



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

Parsonage: (609) 804-1844

Email: dclark3129@gmail.com

Cell: (609) 222-0990

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

Theme: Advent

www.PinelandsUMC.org

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

❖ Call to Worship

Leader: Let's deck the halls with the joy of the coming Messiah.

People: We rejoice in our God our Savior.

Leader: God has done great things for us.

People: Joy has come in unexpected ways.

Leader: Our hearts are overflowing!

People: Let's deck the halls with joy!

❖ Gathering Hymn #221 "In the Bleak Mid-Winter"

Opening Prayer

Merciful God, we ask you to open us up to hear the words of Mary's song once more. May we be inspired by this day to create change. May we be stirred to action in our faith community and beyond it. May we listen to your voice, still speaking among us. Shift us so that we live fully as people of joy. Amen.



Candle Lighting

The lights of hope and peace have invited us to be part of God's dream for wholeness in the world.

Light two purple/blue candles.

Today we light the candle of joy, as a reminder that this time of waiting is not one of sorrow but one of possibility.

Light the pink candle.

May we make space to connect with the one who breathes joy into our world. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading

Romans 5:22-26

❖ Hymn of Preparation

#218 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

2nd Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-55

Sermon

Deck the Halls With Joy

❖ Hymn of Reflection

#240 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering God's Tithes and Our Gifts

❖ Doxology #95

❖ Offertory Prayer

❖ Benediction

❖ Closing Hymn #224 "Good Christian Friends Rejoice"

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 Wyld
 Melodee Ashby
 Courtney Warner
 Billy Cheatham (US Marines)
 Riley James (US Marines)
 Robert S.
 Little Jack



CHURCH NEWS

DECEMBER 17, 2023

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR ADVENT EVENTS

- Dec 17 ~ Deck the Halls with **JOY** ~ Batsto 9 / GB 10:30 am
- Dec 20 ~ Dinner & Study ~ Atco UMC ~ 6:30 - 8:30 pm
- Dec 24 ~ Deck the Halls with **LOVE** ~ *One Service* Batsto 10:00 am
- 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



PINELANDS UMC ROAD CLEAN UP

We will be having a road clean up next **TODAY**. Plan to join us! We will gather in the Nesco Church parking lot at 10:30 am. Invite friends to join us. We can make a difference together!

A THANK YOU TO ALL

The Outside Board of Trustees wishes to thank everyone who attended the pipe organ concert and carol sing. We appreciate every donation and all of the support given.

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.



Behold!

Advent Dinner and Study

Come join us for a joint dinner, Bible Study, and a time of Worship for the season where we wait for the of the birth of Christ the King.

Dinner for 6:30-7:30

Worship and Study 7:30-8:30

Please bring a dish to share.

Coffee, Tea, Water, and juice provided.

Family friendly and interactive Worship and Study with

Pastor Danny Clark
Atco UMC
2128 Atco Ave
Atco NJ 08004

<i>Behold Hope!</i>	<i>November 29th</i>	<i>Mexican/ South Western</i>
<i>Behold Peace!</i>	<i>December 6th</i>	<i>Italian</i>
<i>Behold Joy!</i>	<i>December 13th</i>	<i>German</i>
<i>Behold Love!</i>	<i>December 20th</i>	<i>Casserole</i>

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS...

Pinelands United Methodist Church Advent Invitation

HOME OF THE HISTORIC BATSTO CHURCH, NESCO CHURCH & GREEN BANK CHURCH

SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER ~ WORSHIP

BATSTO 9:00 AM / GREEN BANK 10:30 AM

NOV 26 ~ THE WAITING WORLD

DEC 3 ~ DECK THE HALLS WITH HOPE (COMMUNION)

DEC 10 ~ DECK THE HALLS WITH PEACE

DEC 17 ~ DECK THE HALLS WITH JOY

DEC 24 ~ DECK THE HALLS WITH LOVE ~ MORNING ~ BATSTO ~ 10:00 AM

DEC 24 ~ CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ~ CANDLELIGHT ~ BATSTO ~ 5PM

DEC 24 ~ CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ~ CANDLELIGHT ~ GREEN BANK 7PM

DEC 24 ~ CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ~ CANDLELIGHT ~ NESCO ~ 11PM

COMMUNION OPPORTUNITY

DEC 25 ~ HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!