
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 42

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Let's Do Unto Others *With Respect*

In a world divided for a number of reasons, elections, war, theology, ideologies, etc. I am very thankful for colleagues and theologians who use their voices to help me look at life through their many lenses. As many of you know from my Wednesday morning Facebook devotions, I have great respect for the writings and reflections of many other clergy. I respect that we may not all think identically, yet their prayers, reflections, poems, and spiritual direction engage me in self-reflection. In listening to many voices, we are to embody the kindness, compassion, humility, respect, and the love Christ calls forth in us as we *Do Unto Others*. This day, I share a prayer by Rev. Art Gafke entitled "Division," published in [*Beside Cool Waters a Pastor's Confessional Prayers for the Christian Life*](#).

A thousand years are like a watch in the night for you, O God.

Yet for us, a thousand years of human history contain the stories of divisions, of warfare, of enmity, as well as the stories of meetings, sharing, and peace.

God of a thousand years, we offer our confessions about the divisions in our own lives. We find ourselves with internal quarrels, guilts, and separations. We are not always unified within. We offer in prayer the divisions within our families. Some of these are open and acknowledged; some are silent and shunned from view. We carry the pain of these divisions.

God of a thousand years, we offer the divisions within our communities and world. In this connected world we are able to immerse ourselves in pools of people who are like us, act like us, and talk like us. We become suspicious of those who are different.

God of a thousand years, we are divided: by race, by age, by nationality, by culture, by species, by language, by wealth, by poverty. And yet the distinctions among us—because each of us is a unique miracle of your making—are cause for delight and joy. My nose, your eyes, his hair, her voice—what wonderful variations and gifts we share.

God of a thousand years, teach us to reach across barriers, to listen for your lead, to extend your grace and mercy across divisions in our lives.

Help us cherish our uniqueness to be shared as a gift given and received by those different than us. In the name of Jesus who came for all people. Amen.



This Sunday, I am thankful for Rev. Fran Noll who will bring a message of RESPECT in week four of our worship/sermon series *Do Unto Others*. Fran is a colleague, mentor, and friend whose wisdom and leadership I deeply respect. I know you will warmly welcome Rev. Fran Noll this Sunday as I travel to Ohio for Parent's Weekend. Peace and prayers, Jill



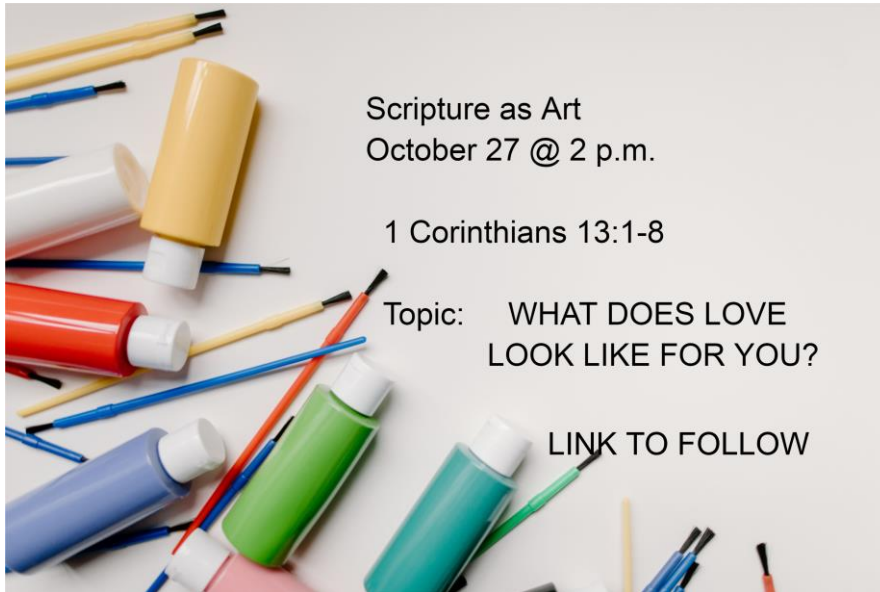
Java with Jill

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



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. ZOOM link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81230910730?pwd=ixjBruSpW3TmyUbSi4kWf8wCHQcFJe.1>

Meeting ID: 812 3091 0730

Passcode: 500012

-One tap mobile

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+13126266799,,81230910730#,,,,*500012# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
 - +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
 - +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
 - +1 360 209 5623 US
 - +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)
 - +1 507 473 4847 US
 - +1 564 217 2000 US
 - +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
 - +1 689 278 1000 US
 - +1 719 359 4580 US
 - +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 812 3091 0730

Passcode: 500012

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81230910730?pwd=ixjBruSpW3TmyUbSi4kWf8wCHQcFJe.1>



DO YOU WORSHIP ONLINE?

Thanks to our wonderful tech team, many of our members and friends are able to worship with us online. We'd love to know who's out there! Would you please just post your name in the comments section whenever you watch? It will be very helpful to me, as membership chairperson. Many thanks!

Diane Maher



*"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 November and 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 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 RED BANK 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 44th annual Red Bank CROP Walk will take place **this Sunday**. Thank you to everyone who has donated to the walk this year. Your gifts are always greatly appreciated!

If you haven't donated to the walk yet but would like to contribute, please see Jeff Danielson during coffee hour on Sunday morning. Please make checks payable to CWS/ Red Bank CROP Walk. 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.

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!



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

Deadline November 10

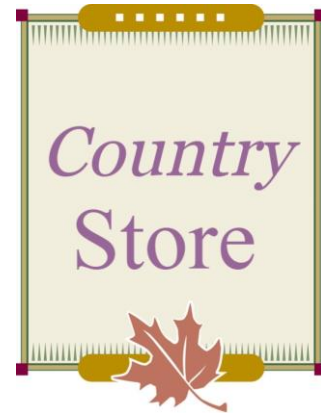
Each year we enjoy using an Advent devotional booklet written by our own church family. It's time to put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) and submit your entry! The format is simple: a Bible verse followed by a brief narrative, followed by a short prayer. If you need examples, we have some available.

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 contribute to this year's booklet!

Any questions, call or email Diane Maher at 732-513-8413, dianeserine07712@yahoo.com.

Thank you!



Saturday, November 16th
Oceanport UMC
50 Main St.
Oceanport

Enjoy a family style meal of:
Roast Pork/Green Beans/Roasted Potatoes/Homemade Pickled Beets
Homemade Applesauce
Pumpkin & Apple Pies

\$19
Limited Seating!
One Seating at 5 pm
Tickets Sold in Advance-Not at the Door
Call Jen, 732-865-4188

Be Sure to Shop at the Country Store!



Get to Know Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi by Sarah Borgstrom Lee

We're all super excited that we have a new bishop, Cynthia Moore-Koikoi.

Today we'll explore some of her favorite movies, songs, and books.

Today, Bishop Moore-Koikoi shares her answers to a series of questions that I like to call, "Movies that Made Me".

What movie can you watch over and over again?

The Mighty Quinn I love Denzel Washington

What movie reminds you who you are?

Black Panther

What movie do you watch when you want background noise?

The Sound of Music

What's your all-time favorite song?

Air on G String by Bach

What do you listen to when you've had a bad day?

Take Me to The King by Tamela Mann

What song do you love to sing at the top of your lungs?

Be Who You Are by Jon Batiste

What's your favorite book?

Dr. Seuss' *And To Think that I Saw It on Mulberry Street*

What books have been most influential in shaping your theology?

Meditations of the Heart by Howard Thurman & *She Who Is* by Elizabeth Johnson

What's something you've read recently that's made an impression on you?

White Too Long by Robert Jone

Our chance to meet Bishop Moore-Koikoi is
October 29th 7 pm
at
Westfield UMC
1 E. Broad St.
Carpooling is available.
Call the church office, 732-531-1150



MERCY CENTER THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Once again, it is collection time for the annual Mercy Center Thanksgiving food drive. Families in need are provided Thanksgiving baskets containing all the ingredients for a complete holiday dinner. The Mercy Center food pantry currently serves over 3,540 families a month in the Neptune/Asbury Park area!

Since it is a large project, Mercy Center requires the food be delivered to them early. Therefore, starting **October 20th**, there will be a table in the church foyer to receive non-perishable donations. Perishables can be left in the freezer or refrigerator **MARKED MERCY CENTER**. The Thanksgiving Basket food drive ends on **November 10th**. Donations can be dropped off during church office hours or on Sundays.

The food items being collected:

PERISHABLES---Please put the butter and biscuits in the refrigerator & turkeys in the freezer

MARKED MERCY CENTER

Butter

Refrigerated tube biscuits

Turkeys and turkey breasts

NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS

Stove-Top boxed stuffing

Canned vegetables: Yams, corn, carrots, collard greens, spinach

Canned turkey gravy

Cranberry sauce

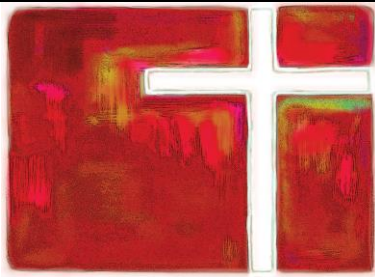
Cooking oil

DESSERTS:

Pumpkin pies, Apple pies (frozen or fresh)

The Outreach Committee and Mercy Center truly appreciate the congregation's continuing generous support of the Thanksgiving food drive!!!

Please mark items left in the refrigerator or freezer as being designated for Mercy Center Thanksgiving Food Baskets.



**October 20, 2024
22nd Sunday after Pentecost**

Counters: Gerry Busfield, Rand Danielson, Jane Gittines

Greeter: Barbara Gruezke

Usher: Gerry Busfield

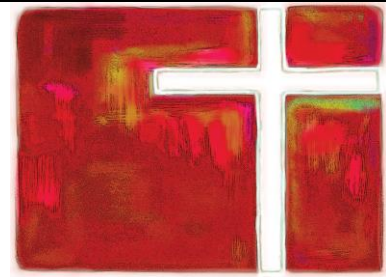
Acolyte: Kayleigh Becker

Lay Reader: Chip Stoll

Fellowship Hosts: Jeff Danielson & Pam Lynch

Altar Flowers:

**Given in loving memory of Gail Danielson by Ron, Jeff, Scott, & Russel.
Given in honor of Ellen Kale's birthday.**



**October 27, 2024
23rd Sunday after Pentecost**

Counters: Mary Bailey, Cheryl McLoughlin, John Montgomery

Greeter: Jeff Ragle

Usher: Jay Aretino

Acolyte: Ashley Bailey

Lay Reader: Steve Skoulas

Fellowship Hosts: Judy Gorra & Soon Hur

Altar Flowers:

Given by Susan McRae in loving memory of her mother, Jeanne Killian and her aunt, Barbara Davis.



Spaghetti Dinner

The next community spaghetti dinner will be held on **October 20th**. **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 bring a dessert (does not need to be home-made) 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.



Sandy Elias

Saturday, 11/16 at 1:30 pm here at our church. There will be a repast directly following in Fellowship Hall. In lieu of flowers, Sandy's family is asking that donations be sent to Easter Seals of NJ.

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



**Calling all Children and Youth for a
Christmas Choir!**

Do you have a child or youth in your life that would like to sing on Christmas Eve? Our Music Director, Denise, is hoping to get a group together! If interested, please have a parent email FUMCOMusicDirector@gmail.com for more information!

Dear Pastor Jill and friends,

Thank you for the lovely farewell circle you spontaneously created for us on our last Sunday of worship a few weeks ago. We felt your love; we hoped you felt ours. You have been our family, providing us the opportunity to serve God and our community for nearly forty years. We met and married at Oakhurst, and raised our three sons with you. Thank you! We feel so blessed and we miss you.

Our new address is:
332 Dornoch Drive
Pawleys Island, SC 29585

Love,
Gayle and George (Fitzmaier)

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:

You can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone.



WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

October 20-October 26

Job 38:1-7, 34-41

Psalms 104:1-9, 24, 35c

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45



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:

Applesauce



Jersey Shore Center, Eatontown: **David Miller**
Care One, Wall-**Bev Itell**
At Home: **Jean Gillette, Virginia Haydu,**
Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens,
Cary Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Connie
Bruckmann, Madeline Starkey



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



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.

