



***Thanks Be To God  
for Creation***

**The First United Methodist Church  
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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.***

# *Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

November 12, 2023

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

*In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful* TFWS 2195

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!**

**Look to God, do not be afraid.**

**Lift up your voices, the Lord is near,  
lift up your voices, the Lord is near.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to celebrate what God has done!

**God created the world out of a formless void.**

Let us celebrate what God has done!

**God made every animal and plant, bird and fish.**

Let us celebrate what God has done!

**God created people in the image of God.**

God's gifts of creation surround us each day,  
so, we offer our praise for the beauty of the earth.

**Thanks be to God for this great gift!**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

UMH 92

MORNING PRAYER

**God of the Universe, we thank You for Your many good gifts - for the beauty of Creation and its rich and varied fruits, for clean water and fresh air, for food and shelter, animals and plants. Forgive us for the times we have taken the earth's resources for granted and wasted what You have**

given us. Transform our hearts and minds so that we would learn to care and share, to touch the earth with gentleness and with love. We pray for all who suffer because of our waste, greed, and indifference. Help us to respect the rights of all people and all species and help us to willingly share your gifts today and always. Amen.

ANTHEM                      *St. George's Windsor*                      *arr. Eithun*  
Carillon Choir

### **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

\*PSALTER                      *Psalm 148*                      UMH 861

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE      *How Great Thou Art*                      UMH 77

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES      *Job 12:7-1*      OT 462

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**

SERMON                      *Thanks Be To God:* Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith  
*Thankful for Creation*

### **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

During this time of intercessory prayer, there will be a period of silence.

Please feel free to lift up any names or places that are on your hearts.

#### 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

*Now Thank We All Our God* UMH 102, vs. 1

**Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Lord of heaven and earth, sun and moon. We Praise  
You! Lord of the star-strewn cosmos and the edges of  
the universe. We Praise You! Lord, who commanded  
creation, set it in place, and gave order that will never  
fade away. We Praise You! Lord, we praise you as we  
offer these gifts of thanksgiving for all you have provided.  
Bless these offerings that they may be used to care for all  
creation and praise your name. Amen.**

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION *This Is My Father's World* UMH 144

\*SENDING FORTH

\*LIGHT OF CHRIST LEADS US INTO THE WORLD

*Let All Things Now Living* TFWS 2008, vs. 1a

**Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to  
God the Creator triumphantly raise,  
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
who guides us and leads to the end of our days.**

\*POSTLUDE

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

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***Our Service of Worship Has Ended  
Our Worship Through Service Begins***  
**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:** Joy More

**COUNTERS:** Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll

**USHER:** Jay Aretino

**GREETER:** Jeff Danielson

**LAY READER:** Carol Steinat

#### **ALTAR FLOWERS:**

Given in loving memory of James & Patricia Whitney's wedding anniversary by their family.

Given in loving memory of Phillip McRae by Susan & Sean.

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY & COVERED DISH-**December 10<sup>th</sup>, 5 p.m. Details to come.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONALS:** All devotionals should be in to Diane Maher today. Please send them to her at [dianeserine07712@yahoo.com](mailto:dianeserine07712@yahoo.com).



**This Week we hold in  
Prayer...**

**Our Homebound:** David Miller, Bev Itell, Jean Gillette, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Cary Carlisle, Carol Allen, Bob Cleary, Priscilla Smith, Elaine Bilotta, Connie Bruckmann, Barbara Novick

\*\*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 [revjmhs@gmail.com](mailto:revjmhs@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, November 13**

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

### **Tuesday, November 14**

Women's Covenant Group – Wesley Hall	8:30 a.m.
Naranon – Wesley Hall	11 a.m.
Miriam Circle – Fellowship Hall	3 p.m.
Scouts – Fellowship Hall	7 p.m.
Lydia Circle – Wesley Hall	7 p.m.

### **Wednesday, November 15**

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a.m.
Alanon – Wesley Hall	9 a.m.

### **Thursday, November 16**

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

### **Friday, November 17**

AA – Wesley Hall	8 p.m.
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**Pastor:** Jill Hubbard-Smith

**Secretary:** Joy More

**Director of Music:** Gary Farquhar

**Sexton:** Lisa Costello

**Director of Wesley Nursery School:** Noel Worthington