Little Falls United Methodist Church

A Welcoming Community of Faith, Hope, & Outreach Sharing Christ's Love Since 1825

Little Falls United Methodist Church | 139 Main Street | Little Falls, NJ | 07424 | 973.256.0993 | info@littlefallsumc.org | www.littlefallsumc.org

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THE PASTOR'S PEN

"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." John 3:16

Dear Little Falls Church Family and Friends,

I hope you are in God's love and grace all the time. It is hard to believe but we are in December, and we are entering the Advent and Christmas Season now. Christmas is coming. Are you excited? My kids are excited for Christmas and waiting for Christmas Day. Why? As you guess, they are excited about Christmas Gifts. They know they will receive a Christmas gift on Christmas morning, so they are excited and waiting for Christmas.

We give and receive Christmas gifts every year. How many gifts have you received and which Christmas gift do you remember the most in your life? Who gave you the gift and how meaningful is it for you? We are thankful and grateful for those who think of us and give us gifts. We remember them and their love for us. However, whatever the gifts are, most of them do not go on forever. Most gifts get consumed, worn, or broken after time passes.

What Christmas gift do you wish for this year? Do you know this? We have already received a gift that is not changed, consumed, worn, or dismissed. The gift is Jesus Christ. Two thousand years ago, God gave us Jesus Christ as God's gift. Jesus is the best gift for us because Jesus is Godself, so God gives us Godself through Jesus. As we read in John 3:16, God loves us so much, so God gives us Jesus Christ as God's gift, and this is Christmas. Jesus is the best gift for us because Jesus makes all our lives. Jesus brings to us hope, love, joy, and peace in our lives. Jesus brings to us salvation, forgiveness, reconciliation, eternal life, and God's kingdom. Jesus is the best gift because Jesus does not get changed, consumed, worn, or dismissed but Jesus is with us forever and renews our lives every time.

Church family, I hope we remind ourselves that we have received the best Christmas gift from God already in the Advent and Christmas season so that we give thanks and praise to God giving out ourselves to God. Also, I hope we give out the best Christmas gift, Jesus, to the people in our local community and the world by inviting them to our Sunday Worship in Advent and Christmas Eve Candlelight Service; by sending a note or giving a gift with the message of Jesus' love and grace for them; by helping the needy to show God's presence in their lives through us. When we give them the best Christmas gift, they will have a new life with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

With Joy, Pastor Jin Kook Kim



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MEMBER UPDATE

CONDOLENCES

Remember our friends in prayer, by cards, calling, and visiting the sick." (Matt 25:39)

ALTAR OF PRAYER

Our Bishop, Rev. Dr. John Schol and his family; Our Superintendent, Rev. William Willams III: Pastor Jin Kook Kim; Urban Promise in Camden & Malawi; CUMAC. For local police & fire companies; Enterprise #2, Great Notch, & Singac; Eagle Rescue Squad.

HOSPITAL RECENT TREATMENT HOME RECOVERY **HOMEBOUND**

Geraldine Carstens: Melissa Downing; Ted Fischer; Edie Hamilton; Lois Hughes; Ruth Petro; Al Taylor; **Emily Van Biert**



Rest in Peace <u>Norma Taylor</u>

Prayers for all our senior citizens who are dealing with the challenges of aging.

MILITARY PERSONNEL

Cl and Terri Carrera (Marines); TJ Corchado (US Army) We thank and remember all our veterans and their many sacrifices for us.

THANK YOU!

To the congregation for your continued support and donations of non-perishable food for our LFUMC Food Pantry Families. Your generosity is a blessing to many families every day!



December

3-Shirley Juhlin

7-Angelina Perez

8-Pam Weeks

14-Carol Mecca

16-Ella Strippoli

16-Merla Corpuz

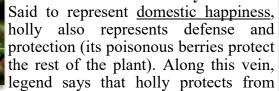
20-Marilyn Meder

20-Laura Sansom

21-Michael J. Tullo

22-Andrew Miller





thunder, lightning, witchcraft.

Your personality: You're someone who practices hygge, and can often be found rearranging things in your friend's house to make it more cozy. You can also become a bit defensive when someone critiques the way you do something.



January: Carnation

Carnations symbolize love, fascination and distinction (which explains why they're commonly worn or gifted on Mother's Day!). A colorful

during the cold month of January, standout carnations different can express things depending on their shade.

Your personality: You're genuine and down-to -earth. You're loyal and have a love for your friends and family that just cannot be matched.



January

2-Kacie Broadfield

2-Karen Wilson

2-Stephanie Pruestel

8-Jennifer Shields-Rotonda

16-Dale Marsh

22-Lorean Tullo

26-Kelsey Coull

26-Lexi & Joey Rotonda

30-Bridget Ziskin

FINANCIALS & FUNDRAISERS

BUY SCRIP GIFT CARDS

November Actual – \$6,080 November Profit – \$304.00 2023 Total – \$64,785



2023 Total Profit – \$3,239.25 Projection - \$71,200

Projection Profit - \$3,560

Thank you for supporting the church Scrip fund raiser during the pandemic. Many of you have called asking for Shoprite gift cards and we have delivered them to you, or you have picked them up at our house. Since in-person worship has been occurring, you can purchase scrip on Sunday mornings. If you would like Scrip, please call Janet or Pete at 973-595-5765. If you order your groceries on-line the gift cards are an easy way to pay for your groceries. Our Scrip sales year to date are about the same as last year.

Ways & Means Update

Be well and see you soon! Allison

The next Ruth Lee meeting will be on <u>Wednesday, December 6, 4 pm</u>.

The Trustees would like to thank everyone who donated or pledged to the Roof Replacement Campaign. We were given permission to use \$120,000 from our Investment Fund. The total for the projects came to \$130,244. We have replaced the \$10,244 into the Investment Fund, with additional funds as well.

Please remember that the interest accrued from the Investment Funds is used for maintenance and operating costs for our Sanctuary, education building, and parsonage such as property upkeep, repairs, landscape, and snow removal. The future of our church depends on this interest.

If you have not contributed yet or wish to increase your contribution, please consider that at this time. Contributions may be dedicated to past and/or present members and friends.

We are running the pledge campaign until December 31, 2023. Checks are to be made out to LFUMC Trustees, placed in a marked envelope, or presented to Melissa Downing.

We are currently in financial dire straits! Each month we are struggling to meet our financial responsibilities. We would appreciate any assistance you can give. Thank you for those of you have been keeping up with your pledges.

Best wishes to you and your family this Christmas Season!

The Finance Committee

<u>Online Donation - Online donation is available now. Please visit the church website and click 'Donate!' The link is www.LittleFallsUMC.org/donation.</u>

Shoprite Gift Card - If you want to buy a Shoprite gift card, please contact Pete (973) 595-5765 or detroit50@aol.com.

Kohl's Gift Card – Effective immediately, we will no longer offer Kohl's gift card purchases.

Thank you for supporting the church and God's ministry!



The Christmas season is officially here! It has been a busy couple of months for the members of the UMW!

In November we held our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, which supports our church's food pantry clients. **THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in this year's Thanksgiving food drive! We had an extremely successful collection. This year, we filled

bags of Thanksgiving staples for 10 families. Each family received cans of green beans, corn, yams, gravy, cranberry sauce, boxed stuffing, mashed potatoes, a dessert, apple juice, hot chocolate, and a turkey breast. We had such a generous response of monetary donations this year that allowed us to purchase additional staple foods, giving each client an additional bag of food! Thank you, Linda Timms, for all your hard work organizing the collection, shopping, overseeing the packing of the bags and ensuring that every family received what was needed. Members of the UMW once again participated in Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child in November. This year, participants sent a total of twenty shoeboxes (more than we've sent in the past several years!) to children throughout the world to help spread the Word of God. Thank you to those who participated. Thank you to everyone who supported Unity Circle's Leaf Sale which went towards providing hot Thanksgiving meals to those in need while celebrating our loved ones on All Saint's Sunday.

On Going: Bethany Hope is currently holding a Christmas toy drive/gift card collection on behalf of Oasis. Everyone is welcome to participate in the Christmas drive. We are collecting new, unwrapped toys for the children and gift cards for the teenagers. The deadline is Sunday, December 17th. Donations can be placed on the marked table in the Narthex (please give gift cards directly to Melissa). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Melissa: (201) 452-7759 or MelissaDowning82@gmail.com. In January, we will be collecting new children's pajamas to donate towards Oasis's Pajama Drive. A table will be set up in the Narthex.

Unity Circle is collecting gloves, hats, scarves, and mittens in children and adult sizes to be donated to **CUMAC** now through February. Unity continues to collect new or gently used socks for **Socks for Soles**. Socks that are collected are distributed to the homeless. As the temperature continues to drop, and winter is now upon us, we are helping people who need it the most through our collections and ministries. For more information on donating winter wear to CUMAC, please contact Betty Caceres. For more information on donating socks to Socks for Homeless Soles, please contact Terrie Velella.

<u>2023 UMW Dues:</u> If you have not paid your 2023 dues and would like to make a general donation to the UMW, any contributions would be appreciated. Dues and/or donations can be mailed to Carol Miller, UMW Treasurer: 105 Houston Road, Little Falls, NJ 07424 or be given to Circle Leaders or Melissa.

<u>Upcoming:</u> On December 10th, we will be collecting and packaging **Cookies for Shut ins.** Please bring 1-2 dozen of your favorite cookies to the Fellowship Hall kitchen on the 10th. The cookies are delivered to shut-ins & senior members of our church, and the local volunteer fire and rescue squads. The more cookies we receive, the more Christmas cheer and love we can spread! For more information, contact Marilyn Downing MDowning925@gmail.com.

<u> Circle Christmas Parties/Circle Meetings:</u>

Bethany Hope: Christmas Luncheon- Sunday, December 17th, at 12:00pm, at Maggie's Town Tavern followed by dessert and \$10 grab bag exchange at the home of Debbie Benvenuti. January 2024 meeting will be Saturday, January 13th, 10:00am, Lee Lounge

Unity: Christmas Party- Monday, December 11th, 1:00pm at Amore Ristorante in Woodland Park, followed by dessert and \$10 grab bag at the home of Cathy Gritman. January 2024 meeting will be Monday, January 8th, 1:15pm, Lee Lounge

Wishing everyone a Christmas season filled with peace, comfort and joy and a Happy New Year!

PRAYER MEETING

We will begin our Prayer Meeting in September in the chapel at 1:30pm on Wednesday. Please keep this prayer meeting in your hearts before our Lord, that we are open to his guidance and faithful to follow through. (Meeting Dates: December 6)

Have you any questions or suggestions, Ken and I would like to hear from you to share the growth of this ministry with you. Ken: Ken. Griffin 89@yahoo.com or Terrie: ter 6668f@gmail.com

SHARE ~ REPENTANCE ~ JOY

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Presently, we are visiting three members of the congregation. As the ministry expands to include visiting those temporarily at home, requires more volunteers. This ministry only requires about an hour of your time per visit and can be limited to your availability. We are visiting one person per month on a rotating basis. Should you be called to this ministry to bring a bright spot in someone's day as well as bringing self-fulfillment and rewards to your own life, please contact Pastor Jin, jkim@littlefallsumc.org; Pete, detroit50@aol.com; Terrie, ter6668f@gmail.com. The compassion and kindness you give will be a reflection of the Christ within being brought forth and touching another's life.

In August we began revisiting our homebound members after having stopped due to the pandemic. They enjoyed our visits and were happy that the visits were resumed. We talk, read, work on puzzles, and pray with them. Their families appreciate our bringing the community of church back into their loved one's lives. A need was expressed to expand the ministry to include visiting members who are temporarily homebound. This may include members who are in the hospital or recovering from surgery or illness that temporarily keeps their activities limited.

Presently, we are visiting three members of the congregation. As the ministry expands to include visiting those temporarily at home, requires more volunteers. This ministry only requires about an hour of your time per visit and can be limited to your availability. Presently, we are visiting one person per month on a rotating basis. Should you be called to this ministry to bring a bright spot in someone's day as well as bringing self-fulfillment and rewards to your own life, please contact Pastor Jin (jkim@littlefallsumc.org), Pete W (detroit50@aol.com), or Terrie (ter6668f@gmail.com). The compassion and kindness you give will be a reflection of the Christ within being brought forth and touching another's life.

HOMELESS CARE PACKAGE



Our commitment for the outreach to fill 60 care packages from September 2022 to August 2023 has been fulfilled. In September Socks for Souls received 23 care packages. In November: NROCC received 24 care packages. In December: NROCC 20 winter care packages for the men's shelter outreach. In June: Hope One Pic Passaic County Outreach received 23 care packages plus socks collected for Socks for Souls. Through this outreach program, we have taught our youth volunteers the rewards of

hands-on charitable work, and shared fellowship with another congregation. They reached out to our community in Passaic County sharing encouragement while helping to fill a need. I would like to thank our members for their support of this outreach and send a special thank you to the non-church members who helped to fill the care packages. For September 2023-August 2024, our commitment is to complete 80 care packages and to share the keep a care package in your car with other churches and organized programs within our community.

OUTREACH



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for being a sponsoring CWS Blanket congregation! Church World Service couldn't do our Blankets ministry without congregations like yours. We are so grateful for your generosity. Blessings, Tonda Pirtle, Donor Relations Coordinator

ONGOING COLLECTION

UMW also collects postmarked stamps, can pull tabs, Box Tops for Education and the front of greeting cards. Items are donated to different charities and organizations.

SOCKS FOR SOULS



Do your feet get cold? Imagine in this heat walking on the streets of New York City barefoot. Lori

continues to distribute socks every week. She tried to distribute shoes, but it did not work out so she stopped. She also picks up leftover baked goods from Panera's and distributes them with the socks. My niece and the homeless are grateful for your contributions to Socks For Soles. Please help the 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.

Thank you, Shirley

CHURCH LEADERS

- Board of Trustees, President Shirley Juhlin
- ♦ Church Council Chair Beth Billig
- ♦ Church Council Secretary Kathy Wilson
- ◆ Co-Sunday School Superintendent Bethanne Strippoli
- ◆ Co-Sunday School Superintendent Kathy Flannagan
- ♦ Finance Chair Marilyn Downing
- ◆ Financial Secretary Carol Miller
- Information Technology Committee Peter B. Dewes
- ♦ Lay Leader Lynn Wielinga
- Outreach Chair Lynn Wielinga
- PPRC, Chairperson Scott Fitzgerald
- Treasurer Marilyn Meder
- ◆ UMW, Co-President Lorraine DeCaprio
- ♦ UMW, Co-President Melissa Downing
- Ways & Means Committee Allison Smith
- Worship Committee Chair Janet Dewes

Please contact Pastor Jin or the church office if you need any help from Pastor Jin or church members!

If you would like to share your concerns and joys with the congregation. I will lift up the names in the order of prayer in our worship.

We are here to help you!

(jkim@littlefallsumc.org) or 973-256-0993

<u>Little Falls UMC Supports</u> <u>Local Food Pantry and CUMAC</u>

The Little Falls UMC maintains a food pantry to serve the local community in conjunction with the food pantries at other churches in Little Falls. The Little Falls UMC pantry distributes food for approximately 750 meals to families in the local community. In addition, members of the Little Falls Church continues to donate food to **CUMAC** who help those in need of food, **OASIS** who help women and children, **CASA** who helps children, to feed people and change lives.

Suggested Food Donations

All Non-Perishable Items, but especially canned vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, regular cheerios, pasta & sauce, instant potatoes, regular rice, tuna, chicken, fruit, applesauce, juice bottles and granola bars.

Thank you for your ongoing participation in this local outreach ministry!

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to Cedar Grove Elks #2237 for their continued donations to our Food Pantry.

Please support them whenever possible!



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- 3—SUNDAY WORSHIP, 10 AM
- 3—SUNDAY SCHOOL, 10:15 AM
- 6—PRAYER MEETING, 1:30 PM
- 6—RUTH LEE MEETING, 4:00 PM
- 7—COFFEE & THE BIBLE, 1:00 PM
- 7—KIDS & YOUTHS FOR CHRIST, 5:00 PM
- 10—COOKIES FOR SHUT-INS, 10 AM
- 10—SUNDAY WORSHIP, 10 AM
- 10—SUNDAY SCHOOL, 10:15 AM
- 11—UNITY CIRCLE LUNCHEON, 1 PM
- 12—TRUSTEES MEETING, 7 PM
- 13—TREASURED MEMORIES, 7 PM
- 14—COFFEE & THE BIBLE, 1:00 PM
- 17—CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE, 10 AM
- 17—SUNDAY WORSHIP, 10 AM
- 17—SUNDAY SCHOOL, 10:15 AM
- 17—BETHANY HOPE LUNCHEON, 12 PM
- 17—GIRL SCOUTS, 1 PM
- 19—FINANCE MEETING, 7 PM
- 21—COFFEE & THE BIBLE, 1:00 PM
- 21—KIDS & YOUTHS FOR CHRIST, 5:00 PM
- 24—SUNDAY WORSHIP, 10 AM
- 24—SUNDAY SCHOOL, 10:15 AM
- 24—CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SER-VICE, 7 PM
- 28—COFFEE & THE BIBLE, 1:00 PM
- 31—SUNDAY WORSHIP, 10 AM
- 31—SUNDAY SCHOOL, 10:15 AM

- 4—COFFEE & THE BIBLE, 1:00 PM
- 4—KIDS & YOUTHS FOR CHRIST, 5:00 PM
- 7—SUNDAY WORSHIP, 10 AM
- 7—SUNDAY SCHOOL, 10:15 AM
- 8—UNITY CIRCLE, 1:15 PM
- 9—TRUSTEES MEETING, 7 PM
- 10—TREASURED MEMORIES, 7 PM
- 11—COFFEE & THE BIBLE, 1:00 PM
- 13—BETHANY HOPE, 10 AM
- 14—SUNDAY WORSHIP, 10 AM
- 14—SUNDAY SCHOOL, 10:15 AM
- 16—FINANCE MEETING, 7 PM
- 18—COFFEE & THE BIBLE, 1:00 PM
- 18—KIDS & YOUTHS FOR CHRIST, 5:00 PM
- 21—SUNDAY WORSHIP, 10 AM





Little Falls United Methodist Church 2023 Poinsettia Order Form

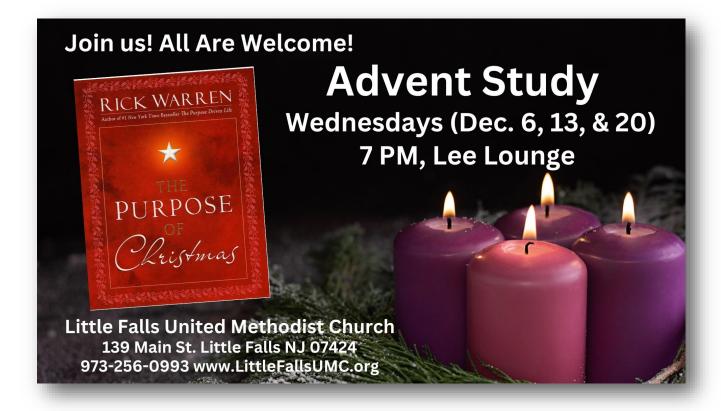
The flowers you order will grace the sanctuary during Christmas. Again, this year, we are offering an array of colors. The poinsettias are large blooms in a foiled, six-inch pot @ \$7.00 each. Order early to ensure you receive the colors you would like.

Please order by Sunday, December 3rd.		
COLORS	QUANTITY	
Red	x	\$7.00
Pink	x	\$7.00
White	X	\$7.00
TOTAL	\$_	
Your flowers will be available	or pick up followin	ng the
Christmas Eve Service, or can be distrib	uted at your reque	st to a shut-in.
Your Name:		
Your Name: I will take the plants home		
Please give my plant to a shut-in	to liven up the h	olidayl
rease give my plant to a shar m	to liveli up the in	snady.
Given in the Memory of:		
Given in the Honor of:		
Given for the Glory of God:		
Payment MUST accom	pany your order.	
Checks payable to Little Falls UMC; Memo: FLOWER FUND.		
Completed forms with payment may be given to Janet Dewes,		
or can be mailed to: Little Falls United Methodist Church		
139 Main Street, Little Falls, NJ	Nain Street, Little Falls, NJ 07424, Attn: Flower Fund	
THANK Y	ou!	
张湖东湖东湖东湖东湖东湖东湖东湖东湖东 湖东湖东	法法法法法法	教教教教教教教教教教教

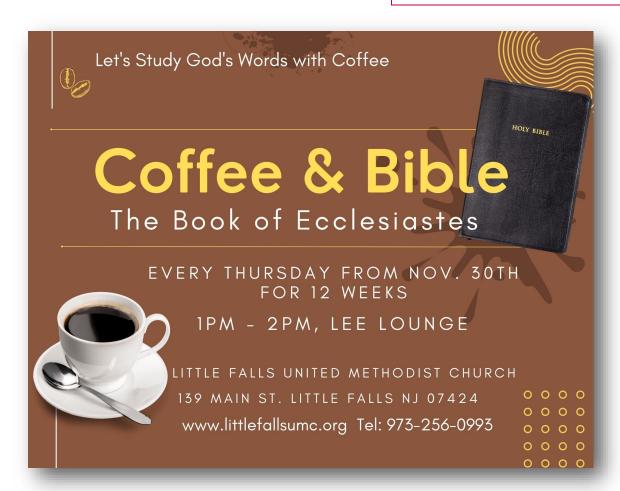














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JREASURED MEMBRIES, a place to share our grief...

Grief comes in and out of our lives. It is hard to know how to handle our feelings and many times it can feel like you are the only one experiencing what you are feeling. Treasured Memories is a small group that meets monthly. We are not counselors. We come together, share stories, and show support for each other.

EVERY MONTH AT 7:00 PM.

If you have any questions about our group, please contact Allison 973-800-4152 (leave message) or email allisons/7@aol.com.

Many Blessings, Allison

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