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WELCOME TO SUNDAY WORSHIP!

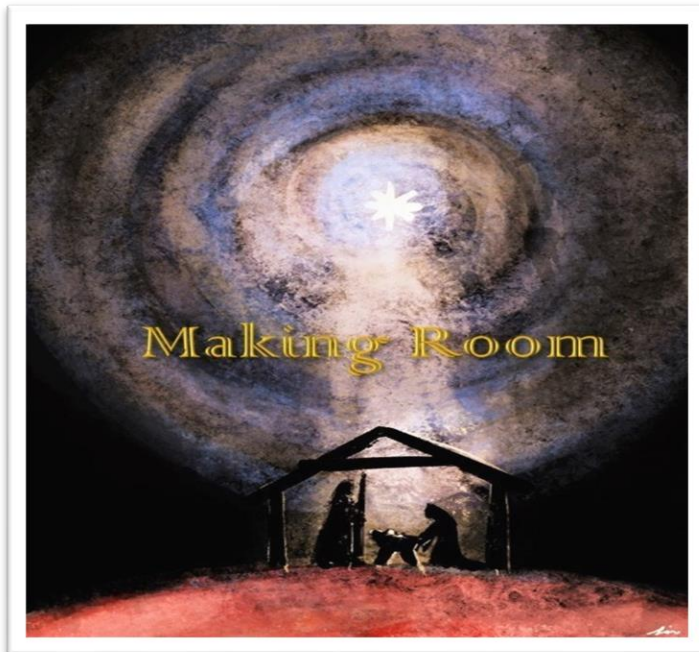
Succasunna United Methodist Church is a caring fellowship called to love and serve according to Jesus' example, welcome all people, worship God and grow as Christian disciples.

LOVE. SERVE. GROW.

DECEMBER 4, 2022 - 11 AM
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THEME 2022

"And Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." (Mark 16:15)



Please stand during the places marked by an asterisk () if you are able.
Words in bold type are spoken by the people together.*

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marge Peletier

PRELUDE

Audrey Schultz

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Roberta Haag

Leader: For many of us, the call to head home is one of joy and of hope. We can't wait to reconnect with family, with history and tradition, with a wonderful time of freedom and loving support. We can't wait to go home. There are those who fear going home, however, and there are times when going home brings back memories that are not so good, not so healing. We are reminded of when we didn't fit in, when we didn't measure up, when we weren't loved like we needed to be loved. Home can be a difficult place for some.

People: The prophet Malachi tells us that even when we are in the hottest of fires, there is a presence who can make us better, who can refine and purify. John the Baptist tells us that the road home is always under construction, mountains leveled, and valleys filled in, to make smooth the path that leads us to our true destination, where we can live in peace and unity with all.

Light the second candle on the Advent wreath

Leader: Today we light the candle of peace, as a sign of our assurance that though the road is hard, we believe it is worth the journey. It is time to go home. *(Let us pray together).*

Dear God, thank you for your son, Jesus. Thank you for those in our world today who seek to act for peace. Help us look for ways to be peacemakers at home, at church, and at school. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

FWS #2232

UMH refers to the blue United Methodist Hymnal.

FWS refers to The Faith We Sing, the black paperback books.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Together

Lord, hear us this day as we open our hearts and our spirits to you. These times in which we live are often confusing and fearful. We are pushed to make preparations for a season which is supposed to bring hope and peace; yet we crowd it with obligations and stresses and shut the door to your healing love and compassion. We find ourselves being on edge, fretful, wondering if we have done enough, can do enough. You answer our fears with your voice, "Peace, be still". Help us to hear you. Slow us down. Encourage us to take some time to listen rather than shout, to stop and rest rather than run. Cause us to look around at situations and people who are in need and to make room for them. For it is in helping your people and reaching out in love that we will find true peace. These things we pray, in Jesus' name. AMEN.

(Adapted from www.ministrymatters.com)

SILENT CONFESSION

Marge Peletier

Let us prayerfully offer our silent confessions to God, trusting in God's grace and mercy to forgive and heal.

RESPONSIVE WORDS OF ASSURANCE & THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Jesus said, "I am bringing you peace, not the kind of peace the world would give to you. My peace I give to you, now and forever." Be at peace. Know God's love is given for you. AMEN. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven. **In the name of Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.**

As forgiven and reconciled people of God let us stand and show signs of peace to one another. May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 20:22-24

Marge Peletier

This is the word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

HYMN

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

UMH #626

*GOSPEL READING

Luke 10:27

Marge Peletier

This is Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Light a Candle"

Chancel Choir

SERMON

"Being a Stranger in Foreign Lands"

Fred W. Curry Jr.

President/Director of Rice & Beans Ministry

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

In the United Methodist Church, the Lord's Table is open: all believers, including young children, are welcome to receive. We use grape juice rather than wine in the sacrament. Communion is by intinction, which means that you will receive a piece of bread to dip in the cup. Please come forward at the direction of the usher and return to your seats by the side aisle. If you can't come forward, let the usher know and we'll come to you. Offerings left in the plates at the side aisles help the poor in our community.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SUNG COMMUNION RESPONSES:**The Sanctus****FWS #2257-b**

Words: Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation**FWS #2257-c**

Words: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

The Great Amen

FWS #2257-d

Words: Amen, amen, amen. Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor Stephen

God of all, you fill the hungry with good things and send the self-satisfied away empty. In this meal you have filled us with the word and the bread of life of your Son Jesus Christ. Make us hunger now for his coming in the hearts and the homes of all. Fill us with his spirit of service and self-giving love, that through us, he may become nearer to people. Amen.

(Based on Luke 1)

*HYMN

"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"

UMH #569

*BENEDICTION

Fred W. Curry Jr.

*POSTLUDE

Audrey Schultz

*The flowers today are given by Linda Diffley
in memory of loved ones.*



Acts 20:22-24

²² “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. ²³ I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. ²⁴ However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

Luke 10:27

²⁷ He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself.

Scriptures for Daily Reflection

Monday, December 5 : Psalm 21; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Tuesday, December 6: : Psalm 21; Romans 15:14-21

Wednesday, December 7: Psalm 21; Matthew 12:33-37

Thursday, December 8: Psalm 146:5-10; 2 Peter 3:1-10

Friday, December 9: Psalm 146:5-10; 2 Peter 3:11-18

Saturday, December 10: : Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 3:1-18

This Week at Church

	12/4/2022	12/11/2022
Liturgist	Marge Peletier	Michelle Priester
Hospitality	Hospitality Team	Hospitality Team
Fellowship	CCM Team – Christmas card signing	Marge Peletier & Barbara Miller – Hospitality Team
	Meetings & Events	Times
Monday 12/5	Office Closed Prayer Shawl NA Meeting – Fellowship Hall	2:00 pm 7:00 pm
Tuesday 12/6	Thrift Shop open for donations	8:00 am – 11:00 am
Wednesday 12/7	Thrift Shop open for shopping Praise Band Rehearsal Advent Study – FH & Zoom	9:30 am – 11:45 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm
Thursday 12/8	Digital Ministry Meeting Boy Scouts – FH Youth & Chancel Choir Rehearsal	1:30 pm 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Friday 12/9	Youth Group Meeting & Christmas Party	TBD
Saturday 12/10	Men's Study	7:00am – 9:00 am

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SuccasunnaUMC
Church Website: www.sumcnj.org

Sunday Schedule:

9am Contemporary Worship Service
10am Fellowship Hour & Sunday School
11am Traditional Worship Service

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY - Wednesdays, Dec. 7, 14 & 21 at 7:00 pm

Join us for an Advent Bible Study, based on the book by Dr. Robb, "Making Room: Sharing the Love of Christmas". You can participate in any of the remaining sessions. All are welcome!

GIVING TREE - thru December 11

We are participating in providing presents for 12 families in Roxbury supporting Roxbury Social Services. The Giving Tree is in the sanctuary and presents are due Dec. 11. Please let Janet Fischlein or Elena Case know that you've taken a tag off the tree.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST - The houses were voted for during Home for the Holiday's, and the winner will be announced today!

THRIFT SHOP HOLIDAY BAZAAR - going on now thru December 21.

The Thrift Shop holiday bazaar is going on now and will continue through Wednesday, December 21. Stop in on Wednesdays from 9:30 am - 11:45am and see the incredible selection of gifts and decorations they have for sale.

CITY RELIEF WINTER COAT COLLECTION - until Sunday, December 18

The Missions team is collecting winter coats for our Missions partner City Relief which will ultimately be distributed to Outreach locations in Newark, Paterson, and New York City. The coats can be used but in good shape, clean and working properly (no broken zippers or missing buttons). Please drop off any donations in the Wesley Sunday School room or in the blue plastic bin at the back of the church. The deadline for donations is Sunday, December 18th.

MITTEN TREE - until January 8

The Social Justice Ministry Team is handling the Mitten Tree this year. The tree will remain up until January 8th and will support the homeless in our community.

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM - An Advent event, Sunday, December 11, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

All ages are welcome to join us for this fun event that will take us through stations with hands-on activities, games, and stories that share the wonder of Jesus' birth and build the faith of all ages.

PLEDGE CARD

Thank you for your continued support of our missions and ministries! Please remember to complete your "Estimate of Giving" cards and place in the offering box or mail them to the office. Please know that all cards remain confidential.

CUMAC MISSION - thru December

We will be continuing to collect dry pasta and canned (not glass) spaghetti sauce. If you would prefer to provide a monetary donation instead for those items, your donation would be appreciated. Please mark 'CUMAC' on any donations for them provided to the church. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Diffley, Missions Chairperson.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARD

If you send out Christmas cards with a family photo on it, we'd love to have one to include in our Christmas Eve worship services. Please send it to the church office.

PATHWAYS SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to complete the Pathways Survey that will be sent out again after service.

SUMC STAFF

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Angie Stierch, Praise Band Leader

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