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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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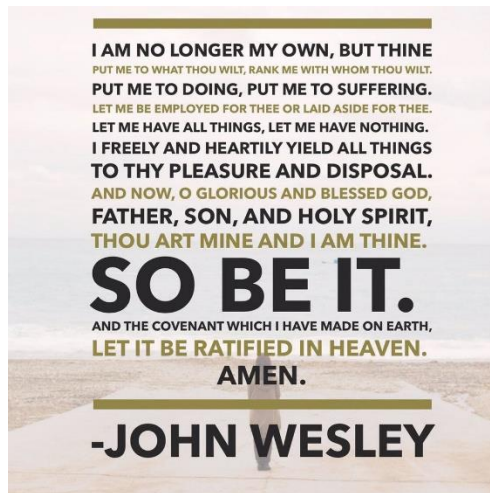
*Psalm 118:22-23*

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VOLUME LXXIII NUMBER 1

January 2, 2025



*Sunday, January 5, 2025*

## JOHN WESLEY COVENANT SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

In 1775, John Wesley, our founder of the Methodist movement, introduced a covenant service as an important part of spiritual life in the Methodist Societies. This renewal service was a time for Methodists to gather to publicly reaffirm their commitment to God by renewing their "covenant" through self-examination and personal reflection, confession, and a dedicated prayer. This was

an annual service around New Year's Day. It typically includes hymns, scripture, a sermon, the covenant, and Holy Communion.

On this Epiphany Sunday, we will be partaking in this covenant service while also including the consecration of our 2025 church leadership as we bring ourselves to the manger. You are further invited to bring a gift of diapers as you come to worship the newborn babe of Bethlehem. I look forward to sharing in this annual and traditional service with you this Sunday online or in-person. See you Sunday, Jill



### DIAPER DRIVE: January 5, 2025

The congregation is invited to bring diapers to the Christ Child's manger. This drive will help support a UM ministry, Maker's Place in Trenton. For every diaper brought to the manager of the newborn Jesus, Pastor Jill will match.

\*\*\* Please note we are working to reduce costs in 2025. One of the many ways we are doing this, is a new bulletin layout. I understand change can feel a bit uncomfortable, but I hope we might all try new possibilities to help sustain our ministry here at FUMC. This style of bulletin will significantly reduce our copy count which is billed to us monthly. I will continue to inform you of other changes that might come along throughout the year. Thank you for your grace as our leadership works hard at these financial reductions. Jill \*\*\*



### **A Note from Jill:**

Dear FUMC Church Family,

I want to thank you for your kind and generous Christmas gift. I so very much appreciate your encouraging and loving support in our ministry journey together. Our family is so very thankful to be a part of the ministry and each of your lives. Thank you for this very gracious gift. Peace and prayers as we enter a new year of ministry opportunities.

As many of you heard this past Sunday, my father's wife of 30 years suddenly and unexpectedly died on Christmas day. Marge was also my father's caregiver for the past two years since he has been in a wheelchair after 4 knee surgeries and unsuccessful rehab. Later this month, I will head down to Alabama to attend Marge's funeral and assist in disbanding their home and relocating my father near my brother in Vermont.

I will be working with SPRC and the Worship Committee to ensure the ministry of our congregation. Joy will have the numbers of other clergy in our area for emergencies. I will also continue some work remotely. If you need to reach me during this month and always throughout the year, let me remind you of my contact information.

Work Cell

732-209-4563

Work Email

revjmhs@gmail.com

I thank you for your kindness, prayers, and grace in this season of my life.

Peace and prayers always as we journey together, Jill



# ERT BASIC TRAINING EARLY RESPONSE TEAM

## January 4

January 4, 2025  
9:00am - 4:00pm

Calvary United Methodist Church  
185 W. Madison Ave.  
Dumont, NJ 07628

<https://tinyurl.com/yku3jxsx>

## January 11

January 11, 2025  
9:00am - 4:00pm

Pennington United Methodist Church  
60 S. Main Street  
Pennington, NJ 08534

<https://tinyurl.com/4jrrje48>

..... Questions? Contact Rev Cricket Denton: [cdenton@haddonfieldumc.org](mailto:cdenton@haddonfieldumc.org)



## World Vision Child

It's time to sign up to sponsor Tsedalech, our World Vision child from Ethiopia, for 2025. All months are open except February, August, September, & October. You may dedicate your sponsorship in memory of or in honor of loved ones or to mark a special occasion. The donation amount is \$39. Please contact the church office with your information.



## Pledge Envelopes-**New Information!**

Your 2025 pledge envelopes are here!! They will be located on the foyer entrance table starting January 5th. Please pick yours up as soon as possible. If you see someone else's that you can deliver to easily, please take theirs as well. This will greatly cut down on the cost of postage.



**Epiphany Sunday  
January 5, 2025**

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

**Greeter: Alice Coleman**

**Usher: Gerry Busfield**

**Acolyte: Mallory Mitchell**

**Lay Reader: Bob Crowther**

**Fellowship Host: Bonnie McNamara**

**Altar Flowers:**

Given in loving memory of Scott Gill by Carol Whyte.

Given in loving memory of Russell Danielson by Ron, Randy, Aldo, Jeff, Scott, & Russel.



**Baptism of the Lord  
January 12, 2025**

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

**Greeter: Scott Danielson**

**Usher: Jay Aretino**

**Acolyte: Robert Scott**

**Lay Reader: Garry Smith**

**Fellowship Host:**

**Altar Flowers:**

Given by Soon Hur in loving memory of her brother, Sam Koh.

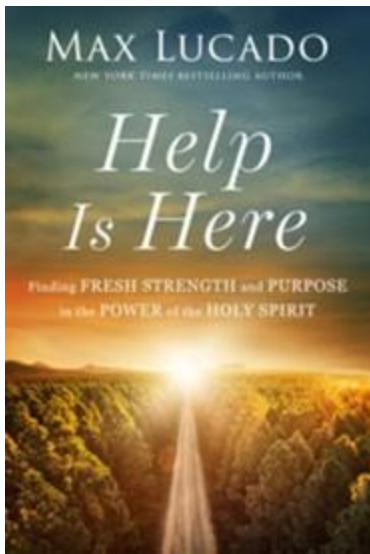
Given by Scott and Russel Danielson in loving memory of the January 16 birthday of Russel's father, FulciendoTerrado.



Our 2025 calendars have arrived! Our thanks to Fiore-Buckley Funeral Home for this gift. You may pick one up on the table in the foyer.



The next community dinner is on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 5PM. This is a free dinner to which everyone is invited. Please spread the word that there is good food and good fellowship. If you can bring or drop off a dessert, please let the office know. 732-531-1150.



*Help Is Here* reminds us that our Good Shepherd doesn't just feed us; he leads us. He does more than correct us; he directs us. God keeps us on track-and best of all, he's commissioned the Holy Spirit to guide us down the winding roads of life, wherever they may lead us.

Join the Adult Sunday School class, Sunday mornings at 11 am in Wesely Hall starting January 5<sup>th</sup> as they begin this study by Max Lucado. If you have questions, please contact the office, 732-531-1150.



Thank you so much for your generous (Christmas) gift. I truly appreciate it.

Lisa Costello



**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:  
Ketchup

A note of appreciation to our crew of Christmas helpers who decorated our church so beautifully for Christmas! I so appreciate the following folk who generously gave of their own time during this busy season: Jim Scisco (who sets up the outdoor crèche each year), Mike Sheckler, Barb & Len Gruezke, Sue Johnson, Sue McRae, Joy More, Chip Stoll, & Pamela Lynch.



Also a big thank you to all who donated our beautiful poinsettias! We are blessed to have so many people who love our church!

Sincerely,  
Diane Maher



*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: January 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**Tsedalech Tesfaye, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of January by Diane Maher.**



**Something to think about:**

Some people could be given an entire field of roses and only see the thorns. Others could be given a single weed and only see the wildflowers in it. Perception is a key component to gratitude. And gratitude is a key component to joy. -Amy Weatherly



**Our homebound:** David Miller, Bev Itell, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Cary Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Madeline Starkey, Pam Miller, Nancy Burt

**Genesis:** Shirley Bailey, Cliff Miller

**Our church family at a distance:** Barbara Novick, Jean Gillette, Laura Eble

**OUR JANUARY COMMUNION OFFERING  
BENEFITS  
THE PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**



Pastor Jill and staff: Joy, Lisa, Noel, Chip, Johnny, Rob, & Denise.

**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.



**WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS**

**January 5-January 11**

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12