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# 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*

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In this beautiful season of November, we take time to share our gratitude and thanksgiving for the gifts of the world around us. This Sunday, I look forward to coming together in Worship and Praise to Offer Our Thanks to God for the Gift of Creation. May this reflection center you as you prepare for Sunday worship.

*Oh Infinite Love, I thank you.  
For the sun, generous and faithful,  
for the moon resplendent, I thank you.  
For bones and stones and stars and trees,  
for light and gravity and photosynthesis,  
for metabolism and the miracle of nerves  
and the mystery of eyes I thank you.  
For the colorful parade of evolution,  
for all species and our amazing diversity,  
and each person, each in our own way  
trying to find love, I thank you.  
For the earth and its abundant provision,  
its patience and acceptance, I thank you.  
For every bite I eat, its genesis in your love  
and in the earth, and every species and person  
in its long road to my mouth, I thank you.  
I thank you for those who have blessed me,  
known or unknown, for those I love,  
for those whom I shall one day bless, I thank you.  
For the gift of my faith and doubts,  
my pains and exultations, for all my tears  
and the divine gift of laughter, I thank you.  
For your love, coming to me through so many,  
and through the air, flowing in and through me,  
for the grace to love, I thank you.  
I thank you for the gift of gratitude  
and pray that it may always bless me,  
sway me, and lead me toward you.  
Oh Infinite Love, let this be my life,  
that I thank you and thank you and thank you.*

By Steve Garnaas-Holmes



### UWIF World Thank Offering 2023

The World Thank Offering (WTO) is an opportunity for personal thanksgiving, and for participation in global mission outreach. Through this offering, mission projects in all 50 states and in almost 100 countries are supported. It is working to eliminate racism, and sexism, and loneliness. Mission is Christ's challenge to us to bring the possibility of food, shelter, and fulfillment to all of humanity.

To contribute to this mission work, please set aside a collection box and give with thanks during the year. Boxes are available in Fellowship Hall or make your own box or jar personal to you. Or use an envelope to give once a year. Our total annual offering is handed in at the end of November. Thank you.



**THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY SERVICE  
NOVEMBER 21ST, 7:30 p.m.  
OCEANPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
50 MAIN STREET  
OCEANPORT**



### **THANKSGIVING BASKETS/MERCY CENTER - 2023**

Thank you to the congregation and Wesley Nursery School for its generous support of the Mercy Center annual Thanksgiving Basket food drive. The Oakhurst congregation and Wesley Nursery School donated enough food to deliver three car loads of Thanksgiving meal staples to the Mercy Center.

Last year, the Mercy Center collected over 26,000 lbs. of food and provided complete Thanksgiving dinners to feed almost 1200 families and it anticipates demand will be even greater this year.

The Mercy Center is most thankful of the congregation's steadfast commitment to the Mercy Center food pantry not only through the Thanksgiving Basket food collection but also the monthly collections for items of need throughout the year.

The Outreach Committee

# WORSHIP with us

November 12, 2023  
24th Sunday after Pentecost

**Counters:** Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll

**Greeter:** Jeff Danielson

**Usher:** Jay Aretino

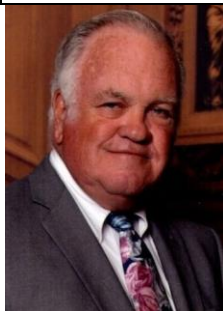
**Acolyte:** Joy More

**Lay Reader:** Carol Steinat

**Fellowship Hosts:** Gerry Busfield & Diane Plumser

**Altar Flowers:**

Given in loving memory of James & Patricia Whitney's wedding anniversary by their family.  
Given in loving memory of Phillip McRae by Susan & Sean.



From Troop 70:

As everyone knows, Wayne Jackson was a valued member of the Troop 70 family for 35 years. His passing last year was a loss to the Troop, but his impact will be felt forever,

In honor of his commitment to the boys and his dedication to the Troop we have planted a memorial tree in front of the First United Methodist Church along with a plaque recognizing his contributions to scouting.

**You are invited to attend a Memorial Dedication on Sunday November 26 at 12 noon in front of the church.**

We know Mr. Jackson enriched the lives of many of our scouts. It would mean so much to his family and the Troop if you could attend.



THANKS BE TO GOD!

November 19, 2023  
25th Sunday after Pentecost

**Counters:** Gerry Busfield, Abby DiNapoli, Jane Gittines

**Greeter:** Randy Danielson

**Usher:** Paul Bradley

**Acolyte:** Gayle Fitzmaier

**Lay Reader:** Sandy Miller

**Fellowship Hosts:** Judy Gorra & Soon Hur

**Altar Flowers:**

Given in loving memory of Frances Miller by her niece, Sharron Meadows.  
Given in honor of Pastor Jill's birthday by her family.



**HELP IS NEEDED!**

After a book sale and 4 garage sales, there are still MANY books left over in boxes on the stage. All are in good or better condition. Volunteers are needed to cart a box, or two, (or more) to a storage facility in Ocean Grove before the middle of November. From there they will be sold at Ocean Grove's book sale this summer. If you can help out, please contact Joy in the church office.

**THE BOOKS MUST BE MOVED BY NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>. THERE ARE STILL QUITE A FEW BOXES LEFT ON THE STAGE. PLEASE LEND A HAND.**





**DEADLINE THIS SUNDAY!**

Many thanks to those who have offered (or been persuaded) to write a page for the Advent devotional booklet. So far I have only six in hand and the deadline is Nov. 12! We need 16 more! PLEASE! If our booklet is going to be the special gift it has been in the past, we need help from you!

What to write about? Any meaningful experience, anecdote, thoughts, impressions, poems, hymns, or memories that have touched or inspired you. Your submission need not be long. Please call me at 732-513-8413 or email at [dianeserine07712@yahoo.com](mailto:dianeserine07712@yahoo.com) if you have any questions, or need a sample.

Thanks so much,  
Diane



**Something to think about:**

Strong people stand up for themselves. Stronger people stand up for everyone else.



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:

**Cereal**



Save the Date

Church family Christmas party & covered dish.  
December 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 pm. Details to follow.

**OUR NOVEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING  
BENEFITS  
HOPE SCHOOL**



**Tsedalech Tesfaye, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of November by Mary Bailey.**



## 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 November:

- *Be joyful always; pray*

*continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

(1 Chronicles 16:8 NIV)



Fellowship hosts are needed for **December, 3<sup>rd</sup> and December 17<sup>th</sup>**. It's not difficult to do. Instructions can be found in the upstairs kitchen along with the sign-up sheet.



## 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.



## WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

November 12-November 19

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalm 78:1-7

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13



Complete Care at Shrewsbury: **Bev Itell**

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

At Home: **Jean Gillette, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens**

**Cary Carlisle, Carol Allen, Bob Cleary, Priscilla Smith, Elaine Bilotta, Connie Bruckmann, Barbara Novick**



### **Tower Hill Veterans Day Choir**

Tower Hill Church is looking for voices to perform a one day concert celebrating our veterans and country. One day rehearsal, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 9AM-noon; concert, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 4PM. Please contact Fiona Sutherland, [finoa@towerhillchurch.org](mailto:finoa@towerhillchurch.org) with any questions or to sign up.