

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 36

September 10, 2026

Please Pray For
the new
school year



Fall is coming into view.

School has begun.

AND our Wesley Nursery School is open and
welcoming a new year.



May we come into worship this Sunday ready to enter
our new season of ministry, the next chapter of our story
together as we celebrate the baptism of one of God's
precious children in our midst.

I look forward to seeing you all in worship online and in
person. *Jill*



**ONE DAY ONLY - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026
SHOP 8AM - 11PM**

DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:

- **25% OFF** DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS*
- **REGISTER TO WIN** A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD
One Winner at every Bosco's store

Friends Helping Friends

The UWIF is now selling \$5 passes for shopping at Bosco's (in person or online) to raise funds for mission projects. Please see any UWIF member or stop in the church office to purchase a pass.

September 11: Never Forget



As we approach the 25th anniversary of September 11, we remember with grief those who lost their lives and honor the emergency workers, communities, and churches who responded with courage and compassion in the face of unimaginable loss. May this anniversary renew our commitment to a world where compassion overcomes hatred, community overcomes division, and hope overcomes violence.

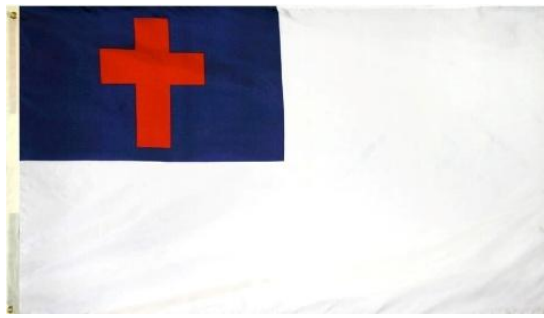
GNJ Digest



Bishop's Days on the District

Bishop Moore-Koikoi is making a visit to our district! Please save the date; more details are coming soon.

Raritan Shore- November 13



Our Christian flag has been given in loving memory of Gail, Florence and Russell Danielson by the family. Thank you to Greg and Robert Scott for hanging it.



Hispanic Heritage Month Resources

Discover resources to celebrate the diverse contributions of Hispanic/Latine siblings this Hispanic Heritage Month,
Sept. 15-Oct. 15!

- [Hispanic Heritage Month - ¡A Celebrar!](#)
- [A Liturgy for Hispanic Heritage Month](#)
- [General Commission on Religion and Race resources](#)

THIS SUNDAY

To go along with a soon-to-be worship series on stewardship from the pastor, we are going to switch to her sermon materials based on Bishop Tom Berlin's book *Defying Gravity*; Break Free from the Culture of More. (We will do *Jesus is Lord* at a later time.)

Study notes: Our possessions can create unbearable weight and affect our ability to serve and thrive. How do we defy gravity and find freedom in Christ? In this 4-week study Bishop Berlin explores what is required to sustain a vibrant life, what we need versus what we want, and what we can do to avoid being overwhelmed by the weight of our possessions. The class begins on September 13th at 11 a.m. All are welcome to explore the pastor's Sunday messages on a deeper level.

CHANGE
OF
PLANS



Dear First United Methodist Church (Oakhurst),

Thank you!

The dear people you just helped with your gift may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be-Thank you!

And through your financial support you are serving within a vital web of interactive relationships, partnering to engage globally in direct ministry to people in need.

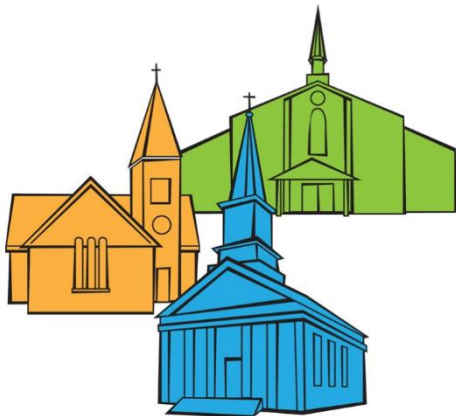
Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for all people of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

In God's Mission Together,

Roland Fernandes

General Secretary of Global Ministries, UMCOR, and Higher Education and Ministry.

(Using your donations for Disaster Relief, The Outreach Committee made a donation on your behalf.)



CHURCH
CONFERENCE

October 31st, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
All are invited to attend the annual
church conference here at FUMCO.

REMINDER: If you are submitting a
report, they are due in the Brick River
reporting system by September 30th.
However, if Joy is entering your report for
you, she must have it by September 21st.

Please call the church office with any questions.



THIS SUNDAY

Fellowship time returns September 13th

Please sign up to be a fellowship host. There are signup sheets in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Bonnie McNamara with any questions, 732-216-1511.

NOTE: This year there are changes in fellowship hosting. It is the hope that these changes will give everyone the opportunity to host no matter which service they are attending.

Part 1: Set up will be done by Bonnie McNamara unless she asks someone to cover.

Part 2: Hosting: Bring 1 quart of whole milk. Arrive in the kitchen by 10:20 a.m. and serve.

Part 3: Clean up: Arrive in the kitchen by 10:55 a.m. to clean up.

More detailed instruction can be found in the kitchen in the fellowship closet.

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Conference & Other UMC Opportunities



Eastern Pennsylvania's United Methodist Men invite GNJ men to their annual retreat at **Camp Innabah** from **Nov. 6-8**. Whether you're looking to reconnect with old friends, make some new ones, or simply recharge in nature, this is going to be an incredible weekend of fellowship and spiritual growth. This year's theme is "Christian Living Inspired by Jazz" with guest speaker Rev. Jim Goudie. [Learn more](#) and reach out to [Ed Hartmann](#) to reserve your spot.

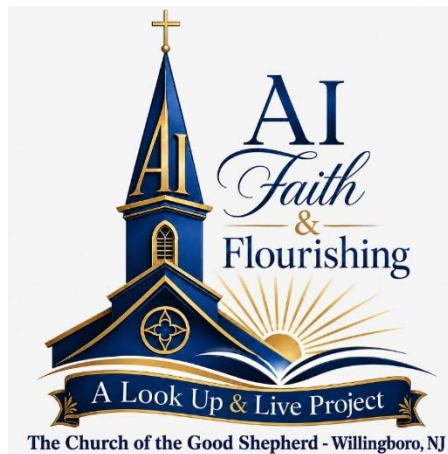
United Methodist Communications

Help shape how United Methodist story is told

The United Methodist Church is entering a pivotal season of renewal, and your voice matters. As part of a multiphase brand-messaging initiative, United Methodist Communications is listening to leaders, clergy and members across the connection to shape a message that reflects who United Methodists are and who they're becoming. Share your perspectives on faith, community and what makes The United Methodist Church unique.

The anonymous survey takes about 15 minutes and is open through Sept. 4.

[Take survey](#)



Church of the Good Shepherd presents AI, Faith & Flourishing Conference Sept 18-20

AI, Faith & Flourishing is an intergenerational community learning initiative exploring how artificial intelligence is changing the ways we learn, communicate, create, form relationships, understand information, and care for our mental and spiritual well-being. The summit will examine the emerging areas of AI literacy, digital wellness, mental health, media literacy, ethics, and human flourishing. [Learn more and register here.](#)

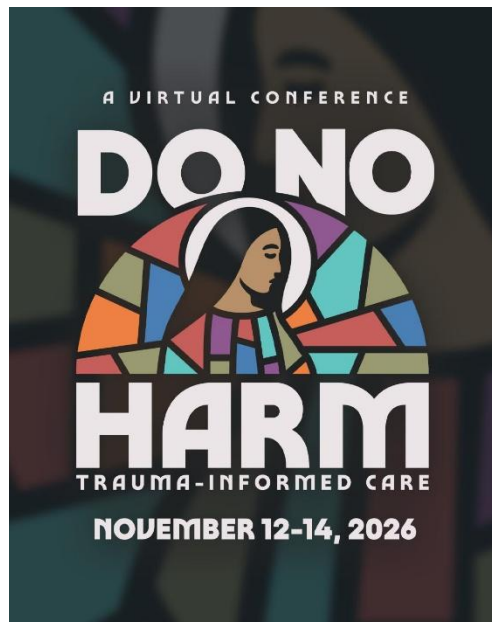


Reckoning Methodism: **Interview with the author -** **Oct. 13**

Save the date! On **Oct. 13, at 7:30pm**, the Historical Society of The United Methodist Church will be hosting an interview with the Rev. Dr. Darryl Stephens, author of *Reckoning Methodism: Mission and Division in the Public Church*

Reckoning Methodism has been described as “an important reflection on the life and ministry of the UMC that needs to be read and taken account of by all pastors, leaders, and bishops within the UMC, particularly in the United States. Stay tuned for more details

Stephens is a deacon in the EPA conference and director of EPA&GNJ's Leadership Academy Preaching Institute



GCOSROW presents: Do No Harm, Trauma-Informed Care

Join Do No Harm, a virtual conference for the urgent work of preventing sexual harm and fostering trauma-informed care across the UMC. November 12–14, 2026 — fully online, open to all.

[Learn more & register here.](#)

NEW! Pen Pal Ministry

If it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." Romans 12:8

Debbie Eckert (Old First) has spoken with the leaders at Keswick, and they are ready to begin the Pen Pal Ministry now entitled Connected. This is a letter program to encourage men and women going through the addiction program at America's Keswick.

Here is how it works:

- Write to either a man or a woman.
- Put it in an unsealed envelope with the gender for whom it is written.
- Use only your first name (no last name please).
- Indicate if you are from FUMCO or Old First UMC so the recipient can respond.
- Put your notes of encouragement in the basket marked "Connected" just outside the sanctuary.
- Your notes will be delivered on Fridays.
- Notes back to us will be put in the basket as well so don't forget to check the basket.

Wondering what to write in your note?

They are individuals who need encouragement and support. They are folks probably missing home and need to be reminded of God's love for them. They may or may not have family, so this is a wonderful way to help them know that they have a spiritual family.

Any questions, call Debbie Ecker: 908-489-7619 or eckertpartygirl@hotmail.com





16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026

Counters: Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll

Greeter: Jeff Ragle

Usher: Buster Stoll

Acolyte: Joy More

Lay Reader: Jill Hubbard-Smith

Altar Flowers

Given in loving memory of Inhong Hur by Soon,
Kathy, & Elizabeth.

Given by Noel Worthington in loving memory of
her mother, Nancy Quinn.



Worship

17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026

Counters: Randy Danielson, Jane Gittines

Greeter: Melody Ragle

Usher: Chip Stoll

Acolyte: Susan McRae

Lay Reader: Pam Puryear

Altar Flowers

Given in honor of Scott & Russel Danielson's
eighth wedding anniversary.



September 13th

Hymn Sing **THIS SUNDAY**

October 4th

10 a.m. service-World Communion Sunday

November 1st

10 a.m. service-All Saints Day



Altar Flowers Needed

In September, we have two spots available for altar flower donations. September 20 and 27th each have one urn available. If you would like to dedicate altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one or event, please call Diane Maher at 732-513-8413.



CHANCEL CHOIR BEGINS TONIGHT

The choir meets on
Thursdays from 6:30-7:30
p.m. New members
welcome! First rehearsal is
on September 10th. Bring a
friend!



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 next **free** community spaghetti dinner will be on September 20th at 5 p.m. Everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall for a delicious meal and good company.

WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS



Sept. 13-Sept. 19

Exodus 14:19-31
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18 21-35



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Faith expects from God what is beyond all expectations. -Andrew Murray

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:
Food storage bags

Tsedalech, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of September by Kitty Amato.

OUR SEPTEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING BENEFITS THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER OF CAMDEN.

COFFEE & COMMUNITY JAVA WITH JILL

SEPTEMBER 22ND, 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.

