting each other late at night or playing phone games till late at night. She had kept asking us for a cell phone as most of her friends got cell phones, but we said “No, not yet.” Recently, we gave her an old phone that my wife used to use because we found that there were times that we needed to contact her, and she needed to contact us as her time out of home increased due to activities such as cheerleading practice and away games out of town. By giving her the phone, we talked to her about why we gave her the phone and allowed her to use the phone and the rules that she should keep. Our primary reason that we gave her a phone is to communicate with us anytime any place. Of course, she can use it in other ways such as communicating with her friends and watching a video clip online and something else. However, her other purpose of the usage of the phone should not affect her life too much. As a parent, I hope she learns how to use her phone and how to manage herself in terms of the usage of the phone. We are working on it. I guess this issue is not only for my family but all young families whose young kid gets a phone for the first time.

Whatever we have, we should know how to manage it and how to manage ourselves in the usage of it. However, we sometimes fail to discipline ourselves to use what we have in a good way and get in trouble. Have you ever experienced such a case?

In today’s gospel lesson, one of Jesus’ parables, the parable of talents, three servants received money from their master. Two of them worked hard with the finance and made it double but one of them didn’t do anything but put it in the ground until the master came back. And when the master was back, two of them were complimented for their work with talents but one of them was punished because he didn’t do anything with the talent. From the parable, I want us to note three points.



First, servants were stewards of talents that they were given by their master. The master entrusted his property to them, not giving them the talents as their possession. They had the talents, but they were not the owners of talents but stewards of what they had.

Second, servants should use talents as the Master, the owner of talents, wanted, not as they wanted. We don't know what specific direction the master gave the servants when he gave them talents because there is no description. However, based on the two servants' work, we can guess that the master wanted them to work with talent and make profits. The two servants used talents as the master wanted but the other one didn't use it.

The key word is stewardship. Stewardship means to know who the owner of it is and to use it as the owner wants. All three servants knew that the master was the owner of talents that they had. The two servants used it as the master wanted but the one servant didn't use it as the master wanted.

Stewardship is one of the key differences between Christians and others. We, Christians, know that all resources we have are from God and God is the owner of our resources. We give thanks to God for what God gives us. However, people without faith think that what they have is theirs and that they are the owners of what they have. They think that what they have is from all their efforts or luck. So rather than gratitude, they think what they have is what they deserve.

Christians use our resources as God wants because we know everything is God's and we are steward of it. So, we use our resources for God's glory, God's kingdom, and God's ministry through the church. However, many people use their resources for their will and desire because they think that they are the owner of what they have. Like the servant who put the talent in the ground, some Christians don't use it for God but for other purposes because they don't know how they can use it for God and how they can manage it as stewards.

Church family, I pray that we don't make the mistake that the servant did. All of us know that our resources are God's, not ours. We know that we use our resources for God's glory, kingdom, and ministry. We can make a mistake because we are not perfect. However, we know that our God is the forgiving God and God gives us another chance and God leads us into the right path all the time. We can make a mistake like a young kid who gets a cellphone for the first time. As a young kid needs to learn to manage the situation, we also need to learn to manage the situation. With God's help, we, as an adult, can discipline ourselves not to make another mistake in our faith journey. Let us discipline ourselves to use our resources for God if we are not disciplined yet.

Because 'Talent' is a currency in the parable, we usually think that the parable talks about money. However, Talent means more than finance. Did you know that Jesus talked about this parable to explain the Kingdom of Heaven? Servants had time to use their talents while the master was away. Our lifetime is like the time that the servant had. God entrusts talents to us. The Talents that God entrusted us are not only finance but also all resources that we have: time, strength, abilities, skills, good and caring hearts, and our connections with people or groups. God gives us life. God gives us time. God gives us strength, skills, abilities, and all other things. All our belongings are God's, and we are God's. We are God's stewards for all our whole being. As stewards, we use our time, strength, skill, abilities, and finances for God's glory, kingdom, and ministry as God wants us to use them for God's ministry.

Again, let us use our talents for God as God’s faithful stewards. Let us use our time, strength, and all resources as God wants in our lives. Also, let us discipline ourselves to use our resources for God if we are not disciplined yet. Let us give God our time for Sunday worship, daily devotion, and mission projects. Let us give God our strength and skills for God’s ministry. Let us check any talents we have but don’t use them for God.

Let us not neglect to use each talent for God with an excuse that we use one of them or some of them for God. Let us not neglect to use our time and energy for God saying that we use our finance for God. Let us not neglect to use our finances for God, saying we use our time and energy for God. As we know, Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God with all our strength, mind, soul, and spirit.

How can we discipline ourselves to use our resources for God?

First, prepare in advance. In 2 Corinthians, Paul explained why Paul sent brothers to let the church prepare for offerings for God’s ministry. He said, “Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Paul wants them to prepare for offerings in advance so that they have time to consider God’s love, grace for them, and make up their mind.

Second, give God your resources as a cheerful giver remembering how faithful God blessed them and how abundantly God blessed them. He said, “God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”

This is one of the reasons that we do the Stewardship Campaign every year for the next year. We want to prepare our offerings and tithes for God’s ministry in advance. We want to make up our minds so that we give what God gives us cheerfully. And through this time, we can have the time to remember God’s abundant blessings for us.

Church family, we are God’s stewards for the resources that we have. Let us give it to God as cheerful givers so that we enter into the joy of God. Amen.

### **Called to Share**

#### **Response to Our Generous God**

**‡Doxology                      Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow                      UMH 95**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

#### **‡Prayer of Dedication**

**All: There are no limits to the gifts you have given us, gracious Lord. Now we return thanks to you for these gifts and we bring these token to you, asking for**

**your blessing on givers and gifts. Help these gifts and givers to be your witnesses throughout the world. AMEN.**

**Called to the World**

**‡Closing Hymn**

**Take My Life, and Let It Be**

**UMH 399**

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from Thee.  
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect, and use every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne.  
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.

**‡Benediction**

**Rev. Jin Kook Kim**

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. Amen