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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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## ***O Young and Fearless Prophet*** (UMH 444)

*O young and fearless Prophet of ancient Galilee,  
Thy life is still a summons to serve humanity;  
To make our thoughts and actions less prone to please the crowd,  
To stand with humble courage for truth with hearts uncowed.*

*We marvel at the purpose that held thee to thy course  
While ever on the hilltop before thee loomed the cross;  
Thy steadfast face set forward where love and duty shone,  
While we betray so quickly and leave thee there alone.*

*O help us stand unswerving against war's bloody way,  
Where hate and lust and falsehood hold back Christ's holy sway;  
Forbid false love of country that blinds us to his call,  
Who lifts above the nations the unity of all.*

*Stir up in us a protest against our greed for wealth,  
While others starve and hunger and plead for work and health;  
Where homes with little children cry out for lack of bread,  
Who live their years sore burdened beneath a gloomy dread.*

*O young and fearless Prophet, we need thy presence here,  
Amid our pride and glory to see thy face appear;  
Once more to hear thy challenge above our noisy day,  
Again to lead us forward along God's holy way.*

This past Monday, I attended The Reverend Jack Johnson's memorial service at Haddonfield UMC, as did many of you. It was a beautiful service of witness to Jack's faith and life. A devoted follower of Jesus who embodied joy and laughter rooted in his knowledge that he and all people are God's beloved children. A faithful and faith-filled prophet whose daily actions and words worked tirelessly toward restorative justice for all God's children bringing unity to God's kin-dom.

The hymns sung at Rev. Johnson's service included *O Young and Fearless Prophet*. A hymn I have seldom sung yet is such an appropriate statement of Jack's belief in Jesus and Jack's witness in this life. I invite you to meditate on these lyrics as we bridge from our sermon series entitled *Do Unto Others* and embark on *Releasing God's Blessings* in this month of November. This week, is mixed with voting, the opportunity that not only influences our personal lives and families but also affect the lives of all God's children, and the celebration of those saints who have run their race in this life with faithful perseverance and now rest in eternal glory. As we prepare to vote and celebrate, may we reflect on our call as disciples, witnesses, and prophets in our world today...how are we intentionally choosing to live out our faith through our chosen decisions, our words, and our actions daily.

This Sunday, as we celebrate *All Saints Sunday* and Holy Communion, we will include the names of The Reverend Jack Johnson and The Reverend Jim Davis. I am honored to lead us in this celebration of these and many others who have been faithful mentors and prophets in our life and times.

I look forward to seeing you online and in-person this Sunday, *Jill*



### **Remembering Rev. Jim Davis**

Rev. Jim Davis was a dynamo. Although small in physical stature, he was a giant in energy and enthusiasm and in his commitment to God and the Church.

Rev. Davis served as our interim Pastor and saw us through a difficult and uncertain time in the life of our church.

Although already retired himself, he accepted the call and joined us during the time of Pastor Eble's extended illness and eventual retirement and provided a smooth transition as we prepared to welcome Rev. Mark Ale as our next pastor.

During his time with us, Rev. Davis provided excellent leadership in administrative matters and tended to the needs of the congregation.

More importantly, it was difficult to sit still during his scripture-based sermons.

He brought a commitment and a vibrancy to every message.

His deep faith was clear in all he said or did.

It would greatly underestimate Rev. Davis's time with us as just an interim or "in-between."

His dedication and commitment during a very difficult time served us well.

We were and are blessed by his ministry and will always be grateful for his time among us.

Written by Ron Danielson, FUMC Lay Member to Conference

#### **Viewing & Memorial Service:**

Date: Saturday, November 2nd

Time: 9:30 am – 10:30 am Service will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Location: Whiting United Methodist Church, 55 Lacey Road, Whiting, NJ 08759

#### **Memorial Donations (In lieu of flowers) may be sent to:**

Whiting UMC and the Parkinson's Foundation <https://www.parkinson.org/>

#### **Send Expressions of Sympathy to:**

Mary Ann Davis (spouse)

50 Easton Dr

Whiting, NJ 08759



## 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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# Advent DEVOTIONALS

## 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](mailto:dianeserine07712@yahoo.com).

Thank you!



### 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



## **HOPE SCHOOL**

### **November's Communion Offering**

Since 1962, Hope School has provided a stable learning environment to at-risk children growing up in a region rife with conflict for decades. Located in Beit-Jala, a Palestinian-Christian town in the West Bank, the foundation of Hope School's programming for its children is centered on the Christian values of love, peace, tolerance, human dignity, and justice.

Hope School's teaching goes beyond the classroom. Recognizing the difficult conditions that many of its students face, the school has a three-fold program. Hope School recognizes that academic achievement only goes so far with an unstable home life. Therefore, beyond the school curriculum, the school has outreach programs that allow for visits to the children's houses and their parents to see how living conditions can be improved so the student can be focused on his/her studies.

Beyond educating students and improving home-life, the third facet of the program is economic empowerment of the student and his/her family to allow for improving the families' standards of living and a path toward financial stability. The curriculum includes a vocational education and training program to enrich its students and offer the chance for future achievement.

For disadvantaged children-either orphaned or with unsustainable home-life situations, Hope School offers a boarding school that allows at-risk students to live on campus throughout the school year in a safe and healthy environment in order to accelerate their academic achievement.

Hope School understands that a quality education not only provides the best opportunity for its students' future success but the outgrowth of its students' achievements is that the students will be future leaders who with hope can be beacons to their communities and allow for these communities' development and growth.

Your November communion offering will allow Hope School to continue its mission.



**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 Gruzke

**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.



**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:

Chips



**November 10, 2024**  
**24th Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**Greeter:** Ruth Sheckler

**Usher:** Scott Danielson

**Acolyte:** Sue McRae

**Lay Reader:** Barbara Gruzke

**Fellowship Hosts:** Ron Danielson & Randy Danielson

**Altar Flowers:**

Given in loving memory of Pat & Jim Whitney by  
the Whitney family.

Given in honor of Ashley Bailey's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday  
by Grandma, Aunt Mary, & Uncle Marty.



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, Barbara**  
**MacPherson**







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 did God bless you today?

**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**

**November 3-November 9**

Ruth 1:1-18

Psalm 146

Hebrews 9:11-14

Mark 12:28-34



**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.