

The

MESSENGER

JUNE 2017

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

Pastor Lee Eclov shares the following story about a conversation between Max, a first grader in Lee's congregation, and Max's dad, Todd. Has this ever happened to you?

Dad: Max! Why didn't you answer me when I called you?

Max: I didn't hear you, Dad.

Dad: What do you mean you didn't hear me?
Max does not respond.

Dad: How many times didn't you hear me?

Max: I don't know, *maybe three or four times.*

Sound familiar? All parents have had some kind of similar experience. We just can't figure it out. We are speaking the language our children understand, we are speaking loud enough, and we know they can hear us because we took them to the ear doctor last week and they passed all the tests.

Yet, our children find ways to avoid hearing us.

Sometimes it is because they are playing a video game, sometimes they are texting their friends, sometimes they are angry with us, or sometimes they are simply "zoned out."

Whatever it is...our kids find all kinds of reasons not to hear us.

You know something disturbing?...Our kids are just like us!

Think about it...this month we remember and are grateful for fathers and caregivers who walked with us through life. And most of all, we are grateful for our heavenly Father who breathed life into us first, and wants to live with us forever.

Yet, we find ways to avoid hearing Him, don't we? You know, work goes too late, family responsibilities have us tuckered out, the yard needs attention, and the boss is on our case.

Yes, we find ways not to hear our heavenly Parent as well.

So, this month, lets you and I take some extra time and get re-acquainted with the God who loves us. Even in the midst of all our excuses, He still waits with a smile and open arms. God still wants to live with us forever. God wants to speak to us everyday. And all he asks you is:

"Will you hear me now?"

I love you,
Pastor Ed



HE HAS MADE
everything

BEAUTIFUL
IN ITS TIME.

ECCLESIASTES 3:11

Sunday Worship Services and Sunday School

9:00am
Contemporary
(Family Life Center)

10:30am
Traditional
(Sanctuary)

Sunday School
9:00am
Preschool
5th Grade & Adults

10:30am
6th-12th Grade

Youth Group
6:00-8:00pm
Thompson Hall

THE MISSION of our church is to; Invite people of all ages to know Christ; Give them the resources to become Christ's disciples; Create an environment where they are empowered by the Holy Spirit; and Motivate them to do God's will through acts of love and service in both the local and global communities.

**First United Methodist Church
of Toms River**



OUTREACH REPORT

The Hope Center- The Hope Center will celebrate its 10 year anniversary as a charitable organization on June, 8th, 2018- that's right -(2018) with a special musical program at Ocean County College (more details will follow). Let's support this fundraiser of an organization that does plenty of good providing shelter, utilities, gas vouchers, food, hope and encouragement to the needy of Ocean County.

We must remember that during the summer months needy school children are not provided federally funded breakfasts and lunches; therefore, they are not coming close to meeting their nutritional needs. Their only hope is for us to provide them with the nutritional foodstuffs that will make up for the lack of these breakfasts and lunches. Let's show them our love and concern for them by providing them with nutritional food.

FUMC OUTREACH

The Summer Food Collection Dates are as follows: 1) Sunday, June 11th; 2) Sunday, July 9th; and 3) Sunday, August 13th. Congregants that attend the Contemporary Service should place their donations on the table provided in the Family Life Center, and congregants that attend the Traditional Service should place their donations in the cart located in the coat room next to the Narthex. During the summer months the following are necessary items for clients of the Hope Center: 1) cases of water; 2) soap; 3) shampoo; 4) toilet paper; 5) baby diapers; 6) baby wipes; and 7) feminine products. Remember the food goes to both the Hope Center and the Jackson Baptist Church for distribution, and the personal hygiene items go to the Hope Center. Both organizations send their thanks for FUMC's generous donations.

The Hope Center is busy registering, checking out, and providing new clients with items and services that make life a little easier.

1) The Paula Brown Soup Kitchen provided 41 guests with a dinner of turkey stew and cranberry sauce on Tuesday,

May 16th, and 56 guests were provided with a dinner of grilled cheese sandwiches, pasta fagioli soup, cole slaw, dessert and a banana on Tuesday, April 25th.

2) Remember to support the Paula Brown Soup Kitchens by donating food and funds at the tables manned by women in the Family Life Center and Narthex. Our women do an outstanding job of providing the needy with excellent dinners. Remember these soup kitchens provide their services on the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 3 to 4:30 P.M.

3) Support the United Methodist Men's Breakfasts on the second Saturday of the month from 8 to 10 A.M. The breakfasts are held in the Family Life Center. All money raised is donated to help out charities and provide funds for projects of our church such as the Youth Mission Trip.

4) Thank you for supporting the United Methodist Women's Flower Sale. All money raised by the UMW is used for missions and projects of the UMW. It is money well spent.

5) Remember Vacation Bible School is a mission program of FUMC. It brings children into a church setting that is prepared to teach the children biblical concepts and increase their faith in God, the Lord, and the Holy Spirit. If you want to experience a good feeling.....HELP OUT AT OUR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL! You'll be glad you did!

6) Dave Correll, Outreach chairperson, will schedule a meeting this summer with Trey Vince, Conference chair of Outreach, to discuss with him other projects that we might adopt to get us out into the community.

Remember summer 2017 is almost upon us! Let's make sure that we use the beautiful days of summer to read the Bible! Study the Bible! Memorize the Bible! and Pray! Become a true disciple of Jesus Christ and get on the roadway of adopting His lifestyle! You'll be glad you did!

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

When is enough...enough? No decision affects our futures more.

As consumer debt rises, so do the levels of personal and relational stress permeating our families, workplaces, and churches. Confronting our consumerist tendencies produces a wealth of benefits. But why is it so hard to decide that enough is indeed enough? As Benjamin Franklin stated, "Who is rich? He that is content. Who is that? Nobody"

We live in a world of "discontented accumulation." No matter how much we acquire, it never feeds the real hunger of our lives. And the solution to the problem is more spiritual than financial in nature.

Like our physical diets, our spiritual menus must include real foods, not merely emotional candy that leave us unhealthy and always craving more. Spiritual energy and vitality come from living lives devoted to a deeper understanding of who we are and of the Creator to whom we belong. No job, car, house, or title can provide this.

In teaching about stewardship, we must realize that families and individuals must develop a healthy lifestyle in order to experience financial health. Good budgets and debt reduction are not enough. In order to change our financial future, we have to address what drives our financial behavior.

And Jesus taught that our resources give us opportunities to live faithfully before God and one another. Money, for Jesus, was another tool for doing great good in the world

Here are six biblical core values that can change our lives. These principles are certainly not exhaustive of all Scriptures teach about stewardship, money, or resources. However, they provide a framework for stewarding our resources for significance in the Kingdom of God. They are as follows:

- 1) The Principle of Enough (Hebrews 13:5) What happens when consuming becomes our God? We should be satisfied with the indispensable promise of God's faithfulness. God's gifts will never rust, fade, or slip away.
- 2) The Principle of Proper Perspective (Matthew 6:24) We can not serve two masters; God does not give us that option. We must make a clear distinction between the things of the world and the things of God and always choose that which lines up with the things of God.
- 3) The Principle of the Good Steward (Matthew 19: 16- 22) In a world where "good" is defined in terms of the accumulation of material possessions, Jesus counters by saying that "good" is a matter of care and stewardship, even to the point of giving away that which we treasure. Part of being a good steward involves understanding the temporary nature of all the material goods we possess.
- 4) The Principle of the Shrewd Manager (Luke 16: 1-18) Clearly Jesus is not endorsing the manager's dishonest practices. Rather, he is teaching us that, like the manager, we are called to be shrewd managers of the resources that God gives us. This parable might be paraphrased "if only we were as wise and shrewd in achieving eternal things as those who are intent on possessing dishonest things."
- 5) The Principle of the Widow's Mite (Mark 12: 41- 44) What does it mean to give out of our poverty? Jesus understands that trusting God is much easier in times of abundance than in times of great need. However, some of life's greatest lessons are learned from our commitment and response as we experience times of hardship and sacrifice.
- 6) The Principle of the Faithful Giver (1 Timothy 6: 17-18) Paul's command highlights the nature of why we give—because God expects us to do so. God expects our resources to be offered in His service.

Consider the defining values of your life. What beliefs and principles form who you are? how do these important core values define the important boundaries and goals of your life? How are they shaping your heart into a vessel for God's Good News? The apostle Paul asked God to remove his thorn in the flesh.....God's response: "My grace is enough; it's all you need"for everything else, of less importance, there is MasterCard.

Truly, it is better to stop at enough!



EARLY HISTORY OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TOMS RIVER THIRD HOUSE OF WORSHIP....DEDICATED 1875

Our village had become a sporting area with local boat captains racing their work boats on the Toms River and Barnegat Bay. Wealthy New Yorkers found our town a perfect summer resort.

The third church was built next to the parsonage on the southwest corner of Washington and Hooper. We were now on the third of the four corners of that intersection. The building of the church was a labor of love. Not only the membership but many citizens gave freely of their time and materials. All the siding was donated by two local sawmills and shingles were given by many. Other items donated were: the cornerstone, brick, sand, boards, chimney top, hardware, columns, cushions, and many hours of carpenter and mason labor. Often a worker's note for payment and vouchers for payment to local merchants were endorsed and returned as a contribution.

The new church had a modified English Gothic style. It measured 39 by 65 feet. The pews on the main floor seated approximately 250 people, including two benches on the side walls reserved for the deacons and called the "Amen Corner". Inside the vestibule to the right of the front door was a winding staircase leading up to the gallery and down to the Sunday School rooms in the basement. The building was heated by coal stoves. A machine, burning refined gasoline (which cost \$18 for a 50 gallon barrel) produced gas for the lights in the large center chandelier and two organ lights. The bell from the second church was moved to the new 12 by 12 bell tower with its 80 foot spire.

When it was dedicated in February 1875, many considered it the finest church building in the county, if not the whole shore. A storm kept many people from attending the dedication but the completion of the new house of worship contributed to a spiritual revival. Soon 60 new members were added to the roll including some of the local businessmen who had served on the Board and Building Committee.

The business of the church became more organized. We still have the tin box which cost \$3.75 and was built in 1876 to "put all books, papers, etc. belonging to the M.E. Church". In 1886, the envelope system of collecting took the place of personal solicitations.

Missionary work was done through a monthly Sunday School collection. A unit of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.) was formed by our church women. (Since 1814 the wine for communion services was Dr. Welsh's Unfermented Grape Juice.

As with any household, repairs and renovations were made. Buildings were painted and the parsonage outhouse re-shingled. In 1898 the water company ran pipe from the curb to the parsonage but it was not connected at the time. A new pipe organ was installed and a boy was hired for \$1 per month to pump it.

There was always a mortgage to pay. The women formed the Ladies Aid Society and used their cooking and sewing talents. They held Strawberry Festivals, Dollar Socials, Oyster Suppers and Cake Sales to raise funds.

From 1875 to 1899 Toms River High School held their commencement exercises in our sanctuary. In the days of no movies, radios, or television, special holiday parties and entertainment were enjoyed by all. There were years when regular revival meetings stirred the hearts and consciences of the members and let outsiders know they were welcome and wanted in the church. It was a time of "shouting Methodists" and unashamed acknowledgment of being saved.

The Sabbath was kept for worship and renewal. The local stores were never opened for business on Sunday. This was a balanced Christian age- time for worship, work, play, and rest. In this way, at the close of the 19 century, the church expanded its role in the community and became a dominant influence on the lives of the citizens.



THE ZOE PROJECT

Our church family will be taking up a new endeavor to reach young adults in the Toms River Community. Our church has been chosen, among 11 others, to receive a grant to launch a young adult initiative as part of The Zoe Project based at Princeton Theological Seminary. The goal of this three-year project is to help the congregations support young adults, build relationships with 23–29 year olds, and nourish and support their spiritual and theological formation. Our 5 Zoe Fellows--Wes Ellis, Dinean Batchelder, Matthew Fullerton, Rich Batchelder, and David Geller will lead our congregation toward a vital ministry with young adults. The Zoe Project is a part of a nationwide \$19.4 million young adult initiative by Lilly Endowment Inc. aimed at developing congregations' capacities to learn from and support young adults. For more information, visit <http://zoeproject.ptsem.edu>

ENDOWMENT FUND

A charitable gift annuity given to the First United Methodist Church, Toms River, Endowment Fund benefits your Church when you no longer need it. But, in the meantime, you and/or another beneficiary will receive a stable income for life. You may receive an immediate income tax deduction and for gifts of appreciated assets, savings on capital gains in addition.

Other benefits include:

- Fixed Income for Life: for yourself or up to 2 beneficiaries.
- Could provide a payout rate at higher rates than CDs or Bonds.
- Gift can in cash, securities, or real estate.
- Help your Church serve generations to come with God's love and care.

SAMPLE ANNUAL PAYMENTS FOR A \$10,000 GIFT

(SINGLE BENEFICIARY)

80 YEARS OLD-7.1% RATE, \$710 a YEAR,

Tax Deduction \$5,075

CONTACT US TODAY

In such a short article, all aspects of a Gift Annuity cannot be covered. Please contact a Endowment Committee member for an example based on your situation or other questions you may want to ask.

Members are MARY BODE, CHRIS CHRISTENSEN, JIM GRAEF, PETER RICH, FRANK STRUCKI, SIBYL WALCZAK, ROBERT WAHLERS, and JERE WILLIAMS.

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS TEAM VITAL?

Glad you asked!

Team Vital is a First Church initiative, in concert with our GNJ Annual Conference, which endeavors to focus on five areas of local church health. Those areas are:

1. Dynamic Worship
2. Compelling Mission
3. Making Disciples
4. Generous Giving
5. Strengthening Small Group Life

Since last fall, your *Team Vital* team has been examining the possibilities at First Church in these five areas. Currently, we are establishing objectives based on outcomes we would like to see our spiritual family experience. It is a dynamic process that listens,

encourages, and sees a bright future for our fellowship! We hope to share some results over the next several months.

If you'd like to see what happens at Team Vital, you are always welcome. Just check the calendar to see when we meet. We'd love to see you.

Questions? Ask a member of the Team Vital team: *Sonia Butler, Scott Bilquist, Mary Bode, Charlie Burch, Dave Correll, Bob Ferrara, Kim General (team leader), Nancy Kaulback, Don Kaulback, Traci Maloney, Fred Muller, Kathy Newsome, Judy Heale, Pam Rose, Roger Shapley, Wes Ellis, Ed Davis.*

Faithfully,

Pastor Ed

UMW BOOK CLUB

What's on your Summer reading list? I'd like to recommend looking at the United Methodist Women's reading list books. In April I listed a number of books which are in the Whilden room. Becky has added *One Simple Act* by Debbie Macomber (Social Action category). Youth and their parents might be interested in *Unbound—The Transformative Power of Youth Mission Trips* (Education for Mission category). There are also several e-books on the list in the Whilden room.

Finally, Becky Lemasters has provided a list of books which can be borrowed from the Ocean County Library. She adds the following from the 2017 update:

EDUCATION FOR MISSION

Faith Ed.: Teaching about Religion in an Age of Intolerance

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Sally Ride (Large Print)

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Soul Repair: Recovering from Moral Injury After War

NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY

The Perfect Place (Youth)
Remember Dippy (Youth)

Yes, Adults can read youth books as part of the reading program!

For more information about the Book Club, talk to Becky Lemasters or a Circle Leader.

MEMORIALS GIVEN

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

In memory of Joseph Cicci (Linda Hendrickson's father) by United Methodist Women, Mr. & Mrs. S. Onove and Gail & Bob Auer

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FUND

In memory of Joseph Cicci by Heike & Jim Graef

THANK YOU

Thank you to our church family for your thoughts, prayers, cards, and memorial gifts on behalf of my father. Our family greatly appreciates your sympathies on his passing. He was a great man and I know he is very happy to be with his Lord and Savior.

Again thanks for your support,

Hendrickson and Cicci family

I would like to thank my First Church family for all the gestures of care, concern, and love you have shared with me in this time of personal struggle and growth. I'm grateful we are connected!

I love you,

Pastor Ed

DEATHS

JOSEPH L. CICCI, joined FUMCTR 5.29.11 and died 4.29.17

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

An adult Sunday School class meets at 9 AM on Sundays in room 4. We will begin our Fall classes on September 10th. *Jesus and His Jewish Influences* is a series by Professor Jodi Magness from the University of North Carolina. Each class starts with a 30 minute DVD lecture by Professor Magness and ends with group discussion. The first Fall class will be "The Destruction of Solomon's Temple". All are welcome. Each class stands alone so feel free to drop in any week.

FIRST PLACE 4 HEALTH

First Place 4 Health will be starting another session June 19th. We meet in Thompson Hall every Monday from 6-8pm. 6pm- Exercise at your own pace (optional) 7pm- Nutrition & Bible Study Books are 25.00 each. Please order by June 12th. Contact Patty Bailey home:732-998-8546, cell:732-228-9800, Email:glassflowermama@gmail.com. Program info at FIRSTPLACE4HEALTH.CO

CHESTNUT HILL NURSERY SCHOOL

The wonderful kiddies at Chestnut Hill are ready for Summer!!! The year has flown by. The children have made wonderful friends and we are sad to see some move on to "big" school, but we know they will come back to visit us and tell us how great they are doing.

Our End of The Year programs were fantastic. From our littlest 2 1/2's to our 4 and 5 year olds; we were so happy to share the nights with all our families.

Summer finds us getting ready for the next school year. Registration is open, please stop by the office for more information or call 732-286-9388. Happy Summer!!!

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 9am Emmaus Men & Women
4	5 9am Crafters TH 6-8pm First Place 4 Health TH	6 6am-8pm Voting TH	7	8 Nursery School last days this year	9 Nursery School last days this year	10 8-10am Breakfast FLC (proceeds to VBS)
11 Non-perishable Food/Hygiene Items Collection FLC/NARTHEX Eagle Scout Court of Honor SANCTUARY	12 6-8pm First Place 4 Health TH	13 10am Knitters TH 6:30pm UMMEN Meeting & Bible Study TH	14 3-5pm 9 Patchers TH 7pm Esther Circle 7pm SPRComm. MR	15	16	17
18 9:00am Scholarships Awarded FLC	19 9am Crafters TH 6-8pm First Place 4 Health TH 7pm Finance Comm. WR	20 3-5pm Soup Kitchen FLC 6:30pm Board of Trustees WR	21	22	23	24 9am Emmaus Men WR
25	26 11am Sarah Circle 6-8pm First Place 4 Health TH	27 10am Knitters TH 3-5pm Soup Kitchen FLC 7pm Church Council TH	28 3-5pm 9 Patchers TH 6:30pm Team Vital TH	29	30	

MONDAYS

7:00 pm Boy Scouts
Family Life Center

TUESDAYS

7:00 pm Praise Team
Family Life Center

WEDNESDAYS

4:30 Youth Choir (Grades 7-12)
Choir Room

THURSDAYS

7:30 Sanctuary Choir
Choir Room

We are "gearing up" for an **awesome** summer
at **Vacation Bible School!**



July 10 – 14, 2017
5:30 to 8:30 PM



Info online @ fumctr.com
click on "Children"
or call the church at 732-349-8155

I CAN DO
all things
THROUGH
CHRIST
WHO
strengthens
♥ ME ♥

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF TOMS RIVER**

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The Messenger is posted monthly (except
Dec/Jan & Summer (June, July, Aug) on the
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