
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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July 9, 2026

NEW Summer Worship Series:



Leadership Lessons *From the Toy Box*

Rubber Duckie: Ephesians 4:17 - 24

*The Rubber Duckie will remind us to stop waddling
and to fly with our faith!*



THIS SUNDAY:

Joint Worship Service as we welcome one of God's beloved children in
Baptism

With fellowship following.

ALL beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the air-conditioned sanctuary.

DONATIONS NEEDED!



ITEMS NEEDED:

NEW/UNUSED LUNCHBOXES

PREPACKAGED SNACKS

ANY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

FINANCIAL DONATIONS WELCOME!

**PLEASE BRING ITEMS TO THE OFFICE BY
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5TH**

On August 9th, First UMC Oakhurst and Old First UMC will come together for worship at 10AM, and following that, I would like to invite you to stay for lunch! As part of my internship, I have chosen to partner with 180 Turning Lives Around for a church-wide mission project. Their mission is to empower survivors and families affected by domestic violence and sexual assault to find the courage and strength to turn their lives around. Following our lunch, I have organized a hands-on mission project that everyone can be a part of! This will involve packing student lunchboxes and organizing school supplies. This directly helps students of all ages, to set them up for a positive new school year. In order for this project to be a success, donations are needed. In the attached flyer you will see what is specifically needed for this project. If you are unable to get these items, please consider a financial donation! This will aid in another event I have planned to gather supplies for that Sunday. Stay tuned! Anything you bring may be brought to the church office. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or Pastor Jill. My email: lydiajasmith@gmail.com.

Peace, love, & joy, Lydia Smith



... for a Sacred and Fun Summer

**Connectional & Unified Services at 10:00 a.m.
July 12th & August 9th**

Connectionism is part of our United Methodist roots---

---so on July 12th our church communities from Old Frist UMC &
FUMCO will unite for one service
as we welcome one of God's beloved children to the waters of
Baptism.

Fellowship and refreshments will follow.

I hope you will mark your calendars as we welcome John to God's
holy family together.

August 9th we will connect for worship, a fellowship meal, and
a mission opportunity as Lydia Smith concludes her internship with
our churches. See the details in this *Cornerstone*.

See you in church! *Jill*



Summer Communion Services in the Prayer Garden –

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.

Sing In: Songs of Justice, Joy, and Resilience

THURSDAY, JULY 16 AT 7:30PM
PRINCETON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FREE ADMISSION

Featuring Mark Miller
Composer, Clinician, Organist,
and Faculty Member at Drew
University and Yale Institute
of Sacred Music



Resilience with Mark Miller

Join Mark Miller for a night of music, light, and togetherness on **July 16 at 7:30pm** at **Princeton United Methodist Church**. Admission is free and open to the public.



Student Intern

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 joined other interns at the Conference office to create a plan and goals for her time with us, after which she began her internship with us on Sunday, June 28. 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](#)



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.

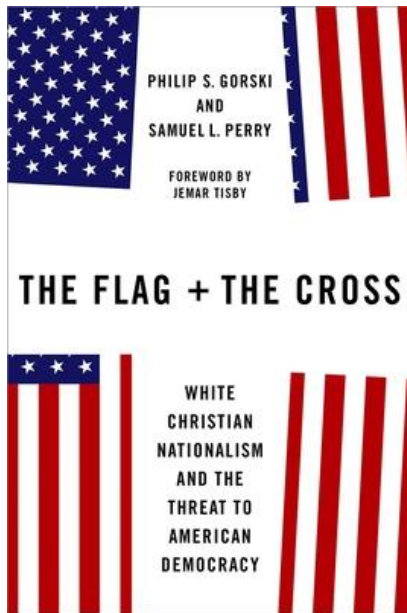
Checks should be made out to UMW First United Methodist Church with “kits” in the memo.

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. August's book(s) will be *The Recipe Box* by Viola Shipman and/or *Kitchen Front* by Jennifer Ryan. Bring your favorite recipe from your recipe box and feel free to make it to share a tasting.



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 18, 1-3pm: Candle Making

Baptism

7th Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 2026

Counters: Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll

Greeter: Kitty Amato

Usher: Mike Sheckler

Acolyte: Kayleigh Becker

Lay Reader: Susan McRae

Altar Flowers

Given by Bonnie McNamara in honor of her granddaughter, Kaleigh.

Given by Bonnie McNamara in honor of her son-in-law, Nick.



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.



8th Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2026

Counters: Rand Danielson, Jane Gittines

Greeter: Jack Coleman

Usher: Greg Scott, Robert Scott

Acolyte: Bonnie McNamara

Lay Reader: Joy More

Altar Flowers

Given in loving memory of Kaitlin Henderson by her family.

Given by Bonnie McNamara in loving memory of her father, Ralph C. Goodwin.

Tsedalech, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of July by Jeff Danielson.

**OUR JULY COMMUNION OFFERING
BENEFITS PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY.**



**Spaghetti
Dinner**

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.





Our homebound: Bev Itell, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Carey Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Elaine Gould
Coral Harbor Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center: Carol Steinat
Jersey Shore Care Center: Dave Miller
The Rehab Center at Wedgewood Gardens: Nancy Burt
Our church family worshipping at a distance: Barbara Novick, Laura Eble, Jack & Caroline Chesbro



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:
Mayonnaise

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT



Faith is not passive...it requires action.



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.



WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

July 12-July 18

Genesis 25:19-34
 Psalm 119
 Psalm 25
 Romans 8:1-11
 Matthew 13 1-9, 18-23

