

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Dale G. Caldwell, **Senior Pastor**
Rev. Bridget S. Charles, **Associate Pastor**
Miguel Edghill, **Liturgist**
Queintard DeGeneste II, **Music Director**
Pierre Omadjela, **Seminary Intern**



Covenant United Methodist Church

631 East Front Street
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060-1413

Website: www.cumcp.com

Church Office: Phone (908) 756-2684

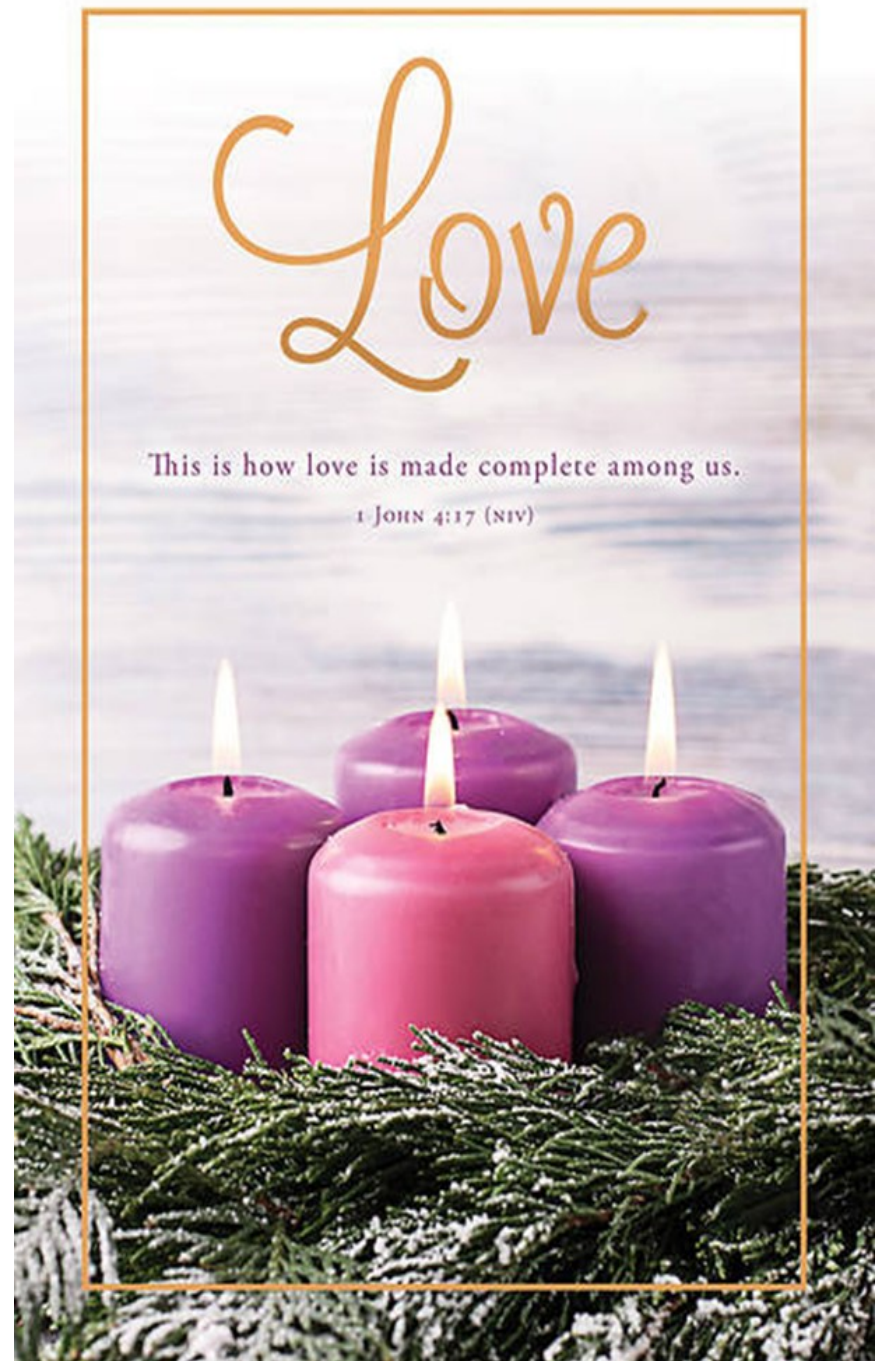
Office Hours: Tuesday and Friday, 10:00—3:30 pm

Email: covenantumcplfd@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cumcplainfield

YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCCO3VjImIW8Cb8ybyjUjq9w

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“Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by proclaiming the good news of God’s grace and living out Jesus’ command to love God and neighbor”

December 21, 2025 – 10:00am

PRELUDE

WELCOME, PRAISE & TESTIMONY **Pastor Caldwell**

OPENING PRAYER **Stephon Hammond**

WORSHIP SONG *Light the Advent Candle v.3,4 (TFWS 2090)*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Jacqueline, Nicole and Tori Douglas

First Reader: Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

Congregation: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.

Second Reader: We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us. (*Light the third candle, pink, of the Advent wreath*).

Sunday School, 10:00 am, Fellowship Hall

Community Worship Service & Dinner – Every Monday
@ 5:30 pm. (We welcome volunteers, monetary and food
donations)

Youth Sponsored Fundraiser

Trip to Sight and Sound, Ronks, PA

Forms are available in the Finance Mailbox, back corridor



To Our Youth,

***Thank you for your service over the year to your church. Whether you sang in the choir, served as an acolyte, participated in our Youth Worship Services, or faithfully attended Sunday School. You were appreciated. May God continually bless you with an enjoyable Christmas holiday and happiness throughout the New Year.
Your CUMC Family***

***CLOSING HYMN** *Angels We Have Heard On High*
(UMH 238)

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Caldwell

POSTLUDE

SPECIAL SELECTION

Now Behold the Lamb

MESSAGE

Joy and Love

Pastor Caldwell

*OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Online donations are accepted via:

-Our website www.cumcp.com (visit the About page and Click on the Contribution Button)

-Chase Zelle: covenantumcplfd@gmail.com

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*
(UMH 95)

*OFFERTORY PRAYER *(Please stand if you are able)*

Gracious God, We thank You for the joy that strengthens us and the love that sustains us. As we offer these gifts, may they be used to share Your light, extend Your love, and bring hope to a waiting world. Prepare our hearts to receive Christ anew. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Please be seated)*

Welcome to Visitors

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Morning Bible Study with Pastor Caldwell

Wednesdays @ 7:00 am

(Via Zoom: ID: 908 756 2684; PC: 07060)

Evening Bible Study with Pastor Charles

Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm

(Via Zoom: ID: 908 756 2684; PC: 07060)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Miguel and Jeanette Edghill

First Reader: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day." (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, O Covenant, from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

Congregation: God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

Second Reader: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.
(Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath).

LIGHTING OF THE CRISMON TREE

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please stand as you are able)*

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Come, people of God, rejoicing in hope and grounded in love.

People: We come to worship the God who brings joy in the midst of waiting.

Leader: God's love has been poured into our hearts through Jesus Christ.

ALL: We rejoice, for the Light of the world has come near.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Please stand if you are able)*
Lord God, open our hearts to receive Your Word this day. As we wait for the coming of Christ, fill us with joy that strengthens us and love that transforms us. Speak to us in our waiting, our hoping, and our longing, that we may be changed by Your Word.

***HYMN** *The First Noel* **(UMH 245)**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(Please stand if you are able)*
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***APOSTLES' CREED** *(Please stand if you are able)*
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *(Please be seated)*

Zephania 3:14-17

¹⁴ Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem!

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *(cont'd)*

Zephania 3:14-17

¹⁵The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. ¹⁶ On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. ¹⁷ The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

***GLORIA PATRI** *(Please stand if you are able)* **(UMH 71)**
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

***NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** *(Please stand if you are able)*
Titus 3:1-7

¹Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, ² to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone. ³At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.