
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 45

November 7, 2024



*Blessed People
Bless Others
2 Corinthians 9:6-10*

November is the month in the life of our church that invites us to look at the many blessings God has poured into our lives and give thanks....the blessings of human existence, life, this magnificent world, and Jesus' gift of salvation. As recipients of these gifts freely given to us by our Creator and Redeemer, we are called to live lives generously sharing grace and blessings with all God's children.

On this second week of our stewardship series, *Releasing God's Blessings*, we will reflect on what it means to be the stewards through whom God is blessing the world. As we know, acknowledging our blessings and giving thanks empowers us to bless others.

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday. Peace and prayers, *Jill*



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.



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.



HELP! HELP! HELP!

As of today, we have only 11 submissions for this year's booklet. We need 14 more! **If there is not sufficient interest, I'm afraid we will have to abandon the project.**

DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 10TH. The early deadline is necessary in order for editing, printing, and mailing to be accomplished before December 1. **PLEASE!** You can contribute! Get your submissions in this week!

Diane Maher Email: dianeserine07712@yahoo.com or text 732-513-8413.



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 a virtual prayer meeting on December 3rd. There will be 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. Please use the Zoom link included below for our prayer meeting. 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:

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

Meeting ID: 812 7427 5381

Password: 07753



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 Gruezke

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 20th birthday by her mom, Grandma, Aunt Mary, & Uncle Marty.**



November 17, 2024
25th Sunday after Pentecost

Counters: Gerry Busfield, Randy Danielson, Jane Gittines

Greeter: Ruth Sheckler

Usher: Buster Stoll

Acolyte: Joy More

Lay Reader: Carol Steinat

Fellowship Host: Kitty Amato

Altar Flowers:

Given in loving memory of Frances Miller by her niece, Sharron Meadows.



There will be a community Thanksgiving worship service on 11/26 at 7 pm at Old First UMC, 197 Locust Ave., West Long Branch. Wayside UMC, First UMC Oakhurst, and Old First UMC are all taking part.



The Trustees are hosting a work day **THIS SATURDAY** starting at 9 am. There is something for everyone to do no matter your abilities or expertise. Just show up and see what you can do to help!

ALTAR FLOWERS NEEDED



We have openings for one bouquet on November 17 and 24. If you would like to donate flowers in memory or in honor of a special person or event, please contact Diane Maher. 732-513-8413, dianeserine07712@yahoo.com. Price:\$20; check made out to Altar Guild. Thank you.

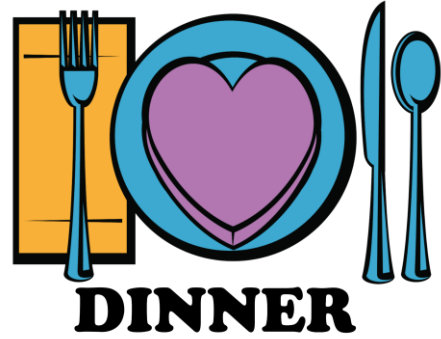


A heartfelt thank you for Pastor Jill's visit and dinner and for all the other dinners, gifts, cards, calls, texts, visits, rides, and especially the prayers. I really appreciated it all. You are a wonderful church family and I am truly blessed.
Barbara MacPherson



to set up tables and chairs for Sandy Elias' memorial service repast in Fellowship Hall. If you are able to assist on Friday morning, 11/15 at 10 AM, please call the church office, 732-531-1150.

COMMUNITY



DINNER

The next spaghetti dinner is on 11/17 at 5 pm in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to have a delicious spaghetti full-course meal. It is absolutely **free**. Please join us and ask your friends and neighbors to come along. It doesn't matter what your financial situation is. It is a time for fellowship. Two desserts are needed for that night. Store-bought or home-made, it's all appreciated. Call the church office if you can contribute.



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 November in celebration of Adaline Rose MacPherson's 1st birthday, 11/13 by her grandparents, Larry & Barbara MacPherson



Something to think about:

If you see someone falling behind, slow your steps.

**OUR NOVEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING
BENEFITS
HOPE SCHOOL**



**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!



WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

November 10-November 16

Ruth 3:1-5: 4:13-17
Psalm 42 & 127
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44



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:

Dog food

Please be Praying for...

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



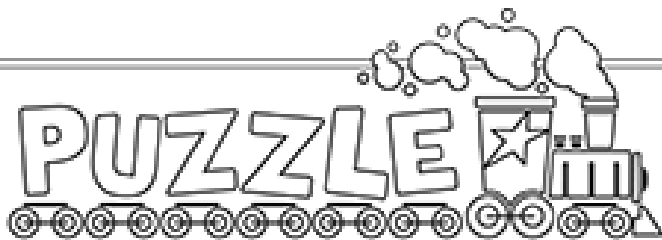
Java with Jill

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: Nov. 26



A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.



_ _ _ _ _
 R G S Z M F N B T L W
 _ _ _ _ _
 V E Y T B C R N V R
 _ _ _ _ _
 I V N V N Y V I B L F
 _ _ _ _ _
 R M Z O O N B
 _ _ _ _ _
 K I Z B V I H U L I Z O O
 _ _ _ _ _
 L W B L F R Z O O Z B H
 _ _ _ _ _
 K I Z B D R G S O L B
 _ _ _ _ _
 K S R O R K K R Z M H

1:3-4, NIV

Answer: I thank my God every time I remember you in all my prayers for all of you. I always pray with joy. (Philippians 1:3-4, NIV)

