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United Methodist Church of Parsippany

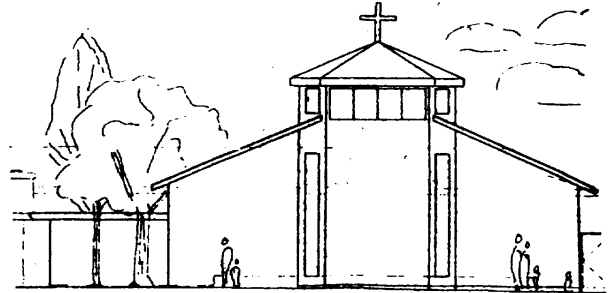
903 So. Beverwyck Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054 (973) 887-4657

<http://www.parsippanyumc.org> E-Mail: pastormarissavdv@gmail.com

Sunday Worship Celebration: 10:00 a.m.

In a hostile, hurting world we reach out to share kindness and laughter. Our spirituality is based on Jesus and his love and compassion. We provide a community of support and healing where all are welcomed and valued regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, disability, gender, or economic status. In a world where people feel they can love only those who are like themselves, we seek to celebrate the uniqueness of every human being.

"Making Room in the Circle"



DECEMBER, 2022



Greetings!

I don't know if it is my church filled childhood or maybe it is one of those songs that has a catchy tune (one that you can't seem to get out of your head), or maybe it is attending so many VBS programs as a child and as an adult, but the song, "I've Got the Joy in my Heart" is a song that always seems to be a good answer to 'tell me about your relationship with Jesus'.

The song is rhythmic, it is sometimes sung with hand motions, and children seem to love to sing it. The words, "I've got the joy, I am so happy with the love of Jesus in my heart, I've got the peace that passes all understanding in the depths of my heart."

The singing of the song, seems to emote joy; it pushes everything else out of the room as we bask in the happiness that comes from having Jesus in our hearts. The song can be a way to see, hear, and feel Jesus. It is a conduit, a pathway that reminds us of the divine love that Jesus has for all of us.

Is this something that we can carry with us this Advent season as we move into the Christmas tide? The joy of having Jesus in our hearts. God loved us all so much that God gave us Jesus born in a manger under a bright star. No matter what we are going through in our lives, Jesus meets us where we are at ready to feed our bodies and minds.

We can deny. We can run away, We can believe that we have sinned so much that Jesus will never love us again and Jesus shows up. Nothing can separate us from the love of God, nothing can separate us from the love of God.

"I've got the joy, I am so happy with the love of Jesus in my heart, I've got the peace that passes all understanding in the depths of my heart."

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Marissa

pastormarissavdv@gmail.com



Christmas Events in the life of our church.....



This year Connie Keller will be taking orders for **poinsettias until December 3rd**. Poinsettias will be \$10.00 this year for a 6 1/2" pot. Red and pink colors will be available.

The poinsettias are placed on the altar Dec. 18, we would like them to remain on the altar until after the service on Sunday 12/25.

If you want to place an order please text or call Connie Keller (973-586-5404). You can pay by check, venmo @Connie-Keller-6 or Zelle 973-568-5404

If you would like to make a monetary donation (instead of ordering poinsettias), it will be used to provide flowers for the Christmas season. If you have any questions please call or text Connie Keller 973-568-5404.

Order forms will be available in the narthex or you can email Connie at connie@mhmlender.com Thanks for helping to make our altar beautiful for the Christmas season.

Cookies with the Pastor - Please join Pastor Marissa for some cookie decorating on **Sunday Dec. 4th from 12-2pm at the parsonage**. This is also a chance to see all the amazing work that the Trustees did on the house.

Youth Group - Please join us for Youth Group on **Sun Dec. 4th and Sun. Dec. 18th** from 6-8pm. Youth Group will be held at the **parsonage on Dec. 4th** and on **Dec. 18th we will gather in Fellowship Hall for dinner and a gingerbread house making contest**. We hope you will join us! All youth 8th-12th grade are invited to attend. Have questions? Please contact [Aimee Letsch](#) or [Pastor Marissa](#)

United Women in Faith Christmas Party – **Wednesday, December 7th, 6:30 p.m.** --- see full announcement under the UWIF article.

Christmas Pageant and Choir Cantata - You will not want to miss our Christmas Pageant and Choir Cantata **on Sunday Dec. 18th at 10am**. People of all ages will be able to participate in the play "Once Upon a Time in a Manger". All you have to do is show up on Dec. 18th! Please join us.

The Longest Night Service - Please join us on **Wednesday Dec. 21st at 7pm** in the sanctuary for The Longest Night Service. This service is held on the longest night of the year and recognizes that sometimes we might not feel all the joy and excitement of the Christmas season. This service offers a way for people to claim those feelings and still feel surrounded by the compassionate love of God.



CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Our Christmas Eve Service will be **Saturday Dec. 24th at 7pm**. We will gather for a candlelight service with a special children's message.

PJ's, Cocoa, and Carols Christmas Day Service - On **Christmas Day at 10am** we invite you to join us for Cocoa and Carols. Please feel free to wear your pajamas as we gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior. We will sing and have some delicious hot cocoa and treats during the service.

New Years Day Service - **On Sunday Jan. 1st our service will be online only**. The service will be available on our Facebook page at 10am



Sign Committee

The Trustees are looking to put together a church sign committee to revisit the project that was put on hold due to the pandemic and bring it to fruition. If you would like to be part of the church sign committee, please contact Steve Blake (blakeblakesr@aol.com)

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Looking back... All business for 2023 is completed. We will be having a bible study, looking at the double helix DNA, taking a trip to Germany (via presentation) along with gardening, a mission project and other exciting programs. Join United Women in Faith for an exciting 2023!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 6:30 P.M.
PROGRAM: Annual Christmas Party

This year, after 2 years without, we will be having our annual Christmas Party. This includes a **Potluck Supper (bring food for 8)**, Officer Installation, Christmas games which includes trading names for our annual prayer partner in which we will commit to pray for the other during 2023 during our gift exchange game. **Bring a wrapped gift (~\$10) with your name on it.** We will also take our annual group photo! If you are not a member of United Women in Faith but would like to attend our Christmas celebration, please email me at betsyadams@live.com

Dec. 7 – Pearl Harbor Day	Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Sunday Service
Dec. 21 – First Day of Winter	Dec. 26 – Kwanza
Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service	Dec. 31 – New Year’s Eve

GET WELL wishes to those of you who are ill, and
 HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those of you celebrating in December.

God Bless,
 Betsy Adams
betsyadams@live.com

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Anyone aware of a **Prayer Concern** is invited to contact Doris Bradley at 973-887-3219 who will put the **Prayer Chain** into action. If Doris cannot be reached, please contact Pastor Marissa. If you would like to add your name to the people who receive the prayer chain, please speak to Betty Polen

Church Offerings:

If you are more comfortable attending worship online, or live at a distance, please try to keep your pledge up to date. You can send your pledge to the church. The address is:

Parsippany United Methodist Church
903 So. Beverwyck Rd.
Parsippany, NJ 07054

You can also use our PayPal link ---



To make it easier for the Congregation to keep up with their financial pledges to the Church, a **PayPal link has been added to the PUMC Homepage**. If you've never used PayPal before, it's an easy and secure way to send a payment over the Internet. You can use your bank account or a credit card to make your payment, and PayPal takes a small transaction fee. For more information or a quick demonstration on how to use this new tool, please speak with Justin Cogan. You can use this link: <https://www.paypal.me/parsippanyumc>

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FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS – If you want to remember or honor a special occasion in your life by putting flowers on the altar, please get in touch with Connie Keller. You are certainly welcome at any time to place flowers on the altar. Contact information: Connie's cell: 973-568-5404; email: connie@mhlender.com

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CHURCH CALENDAR and SCHEDULING EVENTS

The church calendar on our website www.parsippanyumc.org has been updated. If you want to schedule an event, you need to look at the website calendar to see if the date is available. All requests for use of the church facilities need to be approved by the trustees. Please contact Pastor Marissa for more information

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Zoom Wednesdays at 1:00 pm and Fridays at 12:00 pm

Many people may still feel wary about the risks of visiting shops, church or even leaving our homes. This is especially true if you have a disability or long-term health condition that makes you more vulnerable to the effects of coronavirus. Losing face to face contact with people can feel stressful and worrying. That's why on Wednesdays and Fridays we join on Zoom in the hopes that seeing a friendly face can help us feel more connected. On Wednesday, Joanne Rich checks in with those online seeing how people are doing. On Friday, Betsy Adams leads the group with a question of the week to open discussions and maybe find out something new about your church family. We end asking if there are any prayer requests you have. If you are looking to make connection with people, our Wednesday and Friday groups may be ideal for you. **Emails are sent out the day before meetings for you to follow the link.** If you have any questions, please reach out to either Joanne or Betsy.

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Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Parsippany United Methodist Church, *where there's always room in the circle*, is invited to speak to Pastor Marissa.



Our church website is at ParsippanyUMC.org. You can find all the newsletters, as well as a calendar that gives the times of events held at the church. You can also find a little church history, a listing of all the plays we've produced at the church, and a summary of the various church fellowship and mission groups.

If you aren't presently on **Facebook**, consider joining with a secret identity so you can be a member of the Parsippany United Methodist Church Congregation Group and received day by day prayer concerns and announcements and other postings regarding the life of our church.

FACEBOOK LIVE – Our services are on Facebook Live every week. If you are interested in furthering the ministries of our church by helping out with our Live broadcasts, please reach out to Connie Keller or Darryl Sokolowski.



Parsippany United Methodist Church is now on Instagram. To find us, search - Parsippany_umc

Instagram

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Consider becoming a part of one or more of our Musical Groups here at church:

Bell Choir – rehearses Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining us, please speak to Barb Bradley or Aimee Letsch - or just show up on Thursday and see what happens!

Choir – rehearses Thursdays at 7:45 p.m. We always have an "open robe" for anyone who loves to sing. We sing in 4-part harmony, so if you've sung in your high school chorus or any other equivalent, you have a great start! Speak to any choir member or Barb Bradley if you're interested.



Oh Holy Night

Our Outreach to Those in Need



On the second Thursday of every other month our church provides a meal for the people living temporarily at **Homeless Solutions**. If you would like to volunteer as a server, please speak to Laurie Wilken or Connie Wallace. If you would like to help cook speak Tom Albert or Justin Cogan. Our next opportunity to serve is **December 8th**.



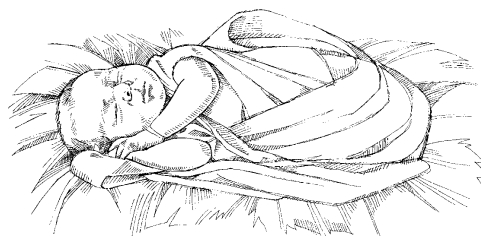
Parsippany Emergency Food Pantry – Denise White is now delivering our donations to the Emergency Food Pantry in Parsippany. You can bring your donations of non-perishable food items to the church any Sunday. Denise takes the food over as the bin gets filled up. Supermarket gift cards are also welcome. This is a very easy way to give back to the less-fortunate in our own township.

On **Saturday, TBD** our church once more takes its turn volunteering at **Interfaith Furnishings**. Please let Garrett Belanus or Pastor Marissa know if you can volunteer your time to help move donated furniture to the homes of people who could not otherwise afford it in Morris County.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS			
5 th	Andrew Edwards	20 th	Marissa Raier
6 th	Niken Patel	24 th	Linda Winz
9 th	Sean O'Grady	24 th	Deana Larsen
14 th	Gloria Gounaud	25 th	Keith Sakelakos
14 th	Claudia Bartek	26 th	Jean Sakelakos
16 th	Jessica Colletto	31 st	Flora Dierbach
20 th	Jennifer Savarin	31 st	Kassie Dadaian

One Small Child



December 2022

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																			
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