
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 LXIV NUMBER 23

June 4 2026



"The Anointing"

Healing and Wholeness - Nourishes at the Table

This Sunday, as we enter yet another month, we are ALL invited to come to the table and receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. As we bring ourselves fully to God in this meal of nourishing grace, forgiveness and love, you will also be invited and welcomed (if you choose) to be anointed for healing and wholeness for yourself, for another, or for the greater community of which we are a part. As United Methodists, we share these words regarding the gifts of a healing service...

"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."

This month of June also includes many cultural celebrations: graduations, Father's Day, and Pride Month to name a few. As we come for anointing and communion this Sunday, I would also invite us to prayerfully honor the healing still needed in uniting God's beloved family, including our brothers and sisters of the LGBTQIA+ community.



Today, I saw these pictures shared on Instagram by the Reconciling Ministries of the UMC. It offered me the opportunity to reflect on a question I am so often asked in my pastoral ministry, "Why do we need to call out a Pride Month and have parades?" I believe these posts articulate an answer. Friends, I respect that we may look at many things differently as I have shared often in our Spring Worship Series on the UM Social Principles. I would just remind us all... "love God and love your neighbor", so all may feel the welcoming love of Christ, be seen for the beautiful gifts for which we are created, and be received at the table of God's abundant grace.

I look forward to worshipping together this Sunday, *Jill*



We celebrate Pride because
no one should have to wonder if they belong.

Reconciling Ministries Network
RMNetwork.org



We celebrate Pride because
joy is sacred – and when our LGBTQ+ siblings thrive, so does the Church.

Reconciling Ministries Network
RMNetwork.org



We celebrate Pride because
dignity is still being fought for and the Church doesn't get to sit that out.

Reconciling Ministries Network
RMNetwork.org



We celebrate Pride because
we believe every church should be a church for every child of God.

Reconciling Ministries Network
RMNetwork.org





**June's Communion Offering:
Interfaith Neighbors**

Interfaith Neighbors, Inc. is a non-profit organization founded in May 1988 when local faith communities came together to address the growing problem of homelessness. Today their supporting members include over 45 varied faith-based organizations, private & corporate donors, charitable gifts & trusts, as well as grants from foundations.

Interfaith Neighbor's mission statement reads:

"To assist those less fortunate among us to meet life's basic necessities, while seeking to improve the quality of life for individuals and families and the communities in which they live. Through the years, our services have grown to include district programs for Monmouth County residents, including: Rental & Mortgage Assistance, Nutrition and Meals on Wheels, Affordable Housing, Neighborhood Revitalization, Launch Center, and Kula Urban Farms".

Your communion offering will go toward homeless prevention, helping seniors stay in their homes, reducing underemployment and unemployment, supporting first time home buyers and entrepreneurs, and more. 87 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to Interfaith Neighbor's community programs.

Neighbors helping neighbors-when you give to Interfaith Neighbors, that's what you are doing.

Thank you from the Outreach Committee.

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



JUNE 6TH

@ 7 PM

219 HARDWICK ST.
BELVIDERE, NJ

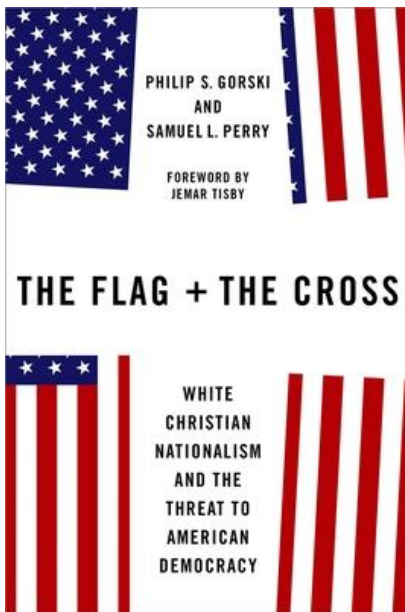
MARK MILLER IS AN ACclaimed singer, songwriter, musician, and storyteller. He has performed at numerous venues and has a growing fan base. Join us for an engaging evening with singer, songwriter, musician & storyteller, Mark Miller.



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.



EPA & GNJ CORR Book Study

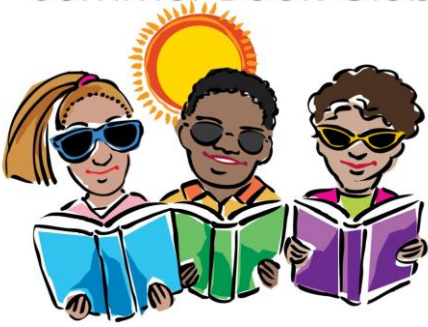
Each Wednesday in October from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. on Zoom, join EPA & GNJ Commissions on Religion & Race for a conference-wide book study on *The Flag and the Cross* by Philip Goski & Samuel Perry. The book explores how white Christian nationalism functions as a political ideology rather than authentic 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.



“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.” Psalm 100: 1-2

On Celebration Sunday, June 14th join the Chancel Choir, Carillon Choir, & Praise Team, all under the direction of our music director Denise Furda, for our annual service celebrating the music ministry of this church. The Carillon Choir thanks Denise for her direction that Sunday as the choir’s director, Barbara MacPherson will be visiting family in GA.

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 1st 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 11th. Please RSVP to the church office if you are interested, so we can arrange transportation. There is a cost for entrance into the Cloisters.

THANK YOU!



During the month of May, over 691 individual feminine hygiene products were collected! The Outreach Committee thanks you all for your generous donations. The items were dropped off to Mercy Center by Outreach Committee member Diane Plumser. Diane reported that the products will be going to the Sisters Academy of NJ. They are setting up a closet specifically for these types of items.

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

2nd 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.

Altar Rose

Given by Abby Allen in loving memory of her
dear friend, Stacy Epstein-Kless.



3rd Sunday after Pentecost
June 14, 2026

Counters: Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll

Greeter: Mike Sheckler

Ushers: Jim Scisco

Acolyte: Ian Furda

Lay Reader: Sandy Miller

Fellowship Host:

Altar Flowers

Given in loving memory of John & Ruth DeBruin
by Carey & Diane Carlisle.

Given in loving memory of William & Mary
Elizabeth Carlisle by Carey & Diane Carlisle.



Home
Needed
for a
Student

Looking for a Willing & Interested Family:

This past week, Jill was in conversation with a contact from the Ranney School. They have a child from China coming to their school in Sept. They are looking for a family to provide a private room, breakfast & lunch, transportation to school, and loving support throughout the year. Financial support will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Jill or Joy in the church office.



Tsedalech, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of June by Pam & Dave Saunders in honor of Denise Furda's 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 JUNE COMMUNION OFFERING
BENEFITS INTERFAITH NEIGHBORS**



The next free community spaghetti dinner will be on **June 21st** 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:
Honey

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT



There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down & lifting people up.

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.



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.

WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

June 7-Jun 13

Genesis 12:1-9

Psalms 33:1-12

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9 9-13, 18-26

