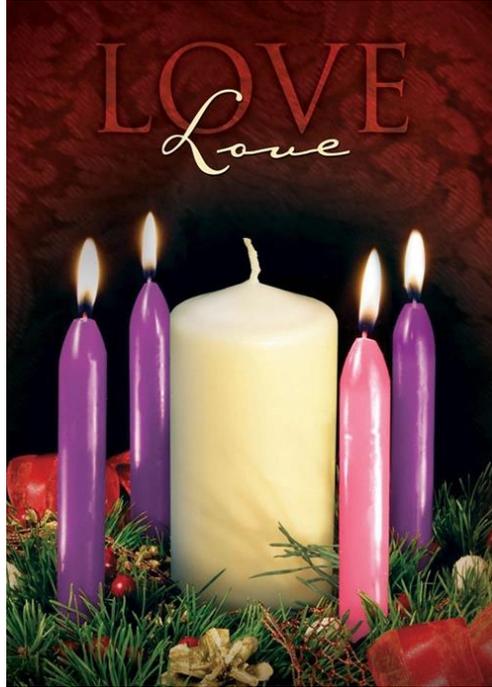


The United First Presbyterian Church
of Amwell at Larison's Corner



The Reverend Courtney B. Cromie, Pastor

PO Box 348, Ringoes, New Jersey 08551
908-788-2722
Email: pastorcourtney@larisonscorner.org
www.larisonscorner.org

**SUNDAY WORSHIP DECEMBER 19, 2021 11:00 AM
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

GREETING AND WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come seeking a deeper faith, a place to belong, the feeling that God is here in this room.

People: We come seeking joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit, a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.

Leader: We come seeking the freedom to be, the courage to love, the conviction to act in the face of injustice.

People: We come seeking, but here in this space We are found by our God above.

Leader: In this sanctuary space, God comes to us in Emmanuel.

All: Let us Worship God!

ADVENT CANDLE READING

HYMN O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold him, born the King of angels. O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

God from true God, and Light from Light eternal, born of a virgin, to earth he comes! Only-begotten Son of God the Father: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*) Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you. In this Advent time, forgive our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI 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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS / WAVING THE PEACE

A TIME FOR THOSE WHO ARE YOUNG

HYMN Away in The Manger

Away in a manger No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus Laid down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing The Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus No crying He makes I love You,
Lord Jesus Look down from the sky And stay by my side
Until morning is nigh

Be near me, Lord Jesus I ask You to stay
Close by me forever And love me I pray
Bless all the dear children In Your tender care
And fit us for heaven To live with You there

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING Micah 5:2-5a

2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. 4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; 5 and he shall be the one of peace.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE Luke 1:26-38 26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born[d] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

MARY'S SONG OF PRAISE - Luke 1:46-55

MEDITATION – “Love Came Down at Christmas”

HYMN – O Holy Night

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees Oh hear the angel voices
Oh night divine Oh night when Christ was born
Oh night divine Oh night divine

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here come the wise men from Orient land
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our friend

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY - Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Upcoming Birthdays/Anniversaries: Last week - John Chiesa, December 16; Vincent Tyrburski, December 21; Makena Stinson, December 23; Lysa Reiter, December 27; Claus Jorgensen, December 28

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

HYMN O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray, cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - A Declaration of Faith

We affirm that Jesus was born of a woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God and human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended

HYMN – Silent Night

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight. Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP INSIDE every Sunday at 11 AM! - Worship is live-streamed on Facebook at 11 AM; Recordings of worship available at a later date.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY Christmas Cookie Sale by The Dozen at The Everitt Farm The Annual Corner Club Christmas Cookie Sale is at The Everitt Farm Shop next to the Christmas Tree Sale. A dozen of the same cookie can be bought for \$7

Per Capita – In support of our Presbytery, NE Synod Staff & Mission, and The General Assembly Staff & Mission, our church is asked submit “dues/or per capita” equal to \$34.50 per member. Please mark it for Per Capita *There is a category in Tithely for Per Capita*

Wednesday, December 22nd 5 PM Help Needed at the Everitt Farm. Folks will gather to help set-up for the Worship on The Farm/Live Nativity. For more info, see Kathy Kovacs or Barri-Lynn Everitt.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship: 6:15 – 7:00 PM An indoor Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24th inside our church. Come join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Larison’s Corner Christmas Eve Service on The Farm, 8 – 8:30 PM – (The Everitt Farm, 258 County Road 579, Ringoes, NJ 08551) A Live Nativity, a Telling of the Christmas Story, a Mini Sermon, Singing of Carols, Apple Cider, Cookies, etc.

Share Your Resources to Support the Ministry of Larison’s Corner –As we buy others gifts to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us remember the wise men who brought gifts fit for a king to lay at Jesus’ feet. May we also lay our finest gifts before our Lord for the work and ministry of Larison’s Corner. Ways to Give: 1. Leave a gift in **the worship offering** via cash or check; 2. **Mail in a gift** via check to Larison’s Corner Church, PO Box 348, Ringoes, NJ 08551; 3. Give Online through “Tithely” You can make an online gift, by visiting our website link at:

<https://larisonscorner.org/contributions/>. You may also give on Facebook in our “about” section or by clicking here: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=4558529> - Once you are in Tithely, you can set up a one-time gift, ongoing gifts, or a special gift. **Give today by using your camera on your cell phone over the image to the right and following the link to make your donation.*



Session

(Session meetings are the second Tuesday at 7:30 pm)

Class of 2021

Betty Jane Biache
Ruth Chiesa

Class of 2022

Dianne Fleming

Class of 2023

Lysa Reiter
Lois Riggs
Charlie Rogers

Other Ordained Elders

Donna DeVico

Arlene Knaub

Jodi Reed

Judy Grignon

Marlene Lambert

Bill Heilman

Paula Melbourn

Board of Trustees

(Board of Trustees meets the first Tuesday at 7:30 pm)

Class of 2021

Kyle Bond

Class of 2022

John Chiesa

David Everitt

Class of 2023

Bill Kurylo

Treacy Weeks

Corner Club

President - Lois Riggs / Vice President – Kathy Kovacs

Secretary - Ruth Chiesa / Treasurer - Barri-Lynn Everitt

The Reverend Courtney B. Cromie, Stated-Supply Part-Time Pastor

Luke Kirby, Treasurer / **Deborah Kacerek-Cooley**, Assistant Treasurer

Lois Riggs, Clerk of Session

Sue Mannino, Organist Emeritus