

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

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August 6, 2026

Summer Worship Series:



Leadership Lessons From the Toy Box



Kaleidoscope

Ecclesiastes 3:10-13

By Lydia Smith at 10:00 a.m.

Joint Service at 10:00 a.m. in the air conditioned sanctuary

Everyone is invited and ENCOURAGED to stay following our joint service and hear from a representative from 180 Turning Lives Around while we fill lunch boxes and sort school supplies. AND enjoy a BBQ lunch.

Weather permitting, we will be outside. But if the weather does not cooperate, we will be in Fellowship Hall. Let us make this the big event of our summer!!

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

Call the church office if you can lend a hand.

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.



Small group app now offers Henri Nouwen study

The [BeADisciple Study App](#) provides the small group infrastructure to help your church host its own small groups in a new and more flexible way, giving groups everything they need in an app-based format.

NEW! Henri Nouwen's [Following Jesus: Finding Home in an Age of Anxiety](#) — a six-week study of the book with embedded daily prayer practices and videos clips of Nouwen from the Henri Nouwen Society.



CONNECTED: New four-week worship, discipleship, and stewardship journey

Preview “Connected,” the upcoming Breakthrough worship series that invites your congregation to recognize life as gift, discover that everyone matters and belongs, reconnect with their God-given purpose, and participate more fully in God’s mission.

As people grow in Christ, generosity is unleashed as a joyful response to grace—not an institutional obligation. [Download the series overview](#) or visit the [Breakthrough website](#). More resources in this series coming soon.

JUSTICE MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES



On **Saturday, Aug. 15**, from **9am-1pm**, the GNJ Board of Church & Society invites you to join with cabinet members and others from around Greater New Jersey for a time of Prayerful Witness at Delaney Hall to demonstrate our support for detained immigrant siblings and opposition to for-profit detention centers. ([See the UMC Social Principles](#)).

At 9am, we will gather for a short orientation, provide hospitality to those visiting detainees, and write messages of support. A time of prayer, song, and spoken witness will begin at 10am.

You are invited to bring gift cards to support detainees' families with groceries (ShopRite, Stop n' Shop, Walmart) and transportation (Uber). You may also bring signs with Bible verses or words of hope and encouragement if you choose. [Get the details](#) and join us for this important time of solidarity and Christian witness.

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.](#)



Summer Communion Service in the Prayer Garden –

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**

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 at 7 p.m. 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.



**Monmouth Medical
Center is seeking NEW,
Birth - 2 Years old toys
for their pediatrics
department along with
DVD's (not needed to be
new)! Drop off to WNS!!**



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.



Worship

12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2026

Counters: Randy Danielson, Jane Gittines

Greeter: Barbara Gruezke

Usher: Ron Danielson

Acolyte: Bonnie McNamara

Lay Reader: Caren Skoulas

Altar Flowers

Given in loving memory of Dr. & Mrs. M.
Alexander Glasmire by Barbara & Larry
MacPherson.
Given by Bonnie McNamara in loving memory of
her daughter, Robin.



August is a 5th Sunday month

What is a 5th Sunday? In the months when there are 5 Sundays, the Finance Committee and Board of Trustees ask for a collection that will help reduce the costs of snow removal and salting in the winter months. Those costs contribute significantly to the church's annual budget costs. If you would like to make an offering to this collection, please use the yellow envelopes found on the tables in the sanctuary entrances.



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 9 – August 15

Genesis 37:1-4
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14 22-23





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:
Toilet paper

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT



Nothing is won by force. I choose to be gentle. If I raise my voice, may it be only in praise. If I clench my fist, may it be only in prayer. If I make a demand, may it be only of myself. – Max Lucado

Tsedalech, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of August by Mel & Jeff Ragle in loving memory of Jeff's mother, Emma Jean Ragle.

OUR AUGUST COMMUNION OFFERING BENEFITS DISASTER RELIEF.

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.

