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# The Cornerstone

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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.

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*Psalm 118:22-23*

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VOLUME LXXII NUMBER 40

October 3, 2024



*Let's Us  
Do Unto Others  
With  
Compassion*

*Isaiah 11:6-9*

This Sunday we will continue to explore Jesus' teaching, "*Do Unto Others...*" shared in *Matthew 7:12 and Luke 6:31*. If I asked you to name one word for the way you would like to be treated, what might it be? For myself it is compassion. As many of you know, missions is at the heart of my faith and I believe is at the core of Jesus' ministry. Thus why the news reports on Hurricane Helene destruction is deeply pulling at my heartstrings of compassion. Seeing boats on people's lawns brings back vivid memories of Superstorm Sandy that we endured.

As we gather around the table for World Communion this Sunday, may we come with a heart of compassion. Compassion even though our neighbors nationally and globally might choose a different response to the issues of war and immigration and aid. May our shared meal with our Christians around the world bring us together rather than divide us.

I hope you will continue to join me this Sunday as we continue to explore the ways we might treat each other in a season which feels very divided.



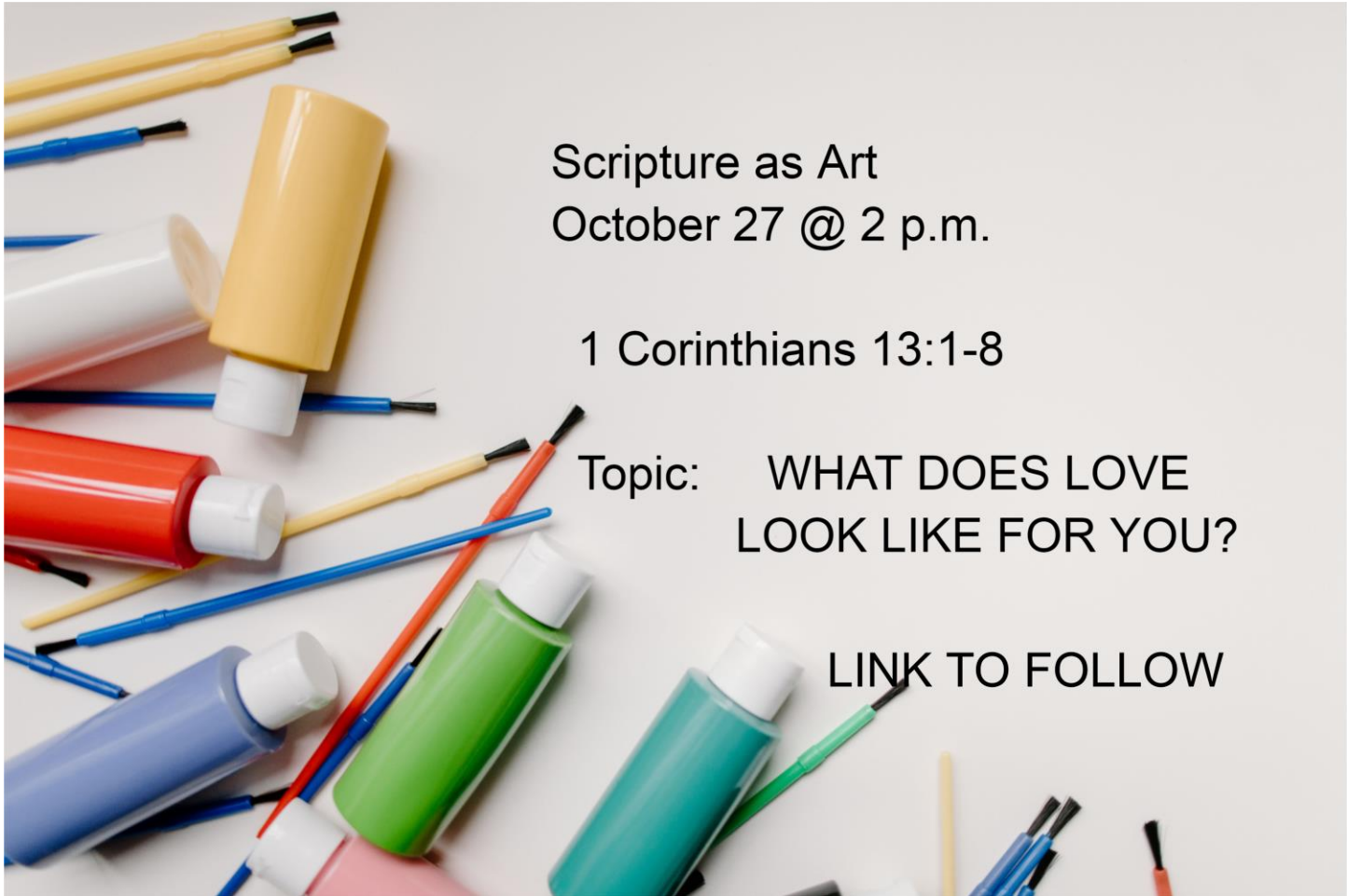
## Java with Jill

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 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

Mark your calendars: Oct. 22 & Nov. 26



## Scripture as Art

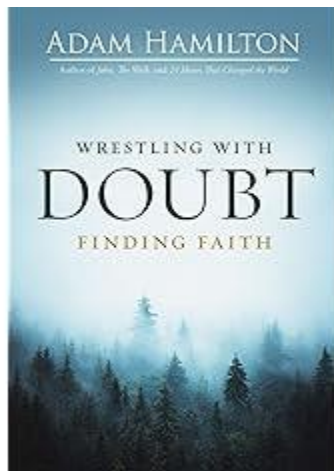
October 27 @ 2 p.m.

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

Topic: WHAT DOES LOVE  
LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

LINK TO FOLLOW

Join Pastor Jill for the next Scripture as Art. This is a chance to explore the above topic in a creative way. Paints? Sculpture? Drama? Song? Poetry? The possibilities are endless! You do not have to be a great artist or you can join the discussion and see how others interpret the scripture.



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:

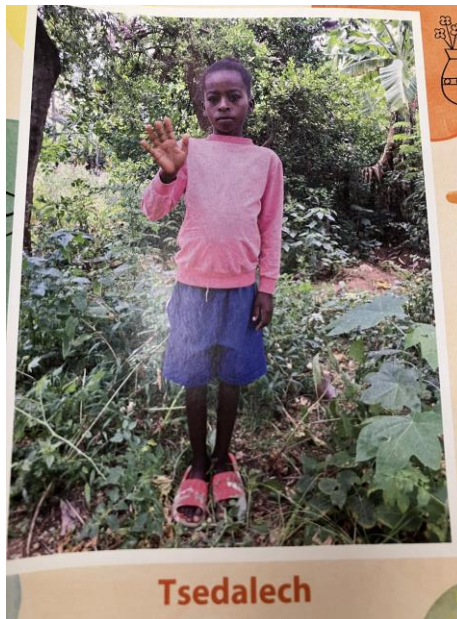
“Does God exist? How can I know?”

“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!**



## News from Tsedalech

I am nine years old! Currently I am in primary school. My health is good! My family and I participated in several programs offered by World Vision: children's camp, child protection monitoring, child rights training and my community, Amaro, celebrated my birthday making me feel special.

World Vision reports that you're making a life-changing impact on Tsedalech's community. 200 parents learned positive parenting skills, including how to discipline children without physical or emotional punishment. 199 severely malnourished children under age 5 were supported to start treatment at home, helping them make a full recovery. 571 children aged 3-6 go to preschool helping to lay the foundation for them to succeed at school. 4,000 girls and boys took actions in speaking out against harmful attitudes and practices helping to end violence against children.



*"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: 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 17<sup>th</sup> until 7 p.m. and October 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> before 6:00p.m. Your help is appreciated. Any questions can be addressed to Diane Maher at [dianeserine07712@yahoo.com](mailto: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](https://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.

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND/U.S. DISASTER RESPONSE & RECOVERY FUND

### UMCOR ADVANCE# 901670

Thanks to the congregation's generous support of the August communion offering designated for the Disaster/Relief Fund, a congregational gift in the amount of \$750 has been sent to UMCOR to the U.S. Disaster Response & Recovery Fund to assist the recovery efforts for the Hurricane Helene victims. Unprecedented devastation across the Southeast last week has wiped out entire communities and the road to recovery will be a long one.

As United Methodists we know in times of crisis, UMCOR stands ready to support broken communities both with short-term relief funding & assistance and long-term recovery programs so communities can be re-built.

For congregants who would like to make supplemental gifts to the UMCOR U.S. Disaster Response & Recovery Fund, information is available - <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670> (NOTE: For on-line gifts, make sure to check the box to "give credit to my local church")

Your gifts make a world of difference!



## October's Communion Offering Benefits World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday is one of our church-wide special Sundays. The World Communion offering provides scholarships for students to study in fields of family pastoral care, clinical psychology, peace, crop production, law, health, rural development and more. As Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."

Mary Grace Galapon is an example of how education can change our world. Mary Grace labored as a housemaid in exchange for food and clothes. Yet, allowed to attend church, she found hope. As a member of the UMC, your giving to World Communion Sunday allowed this deaconess of the Mindanao Philippines Conference to pursue an education that changed her community as she worked to eliminate poverty.

Mary Grace's work and the impact of hundreds more like her, are possible because we give. Our gifts during October are not only an investment in the leadership of the church and the global community, but also an investment in many people who serve God in life-changing ministries. Your donations will make a world of difference.

Thank you,  
The Outreach Committee





**October 6, 2024**  
**20th Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**Greeter: Pamela Lynch**

**Usher: Paul Bradley**

**Acolyte: Robert Scott**

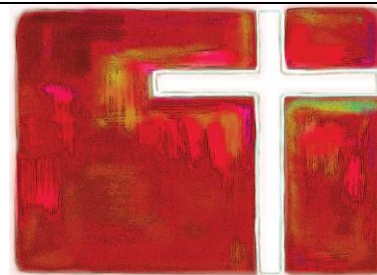
**Lay Reader: Garry Smith**

**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 4<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Deanna & Geroge Robson V.**



**October 13, 2024**  
**21st Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**Greeter: Len Gruezke**

**Usher: Ron Danielson**

**Acolyte: Kitty Amato**

**Lay Reader: Soon Hur**

**Fellowship Hosts: Ron & Pam Puryear**

**Altar Flowers:**

**Given in loving memory of Pat Whitney's birthday by Robin & Tommy.**

**Given in honor of Margaret McNamara's birthday by Kevin & Bonnie.**

**Altar Rose:**

**Given in honor of Debbie Henderson's birthday by her family.**



**Spaghetti Dinner**

The next community spaghetti dinner will be held on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Please note the time of 5:15. If you would like to help set up and/or serve please arrive at 4:30. If you would like to make a dessert to serve 10-12 people, please notify the church office, 732-531-1150. EVERYONE is invited! The food is delicious and the fellowship is outstanding. Invite family and friends. It does not matter what your financial situation is or if you are food-insecure. This is a time for our community to get together and share a meal.



**Altar Flowers Price Increase**

After many years, our florist has raised its prices. From now on altar flowers will be \$20 per bouquet. As always, thanks to all who generously donate! Diane Maher



The funeral service for Rev. Jack Johnson will be held Monday, October 28, 11 a.m. at the Haddonfield United Methodist Church, 29 Warwick Rd., Haddonfield, NJ, 08033. There will be a luncheon following the service.



**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 October by Robin Whitney & Tommy Vignola in loving memory of Pat & Jim Whitney.**



**Something to think about:  
God has a perfect plan in the midst of a million imperfect realities.**

**OUR OCTOBER COMMUNION OFFERING  
BENEFITS  
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**



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**



**WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS**

**October 6-October 12**

Job 1:1, 2:1-10  
Psalm 25, 26  
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12  
Mark 10:2-16



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.**

