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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.

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*Psalm 118:22-23*

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*Let's*  
**Do Unto Others**  
*With Love*

"We have known and have believed the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them."

1 John 4:16, Common English Bible

What does LOVE look like for you? As Christians, we believe that God is unconditional love AND we are created in the image of God. So, we are an embodiment of that love which is illuminated through our words and actions...right? If we are following Jesus' teachings, we are choosing to engage in loving behaviors and attitudes toward others...right? If this is our truth, love is a verb. Love is intentional. Love is expressed in our kindness, compassion, humility, and respect. AND we are called to be makers of this love in the world like Christ. Christ, whose love was sacrificial and forgiving, correct? Following Jesus faithfully for me, begins in community. It is practiced in community – the church - and carried out into the world. This is something I believe our North Carolina brothers and sisters in the United Methodist Church are seeking to be in their Purple Initiative, which I became aware of in a recent article in the UM News Digest on September 16, 2024 entitled *Fostering Unity in the Purple Church* by Beth M. Crissman. Below, I share the first half of the article for you to read (the second half shares resources available to clergy.)

Five weeks ago, we entered into a worship series entitled *Do Unto Others*. Now, as we draw closer to the election in our nation, the voices streaming on our TVs and phones are one of division. I promised you in this series, I would not preach for a side or tell you how to vote or engage in divisiveness. I don't believe I have. But, I do believe we as Christians and the Church need to be a counter voice inviting our country into UNITY.

Now as we enter the final two weeks of this election season, this is our time to preach, live, and embody that unity. I pray this series has reminded all of us to reflect on our faith and the teachings of Jesus as we prepare to cast our vote. It is my hope that each and everyone of us will choose to cast our vote on or before November 5<sup>th</sup>. I believe it is our calling as Children of God, the Body of Christ, to be active peacemakers as heard in The Beatitudes. This my friends, happens as we gather in the safe surroundings of the church and then carry forth our desire to engage with ALL God's children in deep listening, ongoing prayer, and actions which express kindness, compassion, humility, and respect. These deliberate and faithful works model unity and love among our diverse and beautiful nation and world.

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday as we conclude this series and prepare to vote with a faithful conscious, Jill

"United Methodist churches remain some of the very few institutions in American society where people from different political persuasions can build deep and meaningful relationships with each other. In a polarized and often toxic political climate, UMC congregations are positioned to advance the ministry of Jesus by creating a beloved community that bridges political and theological divides."



#### The Purple Church

The above quote, published by the Religion and Social Change Lab of Duke Divinity School, is from a study that finds that United Methodist congregations in North Carolina are theologically and politically diverse, thus creating a "purple church" which reflects our deep diversity. As we gather each week, worshiping and serving side by side with each other, we are often sitting and serving "across the aisles" from siblings in Christ who think differently, and who may vote differently in the U.S. elections this November.

Considering other recent election years, and in the shadow of a prolonged season of deep divisions and loss within our own denomination, we might be tempted, as Christians, to remain silent, keeping our heads down as the most effective tactic of keeping the peace within our congregations. However, in his Sermon on the Mount, as Jesus was establishing the way of the life on which his Kingdom would be established, he reminds us that a life of faithfulness and blessing comes with making peace, not simply keeping it, when he says, "*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*" (Matthew 5:9 NRSV).

#### 'May we not love alike?'

During these contentious election cycles, we are bombarded with messages designed to drive us into separate "camps" (sometimes referred to as "parties") defined by our differences of opinion. However, John Wesley reminds us that our differences should not divide us when he says, "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences."



## 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 10<sup>th</sup>**. 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.**



## World Thank Offering

In addition to raising money for missions through an annual pledge and year-round fundraising, United Women in Faith set aside two special days a year to focus on a “Call to Prayer and Self-denial” and a “World Thank Offering.”

The World Thank Offering 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. These vary from support to schools, hospitals and clinics, daycare centers, and homes for senior citizens, educational training courses to prevent soil erosion, to leadership development, and nutritional courses, and medical training. The funds collected are used in the total program of mission carried on through United Women in Faith.

Many of us collect money over the course of the year, giving thanks and appreciation in either a blue and white World Thank Offering box or a container we have personally made for the purpose.

Being in mission is sharing our lives and gifts with others that all may be whole persons through Jesus Christ. Mission is creating a new society as we do away with those things that create barriers. It is working to eliminate racism, sexism and loneliness. Mission is Christ’s challenge to us to bring the possibility of food, shelter, and fulfillment to all of humanity.

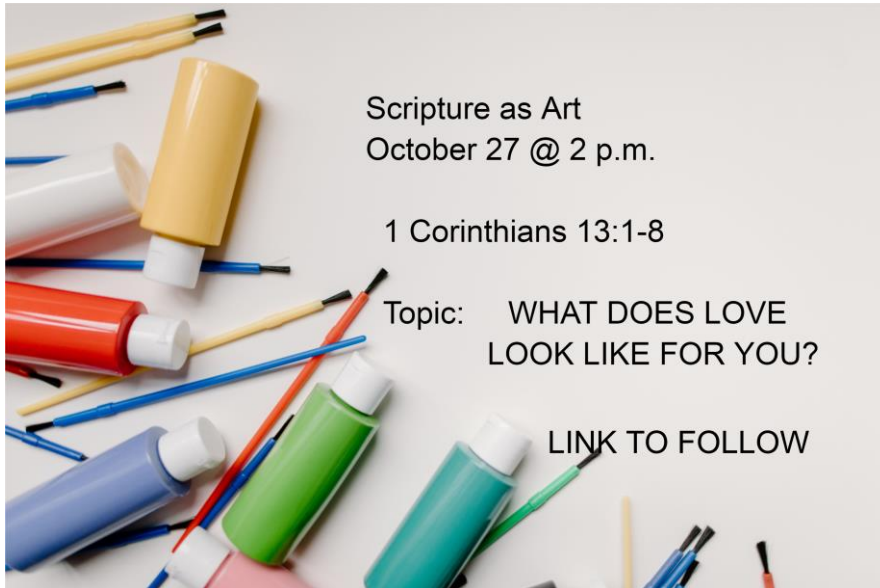
To contribute to this mission work, please set aside a collection box and give with thanksgiving during the year. Attached is a monthly calendar that will give you some ideas and incentives to place money in your container during the year. Even the whole family could get involved! All money should be turned in at the end of November the following year.

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Maher at 732-513-8413, or speak to a member of the UWIF.

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All are invited to meet Bishop Moore-Koikoi  
October 29<sup>th</sup> 7 pm  
at  
Westfield UMC  
1 E. Broad St.  
Carpooling is available.  
Call the church office, 732-531-1150



Scripture as Art  
October 27 @ 2 p.m.

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

Topic: WHAT DOES LOVE  
LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

LINK TO FOLLOW

### THIS SUNDAY

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)

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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

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*"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.

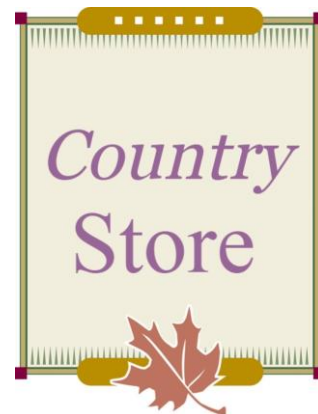
Together, let's come before the Lord, lifting up our churches, our denomination, our communities, and the world. We look forward to praying together and experiencing the power of collective prayer as a community united in Christ.

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

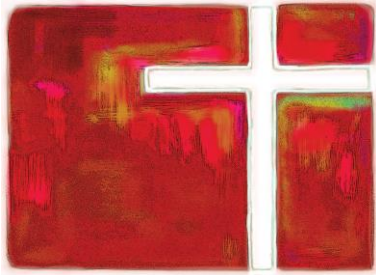


Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>  
Oceanport UMC  
50 Main St.  
Oceanport

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!



**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.**



**November 3, 2024**  
**24th Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**Greeter: Melody Ragle**

**Usher: Chip Stoll**

**Acolyte: Faye Snorton**

**Lay Reader: Len Gruezke**

**Fellowship Hosts: Scott & Russel Danielson**

**Altar Flowers:**

**Given in loving memory of Richard Beckmann by Peg, Kenneth, & Kimberly.  
Given in loving memory of Bob More & Tom Maher by Joy & Diane.**



### **Garage Sale Thank You**

The UWIF sale was a great success, raising over \$2700 for mission projects! Many thanks to everyone who donated items to sell, those who set-up, worked the sale, and cleaned up. What an outstanding crew! Thanks also to all our wonderful bakers!  
Diane Maher



### **2024 RED BANK CROP WALK**

Thank you to the congregation for its generous support of the 44th annual Red Bank CROP walk helping neighbors both here and around the world in the fight against hunger which took place on October 20th.

Oakhurst friends raised \$1,025 which exceeded our \$1,000 goal for the second year in a row! To date, the Red Bank CROP walk has counted \$72,000 in received donations towards the overall goal of \$110,000 which would beat the 2023 walk.

On behalf of the Outreach Committee we thank you for your continued support of the Red Bank CROP Walk.



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

MONDAY 10/28



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.

**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:**

How big are your troubles on a scale of one to God?

**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](mailto:FUMCOMusicDirector@gmail.com) for more information!



**WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS**

**October 27-November 2**

Job 42:1-6, 10-17  
Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22  
Hebrews 7:23-28  
Mark 10:46-52



**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.



**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:

Bakery items




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, Pastor Jim Davis**



**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



**PUZZLE** 

**FISHING DIRECTIONS**

When fishermen obeyed Jesus and let down their nets, they caught so many fish that their boats began to sink! Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees. What happened next?

Directions: Use the coordinate clues to locate the correct words and complete Luke 5:10-11 (NIV) below. The first number in each clue pair goes across, and the second number goes up.

9									
8	pull			talk					
7						followed		shore	
6	now								
5			people						
4				boats					
3	Jesus					everything		Simon	
2									
1			afraid						
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Then Jesus said to \_\_\_\_\_ (2, 1) "Don't be \_\_\_\_\_ (4, 1) ; from \_\_\_\_\_ (2, 6)  
 on you will \_\_\_\_\_ (5, 6) for \_\_\_\_\_ (4, 3) " So they \_\_\_\_\_ (1, 6) their  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (5, 4) up on \_\_\_\_\_ (8, 6) left \_\_\_\_\_ (5, 2) and \_\_\_\_\_ (8, 6) him.  
Luke 5:10-11, NIV

Answer: Jesus, Simon, afraid, now, fish, people, pulled, boats, now, everything, followed

