

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 42

October 22, 2026

FINDING PEACE - A JOURNEY THROUGH THE SERENITY PRAYER

Dear Church Family,

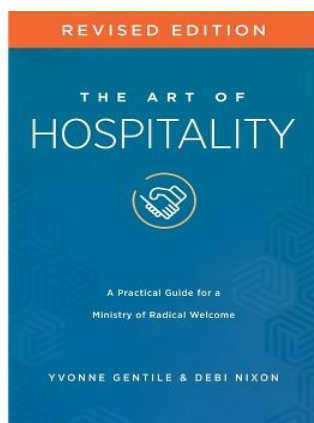
God,
grant me the
serenity
to accept the things
I cannot change,
the **courage**
to change
the things I can,
and the
wisdom
to know the
difference.

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 FINAL WEEK

Tuesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 27

Note: not on Oct. 20

Wednesday at 11:00 a.m.
Oct. 28

Note: not on Oct. 21



**MERCY CENTER THANKSGIVING BASKETS
COLLECTION BEGINS THIS SUNDAY!
ENDS NOVEMBER 15**

Once again, it is collection time for the annual Mercy Center Thanksgiving Basket food drive. Families in need are provided Thanksgiving baskets containing all the ingredients for a complete holiday dinner. The Mercy Center food pantry currently serves over 3,600 families a month throughout Monmouth County.

The special Thanksgiving food basket collection allows Mercy Center patrons to enjoy a traditional holiday meal with their families.

The following items are being collected for this year's food drive:

Turkeys
Boxed stuffing mix
Canned corn, green beans and yams
Canned cranberries/cranberry sauce
Turkey gravy
Desserts- frozen pies
Coffee

Since it is a large project, the Mercy Center requires the food be delivered to them early. Therefore, starting **October 25th**, there will be a table in the church foyer to receive non-perishable donations. Perishables clearly marked for the **Mercy Center Thanksgiving Food Baskets** can be left in the freezer. The Thanksgiving Basket food drive ends on **November 15th**. Donations can be dropped off during church office hours or on Sundays.

The Outreach Committee and the Mercy Center truly appreciate the congregation's continuing generous support of the Thanksgiving food drive!!!



Saturday, 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**





Advent DEVOTIONALS

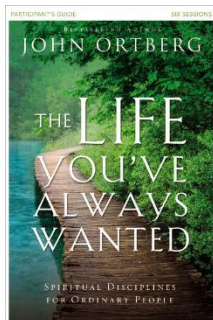
Advent will soon be here! Once again, we are soliciting contributions to our very personal advent booklet. It's not hard to do. Just a Bible verse, a short anecdote or some thoughts, poetry, favorite hymn-just about anything that might be inspiring.

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



It's not too late to join this study!
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,



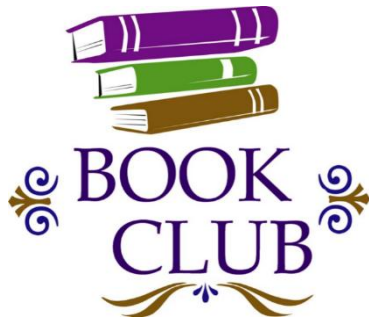
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Calling all Children and Youth for a Christmas Choir!

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!



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



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- Friday, November 13, 5 p.m.

Aldersgate UMC, 568 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick

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 have begun 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



**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, located at 1401 Seventh Ave., in Neptune, 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.

All (including men) are invited to attend.

Contact Diane Maher with any questions. 732- 513-8413.



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

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED



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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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**

We invite all women and male allies to join us to explore how we create villages, how we show up for others,

The event will feature guest storytellers, the opportunity to share your own experiences and a panel of divers



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.





**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 loving 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.



**ONE SERVICE
10 AM**

**23rd Sunday after Pentecost
November 1, 2026**

Counters: Patty Aria, Judy Gorra, John Montgomery

Greeter: Ruth Sheckler

Usher: Ron Danielson

Acolyte: Garry Smith

Lay Reader: Chip Stoll

Fellowship Hosts: Bonnie McNamara

Altar Flowers

Given in loving memory of Richard A. Beckmann
by Peggy Ann.
Given in loving memory of Bob More and Tom
Maher by Joy and Diane.



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

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



**SOMETHING TO THINK
ABOUT**

**If Paul saw society today,
we'd be getting a letter.**

*Please be
Praying for...*

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

At home: Carol Steinat, Tammy Pederson

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 **November 15** at 5 p.m. Everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall for a delicious meal and good company.

WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS



Oct. 25-Oct. 31

Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

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:
Ramen



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.



YET I WILL REJOICE IN THE LORD.
I will be joyful
IN GOD MY SAVIOR.

HABAKKUK 3:18, NIV