

## THANKING THAT DIRTY BUG !

Many towns have monuments to important political figures, military heroes, and sports icons. But Enterprise has a very unique one. They have a monument to the Boll Weevil.



### Yes, the Boll Weevil !

Years ago, the farmers in that area of southern Alabama were accustomed to planting one very lucrative crop every year: cotton. They would plow as much ground as they could and plant it like clockwork. Year after year they lived by **cotton**. Year after year they prospered on cotton. Year after year, they trusted their future to cotton.

*Then one year the dreaded **Boll Weevil** devastated the whole area. So the next year the farmers mortgaged their homes and planted cotton again, hoping for a good harvest. But as the cotton began to grow, the insect came back and destroyed the crop, wiping out most of the farms. It was a very tragic time in the lives of many families.*

The few farmers who survived financially through those two years of the boll weevil decided to experiment the third year. So, they planted something they'd never planted before—**peanuts**. And peanuts proved so hardy and the market proved so ravenous for that product that the farmers who survived the first two years reaped profits that third year which enabled them to pay off all their debts. They planted peanuts from then on and prospered tremendously.

Then you know what those farmers did? They spent some of their new wealth to erect in the town square a monument to that Boll Weevil.

You see, if it hadn't been for the Boll Weevil, they never would have tried planting peanuts. If they had never

tried planting peanuts, they would have never realized the huge market for those shelled snacks (much larger than cotton). And if they had never discovered the huge market for those shelled snacks, they would never have prospered beyond their wildest dreams.

*Continue to next page...*



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

**Confirmation  
Classes**  
4:00-5:30pm

**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**

*Continuing from cover page...*

So they thanked the Boll Weevil with a statue in the middle of town. *After all, if it wasn't for that dirty bug, they'd have never gone in a different direction.*

**What's your Boll Weevil?** That is, what is making life difficult for you, now? Maybe it's a lost job, a broken relationship, a lack of confidence, an unforeseen financial crisis, a health tragedy, or an inability to trust people because of bad past experiences.

God may be using any of these things to change the course of your life. Ask Him about it in prayer. Given your circumstances, is God calling you to a mid-course correction? Perhaps, it's time to use the gifts He gave you in a job that appreciates those gifts? Or maybe, He's teaching you how to reconcile that relationship, according to God's word, instead of carrying bitterness around? Could God be teaching you that trusting Him for confidence, finances, health, and safety is the greatest action you could take?

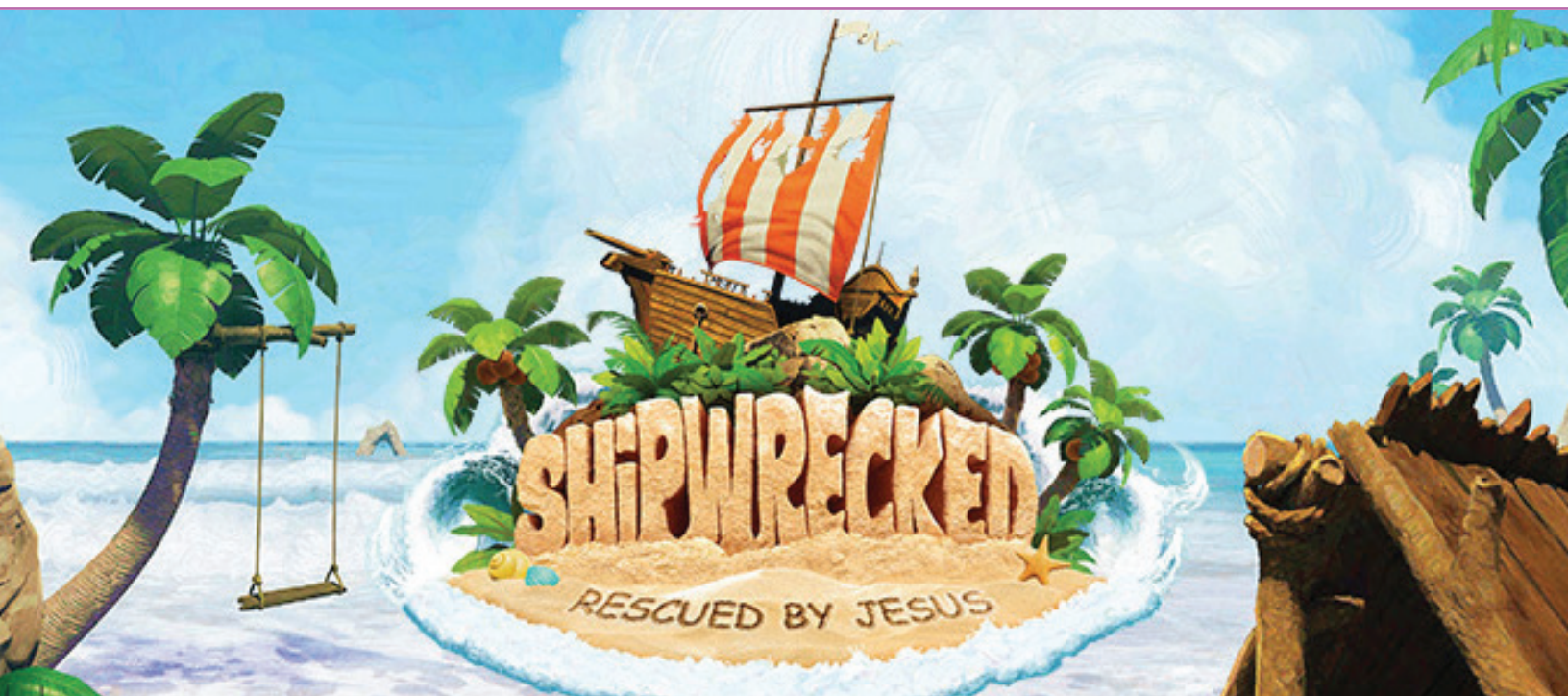
I think God might be...

Many years ago, farmers in Alabama learned that great delight can come out of disaster. Today, you can experience the same reality because *"God works all things together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)"*

And when you build the monument to your difficulty that led you to joy, make it really big!

I love you,

*Pastor Ed*



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is an awesome time for the kids of the Toms River community! This is for all kids from ages 3 to the end of fifth grade. You don't have to be part of FUMC (you don't even have to want to be part of FUMC!) to come to VBS. This is for everyone! For more information about VBS and to register, visit [www.fumctr.com/events/vbs18/](http://www.fumctr.com/events/vbs18/)



## OUTREACH REPORT

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### HOPE CENTER

The Hope Center is sponsoring a Jewelry Sale at the Toms River Food Fest on Saturday, May 5, 2018, in Downtown Toms River from 11 A.M. to 8 P.M. They are also sponsoring "The Hope Rises Concert" featuring Chris Pinnella singing the Billy Joel Songbook at the Grunin Center at Ocean College on Friday, June 8, 2018 at 8 P.M. Tickets may be purchased by contacting the Grunin Center. At the recently held Hope Center Gift Auction, \$11,081.00 was raised.

During the month of February 38 households were served with a total expenditure of \$3,755.00. 1) 70 nights of emergency shelter were granted for a total of \$3345.00; 2) two utility bills were paid for a total of \$164.00; 3) 2 gas vouchers were provided for a total expenditure of 26.00; 4) one rehab fee was paid for a total of \$140.00; 5) three ShopRite gift cards were provided to three households for a total of \$55.00, 6) one household was provided with a miscellaneous gift card for \$25.00.

20,031 pounds of food were distributed to 377 families which included 754 adults and 330 children.

Information on the Chris Pinnella Concert- Chrus Pinnella is a veteran of the stage and has been in numerous Broadway National Tours, as well as Off-Broadway and regional productions, and is most recently touring and recording with the multi-platinum selling arena rock band Trans-Siberian Orchestra as one of the group's lead singers. Additionally, Chris has worked alongside icon Julie Andrews, and headlined at theatres throughout North America such as Lincoln Center, Birdland, and The Rainbow Room.

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The United Methodist Women made up 19 Easter baskets and gave them to the Hope Center to distribute to needy

children in Ocean County.....Just think about those 19 happy faces on Easter morning that were caused by 19 unexpected Easter baskets. The United Methodist Men have made profits from their breakfasts and given donations to the Care Giver Organization, the Pastors Discretionary Fund, the Educational Assistance Fund, the Youth Mission Trip, and this month Church Property Expenses. Don't forget to come out to the breakfast to be held on Saturday, May 12th and enjoy good food and buy plants from the sale by the United Methodist Women for 15 dollars a plant.

The next food drive for the Hope Center and the Jackson Baptist Church will be held on Sunday, May 13th. Congregants that attend the Contemporary Service should place their donations on the table provided in the Family Life Center and congregants who attend the Traditional Service should put their donations in the coatroom next to the Narthex. Personal hygiene items needed are bars of soap, deodorant, shampoo, sunscreen, baby diapers and baby wipes. A big thank you goes out to all the families that make our food collections a great success!

The Paula Brown Soup Kitchen will serve dinners to the needy on Tuesday, May 15th and Tuesday, May 22nd from 3 to 4:30 P.M. Continue to support this mission by donating items and funds to this ministry of the church. It has accomplished much good in our community.

Don't forget that our Second Quarter Mission Giving is for our Youth Mission Trip to be held this summer. Please give prayerful thought to your contribution to this worthy cause and mission.

Think about inviting a friend to our church during the month of May. Remember- May is Mothers Day Month and we all have something to be thankful for.....OUR MOTHERS!.



## THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TOMS RIVER

We began the twenty first century as part of the township's First Night Celebration, an alcohol free event offering many locations for fun and entertainment. There were concerns about a massive computer failure at midnight. Some cities cancelled events because of terrorism threats.

Then came September 11, 2001. We watched television in horror as the towers collapsed. Local hospitals began discharging patients so casualties from New York could be received. Sadly there were not that many survivors. Then the message was passed, "There's going to be a service at the church tonight."

The church was full. We thanked God that two of our girls who had just started college in the city were safe; we prayed for those still missing; for the families of the dead and missing. We prayed for our safety, our country, the future. Most of all we affirmed that Jesus Christ is our foundation, the only rock standing when the earth around us trembled.

In 2002 a mission from the Lakewood United Methodist Church to Hispanic residents living in the neighborhood of our church began holding services in Spanish each Sunday afternoon in Fellowship Hall. Some members of the church began offering English lessons to these new residents and a monthly Immigration Clinic was established.

For ten years members of the church have been discussing the problems various committee chairs have scheduling meetings, lack of storage space, a need for more adult Sunday School space, space for new mission programs and the future need for more education space. After a Visioning Committee approached each member of the church, a building committee was appointed. Their statement was as follows: "The purpose of

the expansion plan is to provide additional room for programs and activities that will enrich the spiritual life of our church family and to reach out to the needs of the community."

September 7, 2003 was Celebration Sunday. About 20 children, representing our future, turned the first shovels of dirt at our ground breaking ceremony. The new Family Life Center building has begun! Following, at the covered dish dinner sponsored by the UMW, we crowded over 300 people into Fellowship Hall. As we celebrated our 175th anniversary we were having parking problems because of the construction work.

While celebrating 175 years we look back on how Methodism has changed and how things have remained the same. Toms River (Dover Township) now has 89,000 residents and our church, one of three Methodist churches in town, has 1066 members. The old familiar hymns of Charles Wesley are sung with newer hymns, gospel songs, praise choruses, and others. The music is played on guitars, keyboards, bells and drums as well as the piano and organ. The old deacon's bench with it's loud amens is no more. The plain dress of the 1800s gave way to a more formal dress--ladies hats and white gloves--which has given way to a much more casual dress.

The purpose of the church, however, as defined in our mission statement, has remained the same: 1) To invite people of all ages to know Christ; 2) To give them resources to become Christ's disciples; 3) To create an environment where they are empowered by the Holy Spirit; and 4) And to motivate them to do God's will through acts of love and service both in the local and global communities.

*TO BE CONTINUED*



## CHESTNUT HILL NURSERY SCHOOL

May is such a wonderful month! The children are so excited to get outside and discover all the wonderful things that are coming alive during Spring. May is also a busy month at Chestnut Hill! The children are getting ready for the End Of The Year Programs! The 4 year olds will be singing their hearts out on stage in the Family Life Center on May 23rd. They can't wait to show off their vocals singing all about the big, wonderful world around them!

Our sweet little 3's will be celebrating my favorite day of all, Mother's Day! This day has always held such a special place in my heart. The children make sandwiches for mom, set a beautiful table and sing for mom. It is such a sweet time to spend one on one with the children. The 3's wrap up the End Of The Year programs on May 22nd, celebrating and singing in the classrooms.

The littlest ones at Chestnut Hill our 2 1/2's are getting braver exploring all the new things around them. They have been working so hard to branch out and explore new things. They will Have their End Of The Year Programs on May 22nd in the classroom. What a wonderful time of year!

Enrollment is Open! Tell a friend about the best preschool in Toms River!! Stop by our office, or call 732-286-9388 for information.

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## FUMCTR YOUTH MINISTRY MOVIE NIGHT MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU

**May 4th, 2018**

**7pm-10pm**



May the 4th is Star Wars Day!!! So we're gonna have a Star Wars Movie Night at FUMCTR. We'll meet at Thompson Hall at 7pm. There'll be pizza and snacks! We'll watch a movie together (hint: it'll probably be Star Wars) and hang out. It'll be a good opportunity to enjoy time with friends! Cost: \$5 per person.



## UMW FLOWER SALE & CHURCH FAMILY BREAKFAST

May 12, 2018

8-10am

Family Life Center

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## BAPTISM

Evan Joshua Armbruster, April 15, 2018

Jordan Tyler Armbruster - April 15, 2018, Twin boys of Jana & Robert Armbruster

Sophia Lynn Fernandez - April 29, 2018, daughter of Alex and Katy Fernandez

## DEATHS

MICHAEL GRAYSON GEORGE TOMEI

5 MONTH OLD GRANDSON OF RICHARD & JODY NOTTE

APRIL 6, 2018

# MAY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 11am Phoebe Circle TH  4pm Education Comm. WR	2 5:30-7pm Covenant Bible Study R4	3 7-8pm Bible Study Matthew R4	4	5
6  Communion Sunday	7 7pm UMW Exec. Bd. Mtg R4	8 10am Knitters TH  12pm Eve Circle TH	9 3-5pm Nine Patchers TH  5:30-7pm Covenant Bible Study R4  7pm Esther Circle, Joyce Fullerton's	10  7-8pm Bible Study Matthew, R4	11  10am Breakfast set-up	12 8-10am Church Family Breakfast FLC  8-10am UMW Flower Sale FLC
13  Food Collection	14 6:30pm CHNS Bd Meeting WR  7pm Ruth Circle	15 Messenger Deadline  6:30pm Trustee mtg. WR	16 5:30-7pm Covenant Bible Study R4	17 7-8pm Bible Study Matthew R4	18	19
20  Heritage Society Presentation 9 & 10:30  4pm Confirmation  Annual conference/Wildwood	21	22 3-4:30pm Soup Kitchen FLC	23 5:30-7 Covenant Bible Study R4  3-5pm Nine Patchers TH  6-7pm CHNS End of the year program FLC	24  7-8pm Bible Study Matthew R4	25  Youth Spring Retreat	26
27	28  Office Closed	29 3-4:30pm Soup Kitchen, FLC	30	31  7-8pm Bible Study Matthew R4		

### 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  
5:30 YGENESIS Choir - CR

### THURSDAYS

7:30 Sanctuary Choir - CR  
7-8 Acts Bible Study - MR



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**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  
Bob Ferrara, Lay Leader  
Paula Smith, Administrative Assistant  
Kimberly Dillon, Nursery School Director

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