

# The MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2017

## MANAGING OVERLOAD

### DID YOU KNOW.....

That by virtue of reading the print in this article, you are either a victim of, or a candidate for *INFORMATION OVERLOAD?*

The "Information Age" has left us inundated with.....information! Here are some clear reminders of this truth:

- \*On the World Wide Web, there are 15,652 sites which discuss information overload
- \*The Library of Congress contains 2,892 books with the word "stress" in the title!
- \*45% of U.S. households watch TV and use computers simultaneously
- \*80% of the information which is filed is never used
- \*The average person spends 150 hours per year looking for lost information
- \*The world-wide web expands by 17 pages every second
- \*An executive earning \$90,000 per year is being paid \$30,000 just to read!

We have got to intentionally fight to keep from drowning in the sea of information, **but how?**

The Apostle Paul tells us in Philippians, "...Finally, sisters & brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things..." (4:8)

You see, it's not the **QUANTITY** of the things you choose to think about, it's the **QUALITY** of those things. This distinction determines whether we drown in the ocean of information or not. God says we can choose to sink or swim.

What would you rather choose?

God is not an aloof power who is disinterested in our lives. God is personal and wants to be in partnership with us as we grow up in the reality of the One who has always loved us!

I'm looking forward to seeing you as we "think about such things (Philippians 4:8) and rise above the overload!"

I love you,  
*Pastor Ed*



### 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

## First United Methodist Church of Toms River

OUR MISSION...

BELONGING TO THE FAMILY

BELIEVING THE GOOD NEWS

BECOMING LIKE JESUS



## OUTREACH REPORT

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**1.** The United Methodist Women (UMW) will hold their Annual Fall Rummage Sale on Friday and Saturday, October 6 and October 7. The schedule of activities related to the Rummage sale is as follows: 1) Sunday, October 1- donations will be accepted starting after the Contemporary Service and continue until 2 P.M.; 2) Monday, October 2- Donations will be accepted from 8:30 A.M. to 9 P.M. Tables and racks will be set-up from 6 to 9 P.M.; 3) Tuesday through Thursday, October 3, 2017 - October 5, 2017 - Sorting and pricing will be done. Deadline for drop-offs is 2 P.M. Thursday; 4) Friday, October 6, 2017- SALE DAY - 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.; 5) Saturday, October 7- \$4 BAG SALE DAY- 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.; and 6) Saturday, October 7, 2017- Cleanup begins at 1P.M. The UMW needs all the help they can get to clean up the church and get it ready for Sunday services. NO BOOKS, COMPACT DISCS, DVDs, or JEWELRY will be sold at this Rummage Sale.

**2.** The Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child project returns this year at FUMC. For those congregants who want to participate in the project, Samaritan Purse shoe boxes will be given out on Sunday, October 8th and Sunday October 15th at both services. What is the purpose of Operation Christmas Child? The answer is to send children who live throughout the world and don't receive Christmas gifts a shoe box filled with goodies. Just think about the smile on the child's face when he opens up your shoe box. Just think about the smile on Jesus' face when the child opens up your shoe box. The shoe boxes will be collected in the beginning of November. Dan and Barbara Clinch are in charge of this project. If you have any questions, please call them at 732- 244- 2547. One thing my wife and I always put in the shoe box is the story of Jesus. Hopefully, a missionary or someone who knows English and the native language will read the story to the child and the miracle just might begin.

**3.** We will be collecting foodstuffs for the needy people of Ocean County on Sunday, October 8 this month. Our collections are given to the Hope Center and to the Jackson Baptist Church. Through this Outreach Ministry we feed many hungry people in our county. Your donations are sincerely appreciated by the Hope Center and Jackson Baptist Church. It allows them to do the mission work that they have committed themselves to do. 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 coatroom next to the Narthex and in the Hope Center container. The Hope Center sincerely appreciates our donations of personal hygiene items. This month they are in need of bars of soap, shampoo, deodorant, baby diapers, baby wipes, baby soap,

and tooth brushes. All these items are in great demand at the Hope Center. Thank you for all your donations of food and hygiene items that fight against hunger in Ocean County and make life more livable in the county that we live in.

**4.** Our Paula Brown Soup Kitchen also helps fight the battle of hunger in Ocean County. Remember that we serve hungry people twice a month in our Family Life Center from 3 to 4:30 P.M. We will be feeding hungry people this month on October 17th and October 24th. This organization provides healthy and balanced meals to those who need them most for a fraction of the cost of the foods needed to provide the dinner. This is because our congregation donates either food or money to this Outreach Program. Whenever you see the Paula Brown Soup Kitchen tables set up in the Family Life Center or Narthex, please approach them and sign up to donate foodstuffs for this outstanding mission project.

### **5. THE HOPE CENTER REPORT**

The Hope Center is holding a Chef's Night to raise funds in its attempt to alleviate need in Ocean County. The Chef's Night will be held at the Woodlake Country Club on Monday evening, October 16th from 6 to 9 P.M. Outstanding food and entertainment are the rewards of attending this event. The cost per ticket is 35 dollars. A small Gift Auction is also held plus a 50 - 50. Tickets for the event can be purchased at the Hope Center which is located right behind the Presbyterian Church on Chestnut Street or checks may be written to the Hope Center and given to Dave Correll who will purchase the tickets and personally deliver them to you. They are also planning a 10th anniversary celebration of service to Ocean County that will include outstanding entertainment at the Grunin Center at Ocean County College on June 8th, 2018. The garden project that they started this year on Hope Center grounds has yielded much fresh produce for their clients.

During the months of June and July, they have provided 75 nights of lodging to homeless people for a total expenditure of \$4,114.00; they have helped 10 families with their utility bill amounting to a total expenditure of \$4,114.00; they gave clients 45 gas vouchers which added up to an expenditure of 900 dollars; they gave Shop-Rite cards to 8 households amounting to \$200.00; they gave 8 households miscellaneous gift cards amounting to \$625.00; and they provided 5 shower vouchers for clients to go to Seaside Heights to take showers. and they also provided 688 families with 31,199 pounds of food.

It is a great act of compassion that we help provide so much to so many and humbly show the world that congregants of FUMC truly "love their neighbor."

# STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

## STEWARDSHIP AND THE GOOD SAMARITAN

The story is told of an elderly woman named Mary. One Sunday while in church, Mary fainted and struck her head on the end of the pew. 911 was called. The EMTs strapped her to a stretcher and got ready to head out the door. Just then, Mary regained consciousness. She motioned for her daughter to come near. Everyone thought she was summoning her strength for her final words. Her daughter leaned over until her ear was at her mother's mouth. "My offering is in my purse," Mary whispered.

That elderly woman was a remarkable person. Her last words showed what was of highest importance to her. She was a good steward of the gifts God had given her. Being a good steward means using God-given abilities to manage God-given resources, to help accomplish God's will. That's important. When we think of stewardship we often think of only money, the giving of our resources. But giving money to church is not stewardship. It is part of stewardship. But—we can't be stewards without the giving of money.

If stewardship isn't just about money, maybe it is about doing ministry, the giving of our abilities. But what you do in ministry for God is not stewardship either. It is part of stewardship. But—we can't be stewards without the giving of our abilities.

It seems that stewardship is not just about what we give. It's also not just about what we can do. What, then, is stewardship about? Stewardship is about having the heart of a steward. In other words, good stewardship is a matter of attitude. It is a matter of the attitude that stands behind our giving and our service. It's not what we give or what we do for God, it's why we do it.

The parable of the Good Samaritan is a parable about the attitude of stewardship. There are three attitudes on display here. Let us ask ourselves which is our attitude. The first attitude is this: **WHAT'S YOURS IS MINE AND I'M GOING TO TAKE IT.** Such is the attitude of the thieves on the road. That's not an attitude we'd approve of. Even the world knows this is wrong.

The second attitude is **WHAT'S MINE IS MINE AND I'M GOING TO KEEP IT.** This is the attitude of the Levite and Pharisee in the story. These were religious leaders. They were trained to serve God. Yet, here, they're not going to do anything for the beaten man. In order for them to help this man, they'd have to give up something important to them. They would have to give up their time, their resources, and their personal comfort. They've been trained to do this. But when the time came to do it, they turned their heads away.

Then there is the third attitude. **WHAT'S MINE IS YOURS AND I'LL SHARE IT WITH YOU.** This Samaritan was not a trained man of religion. The Samaritan was probably not any more wealthy than the Levite or the Pharisee. The Samaritan probably had other things to do in his life. Yet, he stopped where the others walked on by.

What made the difference? It was his attitude. The Samaritan's attitude helped him first to overcome his prejudice. His attitude helped him ignore the inconvenience. And his attitude helped him give up his possessions to take care of this man. Such is the attitude of the good steward.

Do you know what a "steward" is? A steward is someone who takes care of something for someone else. If you're a good steward, you don't own what you have. So, if we are going to be "Stewards for God" we need the attitude that says we don't own our time, our money, our possessions, or our relationships. They all belong to God. They are all His. They belong to Him. We just manage them. If we can master that attitude, we'll be good stewards.

Think about this quote...."It's not a matter of how much of my money I will give to God, but how much of God's money will I keep for myself."



## THE ZOE PROJECT

Our church has embarked on a three year journey to launch a new young adult ministry initiative in the Toms River area. In connection with 12 other churches who are also seeking to launch initiatives in their own contexts, and in partnership with two other local Methodist churches, we have begun to discern how God is moving in the lives of the young adults in the Toms River community and how we can be a part of that movement. (More about the Zoe Project here)



## EARLY HISTORY OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TOMS RIVER THE DEPRESSION YEARS

Church attendance was low during the years of the Great Depression. Some people felt they could not attend church because they were unable to contribute financially or because their clothing was not suitable. The Ladies Bible Classes flourished. These groups met in homes for Bible study and for planning money raising projects to keep the church bills paid. They provided Christian fellowship and social ties. Although some were not attending church, the social contacts provided a tie to the church, and many grew spiritually and in later years developed real Christian leadership.

Because the church was in financial straits, many special funds were used. All Methodist churches were asked to observe a "Save the Sanctuary Day." This collection went to the Conference to help churches which otherwise would be forced to close. Toms River collected 7 dollars for the fund. There also was the Poor Fund, the Paint Fund, and Prayer Banks. There was even a Coal Chart started in August (when the heat was free) which recorded every 25 cent, collected in a box in the vestibule, as one piece of coal. (They needed 1000 pieces to get through the winter). The bulletin announced, "Contribute now, be warm then."

In 1933 in the middle of the Great Depression, the church made a bold decision. The Official Board voted to undertake important alterations: a new steam heating plant, a rebuilt kitchen, a redecorated Sanctuary, a rebuilt chancel and a new pipe organ. The aim of the chancel renovation was to make the service more worshipful.

Instead of the choir (which included restless youngsters) facing the congregation, the choir now faced each other on either side of the communion table. Now the cross on the communion table became the focal point of the sanctuary.

These changes cost \$4700 plus the cost of the organ. A loan was taken from the bank. The old organ was traded in and because of problems getting the new one installed the church was without an organ for two years. In 1933 the church budget had a deficit of \$325, by 1934 it was \$403. When it was announced in September 1935 that the deficit had been wiped out and all current bills paid, the members rose spontaneously and sang "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow." On November 24, 1935 the new

organ was played in the church service for the first time. What a happy day!

In spite of the financial difficulties the spiritual life of the church continued. During Holy Week, services were held each afternoon for the children and each evening for the adults. There was an Easter Sunrise Service, a morning service and an evening Easter mystery play. For Christmas we had a Christmas Eve service at 11 P.M., a Vesper Service at 4:30 P.M. on Christmas Day, and a dramatic program on Sunday evening.

On Mother's Day 1936, 100 new hymnals were dedicated. The old hymnals were given to Lakehurst and Cedar Run M.E. Churches. The original pulpit furniture was given to the Wells Memorial A.M.E. Chapel in South Toms River. The congregation found money for missionary work. The church also supported World Temperance, China War Relief, and the Red Cross.

In 1937 the first community Sunrise Service was held and the first joint Thanksgiving Service was held with Christ Episcopal Church. The Men's Bible Classes of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches joined efforts to have the motion picture "The King of Kings" shown in Toms River. In 1938, the choirs of the Island Heights and Toms River churches presented a pageant "The Eternal Flame" to celebrate the 200th anniversary of John Wesley's "heart warming" at Aldersgate. In 1941 the first community Good Friday Service was held.

In 1939 the Service Class put a new floor in the basement and covered it with linoleum. The ladies took \$100 from the \$450 profit they made at their Harvest Home event and bought a new stove for \$98.

Contributions continued: carpet for the church, a picture of "Jesus in the Temple," a new electric clock for the Fellowship Hall, candlesticks for the communion table, and a silver vase were purchased.

With God's help the Methodist Church of Toms River came through the Great Depression only to be confronted with another crisis.....WORLD WAR II

**NEXT MONTH—WORLD WAR II AND ITS AFTERMATH**

## WHAT IN THE WORLD IS *TEAM VITAL*?

I'm 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 that 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!

Since the last *Messenger* update, our Team has:

- Presented and had approved by Church Council a **New Mission Statement** (see the front page of the announcement section of the bulletin)
- Begun preparations for **HOMEcomings Sunday on October 15th**. This great day includes one combined worship service in the sanctuary at 10:00am (note time change); a delicious luncheon to follow; and lots of opportunities to get connected to the First Church family! Watch the church publications for details.
- Moved forward in the planning of a dynamic **Discipleship Ministry** that will grow and evolve over the next few years. As we always say, we must make MORE and BETTER DISCIPLES! This will help to get us to that goal!

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*



## THANK YOU

To My Church Family from Judy Iovino...Cross necklace, narthex lamps in my honor, altar flowers by UMW, cake, balloons, UMW mission pin, cards, gifts, all of your kind comments to me, Pastor Ed's kind words and prayers for me – I am grateful and humbled by your generosity. I am blessed to be part of the family at First United Methodist Church of Toms River.

The beautifully prepared and presented receptions you gave in my honor following both worship services on September 10 were truly appreciated. Thank you to EVERYONE who in any way helped make the morning so special. I felt the love, believe me.

It's been an honor and a blessing to have served in the church office for all these years. First Church is no longer my employer but I am still a member and, in time, will find my way in my new circumstance. I hadn't really thought about it but thanks to September Messenger article, it looks like I have the distinction of being the employee of Toms River First who served for longest amount of time.

Carl Halvorsen was Pastor when I started at church on corner of Hooper and Washington Street, followed by Ross Collins and move to Chestnut and Old Freehold Road, then Russ Shivers, Joe Hofer, Harold Schmul, Interim Walt Quigg, Bruce Quigley, whom I was with the longest – 18 years, and most recently Ed Davis for a little over a year. All of these servants, and many other staff members and volunteers (what would we do without our volunteers!) I had the privilege of working with, and all of our wonderful congregation, with whom I was blessed to have served during their happy and sad times – weddings, births, baptisms, divorces, illnesses, deaths and everything in between - what could be better than a "job" like this? I must admit I feel I gave everything I was capable of to my church and, in turn, I received so much more. Thank you all!



## NURSERY SCHOOL

September was a wonderfully busy month at Chestnut Hill Nursery School. We opened for the school year on September 11th to so many wonderful smiling little faces. There was some hesitation for a few, but once they saw how much fun learning at Chestnut Hill is, they were laughing, smiling, playing, with friends and having a ball!

October will see our 4's take a trip to the pumpkin patch! they will get there on a big yellow bus! so exciting! We will see the leaves start to turn colors, then before you know it Fall will be here. Our little ones love to watch the changes of the Seasons.

There are still a few spaces open for the 3 year old classes available. Please stop in the office, or call us at 732-286-9388 for more information. We would love to have more little smiling faces!

## MEMORIALS GIVEN

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD, (New Computer fund)**  
In honor of Manuel Hirschblond's 90th birthday by Don & Nancy Kaulback and George & Nancy Kantra

## DEATHS

BURTON DAVIS joined FUMCTR 1.14.47 & died 8.22.17

## HOLLY BERRY BAZAAR BAKERY BOOTH

We would love to have your donations, pre-packaged if you can, or bring in for us to add "Seasonal Touches".

Pies, Breads, Cakes, Brownies, Muffins, Cookies, Jams & Jellies - which ever is your favorite bake or make will be great. Please remember to indicate if nuts are in your goodie. Sugar-free and gluten-free items are welcome.

Donations may be brought in Thursday, November 2, and Friday, November 3.

Thank you from the Baked Goods workers!

First United Methodist Church of Toms River Presents  
**Oct. 6th, 2017**  
**5:30-8:00pm**  
In Thompson Hall

[www.fumctr.com](http://www.fumctr.com)

## PARENTING SEMINAR

**DISCOVERING SPIRITUAL  
NOURISHMENT FOR ACTIVE  
(AND EXHAUSTED) PARENTS**

with **Rev. Joy Arroyo**  
Ph.D. Candidate at Princeton Theological Seminary



**\$10** per family  
suggested donation

**Dinner and  
Childcare Included**



## VISIT ISRAEL

**BIBLE LAND EXPLORATION**

February 26 – March 7, 2018

A journey following in the footsteps of Jesus!

Contact Fred Muller for more information.

732.244.2651 • [fmuller6@comcast.net](mailto:fmuller6@comcast.net)

# OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 Food collection Drop off for Rummage Sale	2 Set up for Rummage Sale	3 Set up for Rummage Sale	4 Set up for Rummage Sale 5:30-7:00pm Covenant Bible Study RM 4	5 Set up for Rummage Sale 7-8pm Bible Study MC	6 10am-6pm Rummage Sale 5-8pm Parenting Seminar TH	7 9am Emmaus Men & Women WR 10am-1pm Rummage Sale
8 Non-perishable Food/Hygiene Items Collection FLC & NARTHEX Soup Kitchen sign ups	9 7pm UMW Executive Board Meeting RM 4	10 12pm Eve Circle Vivian Johnson's 526 Corwill Terrace Toms River 7-8pm UMM Bible Study TH	11 3-5pm Nine Patchers TH 5:30-7:00pm Covenant Bible Study RM 4	12 7-8pm Bible Study MC	13 10am BREAKFAST SETUP FLC	14 8-10am UMM Breakfast FLC
15 10:30am RALLY SUNDAY 1 service/brunch Laity Sunday Crop Walk Messenger deadline	16	17 6:30pm Trustees Meeting 3-5pm Soup Kitchen FLC	18 5:30-7:00pm Covenant Bible Study RM 4 7pm Esther Circle Joyce Fullerton 315 Pine Street Lakehurst	19 7-8pm Bible Study MC	20	21
22	23 12:30pm Sarah Circle TH	24 3-5pm Soup Kitchen FLC	25 3-5pm Nine Patchers TH 5:30-7:00pm Covenant Bible Study RM 4	26 7-8pm Bible Study MC	27	28 9am Emmaus Men WR 2:15pm Church Conference Calvary Korean UMC 572 Ryders Lane East Brunswick
29	30	31 6pm Holly Berry Bazaar set up				

## MONDAYS

9am Crafters  
6-8pm First Place for Health - FLC  
7pm Boy Scouts - FLC

## TUESDAYS

7:00 pm Praise Team - FLC  
10:00 - Knitters - TH

## WEDNESDAYS

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

## THURSDAYS

6:30 Fellowship Bells - CR  
7:30 Sanctuary Choir - CR

**BE BOLD.  
BE BRAVE.  
BE COURAGEOUS.  
JOSHUA 1:9**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OF TOMS RIVER**

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**FUMCTR STAFF**

Ed Davis, Senior Pastor  
Wes Ellis, Associate Pastor  
Linda J. Hendrickson, Director of Music  
Dr. Harold E. Schmul II, Pastor Emeritus  
Kathy Newsome, Lay Leader  
Paula Smith, Administrative Assistant  
Kimberly Dillon, Nursery School Director

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