

Dear Church family,

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

Online Worship

Website: www.littlefallsumc.org

YouTube: 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

Isaiah 40:1-11 and John 3:16-21

Today's Message! 'A Time for Celebration'.

Sunday, December 10, 2023 is the Second Sunday of Advent.

Let us ponder the meaning of Advent and Christmas

in the Advent Season together through Worship and Advent Study.

The theme of the Advent and Christmas season is' The Purpose of Christmas'.

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

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

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

December 10, 2023 - 10 am

Come and Join us!

Advent & Christmas

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10AM

Dec. 3 - Waiting for Christmas
Dec. 10 - A Time for Celebration
Dec. 17 - A Time for Salvation
Dec. 24 - A Time for Reconciliation

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE (DEC. 24, 7 PM)

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU!

LITTLE FALLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
139 Main ST Little Falls NJ 973-256-0993 info@littlerefallsunc.org

The Purpose of Christmas

139 Main Street, Little Falls, NJ 07424

Office Phone: (973) 256-0993

Website: www.LittleFallsUMC.org

Email: 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, December 10, 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
- You can join the Online Worship by your phone. Call (646)-876-9923 and enter the Meeting ID, 917 9067 6301, and Passcode 139139.
- **Advent and Christmas Eve Worship - The Purpose of Christmas**

Sunday Worship at 10 am

December 10 - A Time for Celebration

December 17 - A Time for Salvation

December 24 - A Time for Reconciliation

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - December 24, 7pm

- **Advent Study** – We will have Advent study at Lee Lounge at 7 pm every Wednesday from **Dec. 6th to Dec. 20th**. The Theme is “The Purpose of Christmas” which is the title of the book that we will read. Advent study will enrich our Advent spirit and help us find the true meaning of Christmas. Please join us! Please let Pastor Jin know if you want to have a copy of the book.
- **Prayer Concerns & Joys** – If you would like to share your concerns and joys with the congregation, please email Pastor Jin (jkim@littlefallsumc.org) or complete the online form, www.littlefallsumc.org/prayer.
- **Altar Flowers** – If you would like to offer the altar flowers, please contact Janet (973) 896-8936 or ladyteddy@aol.com.
- **Fellowship Time after Worship** – Thank you **Kim Family** 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** – Thank you for your pledges for the 2024 Church ministry. You have participated in God’s mission through your pledge for the church ministry. You have committed to God to give God your first fruit not leftovers. If you didn’t give us your pledge card, do not worry. You are not late to participate in God’s ministry through your pledge. We are still accepting pledge cards. You can mail your card to the church or put it in the Stewardship Campaign box in the Narthex. Giving us your pledge cards helps us a lot to consider the 2024 ministry and budget. Thank you for your love and

support for Little Falls UMC and God's ministry again!

- **Coffee and Bible** – We will resume *Coffee and Bible* on **Thursday, January 18th, 2024** 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. Contact Jung Ae, cclim92@gmail.com for details. Please join us!
- **Kids & Youths For Christ** – The next meeting will be held at 5 pm on **Thursday, December 21st**. 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 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.
- **Online Donation** – Online donation is available now. Please visit the church website and click ‘Donation.’ The link is 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.
- **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.
- **The UMW is collecting canned goods for CUMAC and Oasis during the months of November & December.** Donations can be placed on the marked table in the Narthex. Thank you in advance for supporting this mission project!
- **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.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Corpuz Family

Reader: In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, “Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins” (Isaiah 40:1).

Reader: We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

Congregation: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

Reader: We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

Light the second candle of the Advent wreath while we sing Advent Song

Advent Song Light the Advent Candle TFWS 2090, v.2

Light the Advent candle two Think of humble shepherds who
Filled with wonder at the sight of the child on Christmas night.
Candle, candle burning bright Shining in the cold winter night
Candle, candle burning bright Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

‡Call to Worship

Leader: Long ago, a voice cried out in the wilderness

All: Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight the pathways.

Leader: Something new was about to happen.

All: God would visit God's people in a new way!

Leader: Lord, open our hearts to receive this good news!

All: Prepare us to be people of great faith and compassion as we look forward to this wondrous event you have proclaimed to us. AMEN.

‡Praise Song *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* UMH 213

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide;
Our hearts to Thee we open wide;
Let us Thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in us reveal.

Thy Holy Spirit lead us on
Until our glorious goal is won;

Eternal praise, eternal fame
Be offered, Savior, to Thy Name!

Children's Time

An Angel Visits Mary

Luke 1:26-38

God sent the angel Gabriel to visit a young woman. Her name was Mary. She was scared. She had never seen an angel before. Gabriel said, "Don't be afraid. You are very special to God. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must name him Jesus. He will be called the Son of the Most High God." Mary asked, "How can it be so? I am not married." Gabriel answered, "With God, all things are possible." Mary said, "I love God. I will do what he has chosen me to do."

‡Hymn of Prayer

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

UMH 204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.

Pausing for Silent Prayer and Confession

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

How things will change on the day of the coming of the Lord! O God, we long for that day of hope and peace. Lord, attune our ears to hear the voices of those who cry out in their need. Open our hearts to respond in caring ways. Teach us again the great truths about how we should live as your children. Forgive our failings and help us to try again and again to be the kind of faith-filled people you would have us be. As we cry to you, offering the names of loved ones who are sick, who mourn, who are lost, who live in anguish and in anger, keep us mindful of the ways in which we can be of help. Give your healing, peace, hope, love, grace, and mercy, to all of us, our family, friends, and all people in the world Likewise, as we rejoice with all those who are happy, who dance with delight at the wondrous gifts you have given, remind us that joy and peace is what we all seek and what we can accomplish. In the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, we offer this prayer. 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

OT Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

God's People Are Comforted

40 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.³ A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field.⁷ The grass withers; the flower fades, [[when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.⁸ The grass withers; the flower fades,]] but the word of our God will stand forever.⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him.¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

This ends the OT Lessons.

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

Gospel Lesson

John 3:16-21

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

A Time for Celebration

Rev. Jin Kook Kim

Good morning, Church Family! I hope you had a blessed week in God's love and grace last week. Last Sunday was the first Sunday of Advent, and we considered Waiting for Christmas. Let us make this season the time to remember how precious Jesus' coming into our lives is. And let us remind ourselves that we are waiting for Jesus' second coming in this season. Whenever we are waiting, such as waiting in line to check out for shopping or in car traffic, let us remind ourselves that we are in Advent, the waiting time for Christmas, Jesus' coming. Then Our waiting time will be a great time to renew our gratitude for Jesus, the best gift for us.

The Advent and Christmas Season gives us a joyful and bright air. Christmas decorations, Carols, Christmas movies, Christmas gatherings, and the End of year parties help us celebrate the season. Are you planning to host or join a Christmas party, an End-of-year party, or a family gathering? What are you celebrating this Christmas? People celebrate this season for many reasons. The author of the book, *The Purpose of Christmas*, took a survey of Christmas shoppers with the question,

“What are you celebrating this Christmas?” Their responses are these: I’m celebrating that I made it through another year; I am celebrating being home with my family; I got a Christmas bonus; My son is home from deployment; The candidate I voted for got elected; I am celebrating that I’ve finished all my shopping; I’m not celebrating anything. I am just trying to survive.

What do you see from the responses? The responses are good reasons to celebrate but there is a missing one that is very important and the main purpose of Christmas. It is Jesus, Jesus’ birth and Jesus’ coming into the world. Christmas is Jesus’ birth, Jesus coming into the world. For us, as Christians, the children of God and disciples of Jesus Christ, Christmas is the time to celebrate Jesus’ birth. We celebrate Jesus’ coming into our lives in this season.

Jesus’ birth means God’s love for us. As we read the scripture, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.” Jesus coming to us is God’s love for us. God loves us so God gives us Jesus, God’s only son, the precious son. God loves us so God gives us Godself because Jesus and God are one. We give Christmas gifts to family and friends because we love them and want to express our love for them. Not only Christmas but also other times, we give them something good, special, and important because we love them. We give ours to our family and friends because we love them. We can give ourselves when we love them that much. Parents give themselves to kids because they love them that much. Giving out our most precious things or ourselves is a great expression of our love for them. Christmas is God’s giving out the most precious one, Jesus, to us. Christmas is God’s giving out Godself to us. That is God’s love for us. Church Family, Christmas is a time for celebration that God loves us so much. Let us celebrate Jesus’ birth in the Christmas season. Let us celebrate God’s love for us which is shown through giving us Jesus.

Jesus’ birth means that God is with us. One of Jesus’ names is Emmanuel which means God with us as we read in Matthew 1:23, “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” God comes to us through Jesus’ birth and God is with us in our life journey. Christmas is a time to celebrate that God is with us. God’s presence means a lot to us. God is the Creator who made us and gave us life. God is the one who loves us so much. The very God is with us and will not leave us forever. God showed us God’s promise that God is with us forever through Jesus’ birth. As you know, it is not easy to be with someone in our hectic days. Sending a card or gift to someone is a good way to express our love for them but we know that our presence is much more meaningful to our loved ones. God made an example that God is with us as the best gift for us through Christmas, Jesus’ birth. Church family, Christmas is a time to celebrate that God is with us. Let us celebrate Jesus’ birth for God’s presence in our lives in the Christmas season.

Church family, I hope we prepare a celebration for Jesus’ birth for Christmas in the Advent season considering the meaning of Jesus’ birth that God loves us so much and God is with us all the time. Jesus is all about Christmas. Rather than missing Jesus’ birth on Christmas day or the Christmas season, let us celebrate Jesus’ birth and its meanings on Christmas day.

The author of the book introduced his family tradition for Christmas in his book. When he was three, as a toddler he asked his mom, “Why do we have Christmas?” Mom said, “Christmas is the celebration of Jesus’ birthday.” In a burst of preschooler inspiration, he concluded with a child’s logic, “Well then, we should have a birthday party! We can have cake and Koo-Aid and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus!” his mom said, “Okay, we will!” That was the first day of his family tradition for a birthday party for Jesus every Christmas.

A similar one happened in my house a few years ago. One day, just a thought came to me. ‘Christmas is Jesus’ birthday. When my family member has our birthday, we have a cake and sing the happy birthday song to celebrate the birthday. I want to celebrate Jesus’ birth on Christmas day.’ So, I prepared a cake and a candle for Christmas the day before. On Christmas day, we got together at the table, had the cake, and sang the Happy Birthday song to Jesus.

Church family, are you planning for a family gathering or a friends gathering on Christmas day? I hope you plan a birthday party for Jesus at the gathering. Jesus is the birthday person. Let us celebrate Jesus’ birth on Christmas day, Jesus’ birthday. Will you or your family be alone at home and enjoy a peaceful day? Prepare a cake and a candle for Jesus’ birthday and celebrate Christmas with a birthday party with Jesus. I also encourage you to remind yourself and your family that, on Christmas day, we celebrate Jesus’ birth, which means God loves us and God is with us.

Also, I hope we don’t lose joyful hearts for Christmas while we are preparing for Christmas. Let us rejoice in Christmas and the preparation for it while we shop for gifts, parties, food, etc. Christmas is a time for celebration of God’s love and presence through Jesus’ birth.

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: Lord God, you have shown us your glory: in your holy word, in the blessings of our daily lives, and in the promise of your eternal kingdom. You share your glory with us, giving us the power to live in holiness and godliness. Your loving patience gives us hope as we await the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ. In gratitude and thanks, we offer you our hearts, our lives, and all that we have. Use these gifts, we pray, to prepare your way of salvation and to establish your realm of peace. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Called to the World

‡Closing Hymn O Come, O Come, Emmanuel UMH 211

1. O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to Thee O Israel

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go.

Refrain

3. O come, O come great Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

4. O come, thou root of Jesse's tree,
an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall;
all peoples on Thy mercy call.

Refrain

‡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