

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 40

October 8, 2026

FINDING PEACE - A JOURNEY THROUGH THE SERENITY PRAYER

God,
grant me the
serenity
to accept the things
I cannot change,
the **courage**
to change
the things I can,
and the
wisdom
to know the
difference.

Dear Church Family,

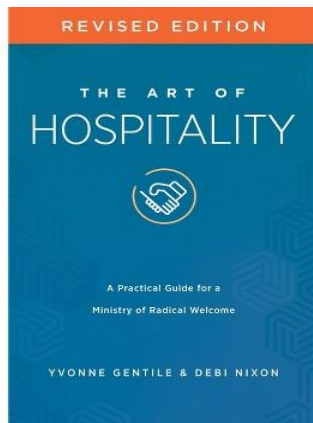
This Sunday, we begin a timely new three-week worship series centered on this *Serenity Prayer*. While this beautifully profound prayer holds deep, life-saving meaning with our 12-step community of friends and neighbors, its timeless call for wisdom, trust, and discernment are rich blessings meant for all of us. No matter where you find yourself on life's journey, this prayer offers a roadmap for navigating a complex and often stressful world.

Over the next three weeks, we will delve deeply into the distinct gifts embedded in these familiar lines: *"the strength to accept, the courage to make changes for the better, and the divine wisdom that guides us through it all."*

This Sunday, we will focus on the opening petition: *"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change."* It is so easy to exhaust our energy trying to control circumstances, outcomes, or other people. So, we will explore what it truly means to rely on God, surrender our anxieties, and find an authentic peace that surpasses our understanding. To guide this first step, we will dig into *Matthew 6:25-34*. In this famous passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gently reminds us not to worry about tomorrow, pointing us instead to the birds of the air and the lilies of the field as proof of God's constant care. By learning to release what is out of our hands, we create space to receive the peace Christ promises.

Whether you have prayed this prayer for decades or are looking at it with fresh eyes, I invite you to join me this Sunday as we learn how to walk in greater serenity together.

See you in church, Jill



The Art of Hospitality

FIVE-WEEK STUDY

Tuesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13, 27

Note: not on Oct. 20

Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.

Sept. 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14, 28

Note: not on Oct. 21



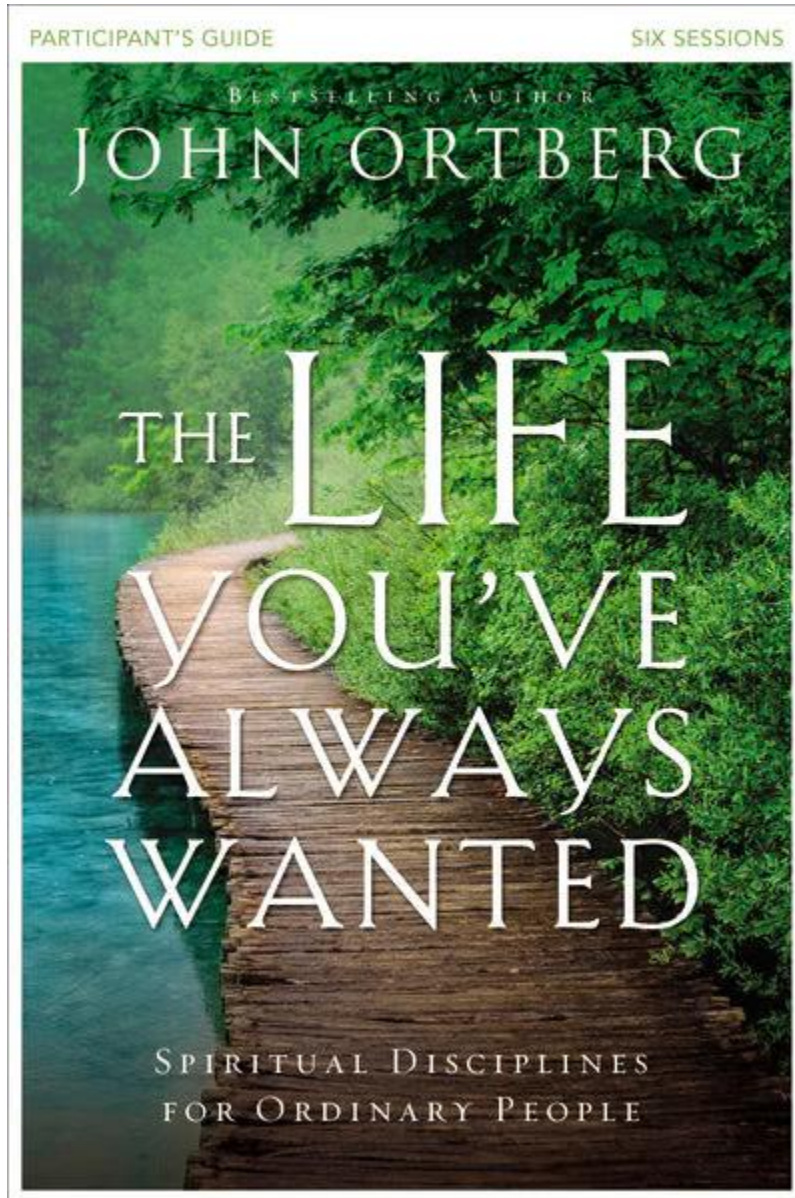
Oct. 31, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Can you lend a hand?

FUMCO is hosting charge conference this year. We will be offering hospitality to 11 other churches and a worship service for all.

Help is needed putting out snacks, setting up meeting spaces, making coffee and tea, decorating tables, greeting people as they arrive and directing them to their conference spaces, and clean-up.

If you can help on the day and/or the night before (decorating) please call the church office. 732-531-1150



Join the new Adult Sunday school study! Begins October 11!
Sundays at 11:00 downstairs in Wesley Hall.

A 6-week study by John Ortberg entitled *The Life You've Always Wanted; Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*

This study will help us to ignite a deeper, more vibrant relationship with God that impacts not just our spiritual lives but every aspect of our daily lives.

Paved with humor and sparkling anecdotes, *The Life You've Always Wanted* is an encouraging and challenging approach to a Christian life that's worth living--a life on the edge that fills an ordinary world with new meaning, hope, change, and joy.

Questions? Contact Diane Maher at 732-513-8413



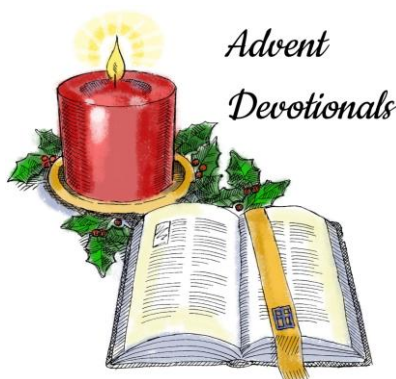
LOOKING AHEAD - Mark Your Calendars:

November 1st *All Saints Sunday* 10:00 a.m.

October 31st – **Annual Church Conference**

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

FUMCO is the host location for 12 churches.



Advent

Devotionals

It's not too early to get your mental wheels in motion! Advent will soon be here! Once again, we are soliciting contributions to our very personal advent booklet. It's not hard to do. Just a Bible verse, a short anecdote or some thoughts, poetry, favorite hymn-just about anything that might be inspiring.

How has God touched your life? Please give it some thought, and I am certain you could share your experience with your church family!

I am here to help! Diane Maher. 732-513-8413

Dianeserine07712@yahoo.com

Deadline for submissions: November 8



Calling all Children and Youth for a Christmas Choir!

Do you have a child or youth in your life that would like to sing at Christmas time? Our Music Director Denise is hoping to get a group together!

If interested, please have a parent

email FUMCOMusicDirector@gmail.com for more information!



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH INVITATION
TO
AN AFTERNOON TEA

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
REBECCA BLONSKI
FOUNDER OF MADONNA HOUSE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH AT 3:00 PM

Madonna House ministers to poor, destitute, and underprivileged infants, children, and women who live in our local communities. All clothing, juvenile furnishings, toys, infant formula, diapers, and small household necessities are provided **free of charge**.

Refreshments will be served after Rebecca's presentation.
Please kindly RSVP if you will be in attendance to Diane Maher
732- 513-8413.



Please consider donating a child's Christmas toy when
attending the tea.

Madonna House is located at 1401 Seventh Ave., Neptune, NJ



**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.



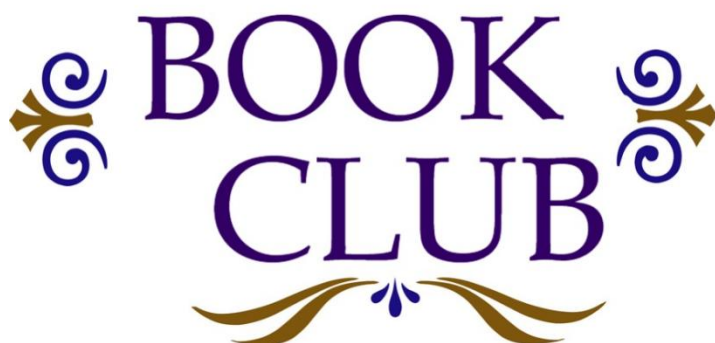
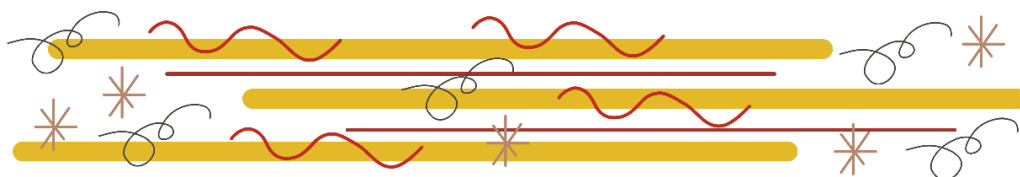
NEW INFORMATION

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, 5 p.m.

Aldersgate UMC, 568 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick



November's book: *A Secret Gift: How One Man's Kindness and a Trove of Letters Revealed the Hidden History of the Great Depression*

By **Ted Gup**

An inspiring account of America at its worst-and Americans at their best-woven from the stories of Depression-era families who were helped by gifts from the author's generous and secretive grandfather.

Book Club will meet November 4th, 12:30 p.m.



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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****NEW INFORMATION****

2026 RED BANK CROP WALK

Sunday, October 18, 2026

CROP is a program of Church World Service that seeks to combat hunger within both the local community and world community. The 46th annual **Red Bank CROP Walk** will be held on **October 18th**.

A table is available during coffee hour with resources and materials. If you would like to join this year's walk, walker envelopes can be picked up at the table if you choose not to register on-line.

If you would like to donate to the walk, checks are made payable to **CWS/ Red Bank CROP Walk** and can be given to Jeff Danielson. On-line donations can be made at events.crophungerwalk.org website- click on the **Browse a full list of teams** button, click on **First United Methodist Church-Oakhurst** and follow the prompts.

Peanut butter, rice, beans & soup are also being collected and will be shared with the sponsored food pantries. There will be a collection bucket at the CROP walk table to receive food donations.

Over the past 40-years, the congregation has been most generous in its support of the CROP walk ministry. On behalf of all the walkers throughout the decades, thank you for your steadfast support.

Conference & Other UMC Opportunities



VOTING INFORMATION



Get prepared for midterm elections

Resources for engaging in the midterm elections with faith and purpose are available from the United Methodist Board of Church and Society. Information about voter education, voter engagement, and voter protection are provided free online. *UM News*

[Learn more](#)

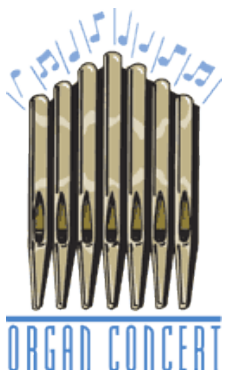
[See resources](#)

GBCS Voting Rights Learning Opportunities

Book study: The General Board of Church & Society will host a Zoom study on the book *Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America* by Ari Berman on **Oct. 16, 23 & 30** from **1-2:30pm**. [Register.](#)



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Organist Roger Sayer Brings *Interstellar* Film Score to Haddonfield

On **Friday, Oct. 16** at **7pm**, Haddonfield UMC will host internationally acclaimed British organist Roger Sayer for the annual Mi Wha Lee Memorial Organ Recital. The performance will take place at Haddonfield UMC's sanctuary and will be [livestreamed](#).

Sayer was the original organ soloist for Hans Zimmer's iconic *Interstellar* soundtrack which he will perform alongside major classical masterworks on Haddonfield UMC's pipe organ.

Free admission - no tickets required!

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





20th Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 2026

Counters: Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll

Greeter: Kitty Amato

Usher: Mike Sheckler

Acolyte: Garry Smith

Lay Reader: Carol Steinat

Fellowship Hosts: Bonnie McNamara, Judy Gorra, Soon Hur

Altar Flowers

Given in loving memory of Pat Whitney's birthday by Robin & Tommy.

Given by Arlene & Buster Stoll in loving memory of Arlene's father, Woody Mathews & in honor of grandchildren, George's & Deanna's 6th wedding anniversary.



21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026

Counters: Randy Danielson, Jane Gittines

Greeter: Judy Smith

Usher: Jim Scisco

Acolyte: Faye Snorton

Lay Reader: Soon Hur

Fellowship Host: Bonnie McNamara

Altar Flowers

Given in honor of Debbie Henderson's birthday by her family.

Given in gratitude to Diane Plumser for all of her contributions to the life of our church.

COFFEE & COMMUNITY **JAVA WITH JILL**

OCTOBER 27, 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.

**OUR OCTOBER COMMUNION OFFERING
 BENEFITS WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY.**

Tsedalech, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of October by Robin Whitney and Tommy Vignola in loving memory of Pat & Jim Whitney.

*Please be
 Praying for...*

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

At home: Carol Steinat, Peg Kuchen

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



**SOMETHING TO THINK
 ABOUT**

To know God is not
 through reason, nor is it
 through emotions, but by
 faith and love.
A. W. Tozer



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.



God is faithful in every season.

COMMUNITY



The next **free** community spaghetti dinner will be on **October 18** at 5 p.m. Everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall for a delicious meal and good company.

WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS



Oct. 11-Oct. 17

Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

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:
Deodorant

