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# 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*

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VOLUME LXIV NUMBER 22

May 28, 2026



## *Faith In Action: Embodying Our Principles*

*Romans 12: 1-2  
&  
Luke 4:18-19*

Several years ago, after yet another school shooting, my dear friend, prayer partner, and colleague, The Rev. Clarissa South Holland, taught me a traditional greeting shared among the Masai people of Africa in which one would say to another, "**Kasserian Ingera.**" It means, "**And how are the children?**" The Masai people place a high value on their children's well-being. Even warriors with no children of their own would always give the traditional answer, "**All the children are well.**" Meaning that peace and safety prevail, that the priorities of protecting the young, the powerless, are in place. That Masai society has not forgotten its reason for being, its proper functions, and responsibilities. The Masai people recognize that if their children are not well the society cannot be well.

I wonder, in the USA, if people in positions of power changed their greeting from "Hi. How are you?" to "How are the children?" would it change their decisions; would they make choices that impact our children.

As we enter this final week of our Sermon Series: *Faith in Action: Exploring the UM Social Principles*, I wonder if the choices and actions we take consider the welfare of all God's children? As we have been hearing, The United Methodist Church is concerned about the children of our nation as well as children in every corner of our globe. Are we? Are we putting our faith into action for all God's children of diverse races, ages, identity, and situations?

The prophet Micah casts a hopeful vision of the future where nations will

*"beat their swords into iron plows, and their spears into pruning hooks."* (Micah 4:3) Jesus says,

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."* (Matthew 5:9)

We know that Jesus values children. *"Let the **children** come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."* (Luke 18:16) I believe one of the questions Jesus is asking each of us as Christians is "And how are the children?" How are

all God's children? If all God's children are not well, our society is not well. I believe all God's children need our prayers, our protection, and our unity around many issues. So, I invite us to come together this Sunday as we look to embody the Social Principles outlined for all United Methodists.

*May God grant us wisdom as we seek to live a Christ like life empowered by the Holy Spirit.*

"See" you in Church, Jill

**BELVIDERE UMC PRESENTS:  
MARK MILLER IN CONCERT**



**JUNE 6TH**  
**@ 7 PM**

219 HARDWICK ST.  
BELVIDERE, NJ

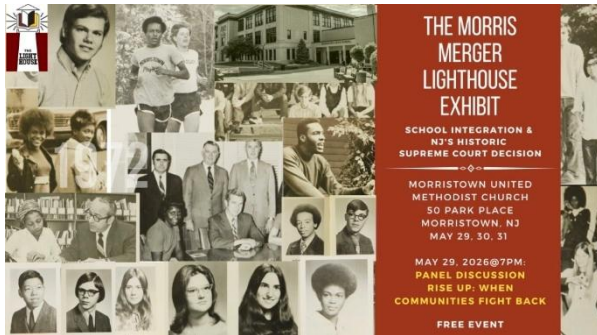
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WWW.UMC.BELVIDERE.NJ  
JOIN US FOR AN ENGAGING EVENING WITH  
SINGER, SONGWRITER, MUSICIAN  
& STORY TELLER, MARK MILLER.



**MARK MILLER IN CONCERT**

Belvidere UMC will host an engaging evening with singer, songwriter, musician, and storyteller, Mark Miller. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for students.

For tickets go to [www.tix.com/ticket-sales/tix/7948/event/1467718](http://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/tix/7948/event/1467718).

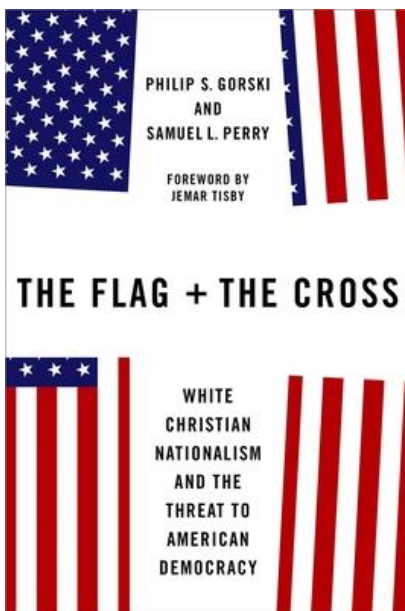


**The Lighthouse: The Morris Merger**

A free traveling art installation telling the story of eight courageous local plaintiffs who challenged segregation in Morristown's public schools, helping shape a more just community.

**May 31:** 1-3pm

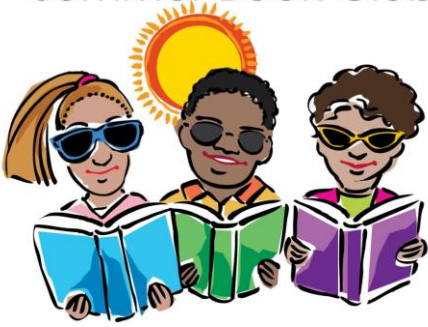
**Where:** Morristown UMC (50 Park Place, Morristown)



**EPA & GNJ CORR Book Study**

Each Wednesday in October from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. on Zoom, join EPA & GNJ Commissions on Religion & Race for a conference-wide book study on *The Flag and the Cross* by Philip Goski & Samuel Perry. The book explores how white Christian nationalism functions as a political ideology rather than authentic Christianity. You will study the book and its call to Christians to reclaim Jesus-centered faith rooted in humility, curiosity, understanding, and love of neighbor. The first 25 to register will receive a free e-copy (Kindle edition). To register contact the church office.

## 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.



### 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.

**May 31<sup>st</sup> is the last day of drop-off.**



**Trinity Sunday**  
May 31, 2026

**Counters:** Randy Danielson, Jane Gittines

**Greeter:** Melody Ragle

**Ushers:** Greg Scott, Robert Scott

**Acolyte:** Kitty Amato

**Lay Reader:** Garry Smith

**Fellowship Hosts:** Ron & Pam Puryear

**Altar Flowers**

Given in loving memory of Gail Danielson by  
Ron.

Given in loving memory of Gail Danielson by  
Jeff, Scott, & Russel.

DO THIS IN  
*remembrance*  
OF ME. 1 CORINTHIANS 11:24

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
June 7, 2026

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

**Greeter:** Ruth Sheckler

**Ushers:** Mike Sheckler

**Acolyte:** Robert Scott

**Lay Reader:** Arlene Stoll

**Fellowship Host:** Bonnie McNamara

**Altar Flowers**

Given in loving memory of Betty Lou Beckmann  
by Peggy Ann.

Given in loving memory of Stuart & Eleanor  
Serine by Diane & Joy.



JAVA WITH JILL

**June 16 10 a.m. NOTE DATE CHANGE**

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.

STAY  
connected  
THIS SUMMER

**WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS**

**May 31-Jun 6**

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28 16-20



Tsedalech, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia,  
is sponsored for the month of May by Len &  
Barbara Gruezke in honor of Avery Fallon's 1<sup>st</sup>  
birthday.

*Please be  
Praying for...*

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

**At home:** Mike Zemo

**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

**OUR MAY COMMUNION OFFERING  
BENEFITS UNITED MEHODIST  
COMMUNITIES**



The next free community spaghetti dinner will be on **June 21<sup>st</sup>** at 5 p.m. Everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall for a delicious meal and community.



**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.



**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:  
Gatorade

**5th Sunday**



May is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday month. An offering is collected during these months to contribute to the cost of snow plowing, landscaping, and more. Please use the yellow envelopes for your offering.



**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**

You can't have a mouth full of Scripture and a heart full of hate.

**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.

