

Dear Church family,

We will have In-person and Online Worship at 10am on **Sunday, January 9, 2022.**

The information for Online Worship is:
<https://www.littlefallsumc.org/onlineworship>

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOzxLc7UQjeMNprjm9u8gtQ/>

You can join Online Worship using your home phone or cell phone.
Call with the number 646-876-9923.
Meeting ID, 917 9067 6301, and enter Passcode 139139.

The scriptures for this Sunday are Isaiah 43:1-7 and Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

Lay Servant, Lynn Wielinga will deliver the message titled,
'That Moment That Changes Everything'.

If you have any concerns and joys and share 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: <https://www.littlefallsumc.org/prayer>

Your generous financial support is significant and appreciated very much. We have continued our ministries with your support. Thank you for your financial support with your service for the church and the congregation. Please mail your offerings and tithes to the church office (139 Main St. Little Falls, NJ 07424). You can give us your offerings before or after worship on Sunday or during the church office hours

(Tuesday – Friday, 10 am – 1 pm).

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

Worship Bulletin

Epiphany / Baptism of the the Lord

January 9, 2022 - Sunday Worship: 10 AM



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

Welcome & Greeting

‡Call to Worship

Leader: We are marked as God's beloved ones.

All: What have we done to deserve God's love.

Leader: God's love is God's free gift to us, always and forever.

All: Even when we are difficult and turn away from God,

Leader: God's love never vanishes from us.

All: Thanks be to God who is ever faithful to us, AMEN.

‡Praise Song

Stand By Me

UMH 512

When the storms of life are raging,
stand by me (stand by me);
when the storms of life are raging,
stand by me (stand by me.)
When the world is tossing me
like a ship upon the sea
thou who rulest wind and water,
stand by me (stand by me).

In the midst of tribulation,
stand by me (stand by me);
in the midst of tribulation,
stand by me (stand by me.)
When the host of hell assail,
and my strength begins to fail,
thou who never lost a battle,
stand by me (stand by me).

In the midst of faults and failures,
stand by me (stand by me);
in the midst of faults and failures,
Stand by me (stand by me.)
When I've done the best I can,
and my friends misunderstand,
thou, who knowest all about me,
stand by me (stand by me).

In the midst of persecution,
stand by me (stand by me);
in the midst of persecution,
stand by me (stand by me.)
When my foes in war array
undertake to stop my way,
thou who saved Paul and Silas,
stand by me (stand by me.)

When I'm growing old and feeble,
stand by me (stand by me);
when I'm growing old and feeble,
stand by me (stand by me.)
When my life becomes a burden,
and I'm nearing chilly Jordan,
O thou "Lily of the Valley,"
stand by me (stand by me).

Children's Time

An Angry King **Matthew 2:13-23**

When the Wise Men did not return, King Herod became very angry. He yelled at his soldiers, "Go and find the boy! I will be the only king of the Jews!" But God's angel warned Joseph in a dream, "Take your family and escape to Egypt. Do not return until I tell you it is safe." That night, Joseph and Mary left for Egypt with baby Jesus. Years later, God's angel said to Joseph in a dream, "King Herod is dead." So Joseph, Mary and Jesus left Egypt and went back home to Nazareth.

Announcements

- We have '**In-Person**' Worship in the Sanctuary and '**Online Worship**' at 10 am on **Sunday, January 9, 2022.** You can choose In-person worship or Online worship to worship with us.
- We highly recommend you to wear a mask during in-person Worship to protect one another. We are following the CDC guideline to protect everyone.
- The Worship Bulletin will be sent to you by email (most people) or mail (those who cannot access email). You can see the bulletin on the church website,
<https://www.littlefallsumc.org/onlineworship>
- We will use YouTube for Online Worship. We have used both YouTube and Facebook for Online Worship. Click the link to join in Online Worship. Please join in Online worship 10 minutes before the Worship Time!
YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOzxLc7UQjeMNprjm9u8gtQ/>
- You can join the Online Worship by your home phone or flip cell phone. Call with the number 646-876-9923 and enter the Meeting ID, 917 9067 6301 and # Key and then press # key again! Passcode 139139.
- If you cannot join in online worship, please have Worship Service with your family at home using the attached worship bulletin. The worship bulletin includes scripture and sermon notes.
- Please email Pastor Jin (jkim@littlefallsumc.org) if you would like to share your concerns and joys with the congregation. Pastor Jin will lift up the names in the order of prayer in our worship.
- Please contact Pastor Jin or the church office if you need any help from Pastor Jin or church members! We are here to help you.

- **Church Forum** - The next Forum will be at 10:30 am on Saturday, January 29, 2022. Please join us and share your wisdom with us!
- **Stewardship Campaign – Thank you to those who already gave us your pledge card.** We continue to receive pledge cards, so you are not late. please participate in our Stewardship Campaign with your generous, faithful hearts, if you didn't give us your pledge card, 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 in the Narthex.
- **Kids For Christ** – Next Meeting will be on January 21 at 6:30 pm. KFC is a Friday night program for children. We will have KFC every first and third Friday of the month. Please encourage children to join KFC.
- **Treasured Memories** – We cancel the meeting on January 12th, due to the rain of covid-19. “Treasured Memories” is a grief group for those who have lost their loved ones. The ongoing meeting is held in Lee Lounge at 7 PM on every *2nd Wednesday of the month*. Contact Allison for details (973) 800-4152 (leave message).
- **Ruth Lee Meeting – February 23, 2022, at 4pm.**
- **The Unity Circle** is starting to collect gloves, hats, scarves, and mittens to fill our snowman box. Please see Betty Caceres for more information. **Thank you for your support**
- **Shoprite Gift Card** - If you want to buy a Shoprite gift card, please contact Pete (973) 595-5765 (detroit50@aol.com).
- **Kohl's Gift Card** - If you want to buy a Kohl's gift card, please contact Allison.
- **AmazonSmile Program** - Please choose Little Falls UMC as your charity organization at <https://smile.amazon.com>. All services and prices will be the same and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to the church.
- 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 again!
- **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 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.

‡Hymn of Prayer

Jesus, Name of all Names

TFWS 2071

Verse 1

Jesus name above all names
Beautiful Savior glorious Lord
Emmanuel God is with us
Blessed Redeemer living Word

Verse 2

Jesus loving Shepherd
Vine of the branches Son of God
Prince of Peace Wonderful Counselor
Lord of the universe Light of the world

Pausing for Silent Prayer and Confession

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

Your word of light and hope floods into our lives, O God. We have lived in darkness, in despair and fear, doubt and strife. But on this day of celebration, you remind us that we are marked by you to be witnesses to your light of new hope. As the heavens opened at Jesus' baptism, so is your love poured out on us. We have brought before you names and situations which concern us, people who face illness and grief, whose lives are torn by poverty, war, alienation, addiction, and hopelessness. We ask for your loving mercy on them, O Lord. Heal them and bind up their wounds. Help us to be people who are ready to be involved in ministries of peace and justice, bringing the light of your hope to those who dwell in darkness and despair. We ask this 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.

Choir Anthem

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 43:1-7

Restoration and Protection Promised

43 But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring

your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, “Give them up,” and to the south, “Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

This ends the OT Lessons.

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

Gospel Lesson Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Baptism of Jesus

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Message *That Moment That Changes Everything* Lynn Wielinga (Lay Servant)

Good morning! I was a bit surprised last Sunday when I returned home from church Pastor Jin called me to ask if I would be willing to deliver the sermon this week due to his quarantine. I agreed, and then realized this was a bit less time than we normally have for preparation. But Pastor sent help.... In the form of worship resources that provide Lectionary readings and suggestions, notes and so on.... Thankfully! There were some interesting comments from a pastor named Rev. Dr. Derek Weber, Director of Preaching Ministries, concerning this particular Sunday that I thought I'd share with you. It seems that, and this rather irreverent part is all me, not Pastor Weber, (probably you would have figured that out) anyway.... last Saturday was Christmas, in lighting speed we got to Epiphany, on January 6, so last Thursday! Let's see, that was some 2 or so years in Bible times, I believe. Anyway, many churches celebrate Epiphany this Sunday. I love Epiphany, the Star guiding the Magi, the significance of the visit, a brand-new hope for humanity, love breaking through the dark. Even today we use the word epiphany for meaningful breakthroughs we may have.

- A 'brilliant' idea at work or school is an epiphany!
- An insight into a problem we'd missed before...
- A breakthrough...
- But none so glorious as a star's brilliance... leading learned Magi to a child who carried a message that would change the world.

But this Sunday there's more to consider. We are looking at a combined Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord Sunday. Perhaps the descending dove, the opening of heaven—like clouds parting after a storm and the light shining through—might be images to shape worship around this time. THIS imagery is all Pastor Weber's.... and far too good not to share with you. I truly like it.

Not only a great way to bridge that leap from the birth - to the toddler Jesus - to the man being baptized - All in one modern earthly week - but to capture how we often feel in our lives: caught between

glimpses of heaven through the clouds, between storms, struggling with faith through dark nights with moments of light piercing through.

Sometimes it can feel like our lives are punctuated by those moments that change everything. We know God is in EVERY moment and believe that has been true since the beginning of time... yet some moments are... momentous... the kind that divide time for all their hope or promise.... Or because they bring drastic change... or reign terror even.

The scripture today brings moments that transformed and changed:

- In Acts: A moment when the ordinary transmutes in to the extraordinary when the Holy Spirit is received by two disciples ...in quiet assurance before Pentecost...an indwelling of guidance unparalleled.

- A moment of promise fulfilled as the Magi beheld the Christ Child after following the Star! Epiphany, bright shining hope gleaming through the dark. Stars had shone before, certainly. This one marked a moment... Jesus: human and divine... redemption and hope. The world would never be the same.

- John the Baptizer, at the river baptizing those who wondered... could John be... the one? They weren't as focused on Jesus. Until it was his cousin, Jesus' turn to be baptized. And heaven opened and a dove came, and the message was clear for all to hear: It was God's acceptance of Jesus, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!"

Imagine being witness to THAT moment! Imagine seeing and hearing that blessing! As Christians, as followers of that Jesus, we are heirs to that blessing. At services over the years, we are urged, "Remember your baptism." Surely, that moment is one of change for your life, a dividing line of before and after, of God's love and grace.

Those moments when life was different afterward. Have you had them? We think of...

- Chance meetings with people who end up being the most important in our lives. That moment changed the course of our lives forever...
- Weddings, baby births, accomplishments, world events, celebrations, challenges... things that give meaning and value.
- And sometimes, moments of sorrow or anxiety.

These days it's easy to remember the tragic moments that change everything. We ask each other, "Do you remember when....?" Or "Where were you, when...?" Or "That was right after..." and it seems like in the last decades these have been tragic moments. Or the ones that come to mind first maybe. And, of course, even in the time of Jesus' birth there was danger and fear, as Mary and Joseph were forced to move to stay safe, as the Magi were warned to change their route, and as a time of weeping for some families was also a time of quiet hope for others.

We contend with the trials of life:

- unrest in the world
- natural disasters
- a pandemic
- economic worries-
- strife of every kind.

We often struggle on relying on our own strength as if it is enough, as if we know the path, we trudge stubbornly along. Overwhelmed and uncertain.

God's words ring out through Isaiah: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. 43:2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.43:4 Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you..... Do not fear, for I am with you.....everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

We forget! God has redeemed us, a great cost. God has sent the light of Epiphany, marked the path by sending His Son, ensuring by the power of the Holy Spirit that we never have to walk it alone. His baptism, the baptism in which we share ... is a that moment that changes everything for us... We don't have to rely ... we can't rely... on our own strength!

Remember your baptism! And be grateful! God counts us as precious!

Yes, God's love is light... a star to dispel darkness, the Son to follow then... and now...

Yes, God's blessing endures... as it was at Jesus' baptism in the water...

We can renew our confidence in the moment that changes everything for us!

Let it be the moment of our baptism, when we follow Jesus, the one with whom God was well pleased.

Not only can we rejoice in the Light on our path, but we can help make moments that may change everything for others on their paths.

Remember your baptism... and be grateful!

And the people of God said....

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: God of new beginnings, as we move into this new year, stir in us the feelings of expectation! Kindle our hearts and minds to see possibilities for our world and for your kingdom. Help us to believe that the world we have can be better: more loving, more just, more compassionate, and looking much more like the world you've imagined for us. Lord, help us to give generously this day to empower that to happen. In the name of Christ, Savior and Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

Called to the World

‡**Closing Hymn** *How Firm a Foundation* **UMH 529**

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!

What more can He say than to you He hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;

the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

‡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.