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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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*All scripture is inspired by God  
and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction,  
and for training in righteousness,  
so that everyone who belongs to God  
may be proficient, equipped for every good work.  
—2 Timothy 3.16-17*

*This does not say all scripture is infallible, or dictated by God.  
It says those who wrote did so breathing the Holy Spirit.  
They may have written something true and profound  
or not, but either way, they were in the grip of something holy,  
something living, something beyond them.  
And that's how we read scripture,  
with the Holy Spirit breathing in us,  
seeking, listening, discerning.  
Whether or not we agree or understand,  
we are caught up in the breathing of God,  
seeking how best to allow God to equip us,  
not to be right, but to be inspired (in-spirited) to love.  
Proficient in every good work of justice and mercy.  
Breathe in.... Breathe out.... Read....  
Then go and love.*

By Steve Garnaas-Holmes

We respond "**Thanks be to God**" because God is speaking to us through the Scripture readings. By hearing the Word of God, God's will becomes active in our hearts and souls. In the Word, God reveals God's very self. This is a great and wonderful gift. We not only hear the Word of God, but we have the opportunity for the Word of God to take root in our very being and we enter into an intimate relationship with our Creator. "**Thanks be to God**" is our response to God's gift of Scripture. This Sunday in Worship, we offer our thanks and praise to God for the gift of the scriptures. See you in church, Jill



## INTERFAITH NEIGHBORS

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Once again we will be sharing our Christmas joy by partnering with our friends at Interfaith Neighbors in the Adopt-A-Family Christmas program. In lieu of gifts, gift cards will be provided to the families along with a small assortment of Christmas cheer. If you would like to brighten a family's Christmas, please make your donation payable to First United Methodist Church-Oakhurst and in the memo line note: "Adopt-A-Family Christmas". Contributions can be mailed to the church or please make use of the plain yellow offering envelopes in the sanctuary. For on-line donations, please also designate your gift for "Adopt-A-Family Christmas"

The Outreach Committee

**DEADLINE: December 10<sup>th</sup>**



### 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**

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.

**Altar Rose:**

The altar rose is in celebration of the birth, November 13<sup>th</sup>, of Adaline Rose MacPherson, daughter of Mark & Amanda MacPherson & granddaughter of Larry & Barbara MacPherson.



"Canticle of Christmas"  
By Tom Fettke & Camp Kirkland  
Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 p.m.

Presented by  
The Choraliers of Eatontown & The Northern Cluster  
Choir

West Grove UMC  
102 Walnut Street  
Neptune

THANKS BE TO GOD!

November 26, 2023  
Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday

**Counters:** Mary Bailey, Cheryl McLoughlin, John Montgomery

**Greeter:** George Fitzmaier

**Usher:** Scott Danielson

**Acolyte:** Mallory Mitchell

**Lay Reader:** Timothy Haider

**Fellowship Hosts:** Casey Russomano & Kayleigh Becker

**Altar Flowers:**

Given by the Bailey family in honor of Shirley Bailey's birthday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Given in loving memory of Charles Anthony Arrigo by Randy Danielson.



CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 5 PM

We are so happy to once again gather as a church family to have some Christmas fun. We'll sing some songs, play some silly games, and enjoy being together! This year we will include an ugly Christmas sweater contest! Please plan to attend. We ask that you bring a covered dish and a plate of cookies to share. Any questions, please contact Diane Maher at 732-513-8413.



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:**

God is like oxygen. You can't see him, but, you can't live without him.



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:

**Mashed potatoes**

**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.

**OUR NOVEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING  
BENEFITS  
HOPE SCHOOL**





## 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 19-November 25

Judges 4:1-7  
Psalm 123  
I Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-30

## IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

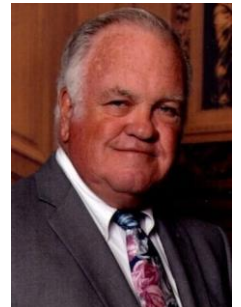
Complete Care at Shrewsbury: **Bev Itell**  
Jersey Shore Center, Eatontown: **David Miller, Carol Allen**  
At Home: **Jean Gillette, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens**  
**Cary Carlisle, Bob Cleary, Priscilla Smith, Elaine Bilotta, Connie Bruckmann, Barbara Novick**



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.