

THE POWER OF PRAYER

- Prayer for ministries of Pastor Earl Kim, Bishop John Schol, D.S. Manuel Sardinias, and Rev. Franck Aguilh.
- Pray for First UMC of Montclair and its leadership.
- Remember these names in your prayer: Ricardo Coward, Nicole Peaks' mother, godparents James and Rochelle Stewart, her cousin April, Coco Kenny and her mother, Rob Lester's father Robert Lester, Gloria Foster's sister Hannah Wedderburn, Dan McGivern, and Langirene, Kennette, Keira, Christopher, Franckie Aguilh.

Upcoming Small Group Meetings

- N.O.W. Prayer Group: Saturday, January 5, 9am
- UMW Gathering: Saturday, January 19, 10:30am

Sunday School schedule

- Children's Church: Pre-K to 6th grade during service
- Youth Sunday School: 7th grade and up at 11:30am
- Bible study class for adults at 11:45am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Dec. 24 at 7:30pm

All are invited to the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve. Come and share the joy of the birth of our Jesus!

In case that we don't see you tomorrow...

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES!

SHARING IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

- Today,
December 23
- 10:00am: Sunday Worship.
Rev. Earl Kim will deliver the message, "Invasion."
Please join us for refreshments after the service.
- 11:30am: Youth School
11:45am: Adult Bible Study
- Monday,
December 24
- 7:30pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Worship Team

- Liturgist: Paula Blackman
- Reader: Sarah Chichi Nwafor
- Ushers: Robert & Bobbette Kelly
- Acolyte: Kira Lindo
- Counters: Nicole Peaks & Robert Kelly

Readings

- Hebrew Bible Lesson: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
- Psalter Lesson: Psalm 148
- Epistle Lesson: Colossians 3:12-27
- Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:41-52

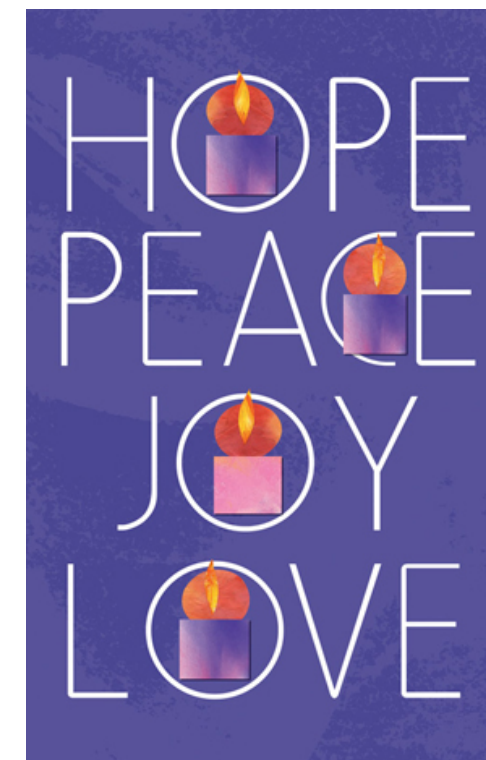


LOVE FIRST.
SERVE FIRST.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MONTCLAIR

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December 23, 2018: Fourth Sunday of Advent

OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS

We belong to the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference
of The United Methodist Church.

- Rev. John Schol, Bishop
- Rev. Manuel Sardinias, District Superintendent
- Rev. Earl Kim, Pastor
- Ken Rapp, Music Director
- Dr. Michael Stewart, Lay Leader

CALLED TO PRAISE AND PRAY

*Prelude *Of the Father's Love Begotten* – Wilbur Held

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Can you feel something powerful at work in the world?

All: We can catch glimpses here and there.

Leader: We need to look beyond the hustle and bustle of Christmas to see what's coming:

All: Faithful women giving birth to freedom; a babe who will transform the world. The birth quakes are almost here.

We can feel it.

Leader: Come, let us prepare ourselves in this time of worship, that we may be ready when our world is turned upside down.

*Opening Hymn *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* UMH 216

Lighting the Advent Candle The Arseneault Family

Responsive Hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (v.6) UMH 211

Opening Prayer

Leader: In-breaking God, come to us this morning and shock us out of our Christmas complacency. Open us to the transforming love of the one for whom we are waiting. We come this morning in expectation, in joy, and in more than a bit of fear, for what all of this will mean for us. But we are here, God. Give us ears to hear and hearts to receive your message of transforming grace. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

All: Transforming God, we can get so wrapped up in Christmas that we miss the real event happening in our very midst. We are happy and complacent with the way things are. We resist scriptures that challenge the status quo if it means we might lose positions of privilege. Help

us hear your word as good news as promises of good things to come if we will but live into those promises. Help us navigate a world turned upside down. Amen.

(Pausing for Silent Prayer and Confession...)

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: The promised one will bring peace and liberation through transformation.

All: Blessed are we who believe in the fulfillment of what was spoken and promised by God. Amen!

Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Children's Message Nicole Peaks

Children from PreK to Grade 6 are dismissed to the Children's Room - please follow today's teachers, Mss. Sarah Kezengwa and Emilie Pozo.

Caroling FUMC Children, Youth, and Teachers

CALLED TO THE WORD

Hebrew Bible Lesson Micah 5:2-5a (p.865)

Epistle Lesson Hebrews 10:5-10 (p.224)

*Gospel Lesson Luke 1:39-55 (p.57)

Sermon "Invasion" Rev. Earl Kim

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

CALLED TO SHARE

Offertory *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven* FUME Ensemble

*Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 95

***Prayer of Dedication**

CALLED TO WITNESS IN THE WORLD

*Closing Hymn *Lift up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* UMH 213

*Sending Forth Rev. Earl Kim

*Circle of Blessing *Shalom to You* UMH 666

*Postlude *Celebration* – Lani Smith

Today's Worship Team

- Preacher: Rev. Earl Kim
- Music Director: Ken Rapp
- Liturgist: Joe Myers
- Reader: Dr. Michael Stewart
- Children's Message: Nicole Peaks
- Children's Church: Sarah Kezengwa & Emilie Pozo
- Acolyte: Ariana Padilla
- Ushers: Vidal Guzman

Our Mission Statement

As members of the First United Methodist Church of Montclair, our mission is to love, encourage, and equip each other to live as true disciples of Jesus Christ; and by inviting, embracing, nurturing, and empowering ALL others, to raise up new disciples of Jesus Christ.

Office Hours Church office is open from Tuesdays to Fridays 9am-2pm. Rev. Kim is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30am-12:30pm, and available by phone or by appointment when he is not in the office.

FUMC's Facebook page Find First United Methodist Church of Montclair on Facebook! Please "like" the page so that you can be updated with the church's news and photos.

Flowers for the Special Days Birthdays, anniversaries – mark the special days in your life with a gift of flowers for the Altar.

December Birthdays

1	Langirene Aguilh	19	Chika Nwafor
8	Donna Foster	20	Jonnathan Paredes
13	Marco Padilla	28	Wyclif Kezengwa
15	Clarence Pratt	29	Dewey Storms
16	Amaka Nwafor	31	Celia Arseneault