



Thanks Be To God for Scripture

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

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 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 lift our eyes to the Lord.

God created the heavens and the earth.

We raise our voices in song and speech.

We raise our voices in prayer and praise.

Lord, hear our prayers, accept our praise.

**Lord, open our hearts to receive the words you
speak to us this day.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come UMH 694

MORNING PRAYER

Awesome God, you spoke your Word over the waters of creation, and all that we see and know burst into life. You sent Jesus to walk among us, your Word made flesh, to speak life once more, bringing hope and love where we had missed the mark. Speak your Word to us this day, and open our hearts and minds, so we may experience the movement of your Spirit and grow closer to you. AMEN.

ANTHEM

Beloved
Chancel Choir

arr. Mauldin

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 31:31-33 Pew Bible OT 735

HYMN OF RESPONSE *Thy Word Is a Lamp* UMH 601

EPISTLE LESSON *2 Timothy 3:14-17* Pew Bible NT 213

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 Scripture

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

Generous God, you have given us your Words of love that resonate deep in our hearts. Words that give us unwavering passion for justice, and a tenacious faith that will not rest until the hungry are fed, the oppressed find relief, and the outsider feels welcome. Bless these gifts that they may be used to embody healing, hope, grace, peace, and abiding love to all those around us. AMEN.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION *Wonderful Words of Life* UMH 600

*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.*

***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: Gayle Fitzmaier

COUNTERS: Gerry Busfield, Abby DiNapoli, Jane Gittines

USHER: Paul Bradley

GREETER: Randy Danielson

LAY READER: Sandy Miller

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS: Judy Gorra & Soon Hur

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Given in loving memory of Frances Miller by her niece Sharron Meadows.

Given in honor of Pastor Jill Hubbard-Smith's birthday by her family.

ALTAR ROSE

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth, November 13th, of Adaline Rose MacPherson, daughter of Mark and Amanda MacPherson and granddaughter of Larry and Barbara MacPherson.

Pastor: Jill Hubbard-Smith

Director of Music: Gary Farquhar

Director of Wesley Nursery School: Noel Worthington

Secretary: Joy More

Sexton: Lisa Costello

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS are still needed for a few Sundays until the new year. Please Bonnie McNamara if you have questions.

UWIF WORLD THANK OFFERING-The WTO is an opportunity for personal thanksgiving and for participation in global mission outreach. It is working to eliminate racism, sexism, and loneliness. To contribute to this mission work, please set aside a collection box and give with thanks. Boxes are available in Fellowship Hall and in the side sanctuary.

“CANTICLE OF CHRISTMAS”-This choral work by Tom Fettke & Camp Kirkland will be presented on December 3rd, 4:00 pm, at West Grove UMC, Neptune. Participating are The Choraliers of Eatontown & The Northern Cluster Choir.

TOY COLLECTION-Wesley Nursery School is collecting toys for pediatric cancer patients ages 0-2. Please drop your donations off in the church office.



**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

**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, November 20

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

Tuesday, November 21

Women's Covenant Group – Wesley Hall	8:30 a.m.
Naranon – Wesley Hall	11 a.m.
Daisies - Fellowship Hall	4 p.m.
Scouts – Fellowship Hall	7 p.m.
Thanksgiving Service – Oceanport UMC	7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 22

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

Thursday, November 23 THANKSGIVING DAY

OFFICE CLOSED

Alanon – Wesley Hall	10 a.m.
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Friday, November 24

OFFICE CLOSED

AA – Wesley Hall	8 p.m.
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Sunday, November 26

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.
