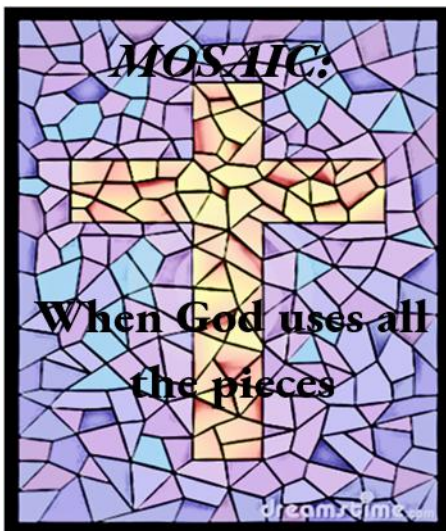

The Cornerstone

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 14

April 3, 2025



Resources

John 6:1-13

For Worship Sunday

“Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?’”

“Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.

The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”
Taken from John 4:1-42 (NRSV)

Those who collect beach glass often become “archeologists.” Each precious piece has a story. Often the glass is very old and one must take time and care to find the truth behind it. In the story of the Samaritan Woman, we hear how she came to find the truth about her own worth. How her story is precious to God who offers her living water.



Beach glass usually has a frosty finish that often becomes clear and shines in the water. The story of the Samaritan woman at the well is a healing story of transformation. In this radical act of Jesus' to converse with this woman, liberates and gives her the courage to proclaim the life-giving waters that Jesus offered to the whole town! She was seen by so many as one thing, but her encounter with Jesus empowered her to become something else – something beautiful.

This Lent we have brought our brokenness to the one who provides us with living water, so through the ministry of Jesus; God may use all our pieces to create something beautiful with our lives.

What has become clear for you as you dare to claim your own stories of brokenness - restlessness, rebellion, regrets, rejection, and responsibilities? What are you experiencing as your brokenness is met with the living water?

I look forward to exploring the jagged edges of our resources this Sunday.

See you in Church, Jill

Spiritual Seekers...

NOTE: ADJUSTED TIME & PLACE

Tuesday, April 8th at 1:45
Monmouth Mall AMC Theater
To See: The Chosen, Part 1



Jill will be arriving at the theater at 1:30
Come that day or let Jill know you're coming, ahead of time.



Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday
April 13th 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday
April 17th 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday
April 18th 7:00 p.m.

Easter Service
April 20th 6:00 a.m. **Prayer Garden**
9:30 a.m. **Sanctuary**

First UMC, 103 Monmouth Rd. Oakhurst



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

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

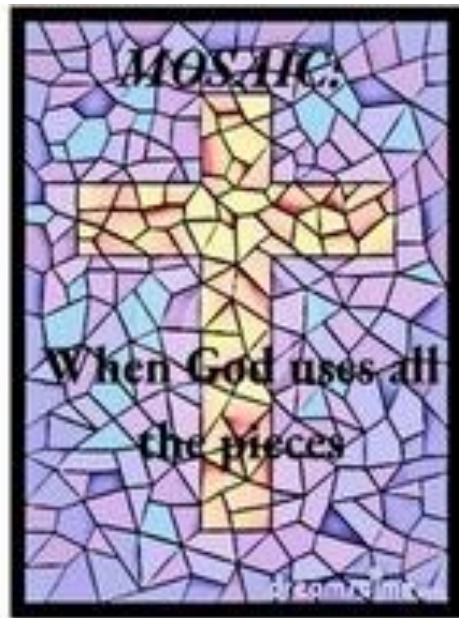
Tuesdays 7:00 p.m. Weekly **Lenten Study** in Blair Chapel

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

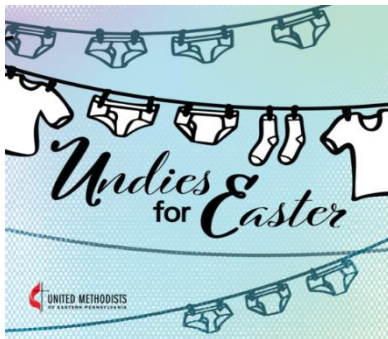
March 18 via zoom - Regret

March 25 - Rejection

April 1 - Responsibility

April 8 - Relationships

First UMC, 103 Monmouth Road, Oakhurst



When an inmate arrives into the Prison System they are given ONE pair of underpants and no undershirts or socks. Can you imagine living with only one pair of underpants? In this season of Lent, you are invited to step out in faith and reveal God's tender love by caring for their basic needs. Donations of Hanes white socks, white tee-shirts, and white underpants are welcomed until Palm Sunday, April 13.

See Amazon Link for the acceptable items:

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/JFS85IUQBNMR?>



April 6: Fifth Sunday of Lent

John 6:1-13

Resources

With Holy Communion

April 13: Palm Sunday

Luke 10:38-42

Relationships

MISSION Offerings

April's Communion Offering will support

Mercy Center of Asbury Park, which serves our neighbors battling homelessness and hunger, aids in healthcare, and provides educational opportunities. This ministry empowers life-changes with comprehensive programs that aid in helping develop a skill. This is done with kindness, compassion, understanding, and dignity.

Love Envelopes may be used for your donations and may be found on the narthex tables.



EASTER

Flowers

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**.

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



THINK SPRING!!

Time to clean out and clean up! This spring, United Women in Faith is sponsoring a fundraiser. They are collecting any old, antique, or costume jewelry (including earring backs, broken chains, single earrings, etc.) which may just be collecting dust in your jewelry box. UWIF can turn your unwanted jewelry into cash which will benefit their missions for women and children here in the US and around the world. Donations can be dropped off at the church office or given to Diane Maher. The final date for collections is

April 6th.

NOTE: ALL proceeds go to UWIF. You will not receive a portion of the proceeds like other similar fundraisers.



SWING INTO THE FUTURE

Swingset Fundraiser

The time has come for a new swing set at **Wesley Nursery School!**

We ask the families of WNS (past, present and future) to help us raise funds to reach our goal.

The new structure will cost \$11,052.77.

We would greatly appreciate monetary donations.

No amount is too small to make a difference.



NAME: _____

I WOULD LOVE TO DONATE: _____

REMEMBER!
WNS IS A NON-PROFIT -
YOUR DONATION
IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

WESLEY NURSERY SCHOOL
103 MONMOUTH ROAD
OAKHURST, NJ 07757

OR

VENMO:

@NOEL-WORTHINGTON

USE **SWINGSET** FOR REASON

WESLEYNURSERY SCHOOL@GMAIL.COM

732.531.2140



Spaghetti Dinner

Every third Sunday of the month

5:00 pm-7:00 pm

Eat in or take out

Free to all

NOTE: April's dinner will be Sunday, April 27



Madeline Starkey

Madeline "Pencil" Starkey September 7, 1948 - February 2, 2025

Madeline "Pencil" Starkey, born on September 7, 1948, in Kenilworth, New Jersey, to Hilda and Louis Kupfer, passed away peacefully at home on February 2, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

Madeline was known for her kindness, sense of humor, love of family, her generous spirit, and "the stinking Jets". An avid reader, she was often the most knowledgeable person in the room but carried her wisdom with humility. She enjoyed walking the boardwalk in Ocean Grove no matter the season. Her signature recipes included "little sandwiches", Christmas cookies, German chocolate cake, pizza dip, and Nanny's famous mac-n-cheese. She had a passion for travel, especially when it came to sharing adventures with her children and grandchildren.

She is predeceased by her beloved parents, Louis and Hilda Kupfer. She is survived by her devoted husband, Jim; her children, William and Donna; her son-in-law, Daniel; her daughter-in-law, Brianna; and her five cherished grandchildren, Arianna, Kaitlyn, Vivienne, Ryan, and Liam.

Madeline created a home filled with warmth, where all felt welcome. Her house became a hub not only for her children and their friends but later for her grandchildren as well. Her love for animals was evident to all—even to the animals themselves, as many an orphaned pet, including a ferret and a rabbit, found their way to her and Jim's doorstep.

Upon retirement, she and Jim settled in Ocean Township, where they embraced new friendships within their retirement community



FIFTH SUNDAY
In Lent
5th Sunday in Lent
April 6, 2025

Counters: Patty Aria, John Montgomery, Judy Gorra

Greeter: Judy Smith

Usher: Chip Stoll

Acolyte: Ashley Bailey

Lay Reader: Len Gruezke

Fellowship Hosts:

Altar Flowers:

Given in honor of Gabi Harrington's & Skylar Fridlay's birthdays by Aunt Kitty.
Given in loving memory of Francis Kale by Ellen.

Altar Rose:

Given in loving memory of George's 80th birthday by Pamela Lynch & family.



PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday
April 13, 2025

Counters: Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll

Greeter: Jack Coleman

Usher: Scott Danielson

Acolyte: Faye Snorton

Lay Reader: Robin Whitney

Fellowship Hosts:

Altar Flowers:

Given by Bonnie McNamara in loving memory of her mother, Mary E. Goodwin's birthday.
Given in loving memory of Viola Miller by Dave & Janice Hiers.

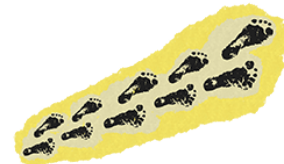
Palms:

Given by Barbara & Len Gruezke in loving memory of Rev. Raymond & Ethel Gruezke.



The church has a new email address. Please make note of it:

FUMCOakhurst@outlook.com



Footprints in the Sand

A Journey to the Cross and Beyond
Presented by The Choraliers of Eatontown & The Northern Cluster Choir. Directed by Maynard Burley with accompaniment by Judy Hyer West Grove UMC, Neptune, April 13th 4PM.

Tsedalech Tesfaye, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of April by Wesley Nursery School in honor of the children of the world.



Something to think about:

To hear God's voice, turn down the world's volume.



WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

April 6-April 12

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

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:

Shelf stable yogurt drinks

**OUR APRIL COMMUNION OFFERING
BENEFITS
MERCY CENTER**



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 coffee, tea, dye-free/fragrance-free wipes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, & hand sanitizer.



Please be Praying for...

UM Now
Subscribe *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 calendar: **April 22nd.**



Correction Date has been corrected.

A service of remembrance for Madeline Starkey will be held on **April 4th**, at our church. Visitation will be 10 am-11 am with a service at 11 am. A repast will follow in Fellowship Hall at noon. **Kitchen help is needed. Please call the office if you can lend a hand.**

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

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

At home: Peg Kuchen, Shirley Bailey

JSUMC: Nancy Burt

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

Holy Week

DAILY ACTIVITY GUIDE

Palm Sunday
Triumphant Entry
• Reading: Matthew 21:1-11
• Activity: Make palm crosses or a palm-themed craft.

Monday
Cleansing the Temple
• Reading: Mark 11:15-18
• Activity: Take a reflective walk, silently praying about what you wish to eliminate from your life or discussing obstacles that hinder your time with God.

Tuesday
Speaking in Parables
• Reading: Matthew 22:1-14
• Activity: Choose a Gospel and count how many parables Jesus uses. For a challenge, identify which parables are in each Gospel book.

Wednesday
Silent Wednesday
• Reading: Psalm 46
• Activity: Engage in a quiet challenge, focusing on prayer, Scripture or silent activities with minimal speaking.

Thursday
The Last Supper
• Reading: John 13:1-20
• Activity: Re-create a foot washing ceremony by washing each other's feet.

Good Friday
The Crucifixion
• Reading: Isaiah 53
• Activity: Draw, paint or write about the theme of sacrifice or caring.

Holy Saturday
Day of Preparation
• Reading: Luke 23:50-56
• Activity: Prepare for Easter by decorating or cooking traditional foods like bread.

Easter Sunday
Jesus is Risen!
• Reading: John 20:1-18
• Activity: Celebrate the Resurrection with joy and fellowship by singing worship songs or sharing a meal.