

The MESSENGER

JULY/AUGUST 2018

PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!!

Glorify the Lord with me, let us exalt his name forever.

-Psalm 34:3

This past spring we experienced a preaching series on worship in preparation for a new adventure. As you know, after 15 years as our worship director, Linda Hendrickson is celebrating a well-deserved retirement. I can't express my thanks enough to Linda for her faithful ministry and the way she brought us closer to the Lord in our worship services, as well as her friendship with all of us. We wish Linda and Bill all the best!

As we embark on a new worship journey, I ask that you would pray faithfully every day for God's choice to fill this important position at First Church. Our prayer is that the next person will follow Linda's heart for worship and desire to grow closer to the Lord. We also pray that God would bring our congregation this person's unique set of gifts and use them in a way that glorifies Him like never before!

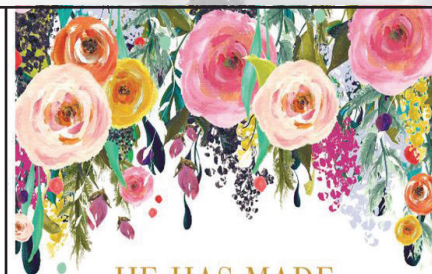
Accomplishments for God are never worked up. They are always prayed down. We are not so much looking for a new worship director as we are asking God to FIND us a new worship director. Please make this the heart and soul of your prayers over the next few months. Indeed, we could find a talented person on our own. However, that would not necessarily mean that he or she was God's person. We are looking for God's choice first and foremost.

Like all processes, this process won't be perfect. That's why I need you to pray, pray, pray....everyday. Pray that in spite of our human efforts, God shows us the way forward.

I'm excited to know that you are participating with me and the Staff Parish Relations Ministry in this important endeavor. Please feel free to ask me or any member of the SPR ministry should you have any questions.

Pray, Pray, Pray...

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

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



OUTREACH REPORT

During the month of April the Hope Center provided the following to needy people in Ocean County: 1) they serviced 53 households at an expenditure of \$4,517.45; 2) they provided 71 nights of emergency shelter at the cost of \$4,005; 3) they paid two utility bills spending \$150; 4) they provided 11 gas vouchers and transport at the cost of \$232.45; 5) ShopRite Cards- 1 household @ \$30; 6) Miscellaneous Gift Cards- 1 household @ \$100, and 7) 22,456 pounds of food serving 437 families consisting of 834 adults and 387 children.

The Food Pantry continues to grow with new clients. The pantry received a donation of a new freezer from A Need We Feed. The pantry has been approached that there is the availability to receive donations from Pizza Hut once a week. Operation BBQ was

discussed and there was a pro-BBQ sentiment concerning the 1000 meals they would cook and distribute sometime in October or November. Fulfill, the Monmouth-Ocean County Food Bank asked the Hope Center if they would be interested in a training session to have Hope Center clients apply for assistance programs.

There is a current need for people to help out one hour a week in the Hope Center's garden which provided 2,860 fresh items of produce to needy people in our county. If any member of our church would like to volunteer to help the ministry of the Hope Center, please contact Dave Correll, our church's liaison member to the Hope Center's Liaison Committee.

FUMC REPORT

Food collections during the months of July and August are as follows: 1) Sunday, July 8th; and 2) Sunday, August 12th. These food collections are very important due to the fact that many children of needy families do not have the advantage of federally funded breakfast and lunch programs that they receive during the school year. PLEASE HELP THESE CHILDREN BY DONATING FOOD DURING THE SUMMER COLLECTIONS. Remember personal hygiene items that are always needed are bars of soap, shampoo, deodorant, sunscreen, cases of water for the homeless, baby diapers, baby wipes, and baby food. Contemporary congregants should place their donations on the table provided in the Family Life Center and Traditional congregants should place their donations in the coatroom next to the Narthex. The Hope Center sends their fondest thank yous to all the congregants that donate food and personal hygiene items.

This summer our Youth Fellowship travels to West Chelmsford in Massachusetts to spread God's love to the citizenry of that town. They will be working on projects to improve the living conditions of needy and incapacitated citizens. The youth are doing God's will by working with the citizens and by providing them with needed services. One thing that we all can do for our M.Y. F. is pray for them during the week of the mission trip.

One of our ministries that operates throughout the entire summer is the Paula Brown Soup Kitchen. They service needy people during the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 3 to 4:30 P.M.

with a nourishing meal. Please help this special ministry of the church by going up to the tables occupied by Paula Brown Soup Kitchen volunteers and signing up to bring in items of food needed to make the dinners.

Another event that continues through the summer months is the All-Church United Methodist Men's All-Church Breakfast held the second Saturday morning of each month from 8 to 10 A.M. Money that is made from the breakfasts is given to local charities and church programs and expenses. Please attend these breakfasts and help raise money for church programs, expenses, and charities. By the way.... the food is great!

Vacation Bible School is another Outreach Program during the summer months. It is a program that proves that we care about the young children and families of our town by providing them with a program that promotes the concepts of a Christian family and a Christian lifestyle for the children that attend. It is a blessing for all the children that attend.

Remember the fall of the year is a time when our Outreach Programs really take off.....For example, the fall U.M.W. Rummage Sale.....Get your donations ready. Don't forget... school and the need for school supplies and the holidays are just around the corner.

We must remember to love our neighbor and give what we can give to ease their situations of need!



SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Reading Biblical Literature: Genesis to Revelation interweaves Biblical texts with their impact on literature, music and art. Each session includes a 30 minute video presentation by Professor Craig R. Koester of Luther Seminary and 30 minute discussion by the group. The series develops a sense of the Bible as a whole.

For more information contact Sonia Butler or Burt Laub. No registration. You do not have to attend every Sunday. The study begins September 9, 2018, at 9 AM in room 4. The 1st session is "The Bible as Dialogue". Join us.

THANKSGIVING

Ruth and I have been serving Thanksgiving Dinner to those in need of a place to share a Thanksgiving meal for over 12 years. The dinner is an outreach mission that we totally enjoy and brings us closer to God and doing His work for those in need. This mission has also brought others to First Church, from throughout Ocean County, to help prepare and serve the meal. It is now time for us to pass on this mission. Please think and pray about this to help keep this mission going for First United Methodist Church and the community.

Ruth and I will help all we can and give you any guidance you may ask for, but we will not be around to coordinate the dinner.

Thank you for your consideration in taking on this outreach mission.

Blessings,
Roger A. Shapley



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, July 23-27, 2018. This is for everyone! For more information about VBS and to register, visit www.fumctr.com/events/vbs18/

TRUSTEES

On Saturday, May 19, volunteers spread mulch around the perimeter of the church and the parking island. Many thanks for your time and effort.

This summer our aging asphalt surfaces will be repaved, resurfaced and re-stripped. The project is scheduled for weekdays and should not effect church services. Be alert for cones and instructions to the contrary.

In His Service and yours,
Your Board of Trustees

JULY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p>Linda's last day</p> <p>4:00, TH Confirmation</p> <p>6:00, TH Youth Group</p>	<p>2</p> <p>SUMMER HOURS 8:30-12:00</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Food Collection</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Youth Mission Trip Begins</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00, TH Knitters</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10, FLC Breakfast Set-up</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8-10 Church Family Breakfast</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>3-4:30, FLC Soup Kitchen</p> <p>Confirmation Farminary/ Princeton</p> <p>6:30, WR Trustees</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:00 Sacred Spaces Island Heights</p>
<p>22</p> <p>6:00, TH Youth Group</p>	<p>23</p> <p>VBS, FLC 5:30-8:30</p>	<p>24</p> <p>VBS, FLC 5:30-8:30</p> <p>10:00, TH Knitters</p> <p>3-4:30, FLC Soup Kitchen</p>	<p>25</p> <p>VBS, FLC 5:30-8:30</p> <p>6:00 Finance Mtg, WR</p>	<p>26</p> <p>VBS, FLC 5:30-8:30</p>	<p>27</p> <p>VBS, FLC 5:30-8:30</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>4:00, TH Confirmation</p> <p>6:00, TH Youth Group</p>	<p>30</p> <p>NO CHURCH ACTIVITES</p> <p>PARKING LOT RESURFACED</p>	<p>31</p> <p>NO CHURCH ACTIVITES</p> <p>PARKING LOT RESURFACED</p>				

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

THURSDAYS

7:30 Sanctuary Choir - CR

(June 7th & June 14th)

CR = Choir Room, FLC = Family Life Center, MC = Media Center, R4 = Room 4, TH = Thompson Hall, WR = Wilden Room

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 NO CHURCH ACTIVITES PARKING LOT RESURFACED	2 NO CHURCH ACTIVITES PARKING LOT RESURFACED	3 NO CHURCH ACTIVITES PARKING LOT REURFACED	4
5	6 NO CHURCH ACTIVITES PARKING LOT RESURFACED	7 NO CHURCH ACTIVITES PARKING LOT RESURFACED	8 NO CHURCH ACTIVITES PARKING LOT RESURFACED	9 NO CHURCH ACTIVITES PARKING LOT RESURFACED	10 10:00, FLC BREAKFAST SETUP	11 8-10, FLC Church Family Breakfast
12 Food Collection	13 Youth Week	14 Youth Week 10, TH Knitters 12, TH Eve Circle 7- UMM, TH	15 Youth Week	16 Youth Week	17 Youth Week	18
19 4:00, TH Confirmation	20	21 3-4:30, FLC Soup Kitchen 6:30, WR Trustees	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 10, TH Knitters 3-4:30, FLC Soup Kitchen	29	30	31	

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I CAN DO
all things
THROUGH
CHRIST
WHO
strengthens
ME

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF TOMS RIVER**

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Linda J. Hendrickson, Director of Music
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Bob Ferrara, Lay Leader
Paula Smith, Administrative Assistant
Kimberly Dillon, Nursery School Director

CHESTNUT HILL NURSERY SCHOOL

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