

# The MESSENGER

## LET LOVE BE YOUR THING!

Last month, we celebrated what we might arguably consider to be the most important week in history—Holy Week. God, in Jesus Christ, went to the cross and took on the worst fate of humankind so that, in glorious resurrection, even death will be redeemed. We stand now in the light of Jesus' resurrection, assured that there is no place in the human soul, no ill of the human condition, that God's light cannot penetrate to bring healing and restoration. If this isn't good news, I don't know what is!

But the question remains: what now? How are we to respond to this good news? I think many of us have become squeamish about this question. We know in our bones that it makes no sense to keep this good news to ourselves. But we are obstructed by a long legacy of people who've responded in... well... pretty terrible ways. We don't want to be confused with the televangelists who've made their fortune emotionally manipulating people into being Christians. And we don't want to come across like that obnoxious classmate or coworker we can all remember. We live in a culture that is deeply conflicted about—and sometimes downright fed up with—the Christian faith because of these kinds of responses. Surely we don't want to be like that!

So what most of us end up doing is... nothing.

We tend to keep our faith on the shelf between Sundays. We tend to keep our faith to ourselves instead of sharing it. None of us are proud of it. We know how good the good news is. But we just aren't sure which example to follow.

Well, let me suggest an example we can all follow.

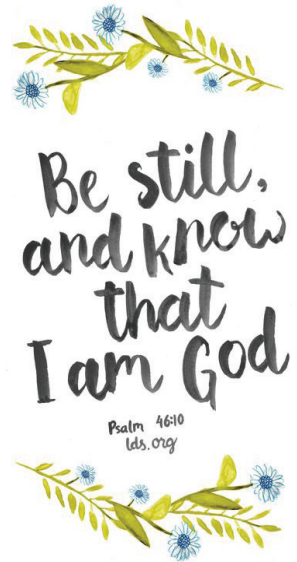
In John 20, after the resurrection, when Jesus came to those disciples who were hunkered down behind locked doors, afraid because their Messiah had been crucified, Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." In other words, Jesus was offering himself as the example. You want to know how you should respond to Jesus' resurrection? Jesus invites you to be sent—sent into the world to be like Jesus. Now, this invitation is kinda scary when you consider that it's coming from a guy who's still got the scars of crucifixion on his body. Let us never take the invitation lightly. But to be sent like Jesus is the only appropriate response to news as monumental as the news of Holy Week.

So this means making the sharing of our faith our life's work! But if you think that means that you should go become a televangelist, consider how Jesus shared his faith. He didn't yell through a bullhorn. He fed hungry people, he healed sick people, he played with children, he ate meals with troubled people and sinners, he wept with people who were in mourning, he liberated people from the stuff that dragged them down, he prayed for people, he forgave people. In short, Jesus loved. Love was Jesus' thing.

So let that be what you're about in light of Jesus' resurrection! Let love be your thing!

Shift your thinking. If you think that sharing your faith always means getting people to think like you think, then think again. Let sharing your faith mean forgiving people, visiting people, giving to others, and loving people. Let love be your thing.

Love,  
Pastor Wes



### 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

### HOPE CENTER REPORT

During the month of February, the Hope Center served 163 families in the following ways: 1) Emergency Shelter- 100 nights for a total of \$4,620.00; 2) Utilities- 3 families for a total of \$187.34; 3) Gas Vouchers- 22 for a total of \$440.00; 4) ShopRite Cards- 8 households for a total of \$215.00; and 5) Miscellaneous Gift Cards- 2 families for a total of \$50.00. The grand total of expenditures was \$5,512.34.

The Hope Center's Food Pantry also served 282 families consisting of 432 adults and 174 children with 15, 975 pounds of food during the month of February.

The Hope Center sends a heartfelt note of thanks to the congregants of our church for their generous contributions of foodstuff and personal hygiene items during the month of April. The food donations were more than generous and the donation of baby diapers, baby wipes, deodorant, soap, toothpaste, tooth brushes, and other dental products were appreciated by not only the Hope Center but also by their clients. Thank you for being generous with your donations.....they made a difference in many homes during Holy Week.

### FUMC OF TOMS RIVER'S OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

1) The UMW Rummage Sale brought in a profit of \$4,593.00. A big thank you goes out to all congregants that brought in donations and made the success of the Rummage Sale possible. In other UMW action, they disbursed their excess funds for calendar year 2016 by giving \$1,000.00 to the Youth Mission Trip, \$1,000.00 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, \$500.00 to Hope Sheds Light, a program that

educates youth and adults against drug abuse and misuse, and \$219.00 towards new lamps for the Narthex. UMW--thank you for your generosity! Other UMW activities are as follows: 1) Spa Day will be held on Saturday, April 29; 2) The UMW will host Church Women United on Friday, May 5th; and 3) Jill Metzler and Joyce Fullerton will chair the UMW's Mother's Day Flower Sale on Saturday, May 13th, which is the same day as the United Methodist Men's Breakfast.

2) The Paula Brown Soup Kitchen provided 75 meals during one serving in March, due to the Rummage Sale, for needy people during the month of March. They will be serving two meals during the month of May---the dates are Tuesday, May 16th and Tuesday, May 23rd. Both meals will be served from 3 to 4:30 P.M. in the Family Life Center. When you see the Paula Brown Soup Kitchen Table set up in the Family Life Center and Narthex, please approach it and make a donation of food that helps feed the needy citizens of Ocean County. Your donation is appreciated.

3) The next food collection for the Hope Center and the Jackson Baptist Church will be held on Sunday, May 14th. Congregants who 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 coat room located next to the Narthex. The personal hygiene item of the month is soap; however, donations of shampoo, deodorant, baby diapers, baby wipes, and toothpaste are always welcome.

**Thank you for being so supportive to all our mission projects!**



## YOUTH GROUP

Our Youth Ministry is awesome! Come check out youth group, for 6th-12th grade-aged youth every Sunday night at 6pm in Thompson Hall. Go to [www.fumctr.com/ministry/youth](http://www.fumctr.com/ministry/youth) for more information.

# STEWARDSHIP REPORT

## THE CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP OF TIME.... “TIME... DON'T LET IT SLIP AWAY!”

No gift is greater than time, and yet, nothing is so easy to waste. Contrary to our cultural norms, good stewardship of time doesn't mean being busy all the time. Time spent in prayer, nurturing relationships with our family and friends or just enjoying the beauty of the world around us is time well spent. In fact, taking a “time out” to nourish ourselves spiritually can be the best thing we can do to enrich our relationship with God.

Questions to ponder...take some time to reflect on these questions and perhaps take them to prayer, asking for God's guidance on how we should personally use our gift of time: 1) How do I “kill time?”; 2) When have I most appreciated time?; 3) What do I think God wants me to do with my time: and 4) What obstacles keep me from being a good steward of my time?

God has gifted each of us with a certain amount of time and each day with a God-given new supply of time. When the CHURCH asks us to return a portion of our time to the Lord, it means that we must be accountable for how we responsibly use and divide it each day for work, for rest, for play, and for the works that the Lord wants us to accomplish.

The following are some examples of how a good steward can accomplish a wise use of his/her time:

1) **INDIVIDUALLY** - Engaging in a personal Bible study and prayer time, listening to religious music, reading religious articles and books, resting, loving your neighbor, and by making a conscious attempt to become a disciple of Jesus Christ.

2) **IN OUR FAMILY** - We can spend non-distracted time with our family each day, create a time for family prayer and Bible study, and give time to those taking care of a family member who is aging or disabled. We should also encourage our children to attend Sunday School, Worship Services, Mission trips, and Youth Fellowship. And we should always promote a lifestyle that encourages the entire family to adopt the teachings of Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior.

3) **IN OUR CHURCH** - Attending worship services on a regular basis so you can grow in the faith which is essential for Christian living and to develop a desire to participate in the programs of the church: 1) Their Bible Studies; 2) Their Outreach Ministries; 3) Their church committees; 3) Their choir; 4) Their prayer and share program; 5) Their UMW program; 6) Their UMM program; 7) Their Paula Brown Soup Kitchen; and 8) Their programs to provide services for the needy of Ocean County; 9) Their mission projects; and 10) Their new programs as they develop to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

Read Ephesians 2:10 **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Stewardship of Time IS Quality Time with GOD, With Others, and Ourselves! “USE YOUR TIME WELL”

## CHESTNUT HILL NURSERY SCHOOL

The children are so happy to see all the May flowers finally blooming. We are so excited to get out and run around on the playground and enjoy the beautiful Spring weather! April was a quick and busy month at Chestnut Hill. We had a week off for Spring Break and when we returned we jumped right into The Week of The Young Child. We celebrated something fun, special and even super messy each day! The week flew by in a blur of messy mismatched socks, sports shirts and even a flowered luau day! May will find us getting ready to celebrate our Moms. This is my favorite time of year at Chestnut Hill. Our sweet little 3's make a very special tea for mommies, and our 2's, 4's and 5's make a special gift to spoil mom with. Our little 3's get a visit from the Public Works department to help finish off the month. Everyone is getting the finishing touches ready for the end of the year events in each class. We can't wait to sing for everyone!!! The year flew by!!! **REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!!** Stop by the office or give us a call, we have FULL DAY classes for as young as 3 years old, and 1/2 day classes to fit every schedule. Come tour our wonderful school!!!



## **EARLY HISTORY OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TOMS RIVER BETWEEN THE SECOND AND THIRD CHURCH BUILDINGS PART III - CIVIL WAR YEARS TO 1875**

Within the walls of the second church, solace was given during the war years. Beloved dead were buried from the church. Many returned from the battlefields sick and maimed, never to lead a normal life again. They and the bereaved found comfort at FUMC.

In 1862 the first parsonage was purchased for \$1,638. 25. This caused a financial problem. The trustees signed personal notes to meet the payments. Pastor Sharp went to the congregation and neighborhood collecting money. The Ladies Sewing Circle helped raise funds and the church held annual festivals. One record states a “vote of thanks to the Ladies for their zealous labours in the favor of the Cake Festival practiced for the benefit of the parsonage debt.” Finally, the mortgage was paid off in July, 1868.

In 1870 a new parsonage was built and the old one sold. The new parsonage was on the southwest corner of Washington and Hooper. Most of the marriages took place in the parsonage. The new modified colonial parsonage had a large entertainment room on the first floor where many marriages and meetings were held.

This was a time of camp meetings held outside. Often the mosquitoes were so bad that the ladies, for their protection from mosquito bites, wrapped newspapers around their legs under their stockings.

In 1872, the Sunday School enrollment reached 200 and the church was again too small for its needs. Times were changing too. The Methodist Church was no longer the only church in Toms River; therefore, support of the Methodist Church no longer came from the whole village.

During the Civil War both money and manpower were used to win the war. As a result the church building was in great need of repair; therefore, it was decided to tear it down to build a larger one. When the cornerstone was removed, water had damaged most of the contents and much of our early history was destroyed.

Our second church building was demolished in May, 1874. We believe the Baptist Church opened its doors to us and we worshiped in their church while our new church building was under construction.

NEXT MONTH.....OUR THIRD HOUSE OF WORSHIP- DEDICATED IN 1875

# HAVE YOU MET YOUR NEED FOR AN UP-TO-DATE WILL?

## THIS INFORMATION IS FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE **PROCRASTONATORS !!!**

If you leave no written instructions (usually a will), someone else must decide how to distribute your hard earned property. That someone else in New Jersey is a probate judge. Additionally, some situations will require hiring an accountant and lawyer at a significant cost. The Judge, with information provided by the accountant and lawyer, will assign your property to its new owners according to a law passed by New Jersey politicians. This law cannot take into account your individual situations, but may result in significant estate taxes giving the state monies that you would prefer go to your heirs.

Challenges faced when an up-to-date will is unavailable include:

- Equal treatment of your spouse & children which means your spouse inherits only part of your property. Also, if your children are legal age, regardless of maturity, they will receive their property immediately.
- No arrangements are made for any of your personal property to be distributed to close friends or relatives.
- The state appoints a guardian if both parents die together or a single parent dies. Always appoints a relative? Not necessarily.
- This is a rigid division of property with no exceptions.

For more questions or written information, please contact a member of our Church committee: Mary Bode, Chris Christensen, Jim Graef, Peter Rich, Frank Strucki, Sibyl Walczak, Robert Whalers, and Jere Williams.

If you are planning to join your Church's heritage society by designating \$5000 or more for the permanent endowment fund, it may be included in your will.

## STAINED GLASS WINDOWS FROM OUR PAST

When First Church moved in 1973 from its original location in downtown Toms River a part of the history of the old church also moved to 129 Chestnut Street. A total of 11 leaded stained glass memorial windows were moved to our present location. Three (3) of the windows have been permanently installed in the Education wing of the church. However, for the past 44 years eight (8) of the windows have been safely stored, and are currently in the garage.

The Board of Trustees, because of the need for additional storage space in the garage, has decided that the eight (8) leaded windows must be removed. Our hope is that members of the congregation might wish to have a piece of our history by purchasing a window. It is the Trustees' wish that in this way these windows can be preserved.

You can see individual pictures of each window thanks to the photography talents of Jeff Sayre on the link provided. [click here](#). All of the windows are encased in their original frames. The eight (8) windows were commissioned and installed in 1949. The windows, all depicting Biblical characters, are marked either "in honor of or in memory of" indicating who gave them.

The Trustees are offering these windows to anyone in the congregation for \$200.00 per window or best offer. If interested please contact the Church office at 732-349-8155.



PAUL window



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**July 10–14, 2017**  
[www.fumctr.com/events/vbs](http://www.fumctr.com/events/vbs)



**See You There!**



## UMW BOOK CLUB

Our local UMW has decided to join the United Methodist Women's Reading Program. Each year the national office develops a list of recommended books in five categories (ex. Social Action, Spiritual Growth). To participate you must read one book in each category (from the last five years).

Becky Lemasters has set up an area in the Wilden Room labeled "UMW Book Club". We are starting with 13 books which have been purchased or donated. There is also a list of books which can be borrowed from the Ocean County Library and a brochure listing all of the 2017 books, the details about the reading program and the forms to report our participation to the national office. There is a red spiral notebook to sign out books you borrow.

Go in and "take a look". If you have any questions ask Becky Lemasters, Sonia Butler, or your Circle Leader.

P.S. You do not have to be an active UMW member to participate.

## MEMORIALS GIVEN

### MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Etna Blair by Gay & Vicki Gernert  
In memory of Thelma Matthews by Gay & Vicki Gernert  
In memory of Charles Anton Gernert by Lenore & Bobby Hurley

### EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FUND

In memory of Patty Kelly, Michele Kanzler's sister, by Heike & Jim Graef  
In memory of Charles Anton Gernert, Gay's son & Vicki's brother, by Heike & Jim Graef

## THANK YOU

HEARTFELT THANK YOU for all expressions of love and concern at the death of my mom, Thelma Matthews, on 1.31.17. My church family is the greatest! – Judy Iovino

## DONATIONS

Did you know you can now give to our ministry online? Try giving to the church through our website. Go to [www.fumctr.com/donate](http://www.fumctr.com/donate) and fill out your information. All donations are processed through PayPal, so they're extremely secure. You can give a one-time donation or you can subscribe to have your donation given automatically, either monthly or weekly.

## FLOWER SALE

The UMW will be holding a hanging basket flower sale on Saturday, May 13th at the Men's pancake breakfast. We will have petunias, new guinea impatiens, begonias and other varieties. The cost will be \$15.00. Please help support our missions. Thank you.

## FRIENDSHIP DAY

Join Church Women United on Friday May 5, 2017 as we celebrate **MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY** here at First Church. This year's theme is "**Kindling New Fires of Love**" with Kara Ward from CASA as speaker. Service is at 11am in the FLC with a salad luncheon to follow. There will also be a Fellowship of the Least Coin collection. For more information contact Becky Lemasters or Gloria Smith.

# MAY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> 9am Crafters - TH  6-8pm First Place 4 Health TH  7pm UMW Exec. Board Room 4	<b>2</b>  4pm Educational Assist. Fund Comm WR  7pm SPRC MR	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  11am May Friendship Day FLC	<b>6</b>  9am Emmaus Men & Women  Team Vital meet at Conf. Office
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  6-8pm First Place 4 Health TH	<b>9</b>  10am Knitters TH	<b>10</b>  3-5pm Nine Patchers TH  7pm Esther Circle	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  10am Breakfast Setup FLC	<b>13</b> 8-10am Breakfast FLC (proceeds Church Property Expenses)  Eagle Scout Ceremony Sanctuary/ reception FLC
<b>14</b>  Non-perishable Food/Hygiene Items Collection FLC/NARTHEX	<b>15</b> 9am Crafters - TH  6-8pm First Place 4 Health TH  JUNE MESSENGER DEADLINE	<b>16</b>  3-5pm Soup Kitchen FLC  6:30pm Trustees WR	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  10-4 Beach Plum Quilters TH
<b>21</b>  Annual Conference Wildwoods	<b>22</b> 11am Sarah Circle  6-8pm First Place 4 Health TH  Annual Conference Wildwoods	<b>23</b> 10am Knitters TH  3-5pm Soup Kitchen FLC  Annual Conference Wildwoods	<b>24</b>  3-5pm Nine Patchers TH  CHNS FLC end of year program	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  9am Emmaus Men WR
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  6-8pm First Place 4 Health TH  Church Off. & CHNS closed	<b>30</b>  8:30am-12:00pm NE District Event FLC	<b>31</b>			

## 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)  
 5:30 Genesis Choir (Grades 2-6)  
 Choir Room

## THURSDAYS

6:30 Fellowship Bells, Choir Room  
 7:30 Sanctuary Choir, Choir Room

faith

CAN

MOVE



°MATTHEW

17:20°

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OF TOMS RIVER**

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Wes Ellis, Associate Pastor  
Linda J. Hendrickson, Director of Music  
Dr. Harold E. Schmul II, Pastor Emeritus  
Kathy Newsome, Lay Leader  
Judy Iovino, Administrative Assistant  
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