



## Pinelands United Methodist Church

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Church office: 5213 Pleasant Mills Road, Sweetwater, NJ 08037

Rev. Danny Clark, Pastor

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Christmas Eve ~ 5:00 pm / 7:00 pm

December 24, 2023

**Theme: Advent**

www.PinelandsUMC.org

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

### ❖ Call to Worship

*Leader: Let's deck the halls for the Messiah,*

**People: An infant wrapped in simple clothes.**

*Leader: Like the angels and the shepherds worshiped*

**People: We celebrate our Savior.**

*Leader: Glory to God in the Highest!*

**People: Let's deck the halls for Christ!**

❖ Gathering Hymn ..... #234 "O Come all ye Faithful"

### Opening Prayer

Holy One, we celebrate this night that you came into this world not with trumpets blazing or with any obvious power but as a baby in an ordinary place. You turned the world on its head that night, and you continue to turn the world today. Turn us towards justice, towards hope, towards peace, towards joy, and towards love. Turn us so that we can witness you in every moment of every day. Joy to the world! The Lord has come! Amen.



### Candle Lighting

Throughout this season of expectant waiting God has offered us hope, peace, joy, and love.

*Light three purple/blue candles and one pink candle*

These things have invited each of us closer to the coming one, the Christ Child. This night we light this center candle for Christ- who changed and continues to change the world with hope, peace, joy, and love.

*Light the center white candle*

May we carry these gifts in our hearts and share them in the world.

Special Music

1st Scripture Reading

Isaiah 7:13-16

Isaiah 9:6-7

❖ Hymn of Preparation

#238 "Angels we have heard on High"

2nd Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20

Sermon

Deck the halls for Christ!

Christmas Prayer

❖ Hymn of Reflection ..... #239 "Silent Night"

Personal Candle Lighting

Offering God's Tithes and Our Gifts

❖ Doxology ..... #95

❖ Closing Hymn ..... #247 "Joy to the World"

❖ Benediction

God bless you and not let you out of his sight.  
 God keep and protect you by day and by night.  
 Let love, understanding be yours evermore.  
 God's grace be with you forever more.



## KEEP THEM IN PRAYER

Kathy Simpkins  
 Barbara Kurowski  
 Linda Hirst  
 Linda Green  
 Dave Dixon  
 Marge Clifton  
 Tom Rheault  
 Anna Walker  
 Denny & Joy O'Shaughnessy  
 Jerry  
 Sandra Allebach  
 Brian Plasket  
 Robin Green  
 Paul Cowan  
 Stephen Lister  
 Ciara McCarthy Burke  
 Kaitlin DeLucca (US Air Force)  
 Tiernan James (US Coast Guard)  
 Max Lister (US Army)

Frances Ernwood  
 Wilma Brown  
 Mary Jo Sheridan  
 Sean Plasket  
 McCartney Family  
 Barbara Ford  
 Margie Cochran  
 David & Emily Elkin  
 Denise  
 Larry Acker  
 Evelyn Roland  
 John Allebach Sr  
 Nicholas Cellini  
 Deneen Wylid  
 Melodee Ashby  
 Courtney Warner  
 Billy Cheatham (US Marines)  
 Riley James (US Marines)  
 Robert S.  
 Little Jack



# CHURCH NEWS

## CHRISTMAS EVE 2023



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR ADVENT EVENTS

- Dec 24 ~ Deck the Halls for Christ ~ *Christmas Eve Candlelight*
  - 5:00 pm ~ Batsto
  - 7:00 pm ~ Green Bank
  - 11:00 pm ~ Nesco
- Dec 31 ~ Deck the Halls for a Promise Fulfilled ~ Batsto 9 / GB 10:30 am

### GIFTS GIVEN - THANK YOU

46 Families = 113 Bags of Toys/Gifts  
 113 Bags of Hope = Christmas Smiles  
 Spreading Hope, Peace, Joy and Love



### FISHING CLUB MEETS

The fishing club meets on January 3rd (the first Wednesday of every month) at the Bridel House. All are welcome to join; invite a friend to attend.

