

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) 222-0990

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Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

www.PinelandsUMC.org

Welcome and Announcements

❖ Gathering Hymn #234 “O Come all ye Faithful”

Advent Reading: Lighting of the Christ Candle

Reader 1: It’s easy to lose a sense of meaning and purpose in the despair, anxiety, sorrow, and fear that are part of being human. Yet God so loved us that God entered our world to show us God’s truth, God’s presence, and God’s path for us. This night is an invitation to follow Jesus and find our purpose. It’s an invitation to shine our light in a light-starved world.

Light the HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE and CHRIST candles.
(All 5 Candles)

Reader 2: Hear this promise spoken by the prophet Jeremiah that is fulfilled for each of us in the birth of the Christ child: “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

Reader 1: Let’s follow Jesus and find our purpose. Let’s shine our light in a light-starved world.

All: God, thank you for the gift of yourself that you give us. Thank you for the meaning and wholeness we have in you. You show us the path that leads to life. Amen!

❖ Call to Worship

Leader: *In war, we find peace.*

People: **Christ is our peace.**

Leader: *In sorrow, we find joy.*

People: **Christ is our joy.**

Leader: *In fear, we find love.*

People: **Christ is our love.**

Leader: *In darkness, we seek light.*

People: **Christ is our light.**

Leader: *In bondage, we find freedom.*

People: **Christ is our freedom.**

Leader: *In death, we’re promised life.*

People: **Christ is our life.**

Leader: *We await a child, born to change everything.*

All: **Alleluia! Christ is born! Let us worship with joy! Amen.**

❖ Hymn #230 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Opening Prayer

God, your light entered our world so long ago. Although the world, at times, seems dim, help us to trust that your light still burns. Help us to know Jesus who is The Light and to live in his ever-present glow, loving others and trusting the path he illuminates for us. Fill us again, this night and always, with the light of your love. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading Isaiah 7:14-17, 11:1-9

Special Music (Batsto Only)



2nd Scripture Reading John 1:1-14

❖ Hymn of Preparation

#238 “Angels we have heard on High”

3rd Scripture Reading Luke 2:16-7

Sermon ***Gift Exchange: Darkness for Light***

❖ Hymn of Celebration #217 “Away in a Manger”

Christmas Prayer

Offering God's Tithes and Our Gifts

❖ Doxology #95

Communion (Nesco Only)

Candle Lighting

❖ Closing Hymn #239 “Silent Night”

❖ Benediction





KEEP THEM IN PRAYER

Pastor Danny Clark & Family
Kathy Simpkins
Barbara Kurowski
Linda Hirst
Linda Green
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)
Dave Dixon
Little Jack
Joanne Wunsch
Brenda Malave
John Mascio IV

Frances Ernwood
Wilma Brown
Ed Rabush
Sean Plasket
McCartney Family
John Mascio Jr.
Margie Cochran
David & Emily Elkin
Denise
Larry Acker
Evelyn Roland
John Allebach Sr
Nicholas Cellini
Lou Massey
Melodee Ashby
Courtney Warner
Billy Cheatham (US Marines)
Riley James (US Marines)
Jarrad Moscicki (US NAVY)
Robert S.
Carol Petitt
Lorraine Roe
Robyn & Kent Grohne

CHURCH NEWS

December 24, 2024 ~ Christmas Eve



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS w/ PASTOR DANNY

Monday Evenings: By Appointment Only
Wednesday Evenings: By Appointment Only
Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

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Office Email: pinelandsumc@gmail.com



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT

Pinelands United Methodist Church will offer three Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Experiences for the whole family! We will gather in **Batsto Church at 5:00 pm**, **Green Bank Church at 7:00 pm** and **Nesco Church at 11:00 pm** where Communion will be offered to all.



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The Church Council will meet on **January 14th** in our **Nesco Church Building at 7:00 pm**. All are welcome to come.



PINELANDS UMC FISHING CLUB

Did you know Pinelands United Methodist Church as a **fishing club** that meets once a month at a local home. The fishing club is open to everyone and **the first meeting in January will be on the 8th**. Consider getting involved.



PINELANDS CHURCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

9:00 am ~ BATSTO CHURCH ~ 4200 Nesco Rd
10:30 am ~ GREEN BANK CHURCH ~ 1081 River Rd

FOOD PANTRY

4:00-7:00 pm ~ NESCO CHURCH ~ Mondays

ADVENT SERIES: GIFT EXCHANGE

CHRISTMAS EVE ~ Darkness for Light

DECEMBER 29 ~ Meaninglessness for Purpose



CHRISTMAS EVE by CANDLELIGHT **Tuesday ~ December 24th**

5:00 pm ~ Batsto Church Building
7:00 pm ~ Green Bank Church Building
11:00 pm ~ Nesco Church Building
(Communion)

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