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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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VOLUME LXIV NUMBER 18

April 30, 2026



## *Faith In Action:*

### *Economic Community*

#### *Leviticus 19:9-18*

The market is unsteady. Food & gas costs are increasing while our pocketbooks are decreasing. These are the economic times in which we find ourselves.

Imagine how you're feeling if you have no investments and yet your grocery bills are skyrocketing. Imagine the stress of deciding whether to put gas in your car so you can work or food on the table for your family to eat. This is the current reality for so many these days.

How does our Faith impact this current reality? What do our UM Social Principals suggest in this economic climate and community?

This Sunday is Week 3 of our Sermon Series on the United Methodist Social Principals entitled; *Faith In Action*. After exploring the Community of Creation, we are now embarking on the heavier topic of the Economic Community. A topic that Jesus did not shy away from. A topic mentioned in scripture over 2300 times. A topic and Social Principal that is again rooted in The Great Commandment...*to love God and love our neighbor first and foremost*. But what does that look like for my household, the community for which I go to church and live, our nation, and our global neighbors at war losing everything they have? Come Sunday and let's explore.

*They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, ready to share...  
so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.*

*1 Timothy 6:18-19*

“See you in Worship!”

*Jill*



In the next few weeks, we will continue to dig deep into each social principal, looking to learn, grow and understand more about who we are as a United Methodist and how we engage new lives of resurrection faith into action.

- May 3 - Faith In Action: Economic Community... *Leviticus 19:9-18*
- May 10 - Faith In Action: Social Community... *Matthew 5:43-48*
- May 17 - Faith In Action: Political Community... *Jeremiah 22:13-17 & Romans 12:14-18*
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- May 24 – We will pause our series.
- May 31 - Faith In Action: Embodying Our Principals... *Romans 12:1-2*

"See" you in person and online for worship! *Jill*

## Conference opportunity

### Saving the Soul of Our Nation, State, and Church-Faith Forum & Historical Tour

Mark your calendars! On **May 12** from **1-6:30 p.m.**, attend a faith forum, **“Striving to End the Sin of Racism in Church & State: Contemporary and Historical Methodist Perspectives”** featuring keynote speakers Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Bishop Ernest S. Lyght, Rupert Hall, Jr., and Kevin Dusenberry. The forum will be held at Pennington UMC (60 South Main Street, Pennington). Then on **May 13**, plan to attend the “Historical Tour: Saving the Soul of Our Nation and State” featuring keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Kevin Newburg and visiting such sights as Washinton’s Crossing State Park, Princeton Battlefield, Historic Tenant Church and more. Buses leave from the Courtyard by Marriot Ewing Princeton at 8:30 a.m. These events are open to all and form part of the **Northeastern Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History (NEJCAH) Annual Meeting and Program**. For details, registration link or paper registration form contact FUMCO’s church office 732-531-1150. Need accommodation? Register for the conference hotel, Courtyard Marriott Ewing Princeton.

## Coffeehouse Invitation

### Presbyterian Church on the Hill

10 Cold Indian Springs Road

Friday May 1st, 7:00 till 8:30 p.m.

Praise Team from local churches including our own.

Refreshments will be served.

**All are welcome!**



## Summer Book Club



Summer is a great season to enjoy the beautiful weather and take in a new book. So, in the summer months of June, July, and August; Jill invites you to come together on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at noon for conversation and sharing. Bring your lunch if you choose and your thoughts on the book of the month. The book for June is: *Joyful Anyway* by Kate Bowler.



**Faith-filled Fieldtrips:** Jill is introducing a new opportunity to explore faith in new locations. This new ministry begins with a trip to the Cloisters in Manhattan on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Please RSVP to the church office if you are interested, so we can arrange transportation. There is a cost for entrance into the Cloisters.



## Adult Sunday School

Starting May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11 a.m., the Adult Sunday School class will be using Max Lucado's *You Are Never Alone* for their next study. Each of us longs for Someone who will meet us in the midst of life's messes. In this study, Max Lucado reminds us that God's presence and power are nearer than we think. In the Gospel of John, John had been through a lot as a disciple of Christ. At times, it had been a lonely journey. He was never alone. In this study you will find that Jesus is right there with you and cares about every aspect of your life. There is a companion book available to purchase if you would like to gain more insight into the classes each week. During class you will watch a DVD session presented by Max and then reflect and have a discussion on what was viewed. There will also be biblical foundations that will be explored.

If you are attending this class and are following along with the book, please see below:

In preparation for the upcoming weeks, please read the following chapters in "You Are Never Alone" before class.

For May 3, read 1-2

For May 10, read 3-4

For May 17, read 5-6

For May 24, read 7

For May 31, read 8

For June 7, read 10-12

Please note:

You do not need the book to participate in class.

However, reading the book will give you additional insights and understanding.



## FEMININE HYGIENE COLLECTION

During the month of May, the Outreach Commission will be collecting feminine hygiene items to be donated to Mercy Center. These items are not covered by SNAP benefits and are a necessary expense. You may drop off items to the church office.

Board of Trustees Workday



This Saturday! Beginning at 9 a.m. Please join the Trustees as they spruce up the church and its grounds. There are projects that everyone can work on no matter your ability or even if you only have an hour or so to spare. The Trustees will be grateful for your presence.



The UWIF is most grateful to Ryan Henderson for delivering 44 Kids Kits to River Edge, NJ to be picked up by Church World Service. From there, these kits, containing school supplies, will be distributed to underprivileged children around the world. We thank the congregation for all the donations that made these kits possible!

**AND**

The UWIF also thanks all who donated, baked, set-up, worked and cleaned up to make last Saturday's garage sale a great success! \$2460 was raised to benefit women's and children's mission projects here and abroad. Great job everyone!

## MAY 2026- MISSION MINUTE:



UNITED METHODIST  
COMMUNITIES

### **May's Communion Offering**

United Methodist Communities is a leader in senior-living and care. While it still offers residential-living options in its statewide facilities, its strategic mission has expanded to reflect societal needs and besides residential community-based living now offers in-home services too.

The re-branding of United Methodist Homes to United Methodist Communities speaks to direct engagement with older adults who maintain their residence but require assistance which allows them to age in place. Through its Home Works program, United Methodist Communities forms partnerships with organizations to improve community health and wellness for seniors and to reach seniors wherever they live.

The May communion offering supports the Gift of Care Circle fund. The fund allows United Methodist Community residents whose funds have been depleted to continue to live and receive services from the United Methodist Communities programs.

Therefore, seniors can continue to participate and engage with other seniors in enriching programs that help to keep our seniors active and healthy even after financial resources have been exhausted.

Your generous support of May's communion offering will make a world of difference in a senior's life.



## UMC Council of Bishops condemn shooting at White House Correspondents Dinner

April 27, 2026

### **Statement from the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church**

The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church expresses deep sorrow and grave concern following the shooting at the White House Correspondents Dinner where President Donald J. Trump was in attendance on Saturday night. Acts of political violence—regardless of the target, location, or motivation—are an affront to human dignity and a rejection of the values that sustain civil society.

In recent days, numerous media outlets have underscored the essential role that freedom of speech plays in democratic life. This freedom allows people to debate, dissent, and advocate without fear of intimidation or harm. Violence seeks to silence; free expression seeks to illuminate.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we affirm the sacred worth of every person and the moral imperative to protect spaces where dialogue, disagreement, and public engagement can occur without threat.

We also recognize that political violence is not confined to the United States. Around the world, communities are experiencing unrest, intimidation, and attacks that erode trust and undermine the common good. The worldwide Church grieves these patterns wherever they appear and calls all people to reject hatred, vengeance, and the dehumanization of others.

In this moment, we offer a pastoral word to the nation and to the world. Scripture reminds us that “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:5). We hold fast to this promise **as we pray for President Trump, for his family, for those who were endangered, and for all who carry the weight of public leadership.** We also pray for the healing of divisions that have hardened across communities and nations.

As we meet this week in Jacksonville, Florida, for our semi-annual meeting, we urge all people—especially those entrusted with influence, authority, and public voice—to model restraint, compassion, and a commitment to the common good. As the Apostle Paul teaches, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21). May this be our shared calling in a time of fear and uncertainty.

With hope in Christ,

Bishop Tracy S. Malone  
President – The Council of Bishops  
The United Methodist Church



**5th Sunday after Easter  
May 3, 2026**

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

**Greeter: Len Gruezke**

**Usher: Chip Stoll**

**Acolyte: Faye Snorton**

**Lay Reader: Carol Steinat**

**Fellowship Host: Bonnie McNamara**

**Altar Flowers**

Given in honor of Owen Petit's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday by his family.

Given in honor of Michele's, Isaac's, & Alex's birthdays by Gerry Busfield.



**6th Sunday after Easter  
May 10, 2026**

**Counters: Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll**

**Greeter: Barbara Gruezke**

**Usher: Scott Danielson**

**Acolyte: Bonnie McNamara**

**Lay Reader: Soon Hur**

**Fellowship Host: Scott & Russel Danielson**

**Altar Flowers**

Given in loving memory of Kay Longstreet & Katherine Miller by Pam Miller.

Given in honor of Glenn William Henderson's birthday by his family.



Our deepest sympathy to Wesley Nursery School teacher Janice Black on the death of her father, Dr. Jay Bayer on April 20<sup>th</sup>.



**MERCY CENTER**

The Outreach Commission thanks you for your continued support of the Mercy Center food bank. Here are the current needs: canned meats, canned fish, beans, lentils, rice, pasta, oats, whole-grain cereals, low-sodium soup, canned fruits, canned vegetables, peanut butter, powdered milk, & nonperishable oils.

**Tsedalech, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of April by Marty & Mary Bailey in memory of their grandparents.**



**WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS**

**May 3-May 9**

Acts 7:55-60  
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14: 1-14



# COFFEE & COMMUNITY

JAVA WITH JILL  
May 26 10 a.m.

Join Pastor Hubbard-Smith and friends at the Blue Swan Diner for an informal gathering to share conversation and perhaps a treat of your choosing.

*Please be Praying for...*

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

**Jersey Shore Care Center:** Dave Miller

**Sunnyside Manor, Wall:** Nancy Burt

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



Coffee Fellowship

## FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED

Do you have what it takes to be a fellowship host? YES, YOU DO!

Please sign up in the upstairs kitchen. The very simple requirements to be a fellowship host are posted

on the poster board. Or you may speak with Bonnie McNamara.

## OUR APRIL COMMUNION OFFERING BENEFITS MERCY CENTER



Spaghetti Dinner

The next free community spaghetti dinner will be on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. Everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall for a delicious meal and community.

## 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:  
Canned potatoes

## Beaded Crosses for Sale to Benefit Keswick Ministry.

Debbie Eckert (Old First UMC) is making & selling these small, beaded crosses to support the Keswick ministry. Keswick provides a program for addiction recovery that costs approximately \$11,000.00 yet they only charge the participant \$600.00.

By providing a donation to this life changing ministry, you will receive a handmade beaded cross from Debbie. They are available from Debbie on Sunday mornings.

