
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 39

September 26, 2024

*Just as water reflects the face,
so one human heart reflects another.*

– Proverbs 27:19

This Sunday we begin a new 5-week worship series entitled: *Do Unto Others*. The framework of this series was first designed by Rev. Adam Hamilton, pastor of Resurrection, a United Methodist Church in Kansas City, MO to encourage people to be intentional about treating one another with kindness, even those with whom we disagree. Rev. Marcia McFee worked with Hamilton to build and share this series with other clergy...another gift of connectionalism which we touched upon in last Sunday's sermon.

In 48 days, we will each have the opportunity to cast our vote in this country for the candidate we choose to lead us into our future. Though we are one country, we find ourselves divided: not just in our choice of candidates but on many issues, thoughts, ideas, ideologies, and theology. This sermon series **is not** about any candidates. This sermon series **will not** tell you how to vote. This sermon series **is not** a political platform.

This sermon series is an invitation for us to turn from the daily divisions we face with our neighbors, families, friends, and co-workers and refocus on Jesus' golden rule as a way forward. Jesus said, "*Do Unto Others as You would have them Do Unto You.*" A verse of this golden rule can be found in every world religion. AND I know this was shared often in my home and church life growing up. It grounded my actions and my thoughts as I lived in the community of friends and school-mates.

We all want to be treated with kindness—right? This simple act that is part of our discipleship can have a ripple effect on others. So, let's not let politics and any of our differences divide us. Let us choose to bring kindness, compassion, humility, respect, and love into the world through our daily lives by our words and actions. And may our church be a place of a loving community for which we come, different as we may be, blending ourselves together to a hue of rich beauty.

I look forward to spending our time together exploring the unity that comes with kindness.



See you at Church and Online this Sunday. Jill



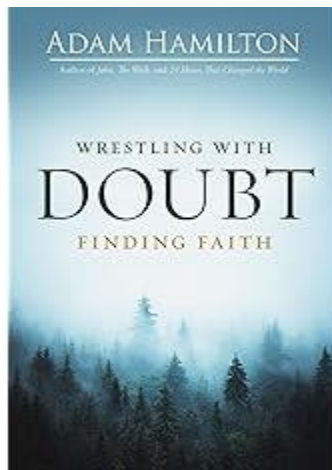
Java with Jill

Join Jill at the Blue Swan Diner
for coffee and conversation

(or the drink of your preference).

This informal time of fellowship will be
every 4th Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

Mark your calendars: Oct. 22 & Nov. 26



WRESTLING WITH DOUBT, FINDING FAITH by Adam Hamilton
[New study begins October 13.](#)

Does your faith make room for questions?

Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? How can we know? Often, we treat such questions as the enemy of faith. But uncertainty doesn't mean our belief is lacking. Doubt can be a path to a deeper, richer encounter with God.

In *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith*, join best-selling author and pastor Adam Hamilton as he discusses some of our most significant sources of doubt and shows how a steady trust in God can emerge from them. You will delve into questions like:

“Does God exist? How can I know?”

“Is the Bible true?”

“Why do prayers go unanswered?”

Hamilton approaches these sources of doubt with honesty and insight, drawing on the rich wisdom of the Bible, Christian tradition, and his experience walking with thousands of people on their spiritual journey. Whether you're a longtime Christian or someone brand new to faith, this study will lead you to a trust in God that is unafraid of hard questions. Wrestle with doubt and find faith—belief and trust, not certainty; mystery rather than simple answers.

All are invited to join the adult Sunday School class as it begins this 6-week study on October 13. The class meets at 11:00 downstairs in Wesley Hall. Grab your coffee and doughnut and come on down!



Church Conference 2024

Sat., October 5th @ 9:00 a.m.
at St. John's UMC in Hazlet

All are welcome and encouraged to come.

**St. John's United Methodist Church
2000 Florence Ave
Hazlet**

Welcomes
New Members

Welcomed into membership last Sunday were Garry Smith, Judy Gorra, Michael Zemo,
and Ryan Henderson.





*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."
Philippians 4:6*

In January, our region discerned that prayer would be a central focus for 2024. Since then, we've been sending weekly emails, lifting up each church and pastor by name. It's our hope that you've felt the impact of our collective prayers, fostering connections among leaders and congregations, as we support one another in prayer.

Continuing in this spirit of unity and intercession, we invite you to join us for virtual monthly prayer meetings from October to December. These gatherings will take place on the first Tuesday of each month, offering two sessions for your convenience at 12 noon and 7 pm.

Each meeting will last for a half-hour, during which we will break into small groups to pray. The dates for our upcoming meetings are as follows: October 1, November 5, and December 3. Please use the Zoom link included below for our prayer meetings. For those who prefer to connect by phone, a call-in number is also provided. We encourage you to share this invitation with your friends.

Together, let's come before the Lord, lifting up our churches, our denomination, our communities, and the world. We look forward to praying together and experiencing the power of collective prayer as a community united in Christ.

Here is the Zoom link to join us monthly:

<https://gnjumc.zoom.us/j/81274275381?pwd=Ui3fwsxzkaXKF6QbFzwp5No9Mqt6B6.1>

Meeting ID: 812 7427 5381

Password: 07753



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

FALL GARAGE SALE
Saturday, October 19th
8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

The garage sale is coming soon. Please support this effort-all proceeds from the sale go to support women and children in need, at home and abroad. This is a great time to clean out some unneeded items that are just taking up space in your home or garage. Think autumn, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc. Come support the event itself by stopping by on the 19th. You never know what treasure you might find! You could even invite a neighbor!

We seek donations of toys, puzzles, games, books, jewelry, CDs, DVDs, videos, cameras, knick-knacks, kitchen items, garden items, tools, and more. Please note that we cannot, however, accept donations of large furniture or TVs, heavy exercise equipment, clothing, or linens,

Items can be dropped off on Thursday, October 17th until 7 p.m. and October 18th until 6:30 p.m.

Have you ever wondered why we hold garage sales? It certainly takes time and effort. As members of a local unit within UWIF, we raise money to support missions that help women and children in need, Hope (Ocean Township), United Methodist Communities, and missions further afield such as the Neighborhood Center (Camden), Heifer International, and Red Bird Mission.

Needed are some physically strong volunteers who are willing and able to help us take in donations and set up on the Thursday and Friday before, and/or help with the sale itself on Saturday, particularly with clean-up which starts at 2:00 p.m. If you can donate an hour or two to pitch in, that would be very much appreciated. All helpers: if you can, please sign up on the UWIF bulletin board in Fellowship Hall (by the kitchen) to help us plan. If you aren't sure yet, just come when you can. Thank you!



CALLING ALL BAKERS: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please help us raise money for the above-mentioned missions. We will be selling donated baked goods in the church foyer from 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Please drop off homemade items such as cookies, muffins, brownies, cakes, bread, and candies, packaged and ready for sale, on Friday, October 18th before 6:00p.m. Your help is appreciated. Any questions can be addressed to Diane Maher at dianeserine07712@yahoo.com.

2024 CROP WALK

Sunday, October 20, 2024

CROP is a program of Church World Service that seeks to combat hunger within both the local community and world community. The annual **Red Bank CROP Walk** organized by ecumenical and interfaith congregations is a fun way to call attention to the need to combat hunger.

The **Red Bank CROP walk** celebrates its **44th anniversary** this year and walkers from area churches, schools & civic groups will join together in the walk against hunger.

Last year's walk raised: **\$110,000** and **25%** of the walk proceeds remained in our local communities to support our partner food pantries. In addition to the money raised, **12,000 lbs.** of food was collected (peanut butter, soup, rice & beans) and shared among the sponsored local food pantries.

If you would like to contribute to this year's CROP walk, checks should be made payable to **CWS/Red Bank CROP Walk** and given to Jeff Danielson or mailed to the church. On-line donations can be made at events.crophungerwalk.org website-click on the **Browse a full list of teams** button, click on **First United Methodist Church-Oakhurst** and follow the prompts.

There will also be a table set-up during Sunday fellowship starting **September 29th** with resources and materials. If you would like to join this year's walk, walker envelopes will be available if you choose not to register on-line.

Over the past 40-years, the congregation has been most generous in its support of the CROP walk ministry. On behalf of all the walkers throughout the decades, thank you for your steadfast support.



September 29, 2024
19th Sunday after Pentecost

Counters: Gerry Busfield, Rand Danielson, Chip Stoll

Greeter: Arlene Stoll

Usher: Robin Whitney

Acolyte: Mallory Mitchell

Lay Reader: Barbara Gruzke

Fellowship Host: Judy Gorra & Soon Hur

Altar Flowers:

Given in loving memory of Marie Meadows by her daughter Sharron.

Given in honor or & with love & gratitude to George & Gayle Fitzmaier as they move to their new home. They will be missed!

Altar Rose:

Given in honor of Kelly Pettit's birthday by Hudson, Owen, & her family.



Did you lose this? Call the church office. 732-531-1150



October 6, 2024
20th Sunday after Pentecost

Counters: Patty Aria, John Montgomery, Judy Gorra

Greeter: Pamela Lynch

Usher: Paul Bradley

Acolyte: Robert Scott

Lay Reader: Garry Smith

Fellowship Host:

Altar Flowers:

Given by Arlene & Buster Stoll in loving memory of Woody Matthews, Arlene's father.

Given by Arlene & Buster Stoll in honor of the 4th wedding anniversary of Deanna & Geroge Robson V.



It is with deep sadness in announcing the passing of Rev. Jack Johnson, our pastor from 1981 until 1989.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to his wife Colleen and their family to 106 Hilltop Court, Columbus, NJ 08022.



WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

September 29-October 5
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50



Mercy Center Collection

Mercy Center is in need of the following items: canned or bagged beans, no-salt/low-sodium canned vegetables, canned tomatoes, organic or low-sodium spaghetti sauce, whole-grain and low-salt crackers, low-sugar fiber cereal, unsweetened oatmeal, unsweetened dried fruit or nuts, canned fruit, no-sugar added applesauce, low-sodium soup, canned or instant potatoes, whole-wheat pasta, olive or canola oils, vinegar, low-sodium soy sauce, dried herbs, evaporated skim milk, salsa, taco kits, non-stick cooking spray, condiments, all-natural jams/jellies, no-sugar or salt added peanut or almond butter, 100% fruit or vegetable juice, bottled water, Pediasure, Ensure, low-sugar Gatorade, coffee, tea, dye-free/fragrance-free wipes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, & hand sanitizer.

Tsedalech Tesfaye, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of September by Kitty Amato.



Something to think about:

Be so confident in God's plan that you don't get upset when things don't go your way.

**OUR SEPTEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING
BENEFITS
THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, CAMDEN**



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, Bev Itell**



September is a 5th Sunday month. Your donation to this fund goes to help with capital improvement expenses on the church's properties. Please use the yellow envelopes appropriately marked.



The UWIF is selling shopping passes for Boscov's Friends Helping Friends sale day, October 22. If you donate only \$5 to the UWIF you will receive a pass for 25% off on items in most departments. **This includes both in-store & online shopping!** The UWIF gets to keep the entire \$5. It's a win-win! Please consider buying a pass (or several to give to family and friends.) Passes are available from any UWIF member **OR IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.**



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:

Coconut water



Paper Doilies

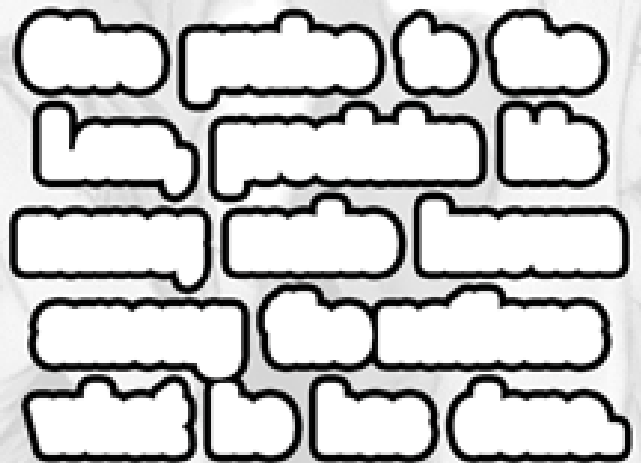
If you have any you can donate to a craft project, please drop them off to the church office before October 1st.

Puzzle!

Discover a psalm of thanks from David by matching the words in the list to the shapes below.

WORD LIST

nations proclaim the what to make done Give name among Lord known the he praise has his



1 Chronicles 16:8, NIV

Answer: Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name, make known among the nations what he has done. 1 Chronicles 16:8, NIV

