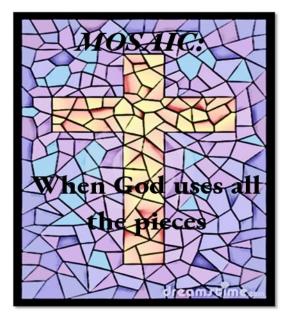
The Cornerstone

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 10

March 6, 2025



Restlessness

Matthew 11:28-30

In the days before D-Day, General Dwight D. Eisenhower's diary detailed the tense, difficult hours

before the invasion. In some of the most personal and vulnerable descriptions of World War II, this great military leader described the fragile sense of waiting and how helpless he felt. His spirit was rattled with self-doubt and questions about whether the decision to invade on the Normandy coast in June of 1944 was the right decision. Eisenhower's statement to the soldiers was, "I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full victory!"

Of course, we know how the story ends. The Allied invasion was successful, although many gave their lives in the process. It provided the foundation for what would be the death knell for Hitler's rule over Germany. The days that followed the invasion certainly accomplished their goal. But in many ways, the days before this huge undertaking defined not only its success, but also, if things had turned out differently, what could have been its incredible failure.

All of us have days before, jagged edges of our lives that mark the long journey for what it becomes, but also for how the pieces, broken apart by circumstance and mistake, either continue to cut our lives in two or become the eternal masterpiece of the Creator.

Over the course of the Lenten journey, we will look at how the God of the universe uses broken pieces, places, and people of our lives to create God's artwork, a glistening masterpiece that reframes our potential and our purpose. This journey will take us along the same path Jesus walked in the days before the days along his own journey to Jerusalem. We will see the similarities to our own stories and the lessons we should pick up, like pebbles along the path. In the end, we will not be the same. We shouldn't be. Any journey worth its value moves us to new places to accomplish new possibilities. That is God's point for you and for me – to recast the shards of discarded hopes and dreams into something beautiful and useful – a mosaic where God uses all of the pieces.

I look forward to our Lenten Journey together that began yesterday with Ash Wednesday. It is my prayer that we will bring our jagged edges together to create something new and beautiful with our Creator as we draw closer to Easter.



I pray you will note the many ways you might deepen your spirituality this Lent...

Sundays 9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

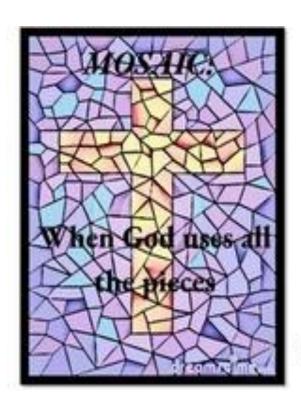
Tuesdays 7:00 p.m. Weekly **Lenten Study** in Blair Chapel **Daily Devotionals** – 1. Shared in the Bulletin each week.

2. Provided through the Annual Conference

https://www.epagnjhealing.com/april

(If you need these printed, please contact the church office.)

...as we walk with Christ toward the Cross. Peace and prayers, Jill



Lenten Study

Tuesdays, at 7:00 p.m. In Blair Chapel

March 11 - Restlessness

March 18 via zoom - Regret

March 25 - Rejection

April 1 - Responsibility

April 8 - Relationships

First UMC, 103 Monmouth Road, Oakhurst



933 WEST PARK AVE, OCEAN NJ



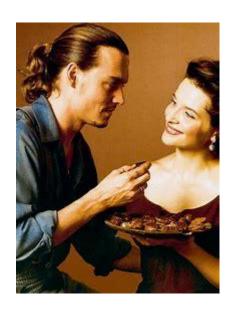
Wednesday, March 26th, 2025 Dine In or Pick Up 11AM – 9PM

Take the day off from cooking! Proceeds will go directly to First United Methodist Church: Oakhurst UWIF

Please mention this flyer when ordering.

Pick Up: Call 732-493-2003 or Online: illianosrestaurant.net

Great News! You don't need to bring a flyer with you! Just tell the restaurant it's for the UWIF!



SPIRITUAL SEEKERS

During the next meeting, on March 11th from 10:30 am-12:30 pm the movie *Chocolat* will be shown in Wesely Hall.

Chocolat is a 2000 film, based on the 1999 novel Chocolat by the English author Joanne Harris, directed by Lasse Hallström. Chocolat tells the story of Vianne Rocher, played by Juliette Binoche, who arrives in the fictional French village of Lansquenet-sous-Tannes at the beginning of Lent with her six-year-old daughter, Anouk. She opens a small chocolaterie. Soon, she and her chocolate, influence the lives of the townspeople of this repressed French community in different and interesting ways.





____ I will pick up flower/plant

EASTER FLOWERS

EASTER IS SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025

If you would like to place a flower/plant on the altar as a memorial or in honor of a loved one on Easter Sunday, please fill in this form and mail it with \$15.00 (checks payable to the Altar Guild) to Diane Maher, c/o First United Methodist Church 103 Monmouth Road, Oakhurst, NJ, 07755, NO LATER THAN APRIL 13, 2025. Please keep your dedications brief.

- 1
Place a flower on the altar in memory of in honor of:
(give name exactly as you wish it printed)
Given by:
I will pick up flower/plant
EASTER FLOWERS EASTER IS SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025
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Place a flower on the altar in memory of in honor of:
(give name exactly as you wish it printed)
Given by:



1st Sunday in Lent March 9, 2025

Counters: Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll

Greeter: Ruth Sheckler

Usher: Paul Bradley

Acolyte: Robert Scott

Lay Reader: Robin Whitney

Fellowship Host: Bonnie McNamara

Altar Flowers:

Given in loving memory of Kaitlin Elizabeth Henderson's 32nd birthday in heaven by her family.

Given in loving memory of Ken Ward & Martin Bailey by Marty & Mary Bailey.



Dr. John D. Blair Scholarship

Applications for the 2025 Dr. John D. Blair Scholarships are available on the church website or in the church office. In addition to first year applicants, those who have received a previous scholarship are eligible to apply again for each undergraduate year.

Completed applications must be submitted by April 1st. A grade transcript must accompany applications.



2nd Sunday in Lent March 16, 2025

Counters: Gerry Busfield, Randy Danielson,

Jane Gittines

Greeter: Mike Sheckler

Usher: Ron Danielson

Acolyte: Kitty Amato

Lay Reader: Sandy Miller

Fellowship Host: Bonnie McNamara

Altar Flowers:

Given in loving memory of James Patrick Whitney by the Whitney family.

Given in honor of Gayle Fitzmaier by Bonnie McNamara.



This Sunday at 2 a.m.. (Or perhaps Saturday night before bed!)



Tsedalech Tesfaye, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of March by Randy Danielson & Aldo Suarez in loving memory of Aldo's mother, Martha Suarez.



Something to think about:

Do not give up when you still have something to give.



WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

March 9-March 15 Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 9:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13

World Vision Child



It's time to sign up to sponsor our World Vision Child. The following month is available: 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.

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: Taco kits

OUR MARCH COMMUNION OFFERING BENEFITS UMCOR SUNDAY



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 lowsalt 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, noncondiments. cooking spray, 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, tea. dye-free/fragrance-free coffee. toothpaste, toothbrushes, & hand sanitizer.



Our homebound: David Miller, Bev Itell, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Cary Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Pam & Cliff Miller, Nancy Burtt, Elaine Gould

At home: Peg Kuchen, Shirley Bailey

Our church family at a distance: Barbara Novick, Jean Gillette, Laura Eble, Geroge & Gayle Fitzmaier



Openings for Altar Flowers

There are some openings for altar flowers in March.

March 23- one bouquet

If you would like to remember or honor a loved one or event with flowers on the altar, please contact Diane Maher at 732-513-8413.

Price per bouquet-\$20Checks made out to Altar Guild. Thank you to all who generously donate to beautify our worship space!



Java wíth Jíll

Join Jill at the <u>Blue Swan Diner</u>
for coffee and conversation
(or the drink of your preference).
This informal time of fellowship will be every <u>4th Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.</u>
Mark your calendars: March 25th.



Spiritual Seekers

Meeting Monthly: 2nd Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. All ARE WELCOME. This is an opportunity for us to come together for conversations, field trips, book studies, or whatever we want, to explore ways to deepen our spiritual journeys. Each month's experience stands alone, which means: *come whenever it fits your calendar*.

ALL viewpoints are welcome so that we might learn and grow with one another.

Future ideas might include: a field trip to the Cloisters, visiting labyrinths, guest speakers such as a local rabbi, and more.

I look forward to exploring this journey with God and with each one you, Jill



Rachel Louise Carson (May 27, 1907 – April 14, 1964)

American marine biologist, writer, and conservationist whose sea trilogy (1941–1955) and book *Silent Spring* (1962) are credited with advancing marine conservation and the global environmental movement.



Women's History Month