

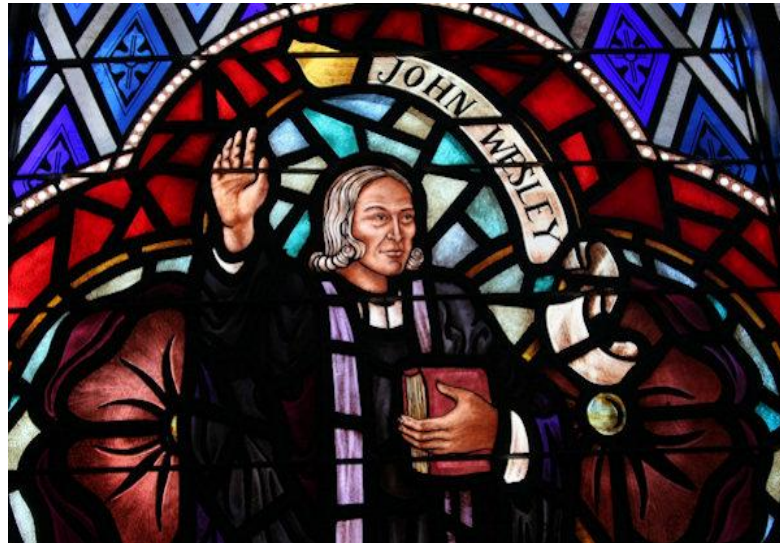
The Cornerstone

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 26

June 25, 2026



Heritage Sunday

Isaiah 49:1-6 & Romans 12: 9-21

Our Spiritual DNA

Cultivate Internship

This summer, our Greater NJ Annual Conference is offering an opportunity for high school & college students to develop leadership skills in ministry. Lydia Smith applied for this opportunity and was accepted by our NextGen Conference Ministry. The Administrative/Church Councils of First UMC and Old First UMC voted to approve her internship with our sister churches. On Saturday, June 27, Lydia will join other interns at the Conference office to create a plan and goals for her time with us, after which she will begin her internship with us on Sunday, June 28th. You may see Lydia in worship leadership, attending meetings, shadowing Jill in pastoral care, working on our communications/marketing, and building a project that will culminate in August. Watch for more details and may we welcome Lydia into this opportunity to create a connectional ministry with Old First and First UMCs.

To read more: [Cultivate internships: A win-win for young leaders & churches | United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey](#)

NEW Summer Worship Series:

Leadership Lessons from the Toy Box



How many of you remember the Toy Story movies, 1-4? How many of you are excited to see Toy Story 5 and the beloved toys in the theaters this week? Or maybe your kids or grandkids are eagerly awaiting to kick off their summer vacation of fun with a movie.

Summer is an ideal time to have fun, relax a bit, and try new things. In honor of summer fun we will begin a new Summer Worship Series on July 5th at 9:30: ***Leadership Lessons from the Toy Box***.

So, what were the favorite toys in your toy box? A doll, a stuffed animal, blocks, Mr. Potato head, rubber ducky, or Legos? Was it toys that made lots of noise? Toys you could ride? Toys small enough to carry with you like the Rubik's cube, marbles, or a yo-yo?

Most of us remember fondly a few favorites, those go-to toys that held a special place in our hearts. Much like the relationship in the movie Toy Story of Andy and Woody.

As we look at several of these familiar toys, we will explore the lessons of faith they communicate. Come join me each Sunday and discover the message of faith our beloved toys teach us. *Jill*



Summer Communion Services in the Prayer Garden –

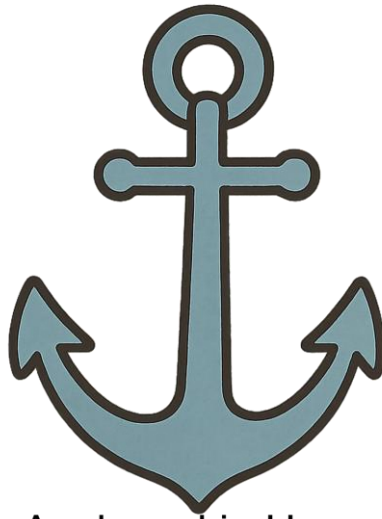
July 5th, August 2nd, and Sept. 6th

Busy summer schedule? Want to worship and still maximize the day? Want to be outside and worship amid God's beautiful creation yet still beat the heat of the day?

We have a service for you. The first Sunday of the month in the summer, Jill leads us in a Communion service in our prayer garden. Come sit in this beautiful space for Word, message, song, and Communion.

You are invited to follow the sidewalk from the parking lot north on Monmouth Road to the garden entrance.

72nd Annual Choir Festival



Anchored in Hope

A Festival of Faith and Song

Saturday, July 18, 7 p.m. at the Great Auditorium in Ocean Grove.



Faith-filled Field Trip

*A beautiful day at the Cloisters
in Manhattan.*

Pictured left to right:

Diane Wortman, Soon Hur, Pam Lynch, Kitty
Amato, Ron Danielson, & Pastor Jill



It's Kit Time for Church World Service

Each year the UWIF collects items for “kits” that are donated through Church World Service to families in need. This year UWIF will be completing “Hygiene Kits” which contain much needed hygiene items for underprivileged families.

We are asking for help from our generous congregation. Our goal is to fill 30 kits.

Two Ways to help:

1. Purchase any of the items listed below and place them in the bin in the church office.
2. Make a monetary donation (**any amount would be appreciated**) and the UWIF will do the shopping for you. Each kit is worth approximately \$15 plus \$2 shipping and processing fee.

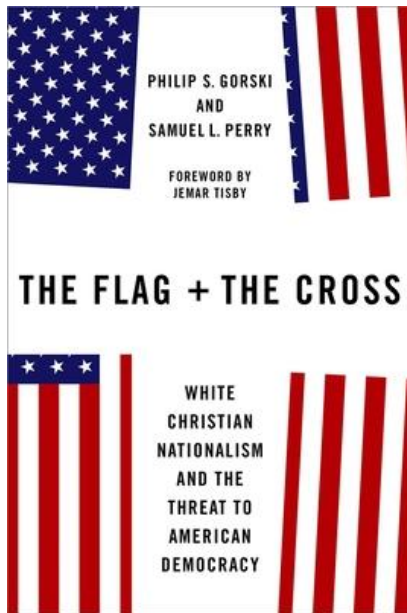
Checks should be made out to UMW First United Methodist Church with “kits” in the memo.

Deadline: August 10

CWS Hygiene Kit List:

- One washcloth
- One fingernail or toenail clipper (either is acceptable; remove from package)
- One bath-size bar of soap (in the original package)
- One toothbrush (in the original package)
- One travel-size deodorant stick (3.4 ounces or less, non-aerosol)
- One travel-size lotion (3.4 ounces or less, fragrance-free)
- One travel-size shampoo (3.4 ounces or less)
- One travel-size toothpaste (3.4 ounces or less, with an expiration date at least one year out)
- One sturdy wide-tooth comb (remove from package; must have at least 6 inches of teeth; pocket combs or picks not accepted; rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable)

Thank you. Any questions please contact Diane Maher at dianeserine07712@yahoo.com or 732-513-8413.



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 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 July is “Moloka’i” by Alan Brennert.



Free crafting events at Historic St. George’s UMC

Have fun while connecting with history at these free crafting events hosted by Historic St. George’s UMC and HSG Museum & Archives (326 New St., Philadelphia, PA). [Learn more.](#)

July 3, 11am-4pm: Water Marbling & Wax Seal Crafts

July 18, 1-3pm: Candle Making



**5th Sunday after Pentecost
June 28, 2026**

Counters: Mary Bailey, Cheryl McLoughlin, John Montgomery

Greeter: Joy More

Usher: Ron Danielson

Acolyte: Faye Snorton

Lay Reader: Steve Skoulas

Altar Flowers

Given in loving memory of Lou Gorra by Judy.

Given in loving memory of Kay Davison's birthday by Cathy & Joe Stopyra.

Altar Roses

The white rose is given in loving memory of Florence Danielson's heavenly birthday by Randy, Aldo, Ron, Jeff, Scott, & Russel.

The yellow rose is given in honor of Alexander Tanta Nanta's graduation from Monmouth Regional High School on June 25th with love from Gram & Poppy.



**6th Sunday after Pentecost
July 5, 2026**

Counters: Patty Aria, John Montgomery, Judy Gorra

Greeter: Judy Smith

Usher: Kitty Amato

Acolyte: Joy More

Lay Reader: Timothy Haider

Altar Flowers

Given in loving memory of Ann Ward by Mary & Marty Bailey.

Given in loving memory, hone, & appreciation of all who served & are serving to protect our nation's freedom.



Happy 323rd birthday
John Wesley
(June 28th)



**FAITHFUL FIELD TRIP:
July 9th**

Grounds for Sculpture: a 42 acre park filled with sculptures. Conversation will be based on faith & art.

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.



Hooray! School's Out

**OUR JUNE COMMUNION OFFERING
BENEFITS INTERFAITH NEIGHBORS**



The next free community spaghetti dinner will be on July 19th at 5 p.m. Everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall for a delicious meal and good company.



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:
Ketchup

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT



God loves each one of us like there were only one of us to love. -Max Lucado

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 or contact Debbie at Eckertpartygirl@hotmail.com.



JAVA WITH JILL

July 28th 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.

WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

June 28-July 4

Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13:1-10
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10 40-42





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.



*Please be
Praying for...*

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

Hospitalized: Nancy Burt, Carol Steinat

Jersey Shore Care Center: Dave Miller

Our church family worshipping at a distance:

Barbara Novick, Laura Eble, Jack & Caroline Chesbro

Puzzle!

NAMES OF GOD

Every name of God tells us something about his power, love and care for his people. Use the Scripture clues to uncover just some of these special names.



F _____ (Matthew 6:9)

A _____ and O _____ (Revelation 1:8)

I A _____ (Exodus 3:14)

Y _____ (Exodus 6:2-3)

G _____ M _____ H _____ (Genesis 14:19)

G _____ A _____ (Genesis 17:1)

R _____ (Psalm 18:2)

J _____ (Psalm 75:7)

F _____ (Psalm 18:2)

H _____ O _____ (Isaiah 40:25)

Answer key: Father, Alpha and Omega, I AM, Yahweh, God Most High, God Almighty, Rock, Judge, Fortress, Holy One