



D.R.I.V.E.

MOMENTUM FOR LIFE

The First United Methodist Church
103 Monmouth Road, Oakhurst, NJ 07755
732-531-1150
Oakhurst.umcchurches.org

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CCLI #1588788

***The First United Methodist Church of Oakhurst
Is a community of faith committed to Christ,
seeking to learn the needs of our members,
friends, and neighbors, and responding with Christian love.***

Third Sunday After Epiphany

January 21, 2024

9:30 a.m.

*Congregation is invited to rise if able and comfortable.

Readings in **BOLD** are to be read in unison.

Hymnals: UMH is Red or Purple-TFWS is Black-W&S is Green

Please note that this service is being recorded and viewed on social media.

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

UMH 185, vs. 1

When Morning Gilds the Skies

When morning gilds the skies my heart awaking cries:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Alike at work and prayer, to Jesus I repair:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

As we offer a welcome to stranger and friend,
as we are embraced in their kindness,
we choose to be people of life and blessing.

As we serve others in God's name,
as we receive blessings from those we do not know,
we choose to walk in God's way.

As we forgive those who have hurt us,
as we reach out to those we have harmed,
we choose to be reconciled to our sisters and brothers.

*HYMN OF PRAISE *Where Charity and Love Prevail* UMH 549

CENTERING PRAYER

God of us all, we thank you for this day to gather for worship with our church family. You have created us to be in community and to be in relationships with one another. We ask that you bind us together in your great love and remove the roadblocks that detour us from these life-enriching relationships. Lead us to reflect on the key people you have put in our lives. Open our hearts and minds to

hear you in fresh ways, to grow in your likeness, and to offer you our very lives that we might be made whole in your image. Help us to see those areas of our lives, our church, and our community that are stuck in 'park' and shift us into 'drive;' giving us momentum for this gift of life filled with valuable relationships. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 5:17-26

Pew Bible NT 63

For the Word of God in Scripture

For the Word of God among us

For the Word of God within us

Thanks be to God

ANTHEM

His Mercy is More

arr. Rouse

PSALTER OF ASCENT

Psalms 128:1-6

Pew Bible OT 573

SERMON

Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith

Momentum for Life: Investing in Key Relationships

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SHARING OUR PRAYERS

During this time, you are invited to name your prayers for the congregation.

After each prayer request, the congregation will respond...

Lord, Hear Our Prayer

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD...

Offering plates are available at each door as you depart.

You may also give online or by mail to the church office.

*PRESENTATION

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

When we could choose to be selfish, may we share from our abundance; when we could choose to be hoarders, let us give away all we have; when we could choose to be broken, let us be reconciled with those around us.

Bless our lives and these gifts, O Lord, that they may provide momentum as we invest our lives in a relationship with you, Lord. May these gifts offer opportunities for us to build relationships with all our brothers and sisters in your name. Amen.

***HYMN OF DEDICATION *The Servant Song* TFWS 2222**

***SENDING FORTH**

***LIGHT OF CHRIST LEADS US INTO THE WORLD UMH 666**
Shalom to You

***Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.***

***POSTLUDE**

*Please join us in Fellowship Hall for refreshments and fellowship.
Adult Sunday School can be found in Wesley Hall downstairs.*

***Our Service of Worship Has Ended
Our Worship Through Service Begins***

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Given in loving memory of Pat Whitney by Robin Whitney & Tommy Vignola.

Given in honor of Carli Brush Stoll's 25th birthday by her parents.

Words of Welcome

Welcome to this service of worship. We pray this service offered an opportunity to engage with the Divine. If we can be of service to you in any way, please let us know. If you are looking for a church to call home, please consider joining together with us, where we help each other grow in faith, love, and service.

For Your Information

- There are **hearing devices** to assist you to experience the service more clearly with our streaming team in the rear of the sanctuary. Feel free to pick one up.
- A **rocking chair** is available for the comfort of parent and baby in the rear of the sanctuary, behind the pews.
- To access the **restrooms**, please exit the side door to the right of the lectern/chancel area. In the hall, make a left into Fellowship Hall and follow the signs.
- There are **infant changing tables** available in the restrooms.

Our Leadership Team Serving Us This Morning

ACOLYTE: Kayleigh Becker
COUNTERS: Gerry Busfield, Abby DiNapoli, Jane Gittines
USHER: Chip Stoll
GREETER: Ruth Sheckler
LAY READER: Ron Danielson

***Sermon and Study Resource: Momentum for Life by Rev. Michael Slaughter, Abington Press, 2008. Week 4: Investing in Key Relationships, pg. 57-72*

– invest in key relationships and make a difference in the lives of others.

Relationship: *“The state of being related; the mutual exchange between two people or groups who have dealings with one another; kinship.”*

- *“We are created for relationships. We learn life and faith through the experiences of family and friends which include relationship rituals. We discover our identity and our values from generation to generation. What are the relationship rituals in your family and what makes them meaningful? Think about meal table rituals and what they offered.*

Value of Life & People Matter: *Life is about people.*

- *Recall an important person to you. Are you spending enough time with these people? What ways might you invest in this key relationship?*

Living Fully Today: Read Matthew 6:34 & James 4:14.

*Who or what determines your schedule and priorities?
Do our intentional schedules become offerings to God?
What relational disciplines do you need to observe to make an honorable offering to God?*

Mentoring: Read Romans 7:18-19 & Psalm 128:5-6

Ideals...*what you want for self, kids, integrity, and intellect.*

Values...*what you truly love, real life priorities, actual choices demonstrated through behaviors.*

*Is there a person you are influencing toward God? What values do you want to pass on and how do you reveal them to them? How has God used you to build them up?
What kind of investment do you sense God is calling you to make in the person's life?*

“God is looking for people who will take their lives out of park and shift them into drive.” How does this statement apply to your Investing in Key Relationships? _____

PRAYER GARDEN MEMORIAL BRICKS-If you would like to donate a memorial brick to the prayer garden, please fill out one of the forms found on the sanctuary entrance tables or in the rack by the 2nd floor elevator doors.

MERCY CENTER is now collecting canned chicken, canned vegetables, dried herbs, dried fruit, peanut butter, whole grain pasta, canned tomatoes, coffee, snacks, & canned beans. Please place your donations in the designated receptacles in the church foyer.

THE LITTLE FREE PANTRY is now collecting donations of salt & pepper and other spices. Please place your donations in the “bench.” If it is full, please leave them in the church office.

WE HAVE 8 MONTHS OPEN for sponsorship of our World Vision child. Sponsorship is a donation of \$39 for the month. Months available are March-December. Please contact the church office if you’d like to be a sponsor. 732-531-1150



This Week we hold in
Prayer...
Sue Johnson and family

Our homebound and hospitalized: David Miller, Jean Gillette, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Cary Carlisle, Carol Allen, Priscilla Smith, Connie Bruckmann

****The church has a team of prayers, known as the Prayer Chain. If you have a prayer need, please contact the office.**

****If you know someone who is in need of pastoral care, please contact Jill Hubbard-Smith 732-209-4563 or revjimhs@gmail.com.**

Please Join Us In Mission and Ministry

Sunday, TODAY

Service of Worship In Person & Online	9:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School - Downstairs	9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time – Fellowship Hall	10:30 a.m.
Adult Sunday School – Wesley Hall	11 a.m.

Monday, January 22

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a.m.
Alanon – Wesley Hall	10 a.m.

Tuesday, January 23

Women's Covenant Group – Library	8:30 a.m.
Naranon – Wesley Hall	11 a.m.
Scouts – Fellowship Hall	7 p.m.

Wednesday, January 24

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a.m.
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Thursday, January 25

Alanon – Wesley Hall	10 a.m.
Chancel Choir – Sanctuary	6:30 p.m.

Friday, January 26

AA – Wesley Hall	8 p.m.
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Sunday, January 28

Service of Worship In Person & Online	9:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School – Downstairs	9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time – Fellowship Hall	10:30 a.m.
Adult Sunday School – Wesley Hall	11 a.m.

Pastor: Jill Hubbard-Smith

Secretary: Joy More

Director of Music: Gary Farquhar

Sexton: Lisa Costello

Streaming Team: Chip Stoll, Rob Crowther, Johnny Tocci

Director of Wesley Nursery School: Noel Worthington