

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 41

October 15, 2026

FINDING PEACE - A JOURNEY THROUGH THE SERENITY PRAYER

Dear Church Family,

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.

This week, we turn to the second petition: *"God, grant me the courage to change the things I can."* Courage is more than simply being brave in difficult circumstances. It is the willingness to look honestly at our own lives and ask where God may be inviting us to grow, let go, begin again, or live differently.

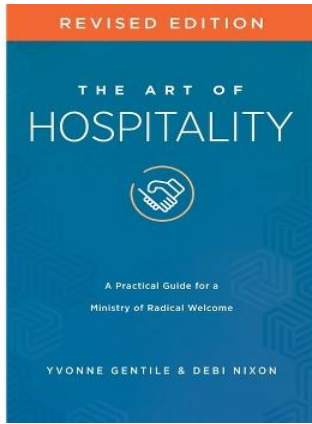
Our Scripture for this week is *Romans 12:1-2*. Paul urges us to offer our whole selves to God and to allow God to transform us by the renewing of our minds. This transformation begins when we become willing to look beyond old patterns and familiar ways of thinking and ask, *"What might God be changing in me?"* Sometimes the change we most want to see in our circumstances begins with a change within ourselves.

The courage to change does not mean that we have to figure everything out on our own. God meets us in the process, giving us strength for the next faithful step. Whether that step involves changing a habit, repairing a relationship, releasing an old way of thinking, setting a healthy boundary, or simply becoming more open to God's direction, we can trust that God is at work in us.

As we continue this journey through the Serenity Prayer, may we discover that faith is not only about accepting what we cannot change. It is also about having the courage to respond when God calls us to change what we can.

I invite you to join me this Sunday as we consider what God might be inviting us to change—and where we might find the courage to take that next step together.

May I also ask you to pray for two precious family members of our churches, Tammy Pedersen of Old First and Ellen Kale of First who now lives in AZ. Tammy has a long recovery ahead from a fall this past weekend that has left her in deep pain with many broken bones. And Ellen's adult daughter passed away this week. There continue to be many prayers on all of our hearts and we hold together, trusting that God is present with Tammy, Ellen, one another, and all God's children in this big beautiful world. May we journey as one in prayer, 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

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All Saints' Sunday Worship

November 1st 10 a.m.

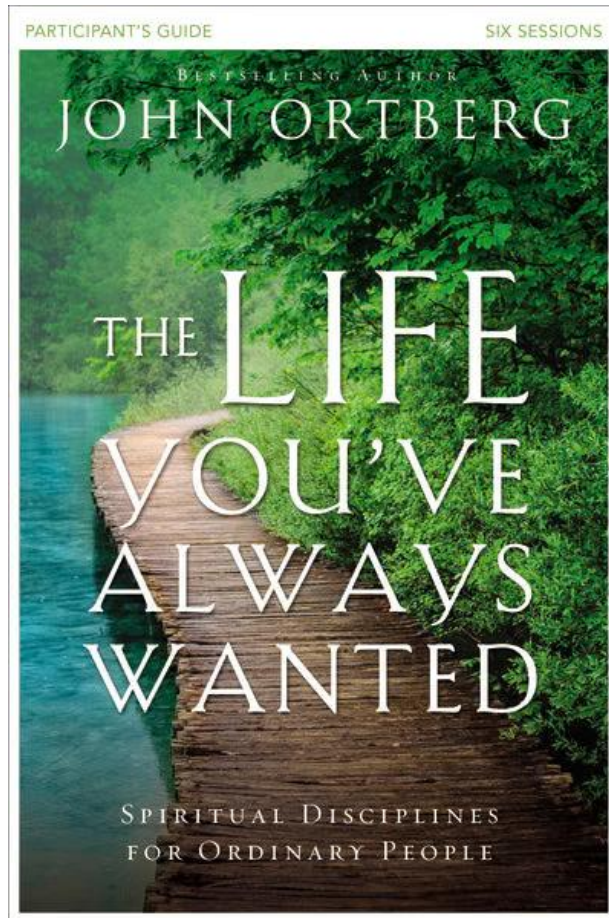
Communion, Candles of Remembrance, Special Music

All are invited!

First United Methodist Church
103 Monmouth Road, Oakhurst



Note Starting Date Change



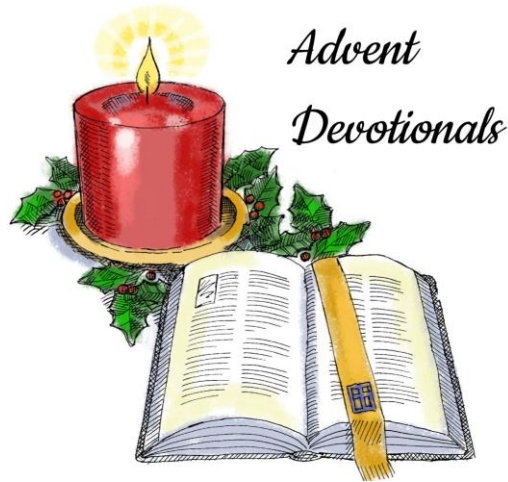
Join the new Adult Sunday school study! Begins **October 18!**
Sundays at 11:00 downstairs in Wesley Hall.

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



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.



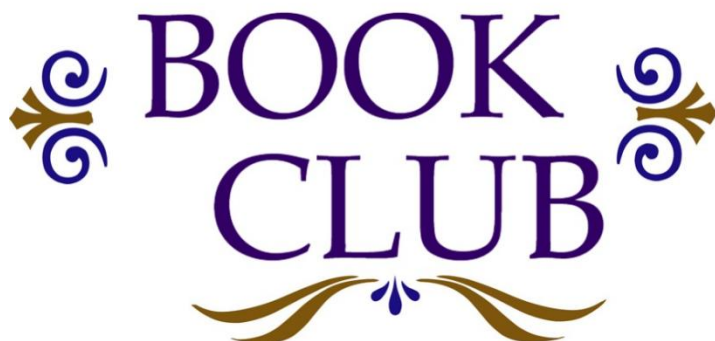
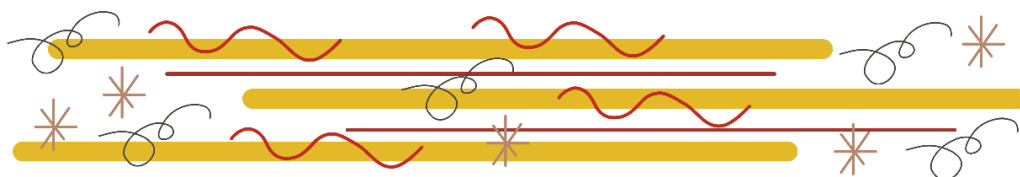
NEW INFORMATION

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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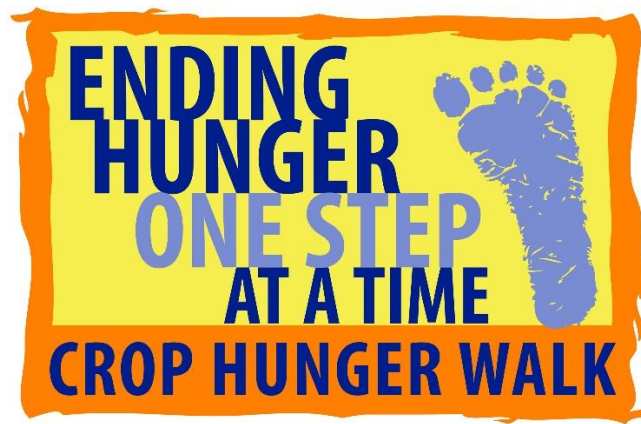
First UMC,

Thank you for your faithful support of CWS and its programs! We are so grateful to have you as a partner in mission and ministry. Your \$1,309.06 will help to provide warmth, hope, and the tools people need to thrive.

Thank you, (Dr.) Tiffany (DeTienne)
Development Operations Coordinator
Church World Service

February's Communion Offering benefits Church World
Service's Blanket Program

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THIS SUNDAY

2026 RED BANK CROP WALK

Sunday, October 18, 2026, 2 p.m.

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

Rebuilding the Village - RESCHEDULED for Dec. 12

Rebuilding the Village, is rescheduled for **Dec. 12, 9:30am-2:30pm at the Mission and Resource Center** (205 Jumping Brook Rd., Neptune, NJ). [Please re-register!](#)

We invite all women and male allies to join us to explore how we create villages, how we show up for others, where we've failed to be a village for others, and how to improve those supports in GNJ moving forward.

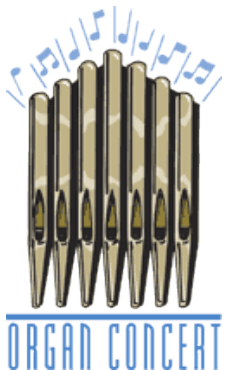
The event will feature guest storytellers, the opportunity to share your own experiences and a panel of diverse participants who have supported, advocated and helped shape spaces for women and for all.





BRIGADE BAND CONCERT

On November 8th at 3 p.m., Vineland 1st UMC, 700 E. Landis Ave., will be hosting [Beck's Philadelphia Brigade Band](#) for a concert. Admission is free and open to all. A [love offering](#) will be taken to support ongoing repairs to the church's stained-glass windows.



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





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 Hosts: Bonnie McNamara, Gerry Busfield, Jeff Danielson

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.



22nd Sunday after Pentecost
October 25, 2026

Counters: Mary Bailey, Cheryl McLoughlin, John Montgomery

Greeter: Joy More

Usher: Gerry Busfield

Acolyte: Faye Snorton

Lay Reader: John Montgomery

Fellowship Hosts: Bonnie McNamara, Randy Danielson, Ron Danielson

Altar Flowers

Given in memory of Gail Danielson by Ron, Jeff, Scott, & Russel.
 Given by Susan McRae in loving memory of her mother, Jeanne Killian and her aunt, Barbara Davis.



LIMITED
Office Hours
October 16-October 22
Please call before stopping by!

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



Deepest sympathies to Ellen Kale and her son, Christopher upon the death of Ellen's daughter, Laura on 10/13/26. Expressions

of sympathy may be sent to 2250 E. Deer Valley Road, #81, Phoenix, AZ 85024.



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

God's faithfulness means that God will always do what He said and fulfill what He has promised. - Wayne Grudem



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.



THIS SUNDAY

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. 18-Oct. 24

Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

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.

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:
Egg Noodles



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.

