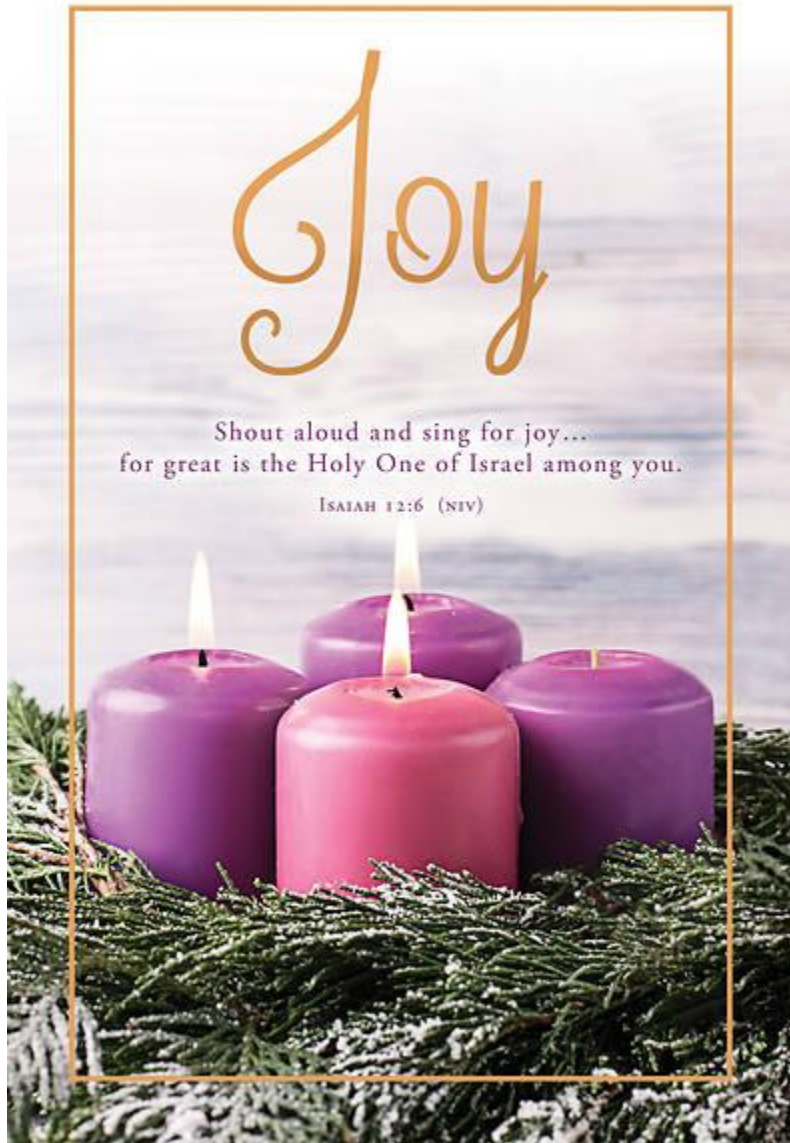


**HAMDEN PLAINS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
15 Church Street, Hamden, CT 06514
203- 248-4654



"The mission of the Hamden Plains United Methodist Church is sharing God's love by creating a safe and welcoming community, connecting people's needs with God's power, and reconciling divisions through Christ."
-Mission Statement

ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

+ Those able please stand

PRELUDE

+OPENING HYMN “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” UMH#89

WELCOME TO THE PARISH

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS Carole Outlaw

CALL TO WORSHIP Carole Outlaw

Leader: “Because the poor are despoiled, because the needy groan, I will now rise up,” says the Lord; “I will place them in the safety for which they long.”

People: **The promises of the Lord are promises that are pure, silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.**

Leader: You, O Lord, will protect us; you will guard us from this generation forever.

People: **On every side the wicked prowl, as vilest is exalted among humankind.**

OPENING PRAYER (unison) Carole Outlaw

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! How we love the name of Jesus. It is the sweetest name I know. You overcame the grave, so that we might be free. 1 Corinthians 15:53-55 says “For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” This why we thank You, Amen.

HYMN “O Come O Come Emmanuel” (V.1) UMH# 211

ADVENT Cruz Family

Reader 1: When God’s people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed, The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

Reader 2: We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

Congregation: **We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God’s people.**

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Light Three candles of the Advent wreath.

*HYMN “O Come O Come Emmanuel” (v. 2-4) UMH# 211
(sung as the third candle is lit)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION**Carole Outlaw**

It is we again oh Lord, standing in the need of prayer. This fleshly body that I am in has committed sin again. We ask dear Lord that You would wash us again, and give us the strength to stand strong. Forgive us dear Lord, forgive us. Acts 13:38 says "Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, Amen.

Offer prayers of silent confession.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE**Rev. Cleaven Johnson, Jr.****JOYS & CONCERNS****Rev. Cleaven Johnson, Jr.***The Lord's Prayer***UMH #895****Carole Outlaw**

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.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**Carole Outlaw**

Song: The Jesus in Me

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**OLD TESTEMENT**

Isaiah 35:1-10

Carole Outlaw

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Leader: The Word of the Lord. People: *Thanks be to God*

+ NEW TESTEMENT:

Matthew 18:15-22

Carole Outlaw

¹⁵"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." ²¹Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ*

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
WORDS FROM PASTOR**

**New Praise
Rev. Cleaven Johnson, Jr.**

OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Carole Outlaw

*Please mail or drop off your tithes and offerings to:
15 Church Street, Hamden, CT 06514.*

Noisy Offering (coins for missions) may be dropped off at the church.

+RESPONSE

“The Doxology”

UMH #95

+OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Cleaven Johnson Jr.

We give this morning because we want to thank You for all that You've done for us. You have allowed us to have life, health and strength. For, this we say thank You, dear Lord. Sirach 35:4 says “and one who gives alms sacrifices a thank offering.” We show are gratitude in what we give to You dear God, Amen.

GOING FORTH

+CLOSING HYMN

“Jesus Loves Me”

UMH #191

BENEDICTION

Rev. Cleaven Johnson Jr.

RECESSIONAL

“Sanctuary”

TFWS #2164

The Postlude

The Worship has ended. The Service Begins

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS: Please call the office if you need to meet with the Pastor. HE is available Wednesday-Friday's after 3:30 pm.

YOUR CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT MEANS SO

MUCH! Please mail gifts to HPUMC, 15 Church Street, Hamden, CT 06514 or drop them off during office hours, Tues - Fri., 9:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. For Venmo, scan QR code or go to www.venmo.com/HamdenPlains-UMC.



ADVENT BOOK STUDY: All are invited to our Advent *Soup, Bread, and Christmas Cookies* Book Study. This is a five-week study by Adam Hamilton: *The Journey—Walking the Road to Bethlehem*. We will watch a 15-20 minute video narrated by Adam Hamilton and then discuss it. (Although not necessary for the discussion, the book is available on Amazon.). **November 25, December 2, 9, 16, and 23 at 5:30 pm** in the Narthex The soup,

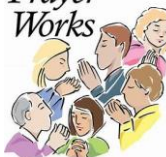
bread, and cookies will be provided.



COOKIE WALK Following our Christmas Pageant, on December 15, we are excited to announce that we will have our Cookie Walk! Cookies will be \$5 a bag and you can pay by cash, credit card or Venmo. We need many people to make cookies in order for this to be a success!! For more information contact the office at 203.248.4654.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will be held at 5:30 pm on December 24th.

*Prayer
Works*



SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS should be called or e-mailed to Nancy Estes at 203.248.4654 or secretary.hpumc@gmail.com or Holly O'Brien (203) 288-4252/ hollyobrien@snet.net

THIS WEEKS PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray without ceasing: give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:17-19

Sara Stafford, recovering at home
Baby Leah, request from Brenda Pineau
Pam Gripper
Charlotte Sroka
Lois Hartsoe, heart issues

Holly Wesman, partner of Karen Sroka, cancer

Home Bound/ Rehab

Mary Bales, 33 Woodruff Street, #113, Hamden, 06518
 Lois Hartsoe, 7310 Ashlar Village, Wallingford, 06492
 Pat Leno, 850 Mix Avenue, Hamden, 06514
 Claudette and Jimmy Morrison, 112 East Gate Lane, Hamden, 06514
 Carmine Raccio, 15 Sunrise Cove Road, Branford, 06405
 Marianne Reynolds, 520 Pool Rd. Apt. 424, North Haven, 06473
 Rosemary Shaw, 345 Fountain Street, Apt. 202, New Haven, 06515
 Frank Teodosio, 330 Amity Rd., Woodbridge, 06525



BIRTHDAY'S: Asher Joseph 12/15, Lynford Russell 12/15,
 Holly O'Brien 12/16, Rev. Cleaven Johnson Jr. 12/22

WAYS TO BE IN MINISTRY AND MISSION:

- Host Fellowship Hour
- Bring your "Cans for the Congo" during office hours or on Sundays.
- Drop off food for the Hamden Food Bank.
- Cook and/or serve for "Dinner for a Dollar" (take-out only). To sign up, contact Marty Hartog at 203.506.9788 or hartogm1@southernct.edu
- Check in by phone or send a note to someone home-bound or elderly.
- Continue to mail in your tithes and offerings.
- Donate used books to our Little Free Library
- Donate used printer ink cartridges
- Stay abreast of developments by reading your e-mail or checking the website.
- Read the upcoming Sunday scriptures as an act of spiritual formation
- Become a reporter for *The Messenger*

For information about these ministries, contact Nancy Estes at 203.248.4654/
secretary.hpumc@gmail.com or Holly O'Brien (203) 288-4252/ hollyobrien@snet.net



CONNECTIONAL BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP: Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Watch for the email sent on Tuesday with the outline for Bible Study.

CHOIR REHEARSAL: WEDNESDAYS 7:00 p.m. If you would like more information about joining choir or being a song leader, please contact Dunn Pearson (dunnpearson@gmail.com) for more information. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.



All are invited to *Dinner for a Dollar* each Saturday, 6 – 7 p.m. take-out only through the Church Street doors.

Worship Assistants

	TODAY December 15, 2024	Next Week, December 22, 2024
Liturgist	Carole Outlaw	Shelly Jones
Greeter	Holly O'Brien	Megan Malanson
Ushers	Randi Harrell	Sandra Wade
Fellowship Time	Cookie Walk	Nancy Estes
Counters	Marty Hartog Kirby Stafford	Lynn Brantley Randi Harrell

December 8: ATTENDANCE: In-person: 46 OFFERING: \$3,186
THANKSGIVING: \$50

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF December 15, 2024			
Sunday	December 15	Worship	10:15 am
		Cookie Walk	Following worship
Monday	December 16	Advent Study	5:30 pm
Tuesday	December 17	Bible Study	6:30 pm
		Via Zoom	
Wednesday	December 18	Prayer Group	11:00 am
		Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm
Saturday	December 21	Dinner for a Dollar	6:00 pm
Sunday	December 22	Worship	10:15 am
		Fellowship Time	Following worship

www.hamdenplainsumc.com
<https://www.facebook.com/HamdenPlainsUMC/>

The YouTube channel address:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxwHc1E3_YK4W1nHICT5iAA
or <https://tinyurl.com/t9q8gw6>

Worship at 10:15 a.m. Sundays

Minister: All Congregation Members

Rev. Cleaven Johnson, Jr., Pastor, PastorCleave.hpumc@gmail.com

Dunn Pearson, Musician Ministry, dunnpearson@gmail.com

Nancy Estes, Parish Secretary, secretary.hpumc@gmail.com

Derrick Pommills, Property Manager, pommillsfacilityservices@gmail.com



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

December 22, 2024

6 ½ in pots \$12 each

Red _____ White _____

Pink _____ Marble _____

Your Name: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

All orders must be paid to Nancy Estes by December 15th

(Please make check payable to **Nancy Estes**, place in offering plate,
drop off in office or mail to: 15 Church St, Hamden CT 06514)