

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.

Psalms 118:22-23

VOLUME LXIV NUMBER 30

July 30, 2026

Summer Worship Series:



Leadership Lessons From the Toy Box

This Sunday: Legos



John 6:26-52 & 57

Romans 12: 5-4

DONATIONS NEEDED!

180 Turning
Lives
Around

ITEMS NEEDED:

NEW/UNUSED LUNCHBOXES
PREPACKAGED SNACKS
ANY SCHOOL SUPPLIES
FINANCIAL DONATIONS WELCOME!

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

Join Us August 9th Worship - Lunch - Mission 10 AM

RSVP!!!
for BBQ lunch by
calling the church
office.

732-531-1150

180 Turning Lives Around

- Packing lunchboxes with pre-packaged snacks
- Organizing school supplies

Donations due by August 5th



Bring a dessert/set up/clean up

Sign up sheets outside Fellowship Hall entrance

Conference Opportunities

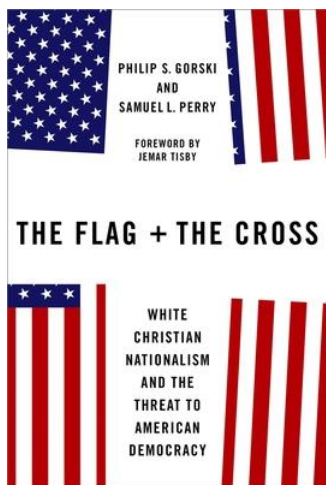


Healing Communities training - coming this fall

Healing Communities training, which enables clergy and congregations to offer restoration and healing for persons affected by the criminal justice system, returns in **October 2026**, offered by the EPA&GNJ Leadership Academy.

The nationally endorsed training equips church teams to create informed, innovative action plans to help them become solutions-oriented stations of healing and hope.

Two-hour class sessions will meet Oct 20, 22, 27 and 29, from 7 to 9 p.m., on Zoom. [Learn more](#) and [register now](#).



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.

We Walk By Faith: Immigration

In the face of growing challenges affecting immigrant communities, We Walk by Faith is a call to stand together. Join us on **Thursday, September 10, at Haddonfield United Methodist Church (29 Warwick Rd., Haddonfield, NJ)** for an evening of learning, honest conversation, and faithful action. We will gather for dinner at **6:00 PM**, followed by the program at **7:00 PM**.



United Methodists and the broader community will hear from local leaders, advocates, and those working alongside immigrants and families impacted by detention, engage in table conversations, and connect with organizations making a difference across New Jersey.

Whether you are looking to deepen your understanding, ask honest questions, or discover meaningful ways to get involved, this evening offers an opportunity to listen, learn, and discern how we can faithfully respond together.

Join us at Haddonfield UMC along with Bishop Moore-Koikoi as we walk by faith in pursuit of justice, compassion, and hope. [Register here](#).

THIS SUNDAY



Summer Communion Services in the Prayer Garden –

**August 2nd, and Sept. 6th
8:00 a.m.**

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.



In keeping with FUMCO's and Old First's connectional ministry, Debbie Eckert, Old First UMC is offering a few activities:

- Calling all crafters; Debbie would like to start a craft-devotional time. Participants will gather and either bring a craft they're working on, or one will be supplied as a group activity.
- Debbie is also looking for pen pals to reach out to others to share Christ, love, & encouragement. Participants will be writing to men and/or women attending a 4-month residential addiction work program at America's Keswick. Some of the men and women have no one to lift them up and feel Christ's love.
- If you are interested in receiving a daily devotional each day in your texts, please text Debbie your name so she can make a contact list. You would also be able to request prayers or share your reflection on the devotional.

Debbie's info: 908-489-7619; eckertpartygirl@hotmail.com



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.

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.

**DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR ITEM
DONATION: AUGUST 10TH**

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.*

FAITH-FILLED FIELD TRIP: August 13th



BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham Hindu Temple in Robbinsville, NJ

There is a dress code for us to respectfully adhere to which includes:

No sleeveless or low-cut tops.

No shorts, skirts, or dresses above knee length.

No clothing that reveals the shoulders, chest, back, or knees.

No clothing containing offensive language or imagery.

And inside the Mahamandir there is no footwear.

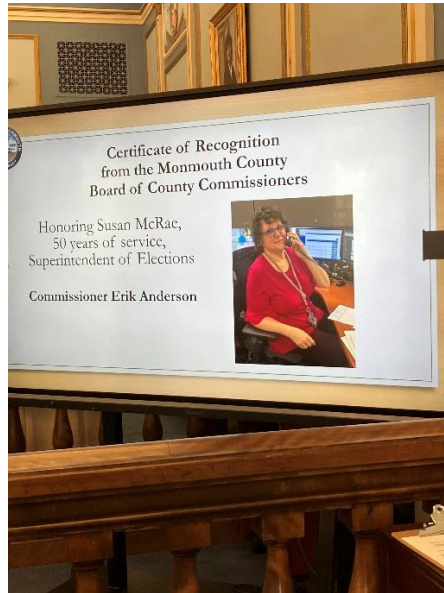
To read more: <https://usa.akshardham.org/>



All are invited to attend the UWIF Kit Night on August 18th which is when the hygiene kits will be assembled. Afterward the helpers will be rewarded with an ice cream treat!

Any questions please call Diane Maher at 732-513-8413.

Well Done!



Congratulations to Sue McRae who was honored at the July 16th meeting of the Monmouth Board of County Commissioners for her 50 years of service as secretary for the Superintendent of Elections/Commissioner of Elections.





Worship

**10th Sunday after Pentecost
August 2, 2026**

Counters: Patty Aria, John Montgomery, Judy Gorra

Greeter: Scott Danielson

Usher: Jim Scisco

Acolyte: Garry Smith

Lay Reader: Arlene Stoll

Altar Flowers

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

Given by Bonnie McNamara in honor of her daughter, Jessie.



Worship

**11th Sunday after Pentecost
August 9, 2026**

Counters: Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll

Greeter: Len Gruezke

Usher: Robin Whitney

Acolyte: Kitty Amato

Lay Reader: Jill Hubbard-Smith

Altar Flowers

Given in loving memory of Lou Sama by Peg.
Given by Bonnie McNamara in honor of her husband, Kevin.



JAVA WITH JILL

AUGUST 18th 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.



Spaghetti Dinner

The next free community spaghetti dinner will be on August 16th at 5 p.m. Everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall for a delicious meal and good company.



WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

August 2 – August 8

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14 13-21



We here at Interfaith Neighbors thank you for the congregational donation that we received recently. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

Bonnie Featherstone-Johnson



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

At home: Carol Steinat

Jersey Shore Care Center: Dave Miller

The Rehab Center at Wedgwood 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:
Canned string beans

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT



God is still writing your story. Quit trying to steal the pen.

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.

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.

