

---

---

# 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 27

July 4, 2024



I LOVE fireworks. So, Tuesday night, I very much enjoyed sitting in Joe Palaia Park with hundreds of our closest neighbors watching a beautiful display to kick off the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations. As I watched in awe, there was music playing in the background, which as you might guess, focused on America and its independence. Independence Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, comes with BBQs, parades, and time to pause and give thanks for our freedoms. This year as wars rage in neighboring countries, as verbal hatred is spewed, as violence escalates on our city streets, and as many in our global family reside in oppressive situations, I hope you will join me in praying for each and every one of God's children.

On this day of independence may we give thanks for our freedoms, and pray for those who are not free: for those in prison or living under oppression, for the poor and exploited, for those robbed of land and culture for the sake of ours or others, for those who labor under heavy burdens for the sake of our comfort, for those who are imprisoned to satisfy our superiority, and for those who fear for their safety because of their bodies. May their unfreedom weigh upon us. May our love of freedom not be abusive. May we deepen our gratitude, humility, and longing for justice. May we deepen our resolve to work for the freedom of all. This is my prayer as a disciple of Jesus and beloved child of God who reminds me that until we are all free, none of us is free. May we each take some Summer Sabbath on this Independence Day for prayerful reflection.

See you in church this Sunday, Jill

I hope you will join me as we explore the opportunities for Sabbath in this Summer Season. May we reflect on our need for Rest, Rhythm, Letting Go, and Finding Joy to renew our souls. I invite you to worship each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the air-conditioned Sanctuary. I also invite you to join me for a Summer Sabbath Book Study on Thursday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel at the rear of the Sanctuary. Our study is based on the book, *Sacred Rhythms: Spiritual Practices that Nourish Your Soul and Transform Your Life* by Ruth Haley Barton. We will meet for six weeks: July 11, 18, 25 & August 1, 8, 15. You do not need the book to participate. Come to one week or each week - whatever your schedule allows.





BSA Troop 70  
103 Monmouth Road  
Oakhurst, NJ 07755

Dear friends, I am writing today to ask for your support. The scouts of Troop 70 are set to depart on a high adventure trip on July 11, 2024. They have been working hard for almost two years to raise the funds for this trip but have found themselves a little short. The boys have each been responsible for running a fundraiser to raise their portion of the trip, \$1,200. Their parents have been making payments monthly for the other half of the trip, which totals \$2,400. Even with all the hard work of many fundraisers, they have not been able to meet their goal. Everything is so expensive and it's hard to keep asking friends and family for support.

This is why I am reaching out to you; I am hoping that you will be able to help the boys meet their goal with a donation.

Let me tell you a little bit about the adventure. Eleven scouts and four adult leaders will fly to the Florida Keys where they will take a bus to the Brinton Environmental Center. They will pack their food for the island with their assigned island mate and then they will leave for their Out Island Adventure where they paddle a Polynesian war canoe more than five miles to a primitive barrier island located in the Keys National Marine Sanctuary. They will camp under a canopy of gumbo-limbo trees, mangroves, and lush vegetation. Endangered Key deer will pass through the campsite along with hermit crabs, and Key Vaca raccoons. Every day will be action-packed with ocean kayaking, snorkeling (including a night snorkel at Munson Rocks), a fishing excursion, and exploring the largest wilderness on Earth.

With the help of their island mate, they will be responsible for cooking their own meals and using all the scout skills they have learned over the course of their scouting careers. I like to tell people that this trip is like "Survivor" for Scouts.

I appreciate and am thankful for your consideration and I understand this is a big ask but as I tell my sons, "You don't get 100% of what you don't ask for".

Yours in Scouting,

Sandy Woods  
Scoutmaster, Troop 70  
732-887-7288



**July 7, 2024**  
**7th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Counters: Patty Aria, John Montgomery, Judy Gorra**

**Greeter: Jim Scisco**

**Usher: Robin Whitney**

**Acolyte: Susan McRae**

**Lay Reader: John Montgomery/Prayer Garden:  
Gayle Fitzmaier**

**Altar Flowers:**

**Given by Bonnie McNamara in honor of her granddaughter Kayleigh's birthday.  
Given in loving memory of Ann Ward by Mary & Marty Bailey.**

**Alter Rose:**

**Given by Bonnie McNamara in honor of the christening of her great niece, Lillian Rose.**



**July 14, 2024**  
**8th Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**Greeter: Buster Stoll**

**Usher: Paul Bradley**

**Acolyte: Kayleigh Becker**

**Lay Reader: George Fitzmaier**

**Altar Flowers:**

**Given by Bonnie McNamara in loving memory of her father, Ralph E. Goodwin.  
Given by Bonnie McNamara in honor of her son-in-law, Nick's birthday.**



**Old First UMC Community Dinner**  
**July 21<sup>st</sup>, Sunday**

For many years, Old First UMC hosted monthly community dinners in its hall. Unfortunately, due to building structural issues, Old First UMC currently cannot use its facility.

However, Old First UMC remains dedicated to serving the community and asked about using our facilities until repairs can be completed at their building. Their request has been approved by the Administrative Council and the first dinner is scheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup>, Sunday.

We are welcome to join Old First UMC in this mission. If you would like to participate or would like more information, please contact Jeff Danielson-email: [jsdanielson18@gmail.com](mailto:jsdanielson18@gmail.com).



Donations of altar flowers are needed for the following Sunday in July:

July 28

Perhaps you would like to memorialize or honor a loved one or event by placing flowers on the altar. Price \$18; check made out to Altar Guild. Please call Diane Maher at 732-513-8413 to reserve.

**OUR JULY COMMUNION OFFERING**  
**BENEFITS**  
**PEACE WITH JUSTICE**



# Hygiene CARE KITS

Hygiene Kits for Church World Service  
**NEW INFORMATION**

Thank you for the wonderful response on Sunday for donations to our kits! Only two items are still needed: 12 toenail or fingernail clippers, and 18 wide-tooth combs. No pocket combs or picks; must have at least 6" of teeth. Rattail combs and combs with handles are acceptable.

If you can donate any number of the above items, it would be greatly appreciated! Please call Diane at 732-513-8413 to let her know




## UWIF ANNUAL GARAGE SALE-GET READY! OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup>

More details will follow as time draws closer. Remember all proceeds raised support missions that help women and children in need locally and around the world.

**Bible Quiz**

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches. Which list includes a city that is not among those seven?

- A. Ephesus, Thyatira, Philadelphia
- B. Smyrna, Laodicea, Galatia
- C. Pergamum, Thyatira, Smyrna
- D. Sardis, Ephesus, Laodicea



Answer: B (See Revelation 2-3)

## Better Health Program

Complimentary Membership at 55+ years old



New Information

Welcome to Better Health—a free membership program available to adults aged 55 and older who want to improve their health and well-being. As a member, you can take advantage of many exclusive benefits designed to help you take charge of your health.

Becoming a member will provide you access to unique social events in your community with an emphasis on: Physical Activity, Health Education, Nutrition, and Socialization—the four pillars of the program. You will have access to social programs, health education, preventive screenings, and more! Preferred parking (free) at Monmouth Medical Center, Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus, and the brand-new Anne Vogel Family Care and Wellness Center in Eatontown plus discounts when you are inside the hospital:

10% discount at "Simply Gifted" hospital gift shop  
20% discount in the hospital cafeteria.

Members receive advanced notice of programs and events, such as sessions with a registered dietitian, movement programs such as Tai Chi, Zumba Gold, and yoga, and luncheons with physicians and special guest speakers.

The first step is to get a "Better Health Program Intake Form" from the UWIF board in Fellowship Hall. Fill out your contact information, and place the form in the UWIF mailbox in the church office. Once processed, you will be sent a membership card.

For more information, please contact Pam Saunders: [pamsfnj@gmail.com](mailto:pamsfnj@gmail.com).



July 4th



Tsedalech Tesfaye, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of July by Jeff Danielson.



## Mercy Center Collection New List

Mercy Center is in need of the following items: chicken soup, ketchup, mustard, mayo, SPAM, canned chicken, juice boxes, juice pouches, 64 oz juice bottles, pasta, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, tea, coffee, cooking oil, and wipes. Please place any perishable items in the Fellowship Hall kitchen refrigerator and tell the office that you did. All other items may be left in the bins in the foyer.



### WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

#### **July 7-July 13**

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10  
Psalm 48  
2 Corinthians 12:2-10  
Mark 6:1-13



Worship in the Prayer Garden

**July 7, August 4, & September 1** at 8 AM, join us for worship & communion in the Prayer

Garden. The service will also include music, scripture, & a message from Pastor Jill.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...  
*Please be Praying for...*

Jersey Shore Center, Eatontown: **David Miller**  
At Home: **Jean Gillette, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Cary Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Connie Bruckmann, Madeline Starkey, Sandy Elias**



### **Something to think about:**

You've probably given God a million reasons not to love you. None of them have changed His mind.



### The Little Free Pantry

Please think of stocking applesauce, canned beans, canned chicken, canned fish, canned meat, canned vegetables, cooking oils, crackers, dried herbs, spices, canned fruit, dried fruit, granola bars, instant mashed potatoes, meals in a box, nuts, pasta, peanut butter, rice, shelf-stable milk, powdered milk, soup, stew, chili, & whole grain cereal in the bench.

A good idea this week:  
Chicken soup