

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 15

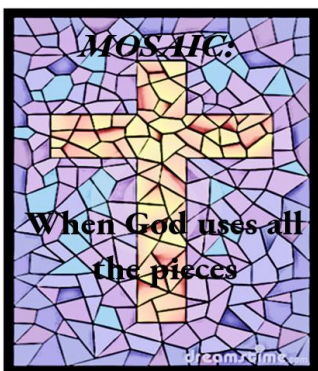
April 10, 2025

Relationships

Luke 10:38-42

"Jesus said, 'You are my friends...'"

John 15:15



Do you recall the first newsletter article in this Lenten season? We left Dwight Eisenhower making the decision to send young men across the channel in one of the most important battles of human history. But there is more to the story. General George Marshall and Dwight Eisenhower shaped the arc of the twentieth century. As much as any other men, these icons of the US military defined the outcome of not only a war but a generation of freedom verses tyranny. Today, they are legends, revered with highest esteem.



This picture was taken toward the end of their careers showing the two giants sitting together, talking over days gone by. By this time, it seemed they "walked above the clouds," as one historian likes to say. Today, as we press our faces against the window frames of history and marvel at what these two men accomplished – winning a world war, restructuring Europe, assuming the presidency. We land at these markers of their lives because we like to cheer our heroes and say, "Well done!"

However, to understand George Marshall or Dwight Eisenhower, one has to look past the military accolades and gigantic accomplishments. To understand either of these men and what drove them to become the men we celebrate and revere, it is important to look at the underbelly of their journeys – journeys that led them both through the best and the worst that life has to offer.

For instance, George Marshall lost his first wife to a heart condition at a young age. Her death was sudden and shocking. In confiding to a friend, General Marshall said that he could not envision a future or how to make decisions for tomorrow in light of these circumstances. He felt paralyzed and unable to go forward. He survived by throwing himself into his work.

Dwight Eisenhower, whose life has been reviewed from every angle, considered the death of his young son Doud to be one of (if not the most) important events of his life. Doud died of scarlet fever in a time when treatment was limited. His son's death profoundly affected Eisenhower, changing his marriage and pushing his daily schedule to a pattern that would break most men.

Two men, completely dedicated to their responsibilities at a time when the world hung in the balance; but also, two men, propelled to these legendary places through incredibly dark passages. You can't understand the accolades of George Marshall or Dwight Eisenhower without looking around the corner at their most broken times and places.

I pray you will join me for all this Holy Week offers...beginning this Sunday with a parade celebrating the arrival of our hero, Jesus, into Jerusalem. Then returning to look around the corner at the broken and dark times of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.



Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday

April 13th 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

April 17th 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday

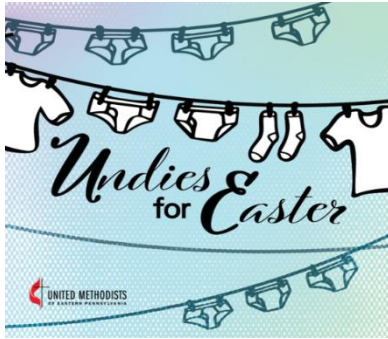
April 18th 7:00 p.m.

Easter Service

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

First UMC, 103 Monmouth Rd. Oakhurst

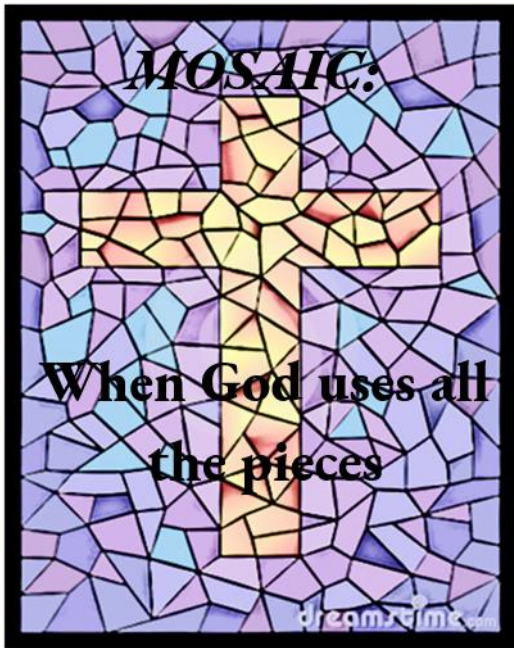




When an inmate arrives into the prison system they are given ONE pair of underpants and no undershirts or socks. Can you imagine living with only one pair of underpants? In this season of Lent, you are invited to step out in faith and reveal God's tender love by caring for their basic needs. Donations 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 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

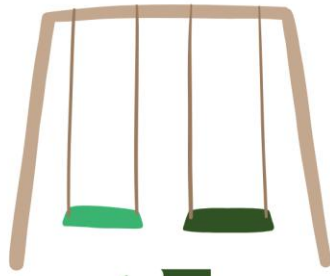
If you would like to place a flower/plant on the altar as a memorial or in honor of a loved one on Easter Sunday, please fill in this form and mail it with \$15.00 (checks payable to the Altar Guild) to Diane Maher, c/o First United Methodist Church 103 Monmouth Road, Oakhurst, NJ, 07755, **NO LATER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



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

732.531.2140

OR

VENMO:

@NOEL-WORTHINGTON

USE **SWINGSET** FOR REASON

WESLEYNURSERY SCHOOL@GMAIL.COM



Monmouth County Habitat for Humanity is looking for volunteers to help their ReStore manager at the Freehold ReStore located at 45 South Street. In particular, they are looking for volunteers on **Friday mornings (or any hours on Fridays between 10 - 5)** to help in the warehouse who are able to lift and move furniture and to help unload the trucks and work in the warehouse.

On Saturdays, any time between 10 - 5, they are in need of adult volunteers who can help out on the sales floor with assisting shoppers, pricing, cashier duties, staging, etc.

Here is the site for the volunteer application

<https://www.habitatmonmouth.org/civcrm/?page=CiviCRM&q=civcrm/profile/create&qid=28&reset=1>.

For more information contact:

Lori Schneider

Volunteer Coordinator

732-728-0441, ext. 314



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

News From Our Staff Parish Committee:

This past Sunday, Mary Bailey – our Staff Parish Chairperson, shared the announcement she received from our District Superintendent, Rev. Sang Won Doh. Here is that announcement for all to read:



Good morning, I share with you an important update regarding the ministry of our pastor, The Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith. Beginning July 1, 2024, Rev. Hubbard-Smith will additionally be appointed to serve as Coordinating Pastor at Old First United Methodist Church in West Long Branch. This additional appointment has come after prayerful and thoughtful discernment by the Bishop and Cabinet in response to the missional needs of the surrounding community. Rev. Hubbard-Smith has prayerfully agreed to take on this expanded role in ministry. Please be assured that Rev. Hubbard-Smith will continue to serve as the full-time pastor of Oakhurst United Methodist Church. This new appointment will not affect her current responsibilities, worship schedule, or financial arrangements at Oakhurst UMC. In her role as Coordinating Pastor at Old First UMC, Rev. Hubbard-Smith will offer leadership in worship, administration, and pastoral care, with a weekly time commitment of 12.5 hours. The District Superintendent, in collaboration with Rev. Hubbard-Smith and the Staff-Parish Relations Committees of both congregations, will annually review this shared ministry to ensure its ongoing sustainability and effectiveness. We trust that this opportunity for shared ministry will be a blessing to both congregations, creating synergy. We invite your continued prayers and support for Rev. Hubbard-Smith as she lives out her calling in this expanded role.

Oakhurst Church Family,

As I shared Sunday, following the announcement: I look forward to serving as God calls me in the movement of the Holy Spirit through the faithful discernment of our Bishop and Cabinet of the Greater NJ Annual Conference. As an Elder in the UM Church, my appointment(s) is annual at the direction of our Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi. I am always in awe of God's timing and direction as seen this past week. Our Lenten Worship Series, *Mosaic: When God Uses All The Pieces* focused this week on *Our Resources*. I look forward to the many ways God will use the resources of both Old First UMC and First UMC to further our ministry in these communities. As a connectional denomination, I believe there will be opportunity to unite these resources and our vision to share the love of God to all God's beloved children.

So, after prayerful consideration regarding this additional appointment, here are some of the thoughts I am thinking and will be working with the Staff Parish Committees to reflect upon...

Pastoral Office Hours will continue Monday – Thursday.
Fridays will be Jill's writing day at her home office.

These office hours will include visitation and pastoral care so please call the FUMCO office or Jill to schedule appointments as she may not be present or available if you drop by.

Jill's office cell: 732-209-4563 Email: revjmhs@gmail.com

Monday evenings will be reserved for First UMC, Oakhurst meetings.

Thursday evenings will be reserved for Old First UMC meetings.

Tuesdays will be reserved for joint Bible study when they are planned.

Spiritual Seekers will continue to be every second Tuesday at 10:30-places and opportunities will vary.

Java with Jill will continue every fourth Tuesday at 10:00 at Blue Swan Diner.

All these will be joint opportunities.

Sunday Worship Services will continue to be:

9:30 a.m. Worship at FUMC, Oakhurst

11:00 a.m. Worship at Old First UMC, West Long Branch

NOTE: First Sundays in the summer: 8:00 a.m. Prayer Garden Communion.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to reach out to me or the SPRC.

Peace and prayers for our united journey – Jill

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Mary Bailey

Gerry Busfield Peg Kuchen John Tocci Carol Steinat Len Gruezke
Barbara MacPherson Ruth Sheckler Nancy O'Shea



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: Ron Danielson

Fellowship Host: Bonnie McNamara

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.

Thank you

Thank you to Pastor Jill for her visits. I am so grateful for the cards, calls, visits, dinners, flowers, and so many prayers, and a prayer shawl. I am so blessed to be part of a caring church family. Shirley Bailey



EASTER SUNDAY

**Easter Sunday
April 20, 2025**

Counters: Gerry Busfield, Rand Danielson, Jane Gittines

Greeter: Alice Coleman

Usher: Kitty Amato

Acolyte: Robert Scott

Lay Reader: Garry Smith

Fellowship Host: Bonnie McNamara



**Volunteers
Needed**

Our church is once again hosting the Association of Retired Ministers & Spouses' annual meeting. The group will be arriving at 10 am and will be having breakfast & lunch refreshments. Volunteers are needed to help put out the food and cleanup when all is done. We also need some desserts. Please contact the church office if you can help in any way.

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.



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:

Apple Juice

Thank You...

to all who have contributed and neatened the pantry, especially Alexander Tanta-Nanta who has faithfully been keeping our Little Free Pantry clean and restocked. We are very grateful to all of you for these hours of volunteering!



WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

April 13-April 19

Luke 19:28-40

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

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.



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.

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

~~~~~  
*Please be  
Praying for...*  
~~~~~

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
Hospitalized in VA: Jack Chesbro
Encompass, Tinton Falls: Nancy Burr
Our church family worshipping at a distance: Barbara Novick, Jean Gillette, Laura Eble, George & Gayle Fitzmaier, Jack & Caroline Chesbro



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.



Something to think about:

Now and then it's good to pause in our pursuit of happiness and just be happy.

PALM 
Sunday

Blessed is he
who comes in
the name of
the LORD!
Psalm 118:26, ESV

