

## THE POWER OF PRAYER

- Prayer for ministries of Pastor Earl Kim, Bishop John Schol, D.S. Manuel Sardinas, and Rev. Franck Aguilh.
- Pray for First UMC of Montclair and its leadership.
- Remember these names in your prayer: Rev. Dr. Michael Williams, 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

- NOW Prayer Meeting: Saturday, January 4, 9:00am
- UMW Gathering: Saturday, January 4, 10:30am

### Sunday School schedule

- Children's Church: Pre-K to 6th grade during service
- Bible study class for adults at 12:00pm

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Tuesday, December 24, 7:30pm

Please come and share the joy of Christ's birth with us! Remember, Christmas is not just one of the holidays – it is the day we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ amongst us.

## SHARING IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Today, 10:00am: Sunday Worship.  
December 22 Rev. Earl Kim will deliver the message, "The Shepherds," concluding his sermon series, "The People Who Met Angels."  
Please join us for refreshments after the service.  
12:00pm: Advent Bible Study

Tuesday, 7:30pm: Christmas Eve Service  
December 24

## WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

### Worship Team

- Liturgist: Gloria Foster
- Children's Message: Sarah Nwafor
- Ushers: Robert & Bobbette Kelly
- Acolyte: Kira Lindo
- Counters: Dr. J. C. N. Nwafor & Robert Kelly

### Readings

- Hebrew Bible Lesson: Isaiah 63:7-9
- Psalter Lesson: Psalm 148
- Epistle Lesson: Hebrews 2:10-18
- Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:13-23

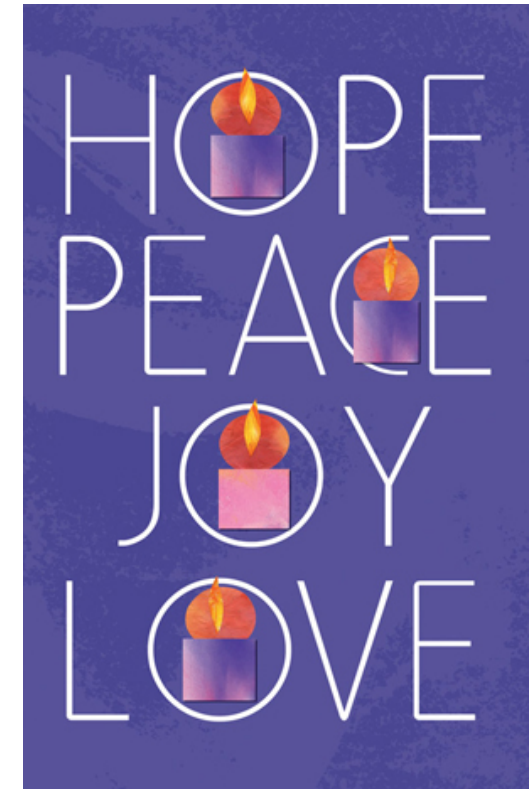


LOVE FIRST.  
SERVE FIRST.

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MONTCLAIR & VERONA

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### December 22, 2019: 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 Sardinas, District Superintendent
- Rev. Earl Kim, Pastor
- Ken Rapp, Music Director
- Dr. Michael Stewart, Lay Leader

**CALLED TO PRAISE AND PRAY**

\*Prelude *Variations on Four Carols* – Marilyn Rinhehart

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Sing to our God a new song; Sing to our God all the earth.

**All: Glory to God in the highest heaven, peace on earth to all!**

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God, let the earth rejoice, let trees of the forest sing for joy!

**All: Glory to God in the highest heaven, peace on earth to all!**

\*Opening Hymn *People, Look East* UMH 202

Advent Candle Lighting Screen

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

**Opening Prayer**

Leader: O God of the Baby of Bethlehem, we hear the glad tidings of the angel voices. We come to experience this good news of great joy for all the people. As the shepherds traveled to Bethlehem, we have traveled here – excited, expectant, hopeful; a bit skeptical. Let the words of sacred scripture seep into our hearts, to be treasured and pondered anew. We are here; we are ready, O God! Let the light of your love break forth! Amen.

**Prayer of Confession**

**All: O God, we are easily distracted and slightly jaded, and cannot believe Christ is almost here. We can get so caught up in the busyness of the season that we miss the gift the season is meant to be. We have heard the scriptures and stories so often that they have become white noise. For our frenetic pace, for our exhaustion, for our tunnel vision, for our missing the wonder and awe**

**of a baby born to fulfill promises made long ago, forgive us. Restore to us the sense of surprise that you came to us as a little baby, unexpected, yet longed for. God of the visioners and dreamers, may we always be ready to receive your gifts. Amen.**

(Pausing for Silent Prayer and Confession...)

Pastor: God comes to us in salvation through a little child.

**All: Let us claim this promise for ourselves, and let God's healing love fill us!**

**Sharing Our Joys & Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

**Children's Message** Avrille Nicholls

Children from PreK to Grade 6 are dismissed to the Children's Room - please follow today's teachers, Julian Espinal & Gaby Paredes.)

**Liturgical Dance** *Jesus Oh What a Wonderful Child* Nicole Peaks

**CALLED TO THE WORD**

**Hebrew Bible Lesson** Isaiah 7:10-16 (p.636)

\***Gospel Lesson** Luke 2:8-20 (p.58)

**Sermon** "The Shepherds" Rev. Earl Kim

\***Passing the Peace of Christ**

**CALLED TO SHARE**

**Offertory** *The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy* Voices of Praise  
*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

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

\***Prayer of Dedication**

**CALLED TO WITNESS IN THE WORLD**

\***Closing Hymn** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* UMH 240

\***Sending Forth**

\***Circle of Blessing** *Shalom to You* UMH 666

\***Postlude** *Hark! The Glad Sound* – Edward Broughton

**Today's Worship Team**

- Preacher: Rev. Earl Kim
- Music Director: Ken Rapp
- Liturgist: Sarah Kezengwa
- Reader: Dr. Michael Stewart
- Children's Message: Avrille Nicholls
- Children's Church: Julian Espinal & Gaby Paredes
- Acolyte: Ariana Padilla
- Ushers: Vidal Guzman & Joe Myers
- Liturgical Dance: Nicole Peaks
- Voices of Praise: Rev. Franck Aguilh, Carmen Campbell, Gloria Foster, Joe Myers, Avrille Nicholls, Arlene Stewart, David Winful
- Advent Candle Lighting: Hilda Taylor & Joe Myers

**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 from Tuesday to 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 | Wycliff Kezengwa  |
| 15 | Clarence Pratt   | 29 | Dewey Storms      |
| 16 | Amaka Nwafor     | 31 | Celia Arseneault  |