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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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One of the rich blessings I receive as a pastor is being **entrusted with someone's story**. We all have our own individual stories of the ups and downs, joys and struggles, celebrations and heartaches in this life. I am always honored when I sit with a brother or sister and they share their hurts and hopes, pains and peace with me. It is like a first edition book and a fragile flower are placed in the palm of my hands to tenderly hold as I listen to the words shared directly from their heart as the petals fall away bringing us to the pistil.

Last week, I had the privilege to hear a small segment in the life story of one who has been worshipping with us. With his permission, I share it with this church family for your prayers and support.

*For the past three summers, Kashif has worked at Rising Tree Top's kitchen cooking for the summer campers and staff. The first summer of his arrival, Kashif made his way to our sanctuary for worship. This church family greeted him and welcomed him around the table during fellowship. As a devout Christian, Kashif has appreciated times of worship and conversation.*

*Kashif's and family of six's home is Pakistan amid a Muslim population. Sadly, Kashif's family is persecuted for being Christian. Most recently, his 17-year-old sister has been taken while befriending Muslim classmates. To search for her, the family must pay the police, which is a hardship for this struggling family. It is Kashif's dream to move his family to a safer country, be it the US or a country in Europe.*

*Among these challenges faced by Kashif's family, Kashif has been a full-time student at the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences majoring in BSC in Business Administration and Management on a full scholarship from Christian Young People. He is expecting to finish and graduate in December. Sadly though, Kashif's scholarship has been terminated by a government decree leaving him at a loss for which to cover his final semester expenses of \$2500.00 – a mere pittance of the college education costs of the US.*

Nadeem Kashif (also known to a few of us as "Ken") is a deeply compassionate and faithful young adult. It has been a joy to meet him, chat with him, and hear his passion for the future of his entire family. After reading the letter received from the university, my heart ached.

I chose to share his story, with his permission, because I know the importance for me to hear the stories of others. As a Christian, loving and serving others is the teaching of Jesus that most resonates with me. Giving respect and dignity to lives different than my own is necessary to grow as a global family in God. I was raised hearing the scripture in Luke 12:28 *"From everyone to whom much was given, much will be expected."* I am so very thankful to live in a country where I can be an outwardly practicing Christian, where I have the resources for my children to be educated at a university, and that safety and protection is part of my rights.

If you, like I, have been given many rich blessings in this life and are able to share with our brother in Christ, I invite you to put your donations in the church offering plates marked in the memo "Kashif." You may also, drop them off to the church office. Please know prayers are a wonderful way to also support Kashif.

I look forward to worshipping with you Sunday for a **Service of Anointing and Healing**. *Jill*



## A SERVICE OF HEALING

Sunday, August 31, 2025

All healing is of God.

Scripture strongly affirms ministries of spiritual healing, which in recent years have received renewed emphasis throughout Christ's holy Church. The root of the word healing in New Testament Greek, *sozo*, is the same as that of salvation and wholeness. God works to offer persons balance, harmony, and wholeness of body, mind, spirit, and relationships, seeking reconciliation between God and humanity, among individuals and communities, within each person, and between humanity and the rest of

creation. The Church's healing ministry in no way detracts from the gifts God gives through medicine and psychotherapy. It is no substitute for either medicine or the proper care of one's health. Rather, it adds to our total resources for wholeness.

Healing is not magic, but underlying it is the great mystery of God's love. God does not promise that we shall be spared suffering but does promise to be with us in our suffering. Trusting that promise, we are enabled to recognize God's sustaining presence in pain, sickness, injury, and estrangement.

A Service of Healing is not necessarily a service of curing, but it provides an atmosphere in which God's presence and healing can become known. The greatest healing of all is the reunion or reconciliation of a human being with God. For the Christian the basic purpose of spiritual healing is to renew and strengthen one's relationship with the living Christ.

\*UMC Book of Worship

Mark Your Calendars:

**Church Conference is October 26, 2025  
1:30 p.m at St. John's UMC, Hazlet**



This means, we are working on our church conference paperwork right now. Including membership of all our committees and ministries.

So, you may receive a call from the nominations committee as we discern people in our congregation to lead the ministry and work of our church. This includes but not limited to: **Chair of Finance, Trustees, Staff Parish, and others.** If you have gifts and talents you would like to share in any area of ministry, please call Jill or the church office. AND please hold our church in prayer as we discern our future with these new opportunities of leadership.



## **UWIF Garage Sale**

**October 4, 8:30 am to 2 pm**

*Set-up days, Wednesday and Thursday October 2 & 3, 9-6 pm.*

It's time to start gathering your unwanted "treasures" to donate to the UWIF annual garage sale! A few guidelines;

No books!

No heavy furniture!

No curtain or drapery rods!

No linens!

No heavy exercise equipment!

Please be sure your donations are clean and in working order! Also GREATLY NEEDED are some hale and hearty volunteers to help clear the stage and to help clean up at the end of the day. Please contact Diane Maher at 732-513-8413 to sign up, or for information!



**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 31, 2025**

**Counters:** Randy Danielson, Jane Gittines

**Greeter:** Scott Danielson

**Usher:** Gerry Busfield

**Acolyte:** Robert Scott

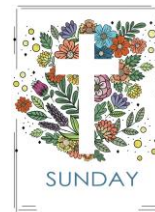
**Lay Reader:** Pam Puryear

**Altar Flowers:**

Given in honor of Kelly Cane's birthday by her father, John Montgomery.  
 Given in honor of Andrew Snorton, III's birthday by his parents, Andrew & Faye Snorton.

**Altar Rose:**

Given by Pamela Lynch in loving memory of her mom, Hazel Traylor.



**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 7, 2025**

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

**Greeter:** Jeff Danielson

**Usher:** Jay Aretino

**Acolyte:** Robert Scott

**Lay Reader:**

**Altar Flowers:**

Given in honor of Jenny Henderson's birthday by Jaxson & family.  
 Given in honor of Ryan Henderson's birthday by his family.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**October 26<sup>th</sup>**

**1:30 p.m.**

**St. John's United Methodist Church**

**All are invited to this very important business meeting of our church.**



The Carillon Choir will begin rehearsals Thursday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 pm.  
 See you all there.



**CHOIR BEGINS**



#### Mercy Center Collection

#### NEW LIST

Mercy Center is in need of the following items: cooking oil, Ramen noodles, canned pasta, rice (1 lb. bags), crackers, SPAM, salad dressing, mayonnaise, pancake mix, ketchup, sugar, corn, Hamburger Helper, canned fruit, pasta sauce, tomato sauce, cereal, seasonings, jelly, syrup, toothbrushes (single packs), toothpaste, deoderant, diapers, pull-ups (size 5 and up), bar soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, laundry detergent, & dish detergent.



**WORSHIP & COMMUNION**  
September 7<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m.

Pastor Jill will lead worship & serve Holy Communion in the Prayer Garden on this Sunday. Begin your week worshipping in the beauty of God's creation.



*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 calendar: September 23rd



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

**Sunnyside Manor, Wall:** Nancy Burt

**Our church family worshipping at a distance:** Barbara Novick, Jean Gillette, Laura Eble, Jack & Caroline Chesbro



#### **Something to think about:**

Blowing out someone else's candle doesn't make yours shine any brighter.



#### **WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS**

**Aug 31-Sept 6**

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Psalms 81:1, 10-16

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14





### The Little Free Pantry

Please think of stocking shelf-stable milk, powdered milk, soup, stew, chili, whole grain cereal, toiletries, hygiene products, baby food, applesauce, canned beans, canned chicken, canned tuna, canned salmon, SPAM, canned ham, canned vegetables, olive oil, canola oil, crackers, dried herbs, spices, canned fruit, dried fruit, granola bars, instant mashed potatoes, meals in a box, nuts, pasta, peanut butter, & rice.

A good idea this week:  
Toilet paper

**OUR AUGUST COMMUNION OFFERING  
BENEFITS  
UMCOR DISASTER RELIEF**



### Spaghetti Dinner

Every third Sunday of the month  
5:00 pm-7:00 pm  
Eat in or take out  
Free to all  
September's dinner will be September 21st.

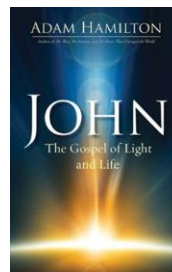
**Tsedalech Tesfaye, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of August by Mel & Jeff Ragle in loving memory of Emma Jean Ragle.**



AUGUST is a Fifth Sunday month. Your offering to this fund helps with the cost of maintaining our bulidngs and grounds. Please use the yellow envelopes in the sanctuary for your offering.



Wesley Nursery School is collecting 10.3 or 11 oz. empty coffee cans with lids to make musical instruments. Please drop them off at the church office.



### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Embark on a journey through the Book of John's narrative and discover anew "the Gospel of light"! Exploring its rich images, Hamilton offers illuminating insights into the profound themes of the Word made flesh; Jesus' miraculous signs; his "I AM" sayings; his farewell discourse; the arrest, trial, and crucifixion; and the promise of eternal life.

**The class is open to all and meets on Sunday mornings at 11 starting September 7<sup>th</sup>.**

(If you would like, you may purchase the book on your own to read along with the lessons. It is not mandatory, however, and all other materials will be provided.)