

**Please stand, as able*

PRELUDE *Medley of Carols*

For your prayer concerns, please use the forms inserted in your bulletin. The ushers will collect them during the first hymn to be included in our Morning Prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: By the word of God the heavens were made.

People: **By the spirit of God life was begun.**

Leader: By the wisdom of God we find direction.

People: **By the love of God Jesus was born.**

Leader: We gather this day to thank God for all these gifts.

People: **Thanks be to our Eternal Loving God.**

***HYMN #201** *“O Come, O Come, Emanuel”*

MORNING PRAYER

Here we are, O God, at the brink of Christmas Day, praying that our Advent has opened us to the point of receiving the gift of Christ more fully than ever. Allow your Word to move us from any darkness into the light of your love. Speak to us of peace that we may be peacemakers. Speak to us of love that we may find ways to love all you have called into being. Speak to us of service that we may serve the world. Speak to us of Jesus that he might direct us and that we may follow.

As we ask these things we do so aware of the many ways you have spoken and we have not listened. We have not always been peaceful or loving. We have often sought to be served rather than serving. We have excluded rather than included those you love. We are far from what you intend for us to be. Forgive us, we pray, and in that forgiveness cause us to be more faithful to your Word.

Speak, Eternal Love to our hearts and spirits that as Christmas comes once again, your Word may be embraced and we may find the joy and peace that passes our human understanding.

Hear these prayers and hear us as we remember those that are near and dear to us. (After each request is read, the response is 'God of love, hear our prayer')

We ask these things in the name of Jesus who taught his disciples to pray: **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**

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

HYMN #2090 (TFWS) *“Light the Advent Candle”* (vs 4)

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

ANTHEM *“Do Not Be Afraid”* L. Larson

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-12; John 1:1-14

SERMON *“Children of the Stars”* Rev. Stinson

PRAYER

HYMN #2095 (TFWS) *“Star-Child”*

OFFERING *“Prepare the Way”* L. Larson

DOXOLOGY

***HYMN #2196 (TFWS)** *“We Walk by Faith”*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *“God Rest You Merry Gentlemen”* Traditional



Welcome to Jesse Lee Church:

Find hope, joy, peace and the love of God here.

Front Door Wreaths are given by an **Anonymous Donor.**

Advent Candles were donated by the **Jaffe Family.**

Ushers: Jim Riling, Brian Sideleau

Scripture Reader: Marnye Hull

FOLLOWING WORSHIP:

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend Coffee Hour and join in fellowship and a Christmas Carol sing-a-long.

Save these Dates:

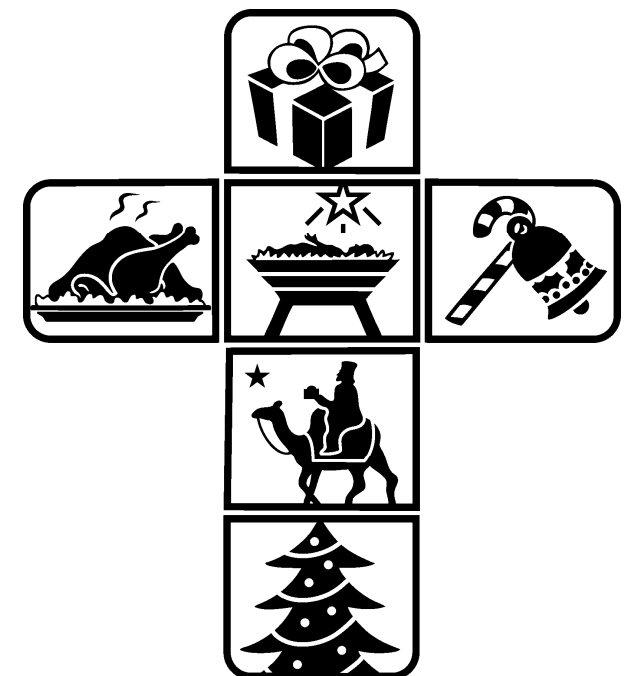
TODAY - 11:30 AM Christmas Sing-a-long - Bennett Hall

TODAY - 11:30 AM - Poinsettia Sale

December 24 - 6:30 PM - Piano & Organ Selections

December 24 - 7 PM - Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service

To benefit our coffee hour treats during 2019, Lorraine will have various sizes and colors of poinsettias for sale for your home or gift-giving.



THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Today:

8:45am Choir Rehearsal - Bennett Hall
10:00am Worship Service/Sunday School
11:30am Carol sing-a-Long
11:30am Poinsettia Sale

Monday - December 24

6:30pm Christmas Selections for Organ/Piano
7:00pm Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service

Tuesday - December 25

Merry Christmas

No worship service, enjoy the day

Next Sunday:

8:45am Choir Rehearsal - Bennett Hall
10:00am Worship Service/Sunday School
11:00am Fellowship in Bennett Hall

Attendance: December 16 - 43

CIRCUIT WRITER: Items for the newsletter should be sent to Suzanne Herlihy (suzannevherlihy@gmail.com).

ITEMS FOR BULLETIN: Send to Lois by **Tuesday morning to:** jesselee.umc@gmail.com AND lmhalzack@gmail.com

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS: Rev. Stinson in and out of the office but is available at all times. He can be reached by email at jstinson4242@aol.com. Emergency: 203-984-0141(cell) or 203-378-4702(Home)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: As of January 2019, due to budget constrictions, the office will be open Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30am - 12:30pm. At other times please leave a voice mail message.

For emergencies, please call Rev. Stinson at numbers listed above.

Jesse Lee United Methodist Church
25 Flat Rock Road - Easton, CT 06612
(203) 372-8250 - Web: www.jesselee.org
Email: jesselee.umc@gmail.com

Rev. James Stinson – Pastor

Joseph F. Swindon - Minister of Music
Michelle Wendt - Church School Superintendent
Lois Halzack - Administrative Assistant

Jesse Lee Church is the direct descendent of the oldest continuously operating Methodist Society of New England. Our church traces its origin to 1789 when Jesse Lee, A Methodist Circuit Rider (traveling preacher), was appointed to spread the Word of God to New England. The congregation has met in this warm colonial sanctuary since 1813.

The United Methodist Church is a Protestant Christian denomination of 10 million members in the USA and around the world. It is affiliated with Methodist Churches in 87 countries in the world. We confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the historic Christian faith.

Our Vision

Jesse Lee United Methodist Church seeks to be a compassionate congregation whose members, through word and deed, live the Great Commandment of Jesus Christ to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and your neighbor as yourself."



Jesse Lee United Methodist Church

At Worship

December 23, 2018

10:00 A.M.