



The Messenger

Hamden Plains United Methodist Church
15 Church St., Hamden, CT 06514
203-248-4654

www.hamdenplainsumc.com www.facebook.com/HamdenPlainsUMC/
YouTube : <https://tinyurl.com/t9q8gw6>



Spiritual Sojourns

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.

Happy New Year to everyone! As we are in the year 2025, let us expect the newness of the many graces of God. We will be going through storms and uncertain weather. However, we all should realize in just a little while the storms will be over, and there will be the blossom of the newness of Spring. If we could only embrace our faith in the exact same way. Yes, we will experience the storms in our lives, but we know a brighter day is coming.

In this New Year we will all need to be closer to God. We need His mercy to keep and cover us from all hurt, harm and danger. Lamentations 3:22-23 says "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." As the song writer that wrote "great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness, morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand has provided. Great is thy faithfulness Lord unto to me!"

- Sunday Worship Service 10:15 am
- Office Hours
9:30am - 12:15pm
Tuesday, - Friday

This is the reason why we come to church. We come to church to worship and to praise God, and His Son Jesus for protecting us, providing for us and placing us in the bosom of His love. We should come to church with great expectation in this new year of 2025. If we believe, we shall receive.

I possess the notion that when praises go up blessing come down. So, I believe that when you give God your best, you will get God's attention. I believe that we must always give God our best, because He gave us His best when He sent Jesus to earth for the remission of our sins. We have all been brought and paid for with a price. That price was the blood of Jesus that was shed a Calvary.

STAFF
Rev. Cleaven Johnson Jr.
Pastor
Dunn Pearson
Music Minister
Nancy Estes
Secretary
Derrick Pommills
Property Manager

So, in the year 2025 let us come to church, and to believe that God has a blessing for each and every one of us with our names on it. It is a blessing that we won't have room enough to receive.

May God bless you and enrich you in the year 2025. Happy New Year!!

Pastor Cleave (PC)



**Hamden Plains United Methodist Church, Hamden,
Connecticut**

Sunday worship: 10:15 a.m.:

Rev. Cleaven Johnson, Jr., preaching

Services will be available at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxwHc1E3YK4W1nHICT5iAA>

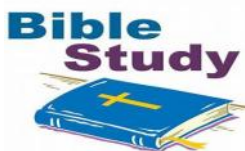
or <https://tinyurl.com/t9q8gw6>

with thanks to Dunn Pearson, Producer



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

If you are interested in joining
HPUMC please contact the Office
at 203.248.4654 or
secretary.hpumc@gmail.com



BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP

Meets every Tuesday, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. VIA ZOOM

Link will be email each Tuesday afternoon.

ALL are welcome.

**Upcoming
Events**



January meeting schedule:

Each Wednesday, 11 a.m., Prayer Team

Each Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday's 6:30 Bible Study Via Zoom

**Thursday 1/2/24 SPRC 8:00 pm (closed meeting)
via Zoom**

Thursday 1/9/24 Admin/Trustees 7:00 pm via Zoom



HAPPY BIRTHDAY PASTOR CLEAVE

On December 22nd we celebrated Pastor Cleave's Birthday with a cake during Fellowship Time.

We sang Happy Birthday during service and he cut his cake for all to share during Fellowship Time.



YOUTH BIBLE STUDY



**Tuesday Evening
in the Narthex
7:30-8:30 pm**

For more information see Perjah Delgado.



Please send in special achievements so we may acknowledge those who have excelled above and beyond.

Also if you would like prayers for anyone drop us a note with their name and reason for the prayer.

Send both to: secretary.hpumc@gmail.com





Thank you to everyone who took a tag for our Adopt a Family.
Again this year all tags were taken and returned.

Our stockings were stuffed by our Church Elves. They had crayons, popcorn balls
And TY Beanie Babies just to name a few.



Christmas Pageant

Our young Adults took charge of this year's Christmas Pageant.

Under the direction of
Perjah Delgado and our Music Director Dunn Pearson
they brought us to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus.

Ed Zorian reprised his role of the Angel Gabriel, who brought the
news to Mary, played by Mariah Brantley,
that she would have a son and name him Jesus.

Joseph was played by Godson Nartey.

New Praise song selections.

Another great rendition of a classic Christmas Pageant.



**Our annual Cookie walk was a great success. We raised over \$200.
Thank you to everyone who baked cookies and everyone who purchase bags at \$5 each.**



DECORATING THE TREE

As is tradition, we decorated our tree in the sanctuary. Everyone came forward and hung an ornament on our NEW tree donated by the Book of Remembrance



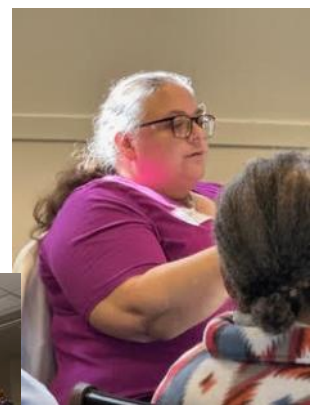


WOMEN'S RETREAT (From October)



We could not have had a more **beautiful** day for our **Beautiful Feet** retreat at Mercy by the Sea in Madison. We began with fellowship and breakfast and then went right to the first of the retreat's two morning sessions. For our lunch, we enjoyed Mercy's "Make a Fajita Day," with all its fixins', salad, and apple empanadas for dessert. We followed this **beautiful** lunch with time spent outside on Mercy's **beautiful** grounds and beach. We finished the day with another two sessions led by Heather O'Brien and Megan Malanson. It was my greatest joy to share the leadership of this retreat with my two **beautiful** daughters! The retreat's theme was perfectly suited to us, for we are **beautiful** women of Hamden Plains UMC—both inside and out!

Submitted by Holly O'Brien





The Second Wednesday

DATE: The second Wednesday of each month

TIME: 1:00 pm

PLACE: Hamden Plains UMC Prayer Room

DECEMBER



The December meeting of Women's Group turned out to be a Surprise Party for Holly O'Brien.

There was Pizza and Wings, salad, along with Cake and ice cream .

Holly was very surprised.





HAMDEN PLAINS UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH



HEALTH CHECK- UP DAY!

*Get Your Blood Pressure, Pulse, and Oxygen
Saturation Levels Checked!
Quick, Painless Procedures!*

Last Sunday of each Month

Time: After church service ends

Location: Prayer Room

Cost: FREE!

*Why Check? It is wise to know your
numbers.*

*Bring your friends and family—everyone is
welcome!*

*For more information, contact:
Brenda Pineau & Louise Pruchnicki*



Pneumococcal Pneumonia

Hi dear friends and fellow Christians,
How are you all ?

I wanted this month to share some info
on Pneumococcal Pneumonia. This
illness can come on quickly and be
extremely serious warranting immedi-
ate care by a doctor. This is not a cold
or the flu. It is an infectious and bacteri-
al lung disease. It can spread thru
coughing or close contact.

Symptoms may hit quickly and without
warning. It may last for weeks and put
you in the hospital and even be life
threatening.

A vaccination may protect you. The
CDC recommends a vaccine for those
older than 18 who have asthma, dia-
betes, or chronic heart disease. It is
also recommended for those of us
who are 65 or older even if we con-
sider ourselves healthy.

Symptoms of pneumococcal pneumo-
nia may include:

- 1) high fever up to 105
- 2) excessive sweating
- 3) shaking chills
- 4) chest pain
- 5) difficulty breathing
- 6) cough with phlegm that persists or
gets worse

If symptoms described above happen
to you please consult your doctor im-
mediately.

Thinking and praying for all. I remain,
Brenda Pineau R. N.



If your health is compromised or you are in an at-risk group, please continue to enjoy our on-line worship option. We print the following in each Thursday's message field when we email the weekly bulletin and notices, to ease access for our members and friends.

Recording on HPUMC YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxwHc1E3_YK4W1nHICT5iAA or <https://tinyurl.com/t9q8gw6>
(Sunday service recording will be posted as early as Sunday at 7:00pm or late as Monday at 7:00pm)

Contact George Joseph at dgjoseph.home@gmail.com or 203.675.3595 if you need help.

SIGN UP TO SERVE



You can now sign up as a cook or server for "Dinner for a \$" using Signup.com. Just click the link or copy into your address bar to volunteer to help at dinner for a dollar. We will send you a reminder of your commitment the week before you are to serve. Help feed families here in the Hamden Community through this important ministry!!

<https://signup.com/go/LpLESwA>



"A picture is worth a thousand words." Thank you to everyone who has sent me photos from our worship services and special events. They are such a beautiful and powerful testament to all that is going on at Hamden Plains UMC, we will be using them for the website, bulletin boards, and more. I welcome all photos, so if anyone has some to be included in our HPUMC Photo Ministry, please send them to Nancy Estes at secretary.hpumc@gmail.com.

REPORTERS FOR THE MESSENGER:



We are actively searching for reporters for our monthly Messenger at HPUMC. Their duties consist of reporting and interviewing community leaders, Pastor J and other members of our church, while writing articles on events and happenings throughout the year. These persons will work closely with our Editor and chief Nancy Estes completing articles before monthly deadlines and submitting pictures for editorial. If you are interested please contact Pastor J or Nancy Estes.

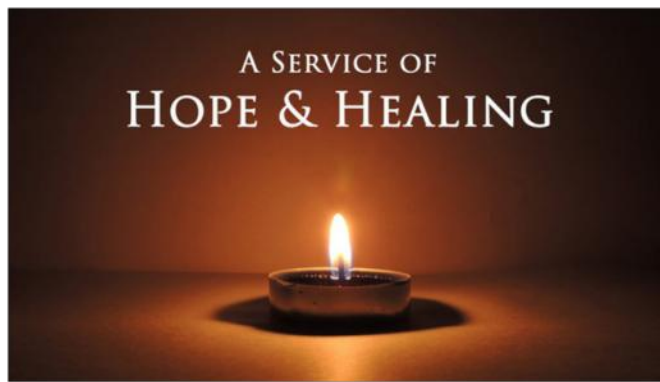


Fellowship Time : Sign-up sheets for HPUMC Fellowship Hour 2024 are now on the doors in the narthex Coffee Corner. Thanks so much for your help in making our Fellowship Hours welcoming for both members and guests.



We have entered into a new way of contributing your tithes and offerings

You can now give right through an app on your phone or by scanning the QR code on the right. We will then notify you we received your contribution.
www.venmo.com/HamdenPlains-UMC
Any questions please call the office at 203.248.4654



Shoreline/Havens Cooperative Parish Healing Prayer Services
The Rev Cindy Dodd, retired UM Elder, will be offering intercessory prayer services at 3 churches within our Cooperative Parish.

All are welcome.

4th Wednesday of Every Month

1:00pm

HPUMC Prayer Room

All are invited to join the Prayer Team for lunch at 12:00pm

1st Tuesday of each month, 7pm, at 1st and Wesley UMC, 89 Center Street, West Haven

2nd Wednesday of each month, 1pm Branford UMC, 811 E Main Street, Branford

4th Wednesday of each month, 1pm Hamden Plains UMC, 15 Church Street, Hamden

The HPUMC Prayer Team meets every Wednesday from 11:00am - 12pm

All are welcome to join us.



Our **Prayer Team** meets in its established time: **Wednesdays, 11 a.m. – Noon**, in the Prayer Room (Nursery). If you are interested in participating, just come! If you want to know more, contact Holly O'Brien at 203.506.4822 or hollyobrien@snet.net.



WORSHIP ASSISTANT HELPERS NEEDED

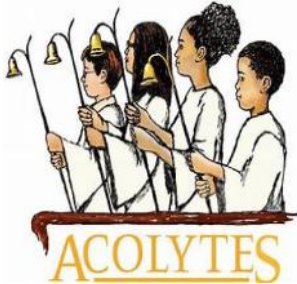


Liturgists assist the Pastor by reading scripture and leading some prayers. We welcome new liturgists! If interested please contact Megan Malanson (203.535.5569 or megmalanson@yahoo.com)



WE ARE LOOKING FOR GREETERS: Greeters arrive early and welcome our congregation to Church. If you and/or your family are interested please contact the office at 203.248.4654 or secretary.hpumc@gmail.com

ACOLYTE AND CRUCIFER



Acolytes light the candles at the beginning of worship and extinguish them before brining the light out of the sanctuary, symbolic of taking Christ's light to the world. Youth younger than 8th grade typically perform this service.

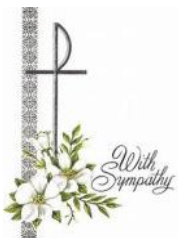


Crucifers carry the cross in and out of our worship. Youth (8th grade and up) or adults may serve. If interested please contact the office at 203.248.4654 or secretary.hpumc@gmail.com



May God comfort all.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY To Alfreda Piggott , Shirley Connor & family on the passing of Their brother Ricky Johnson, 67, on Wednesday December 19. Condolences may be sent to Ms. Alfreda Piggott, 694 Circular Ave., Hamden, CT 06514 and Shirley Connor 124 Promenade Dr., Hamden, CT 06514 Please keep Ricky's family in your prayers.





CHURCH NEWS



Cans for Congo:

We want to send a thank you to those of you who have been donating their cans and bottles or receipts from recycling cans and

bottles for the Congo Mission to Mulungwishi Seminary. Please continue to bring in your receipts or cans to support this mission. The collection boxes for receipts and cans are located in the hall outside the offices.

TO DONATE ALTAR



FLOWERS please contact Nancy Estes at 203.248.4654 (Tues.-Fri. mornings)

You may purchase flowers and bring them before Sunday services or donate \$30. Please make check payable to "HPUMC" memoed "altar flowers" or cash,. Wording may be "in honor of" or "in memory of" and will be listed in the bulletin. You may take the flowers or leave them to be delivered to our home-bound members. Your color preference requests, if any, should be placed with Nancy Estes when ordering. Sign-up on the Flower Chart on the bulletin board out side of the office. Thank you to all who participate in beautifying our altar.

HAMDEN FOOD BANK



always needs your support and contributions to help Hamden residents who are in need. The items that we need are non-perishable foods and basic necessities, such as, soap, toilet paper, tooth paste, tooth brushes, and diapers. Your generous support will be greatly appreciated.

"Dinner for a Dollar"



serves take-out only from 6 – 7 p.m. following Quinnipiac Valley Health District guidelines. Cooking teams work 3 – 5:30 p.m.; serving teams serve 5:30 – 8 p.m. Meals are "to go" only. To assist **ANY Saturday** contact Marty Hartog at 203.506.9788 or hartogm1@southernct.edu



INK CARTRIDGE RECYCLE PROGRAM

OUR INK CARTRIDGE RECYCLE PROGRAM will gain us credit toward church office supplies. Please bring them during office hours, Tues. – Fri. 9:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., leave them in a bag outside the parking lot door at your convenience, or bring them to Sunday worship.



Thank you for dropping off your used cartridges!!

The "February" Messenger" deadline is

Sunday, January 19th

(always the third Sunday of the preceding month).

NO ARTICLES ACCEPTED AFTER DEADLINE!



Please submit articles electronically (preferred) to secretary.hpumc@gmail.com or hard copy to Nancy at the church office (Tuesday through Friday 9 :15 am – 12:15 pm) or by USPS at

15 Church Street, Hamden, CT 06514



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please let the office or Pastor know if prayers are needed

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

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

- Robert Pilletere
- Charlotte Sroka
- Pam Gripper
- Lois Hartsoe, heart issues
- Holly Wesman, partner of Karen Sroka, cancer

Please pray for our Church daily



PLEASE CONSIDER SENDING A NOTE to any of the folks below who either live alone, have care needs, or both. **This is the updated list.** Megan Malanson is tracking these contacts. If you make one and would like to report that to Megan, please reach her at megmalanson@yahoo.com. If there is someone you think should be contacted by the pastor, please notify him at pastorjj.hpumc@gmail.com.



ADDRESSES FOR PEOPLE LIVING ALONE OR WITH CARE NEEDS:

(Some opted not to be on this list: please contact Pastor with corrections.)

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

Please keep those serving in the military in your prayers



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Sundays	10:00 am– 12:00 pm	Preaching Healing Presbyterian Church Korean speaking
	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Iglesias Christiana– Spanish Church
Mondays	6:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Living Water Bible Study
Tuesdays	7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Hispanic AA
Wednesday	6:30 pm—8:30 pm	Spanish Church Bible Study
Thursdays	7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Men’s AA
	7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Hispanic AA
4th Saturday	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	AA Spanish Speaking D-10 A-11
Various Days/Times		Daniel Cohen

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Liturgist	Kersten Moore	Louise Pruchnicki	Megan Malanson	Holly O’Brien
Usher	Megan Malanson	Derrick Pommills	Ed Zorian	Carole Outlaw
Fellowship Time	Louise Pruchnicki	Brantley	Sandra Wade	Shelly Jones
Counters	Marty Hartog Kirby Stafford	Lynn Brantley Randi Harrell	Terri Bennett Kersten Moore	Marty Hartog Kirby Stafford



- 4th Jake Carmine Affie
- 4th John Sroka
- 6th Kayla Johnson
- 9th Angelia Mae Welch
- 10th Maria Keller
- 13th Lisa Collins
- 14th Mahalia Keller
- 16th Wray Williams
- 17th Daniel Fleck
- 17th Jesse Wotton
- 22nd Ramon Delgado Jr
- 24th Edward Zorian
- 26th Marcus Brantley





January



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2 SPRC 8 pm	3	4 Dinner for a Dollar 6 - 7pm
5 10:15 am Worship	6	7 Bible Study 6:30 pm	8 Prayer Team 11 am Women's Group Noon	9 Admin Team 7 pm	10	11 Dinner for a Dollar 6 - 7pm
12 10:15 am Worship	13	14 Bible Study 6:30 pm	15 Prayer Team 11 am	16	17	18 Dinner for a Dollar 6 - 7pm
19 Messenger Deadline 10:15 am Worship	20	21 Bible Study 6:30 pm	22 Prayer Team 11 am Hope & Healing Prayer 1:00 pm	23	24	25 Dinner for a Dollar 6 - 7pm
26 10:15 am Worship	27	28 Bible Study 6:30 pm	29 Prayer Team 11 am	30	31	



**Messenger
2025**

Welcome January

January is a time of quiet and new beginnings - is the perfect time to reflect on how you want to live your life.

January is the perfect time to refocus on your priorities and set goals.

Think Positive Words