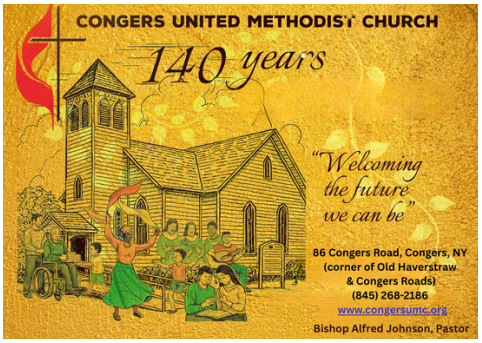





*Stand in body or spirit

SUNDAY WORSHIP
1st Sunday of Advent/
UMC Student Student
November 29, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Bold responses read in unison

ENTRANCE

PRELUDE **Jim West**

WELCOME **Frances Reid**

CALL TO WORSHIP
Like generations upon generations before us, we enter Advent with longing for hope to reign where despair feels entrenched, for peace to rule where conflict and destruction overwhelm.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
We gather, wondering whether joy will return when we have experienced so much heartbreak, whether love can make a difference when hate and apathy seem so widespread.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
We gather to join our voices with the psalmists and musicians, the travelers, and the faithful from long ago, who also longed for restoration and salvation, who felt God was far away or perhaps felt how far they had wandered away from God.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
Come, you who wait and watch for the coming Messiah, to worship God who invites us to join in the Spirit's restoration song until the day when earth and heaven both reflect the fullness of the kingdom of God.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2026.

***OPENING HYMN** *"Come, O Come Emmanuel"* UMH #211, verses 1,2,4

***OPENING PRAYER**
God of justice and peace, from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness, that all on earth may rise in awe and wonder before your marvelous deeds. Raise our heads in expectation, that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord and come without blame before your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Adapted from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers copyright © 2002 Consultation on Common Texts admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/collect-for-advent-1-year-b.html.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Restore us, Lord. Once we prayed, knowing our help came from you. Once we defied injustice, knowing that you were on our side. Once, we prayed all night "'til our help came." Once, we apologized for calling someone a fool. Once, we believed it was important to please you. Restore us as people who follow God even when no one is looking. Restore us, Lord.

SILENT MEDITATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS, GRACE AND HEALING
Jesus Christ, who loved us enough to leave heaven and live among us, hears our prayers and forgives heartfelt confession. Live now as people restored by the Lord, empowered to live as children of God. Amen.

Written by Kwasi I. Kena in The Africana Worship Book, Year B (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2007), 147, 166.

WELCOMING FIRST OR SECOND TIME WORSHIPPERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

HANGING OF THE GREENS/DECORATING OUR CHRISTMAS TREE Cheery Villaseñor
(singing, "O Christmas Tree....")

PROCLAMATION

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE
Candle Lighting Liturgy
Reader One: The prophet Isaiah declares, "From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him" (Isaiah 64:4 NRSV). Today, we continue to wait and call out in hope for God's restoration to meet us here, believing that God knows our struggles and works even now for the fulfillment of our salvation.
Congregation: When God feels far away, and our lament feels too heavy to bear, we remember God's steadfast love. May this love empower us to wait and watch in hope for the day when God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.
Reader Two: We light this candle of hope as a sign of God's promises, that we might persevere in hope, a hope grounded not in wishes and whims but in the trustworthy and persistent love of God already at work among us to save and restore all creation.
ALL: ***O COME, O COME EMMANUEL***

The Lighting of the first candle of the Advent Wreath.

***SONG OF PREPARATION** *"Lo How a Rose e'er Blooming"* Jayon Anthony and Shantelle Williams Johnson

***SCRIPTURE LESSON** **Isaiah 64:1-9**

MESSAGE ***"Hope in The Hands"*** **Bishop J**

RESPONSE

SILENT MEDITATION AND INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYERS OF COMPASSION/ PASTORAL PRAYER
You are invited to lift names for prayers of celebration or concern; respond with "Thanks be to God/ Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers"

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, GIFTS AND OFFERING
Special Offering for Conference *United Methodist Student Day*
Reminder: *People to People Food Ministry*

Congers UMC now has online giving with Givelify:
go to https://www.givelify.com designate Congers UMC.
Or, use our QR code by pointing the camera on your cell phone to this image:



***OFFERTORY** "*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"* UMH #95

SENDING

***SENDING HYMN** "*When We All Get to Heaven"* UMH# 701

***SENDING, DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

POSTLUDE Jim West

Acolytes carry the Light into the world!

thank you Today's Worship Team:

Worship Leader: Frances Reid
Song of Preparation: *Jayon Anthony and Shantelle Williams Johnson*
Music: Jim West
Facebook Coordinator: Cheery Villaseñor



All November Birthdays!
Eufemia Tacadena (11/3)
John Jaeger (11/14)
Jayla Jones (11/17)

Welcome to Congers UMC. We are happy to have you with us. Join us for a time of food and fellowship after worship service in the fellowship hall. If this is your first or second time with us, please fill in your name, email address, and/or cell number in the **"CongersUMC Connect Card"** in the back of the pew in front of you. Kindly place it in the offering plates or give it to any member.
You may also access this form digitally with our "Connect" QR code. We hope to see you again.

*Please be aware that we use ***Facebook Live for our worship services.*** If you are uncomfortable being screened or having pictures taken of yourself or family members, please let our Communications Team (Cheery Villaseñor or Bishop J know).

Today, is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is celebrated for four Sundays preceding Christmas Day. The word "advent" derives from the Latin "adventus", meaning "coming."

Advent is the season in which the church awakens to God's *coming* among us, remembers Christ's birth, anticipates the fulfillment of God's reign, and commits itself to embodying peace and justice, in a broken world.

Each Sunday we will light a candle for themes of "***Hope, Peace, Joy and Love"***

Today is designated as United Methodist Student Day. This Sunday celebrates students and the *Hope* they bring to the church and the world. As one of six churchwide Special Sundays, it invites every United Methodist church to extend that *Hope* through an offering that supports scholarships for United Methodist students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

COMPASSION PRAYERS



- Please keep in heart and prayer church members, families, and friends who stand in the need of prayer. You can find the complete list on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. (If there are additions, removals, or amendments to this list, please let Pat Williams know.)
- We pray for God's Peace and Justice throughout our country and throughout this world; such as the ongoing wars and conflicts between Israel and Palestine, Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Iran, our country and Iran, The Congo, Somalia and other parts of Africa, and other parts of our world. Global issues, such as, immigration, atomic energy, women and children abuse, active shootings, climate change, attacks on democracy, disarmament, food insecurity, the unsheltered, etc.

SERVICE



- If you didn't bring your non-perishable food item to be donated to ***PEOPLE TO PEOPLE***, this Sunday, and you would like to donate, bring it next week or see Francis Reid, coordinator, for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS



7pm Mondays November 30, December 7, December 13:
Online Advent Study led by Bishop J and Rev. Gabrielle Corbett **each The text is: "*Making Room: Sharing Love at Christmas*" by Ed Robb.** Several books have been purchased for you and are available in the church office. You may also download a Kindle edition on Amazon. Registration Link:
https://pearlriverunitedmethodistchurch.breezechms.com/form/080756
Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81838258022?pwd=RfewPJEaoo0nvKdzyXxnU3CnLqzb8l.1
Meeting ID: 818 3825 8022
Passcode: 876451

7pm Tuesdays, Weekly Prayer meetings by Zoom with Dr. Stacy May; All are invited:
Zoom Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89011272653?pwd=R6MHcGE8v0QnyKVOc2zZxbDFoY16ps.1
Meeting ID: 890 1127 2653
Passcode: 653740

Sunday December 6, 10am ,2nd Sunday of Advent. "*Peace*"
Holy Communion,

We will offer your financial **commitments to God in a moment of dedication and consecration.**

Sunday December 13, 3rd Sunday of Advent: *"Joy"*
Special Music: Lila Villasenor and Ensemble

Christmas* Sunday December 20, 4th Sunday of Advent, *"Love"

Children Christmas Program

A Jazzy Christmas Sunday **with Joe Ham and *"Hamitup Productions"***

Special Christmas Offering

****
CUMC is so proud to report that 32 shoeboxes and 3 online donations were made for a total of 35 boxes. Wow and thank you to all. Remember that your shoebox gift will be an expression of God's love for a child. NOTE: now is the time to collect and save WOW items to bless a child next year. Cheers' Evelyn
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