
The Cornerstone

The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Psalm 118:22-23

Volume LXXII Number 2

January 11, 2024



SUCCESS!!!!!!

*And GREAT MOMENTUM as we came and worshiped the
newborn Babe of Bethlehem
and Devoted ourselves to God and God's ministries in 2024*

2334 Diapers Given
2424 Diapers Matched

4758 Given to Maker's Place
A United Methodist Mission Site in Trenton, NJ

2288 Wipes Given
2700 Matched

4988 Given to Maker's Place

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!
From Maker's Place and over 85 family households you will help
as the diapers are packaged in groups of 50, with wipes, and handed out.

See you Sunday, Jill
(See the photos below of Pastor Jill's SUV and the church office.)





Scripture as Art RETURNS

January 21, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Online – Code available next week.

A ministry that was reflective and popular prior to our pastoral transition was *Scripture as Art*. Let's see if it is still meaningful and expands our spiritual journeys.

It is a ministry open to ALL. If this is a new ministry to you, let me explain...

This is a ministry to participate in a low-structure exploration of scripture. It is a way to allow your creativity and imagination emerge as you reflect on a particular scripture. Need to be an artist? – NO! Just be open to the movement of the Spirit.

This is how it works:

1. First think of “art” in broad terms...poetry, coloring, painting, sculpting, weaving, song, dance, and acting.
2. Read the scripture I am naming over the next two weeks. As you read it, pay attention to what calls upon your imagination. Read or listen to the scripture with senses alert. What colors do you picture would be a part of a painting as your expression. What words or emotions stand out to you? What music style and lyrics might sing forth within you? On what aspect of the story does your heart focus?
3. Share your feelings and thoughts in some artistic representation. No talent and skill is judged. It is simple to draw deeper into God's word in a different way and allow God to speak to us through our senses. Allow it to become an act of prayer and/or praise.
4. Invite other friends and family to join you or do something themselves – this is a great intergenerational activity.
5. On the date named, we will share our artistic expression with others online.

Scripture:

Luke 5:17-25 (Common English Bible)

¹⁷ One day when Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and legal experts were sitting nearby. They had come from every village in Galilee and Judea, and from Jerusalem. Now the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal. ¹⁸ Some men were bringing a man who was paralyzed, lying on a cot. They wanted to carry him in and place him before Jesus, ¹⁹ but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they took him up on the roof and lowered him—cot and all—through the roof tiles into the crowded room in front of Jesus. ²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

²¹ The legal experts and Pharisees began to mutter among themselves, “Who is this who insults God? Only God can forgive sins!”

²² Jesus recognized what they were discussing and responded, “Why do you fill your minds with these questions? ²³ Which is easier—to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? ²⁴ But so that you will know that the Human One^[a] has authority on the earth to forgive sins” —Jesus now spoke to the man who was paralyzed, “I say to you, get up, take your cot, and go home.” ²⁵ Right away, the man stood before them, picked up his cot, and went home, praising God.

Now let us reflect and create...join me and others online Jan. 21st at 1:00 p.m. - Jill



January 14, 2024
2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Counters: Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll

Greeter: Michael Sheckler

Usher: Paul Bradley

Acolyte: Kitty Amato

Lay Reader: Len Gruezke

Fellowship Hosts: Ron Danielson & Randy Danielson

Altar Flowers

Given by Soon Hur in loving memory of her brother, Sam Koh.

Given by Scott & Russel Danielson in loving memory of the January 16th birthday of Russel's dad, Fulgencio Terrado, Sr.



January 21, 2024
3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Counters: Gerry Busfield, Abby DiNapoli, Jane Gittines

Greeter: Ruth Sheckler

Usher: Gayle Fitzmaier

Acolyte: Kayleigh Becker

Lay Reader: Ron Danielson

Fellowship Host: Bonnie McNamara

Altar Flowers

Given in loving memory of Pat Whitney by Robin Whitney & Tommy Vignola.

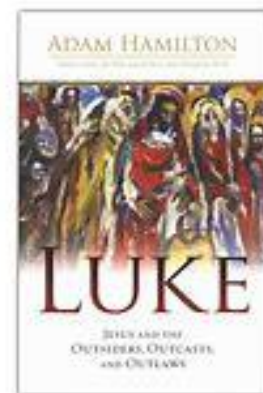
Given in honor of Carli Brush Stoll's 25th birthday by her parents.



WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

January 14-January 20

! Samuel 3:1-10
 Psalm 139:1-6; 13-18
 ! Corinthians 6:12-20
 John 1:43-51



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

A new study, entitled, *Luke; Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws* by Adam Hamilton, **begins on January 14th**. All are welcome! The class meets in Wesley Hall at 11 a.m. on Sundays. There is a book that goes along with the study if you'd like to purchase it beforehand, but it is not necessary for the study.



We mourn with the family of Donna Hulse who passed away today, January 11th.

There is no information on arrangements at this time.

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Jersey Shore Center, Eatontown: **David Miller, Carol Allen**

At Home: **Jean Gillette, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Cary Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Connie Bruckmann, Diane Maher**

Tsedalech Tesfaye, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of January by Diane Maher in gratitude for healthy grandchildren.



Mercy Center Collection

Mercy Center is need of the following items: applesauce, canned beans, canned chicken, canned fish, canned meat, canned vegetables, cooking oils, crackers, dried herbs and spices, canned or dried fruit, feminine hygiene products, soup packets, peanut butter, canned soup, canned stew, whole grain pasta, cereal, rice, canned tomatoes and pasta sauce, tea, coffee, cookies, shelf-stable milk, snacks, & fruit juice. Please place any perishable items in the Fellowship Hall kitchen refrigerator and tell the office that you did so. All other items may be placed in the cart and bin in the church foyer.



Wesley Nursery School is collecting toys for pediatric cancer patients ages 0-2. If you would like to contribute, please drop off items at the church office.



Something to think about:

Don't compare your bloopers to everyone else's highlight reel.



PRAYER GARDEN

You are invited to pray in the Prayer Garden, taking whatever time you need in this holy space, appreciating God's presence in nature.

Prayer focus for January:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
2 Corinthians 5:17

**OUR JANUARY COMMUNION OFFERING
BENEFITS
THE PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

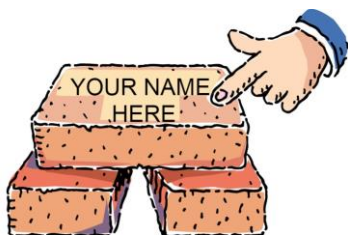


The Little Free Pantry Items Needed!

Please think of stocking cooking oil, soup packets and ready to heat soup, rice, fruit juice, snacks, jugs of water, and pet food in the bench.

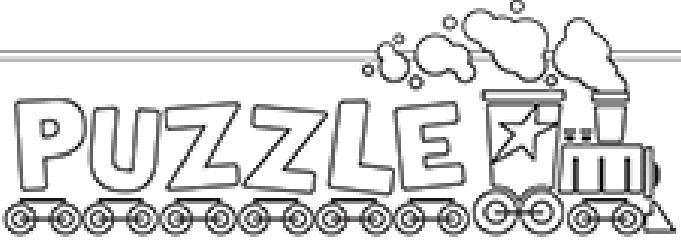
A good idea this week:
TISSUES

If you would like to sponsor our World Vision child, Tsedalech, for a month in 2024, please contact the church office. Sponsorship can be in memory of or in honor of someone or a special occasion. Cost is \$39; checks made out to the church.



If you would like to purchase a personalized brick for the Prayer Garden, please complete the form attached to this week's Cornerstone on or before February 25, 2024. The bricks will be dedicated to the Prayer Garden at the sunrise service Easter morning. Questions can be forwarded to Gayle Fitzmaier at gaylefitzmaier@yahoo.com.






PUZZLE

A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.



A branch that was waved	_ _ _ _ _
How Jesus was put to death	_ _ _ _ _
A stick attached to the vine	_ _ _ _ _
People shouted this to Jesus	_ _ _ _ _
Jesus washed these	_ _ _ _ _
This was broken and eaten	_ _ _ _ _
The Messiah	_ _ _ _ _
A drink from grapes	_ _ _ _ _
Jesus drove the money changers from here	_ _ _ _ _

"I am the vine; you are the branches.
If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear _____;
apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5, NIV

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