



D.R.I.V.E.

MOMENTUM FOR LIFE

The First United Methodist Church
103 Monmouth Road, Oakhurst, NJ 07755
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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.***

Second Sunday After Epiphany

January 14, 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

This new day is fresh with possibility
to encounter the Living Christ.

With bright eyes, let us search.

This new day is fresh with possibility
to understand the Living Christ.

With engaged minds, let us ponder.

This new day is fresh with possibility
to be moved by the Living Christ.

With compassionate hearts, let us feel.

This new day is fresh with possibility
to respond to the Living Christ.

With solid devotion, let us follow.

This new day is fresh with possibility
to serve the Living Christ.

With humble intention, let us act.

This new day is fresh with possibility
to praise the Living Christ.

With strong voices, let us sing.

CENTERING PRAYER

O God, we trust in your transformational power to create, sustain, and empower us. So, help us to see the areas of our lives that are stuck in ‘park’ and shift us into ‘drive,’ that we might hear again your direction for our lives. Move us out of our complacency and help us to live fully devoted to you, eager to learning and growing in you. Remove our roadblocks so that our love for you will be a driving force of hope in our lives.

Come Holy Spirit, come. Open our hearts and minds to grow in all your ways. Give us momentum for this gift of life. Amen.

ANTHEM

Victory in Jesus

arr. Farquhar

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

EPISTLE LESSON

Philippians 1:9-11

Pew Bible NT 196

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

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Cry of My Heart

TFWS 2165

PSALTER OF ASCENT

Psalms 127: 1-2

Pew Bible OT 573

SERMON

Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith

Momentum for Life: Readiness for Lifelong Learning

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, 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 up-lifts!

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, we bring to you the resources of ourselves and our offerings as an act of faithful worship. We trust that you will continue to lead us in learning more fully about who you are and how we might bring your loving presence into the world around us through the ministries of this church. Bless us and these gifts, that they may provide opportunities to deepen our devotion to you and provide momentum for our lives. Amen.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

TFWS 2153

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

*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 by Soon Hur in loving memory of her brother, Sam Koh.
Given by Scott & Russel Danielson in loving memory of the
January 16th birthday of Russel's dad, Fulgencio Terrado, Sr.

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: Kitty Amato

COUNTERS: Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll

USHER: Paul Bradley

GREETER: Michael Sheckler

LAY READER: Ron Danielson

****Sermon and Study Resource:** *Momentum for Life* by Rev. Michael Slaughter, Abington Press, 2008.

D.R.I.V.E: Readiness for Lifelong Learning *January 14, 2024*

—stretching your mind so that your work will be more creative, innovative, excellent, and redemptive. (*Matt. 22:37, Mark 10:15*)

Readiness...“preparation or availability for service, action, or progress. Prompt willingness.”

- *“We spend more time working than any other single activity”, yet God desires our “work” to be fruitful and fulfilling. How would you describe your workday job?*

Creative Work: God created us to be creative. *Romans 12:1-2*

- *How might you release creativity in your life?*

Flexible Minds: The Bible challenges us to pursue wisdom.

- *Matt. 9:17 tells us “you can’t put new wine in old wineskins,” because they have lost the ability to stretch. What obstacles are keeping you from stretching and forward movement? What area(s) might you stretch your mind? How might a discipline of study help you be fruitful? What resources might you utilize?*

Redemptive Work: Work is an act of worship.

- *According to the Greek language, worship and service are the same work. How do you see your work as a value to others and a spiritual service to God?*
- *If you could do anything, what would it be? What keeps you from pursuing that dream?*
- *How might you trust in God’s provision?*
- *What is the motivating force behind your work?*
- *Name an endeavor you are committed to.*

“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

Readiness to stretch your mind and learn? What can you begin today to develop a discipline of lifelong learning?

THE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL starts a new study, today, by Adam Hamilton entitled "Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws. The class meets in Wesley Hall at 11:00.

JANUARY'S COMMUNION OFFERING benefits the Pastor's Discretionary Fund which helps our community with rental assistance, utilities, and other needs.

PRAYER GARDEN MEMORIAL BRICK ORDERS are being taken at this time. If you would like to dedicate a brick on Easter morning, please fill out a form which can be found on the sanctuary entrance tables.

DIAPERS AND WIPES: We donated 2,334 diapers and 2,288 wipes to Maker's Place! These totals are generously being matched by Pastor Jill and Garry. Thank you to all!

MERCY CENTER this week's needs: tuna, crackers, dried fruit, canned soup, rice, coffee, & fruit juice. Please place all donations in the foyer bins.



This Week we hold in

Prayer...

**The family of Donna Hulse
Carol Allen**

Our Homebound: David Miller, Bev Itell, Jean Gillette, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Cary Carlisle, Carol Allen (Care One), 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 15

OFFICE CLOSED

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

Tuesday, January 16

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

Wednesday, January 17

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a.m.
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Thursday, January 18

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

Friday, January 19

AA – Wesley Hall	8 p.m.
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Sunday, January 21

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