



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

129 Chestnut Street \* Toms River, New Jersey 08753-5306

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**December 1, 2020 – Church Office Hours M-F/9am – 12:30pm**

*“Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.”  
-Charles Wesley, 1744*

“...Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

~Matthew 1:20-21

Here's your weekly update...

1. We will **gather for public worship THIS SUNDAY (12/6)** at 9:00am and 10:30am. Just a Reminder- Please call the church office this week to make your reservations. **PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE:** We are collecting food for the **FOOD DRIVE THIS SUNDAY (12/6)**.

2. Please take a look at our great **Testimonies Video** [here](#) →Special thanks to our featured members: Fred Muller, Sam Rose and Kim General for their great work!!!

### **3. IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT Regarding Worship through December:**

\*\*\*As you know, it has been necessary to close public worship on several occasions in the past months due to positive tests in our church family. We are concerned that if a positive test occurs within two weeks of Christmas Eve services, it will force us to close Christmas Eve worship. Knowing that all of us would like to avoid that scenario, I have decided to close public worship for the two Sundays before Christmas Eve. Those Sundays are Dec 13 and Dec 20 and will be *virtual only*. Also, since many will gather on Christmas Day with people outside their “pods,” we will also be *virtual* the two Sundays after Christmas. Those Sundays are Dec 27 and Jan 3. As a result, our December worship schedule will be as follows:

Dec 6: In-person Worship (9:00/10:30am)

Dec 27: Virtual Worship Only

Dec 13: Virtual Worship Only

Jan 3: Virtual Worship Only

Dec 20: Virtual Worship Only

Jan 10: Return to In-person Worship

**Dec 24 (Christmas Eve):** In-person worship (5pm FLC/7pm Sanctuary)

**\*\*Due to space limitations Christmas Eve Worship reservations are due by December 15<sup>th</sup>**

4. Our **Diaper Drive** for *The Maker's Place* (located in Trenton) is in full swing! Please bring diapers to the office breezeway during the week. Diapers are due Dec 13th.

5. The **New Large Wreaths** in the sanctuary were given by Fred Muller and also by Don & Nancy Kaulback in **memory of Manuel Hirshblond**.

#### **December Birthdays this Week:**

Candice Vesce (5)  
Karen Van Gorder (5)  
Karen Purcell (5)  
Sonia Butler (8)  
Dolores Fredrichs (8)  
Susan Basehore (10)  
Abigail Dorso (12)

#### **Anniversaries**

Dan & Pati Rubino (6)

Thank you for your patience and Understanding – Much love,

*Pastor Ed* (cell: 609-617-5182)

**Electronic Giving Address:** [www.fumctr.com/donate](http://www.fumctr.com/donate)

**To Mail Your Offering** (*thank you for the gift of a stamp!*)

ATTN: Financial Secretary, First UMC  
129 Chestnut Street, Toms River, NJ 08753

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