

---

---

# 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 LXXIII NUMBER 4

January 23 2025



***This Sunday we welcome Rev. Sang Won Doh, our Raritan Shore District Superintendent. Rev. Doh will lead us in worship and meditation. I know you will warmly welcome Rev. Doh in my absence. Peace and prayers, Jill***

...

Please take note: [Deadline January 26](#)

## **DIAPER DRIVE: LAST CALL FOR DIAPERS!**



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 manger of the newborn Jesus, Pastor Jill will match. **Please drop off your donations in the church office.** We are currently at over 1200 donated!



# Metro Highlands Foundational Leadership Training 2025

Saturday, January 25, 2025 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The Foundational Leadership Training is designed for church officers, committee and team leaders, and individuals engaged in various ministries of the church. It aims to provide a foundational understanding of leadership and essential leadership skills. The training consists of two workshop sessions, offering participants the opportunity to choose different topics related to their area of ministry, as well as broader leadership skills. All workshops will be conducted via Zoom and are open to both clergy and laity. Please note that not all workshops are available in both sessions. Pre-registration is required. To register contact Erica Allen at [eallen@epagnj.org](mailto:eallen@epagnj.org).

## **SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY:**

9:00 am	Workshop Session 1
10:30 am	Break
11:00 am	Workshop Session 2
12:30 pm	Adjourn

## **SESSION 1 WORKSHOPS:**

- Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) - **Rev. Dr. Eunice Vega-Perez**

Watch video before attending the workshop: <https://leadership-academy29.teachable.com/p/staff-parish-relations-committee-the-basics>

- Pathways Bridges Workshop: Cultivating Curiosity and Building Community - **Alyssa Ruch and Gina Yeske**

Watch video before attending the workshop: <https://leadership-academy29.teachable.com/p/congregational-vitality-community-outreach>

- #WITH: A new paradigm for youth ministry - **Eric Drew**
- "What's Up with The Revised Social Principles of the United Methodist Church? We'll Find Out with God's Help..." - **Rev. Janice McCrostie and Rev. Dr. Steve Bechtold**
- Cybersecurity Training for Local Churches! - **Sharon Asmus from GCFA**
- A Year in the Life of a Trustee - **Rev. Dr. Derrick Doherty**

Watch video before attending the workshop: <https://leadership-academy29.teachable.com/p/what-is-a-trustee>

- Conflict Resolution - **Rev. Sang Won Doh**
- Four Keys To Funding Your Ministry - **Rev. Brian Roberts**
- Come and see, an Invitation to Local Church Leadership - **Rev. Dr. Juel Nelson**
- Generative AI and the Future of Church Ministry - **Rev. James Lee**
- Clergy Payroll Deductions: Compass and Taxes and Clergy Financial Planning - **Rob Zuckerman and Larry Springer**
- Skylands Outreach Depot - **Kim Burse**

## **SESSION 2 WORKSHOPS:**

- Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) - **Rev. Dr. Eunice Vega-Perez**

Watch video before attending the workshop: <https://leadership-academy29.teachable.com/p/staff-parish-relations-committee-the-basics>

- Pathways Bridges Workshop: Cultivating Curiosity and Building Community - **Alyssa Ruch and Gina Yeske**

Watch video before attending the workshop: <https://leadership-academy29.teachable.com/p/congregational-vitality-community-outreach>

- #WITH: A new paradigm for youth ministry - **Eric Drew**
- "What's Up with The Revised Social Principles of the United Methodist Church? We'll Find Out with God's Help..." - **Rev. Janice McCrostie and Rev. Dr. Steve Bechtold**
- Cybersecurity Training for Local Churches! - **Sharon Asmus from GCFA**
- Four Keys To Funding Your Ministry - **Rev. Brian Roberts**
- Come and see, an Invitation to Local Church Leadership - **Rev. Dr. Juel Nelson**
- Generative AI and the Future of Church Ministry - **Rev. James Lee**
- Clergy Payroll Deductions: Compass and Taxes and Clergy Financial Planning - **Rob Zuckerman and Larry Springer**
- International Mission Workshop - **Sam Perez**



**3rd Sunday After Epiphany  
January 26, 2025**

**Counters: Mary Bailey, Cheryl McLoughlin, John Montgomery**

**Greeter: Randy Danielson**

**Usher: Scott Danielson**

**Acolyte: Kayleigh Becker**

**Lay Reader: Steve Skoulas**

**Fellowship Hosts: Judy Gorra & Soon Hur**

**Altar Flowers:**

Given in loving memory of Mae & Harry Duerrler  
by Kitty Amato.

Given in honor of Jaxson Liam Henderson's 3<sup>rd</sup>  
birthday by his family.



**4th Sunday After Epiphany  
February 2, 2025**

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

**Greeter: Barbara Gruezke**

**Usher: Kitty Amato**

**Acolyte: Ashley Bailey**

**Lay Reader: Pam Puryear**

**Fellowship Hosts: Scott & Russel Danielson**

**Altar Flowers:**

Given in loving memory of Betty Beckmann's  
birthday by Peggy, Kenneth, & Kimberly.  
Given by Maha Boutros in honor of the February  
birthdays of Awni Boutros & grandson, Joseph  
(2/1).



**UWIF Installation Dinner**  
Tuesday, Jan. 28, 5:30 pm  
in Wesley Hall.

All UWIF members are  
asked to be present as we  
install the officers for 2025.  
Please bring a dinner dish or  
dessert to share.

Hope to see you all there!  
Diane Maher



**World Vision Child**

It's time to sign up to sponsor our World Vision Child. **The following months are available: May, June, & November.** 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. 732-531-1150



**WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS**

**January 26-February 1**

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, 30  
Psalm 19  
I Corinthians 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21



## 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: **February 25th**

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



### Something to think about:

If you create your own storms, don't get mad  
when it rains.



If you would like to purchase a personalized brick for the Prayer Garden, please complete the form attached to the *Cornerstone* on or before March 1, 2025. The bricks will be dedicated to the Prayer Garden at the sunrise service Easter morning.

Questions can be forwarded to Jennifer Scisco at [jeniscis@gmail.com](mailto:jeniscis@gmail.com)

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



### 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.



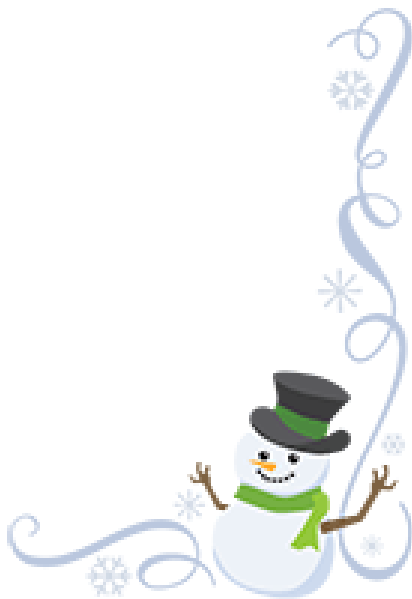
**Our homebound:** David Miller, Bev Itell, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Cary Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Madeline Starkey, Pam Miller, Nancy Burt, Shirley Bailey

**Genesis:** Cliff Miller

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



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 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:  
Nuts

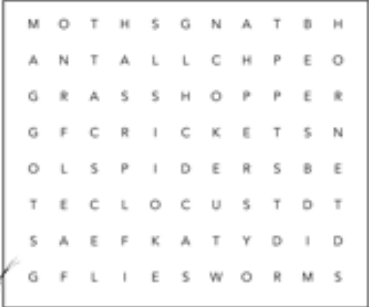


# Puzzle!



Fill in the blanks with the tiny creatures mentioned in each verse (all NIV). Then search for those words in the puzzle below.

- Proverbs 6:6 -----
- Psalm 78:45 -----
- Matthew 23:24 -----
- Judges 14:8b -----
- Acts 12:23 -----
- Leviticus 11:22 -----
- Leviticus 11:22 -----
- Deuteronomy 7:20 -----
- Exodus 16:20 -----
- 1 Samuel 24:14 -----
- Isaiah 50:9 -----
- Isaiah 59:5 -----
- Leviticus 11:22 -----
- Leviticus 11:22 -----



Answers: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket

