

A GOOD VIEW OF THANKSGIVING

A Kindergarten teacher was telling her students about the Pilgrims as she prepared for the Thanksgiving season. After one little girl had gone home and shared the details she remembered from the teacher’s lesson, her mother asked if she could tell her what the pilgrims ate during the first Thanksgiving. The little girl was stumped so she said,

“I can’t remember, Mommy, but you can ask my teacher, SHE WAS THERE!”

Ouch! How would you like to be that educator when that story got back to the Teacher’s Lounge?!

Obviously, this little girl had it all wrong about *time* when it came to Thanksgiving. It was one simple mistake, but it affected the entire way she viewed the holiday. It hindered her understanding of Thanksgiving’s meaning, history, and benefits.

I know some people like that. I don’t mean they think their teachers were around during the time of the pilgrims, but they have their perception of God all wrong. And their understanding of God gets hindered. So, for this great Thanksgiving season, just to keep our view clear, I’d like to share some godly reminders about the Lord.

GOD IS IN CHARGE. Jesus tells us in Revelation 22:13, *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”* In a self centered world in the 21st century, it will serve us well to remember that there is one God in Heaven who loves us, and we’re not Him!

GOD IS ALL WISE. Paul writes to us in his first letter to the Corinthian church, saying, *“For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?”* (2:16). The reality is that God not only sits on the throne but also calls the shots! Only God is wise enough to bring Life out of Lazarus, Triumph out of Tragedy and a Crown from a Cross! God knows what’s best for you & me and wants us to live in that protection!

GOD HAS A DIRECTION FOR US. **Jesus tells us in the Gospel of John,** *“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they FOLLOW ME.”* (10:27). God hasn’t left us out on a limb to try and figure things out on our own! To the contrary, He tells us that real spiritual growth is determined by our child-like followership. Jesus tells us that a true sign of one of His disciples is not only knowing what God says, but also DOING what God says. As we know, good children follow their godly parents’ lead. Good Christians do the same with the Heavenly Father.

As you get ready to celebrate another Thanksgiving feast around the table, don’t forget that the God who is in charge is the One, for whom we can be truly thankful! God has given us all we need for life. Thanks be to God who reigns above!!

Happy Thanksgiving and please pass the green bean casserole...I just love that stuff ;-)

I love you,
Pastor Ed



Sunday Worship Services and Sunday School

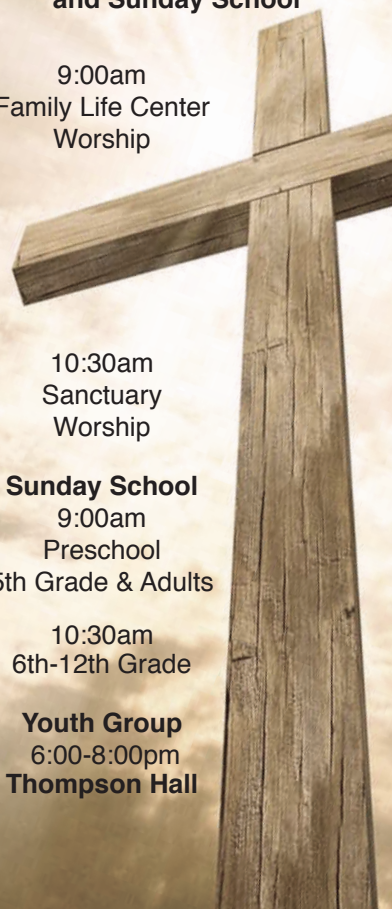
9:00am
Family Life Center
Worship

10:30am
Sanctuary
Worship

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

10:30am
6th-12th Grade

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





OUTREACH REPORT

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH REPORT

There are several big events coming up in November and December. First we have the Holly Berry Bazaar chaired by Jane Laub. This event will be held on Saturday, November 3rd. You may donate the following items for the event: 1) CDs; 2) DVDs; 3) Books; 4) Holiday decorations; 5) Attic Treasures; and 6) Food. Jane will be collecting donated items after this Sunday's dinner and Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of the week of October 28th. Jane will be at the Family Life Center from 9 A.M. to 8:30 P.M. on those days. Please remember that absolutely no clothing will be accepted!

Following the Holly Berry Bazaar will be the collection chaired by Kathy Newsome. The Christmas Tree collection of mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, and pajamas for especially children and you may also purchase pajamas for adults.

Also in November we have our Harvest Home Food Collection where we try to fill the pantries of needy people in Ocean County with food for Thanksgiving weekend. This food collection will take place on Pledge Sunday, November 18th. Personal hygiene items needed are bars of soap, shampoo, deodorant, baby diapers and baby wipes. You will bring your pledge cards and food donations up to the tables in the front of the Family Life Center or Sanctuary at the same time.

Remember that our Fourth Quarter Mission Offering goes to the United Methodist Homes. This is an important collection because the money is used so that people in their homes will not lose their home at U.M.H.

Our Paula Brown Soup Kitchen will be serving dinners on Tuesday, November 13th and Tuesday, November 20th. When you see the women manning the tables for donations, please feel moved to donate an item or two.

THE HOPE CENTER REPORT

The Hope Center has been busy during the month of October. They were involved in the Crop Walk on October 14, 2018 which raises funds to feed hungry people; they were involved with Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" Charity Coupon Event; they held their annual Feast of Hope on Monday, October 22nd from 6 to 9 P.M.; and on Saturday, November 3rd they will be holding Operation BBQ where up to 1000 meals will be prepared.

Pantry needs are Canned fruit, Soup, Cereal, and Pasta.

EXPENSES: 1) Households served 39 @ \$2919.75; 2) Emergency Shelter- 42 nights @ \$2505.00; 3) Utilities- 4 @ \$278.25; 4) Gas vouchers 4 @ \$136.50; 5) ShopRite Cards 2 households @ \$40.00; 6) Miscellaneous Gift Cards- 3 households @ (90.00; and 7) Food Pantry- 503 families served that consisted of 969 adults and 463 children---27,586 pounds of food distributed.

Remember next month the SPIRIT of CHRISTMAS touches our hearts and we become true disciples of our Lord in our lifestyle. Let's try to make that lifestyle the goal of our lives throughout 2019.

2018 GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

MAY 20-22, 2018

Annual Conference opens with a seemingly unending procession of all the robed Greater New Jersey clergy singing with the 1400 attendees! New clergy were commissioned and ordained. With 550 years of combined service, 24 clergy retired. Deceased members were memorialized. There were business meetings, exhibits, a Cokesbury shopping area, work projects, worship, speakers, and workshops.

I will summarize a few things:

*The 2019 Annual Conference Budget reduces the shared ministry portion to 16.1% so more resources are available to the local churches.

*The 5- year Future With Hope Campaign is finishing.

- \$17,552,869 was raised altogether
- 515 of our 550 churches provided support as did the United Methodist Women
- 12,193 volunteers from 46 states and 2 countries contributed 303,198 hours
- 5,000 people were sheltered
- 50,000 meals were furnished
- 11,000 flood buckets and 2,000 health kits were distributed
- 2,000 homes were mucked out
- 271 homes were completed by June

*A new campaign "Miracles Everywhere" has started. This will include partnerships with Methodist in Puerto Rico and Tanzania, Next Generation ministries, community development, and Hope Centers. Bishop Schol described how he and his wife considered their increasing income, reduced taxes, putting off replacing a car, and some family relocation which eliminated trips to Chicago, etc. before making a sizable 3 year pledge to the campaign.

*Discipleship in the 21st century was the topic of speakers, workshops and literature. As disciples we need to continue growing and churches need plans to help disciples grow. See me if you would like more information.

*Have you ever been asked, "What does the Methodist Church think about_____?" All attendees received Faith and Facts. It covers multiple topics with what the Bible says, what the United Methodist Church says, facts, and actions. The book is on the table outside Pastor Ed' office. I also have the book and will be glad to make copies of topics that interest you. (Please only 3 topics at one time)

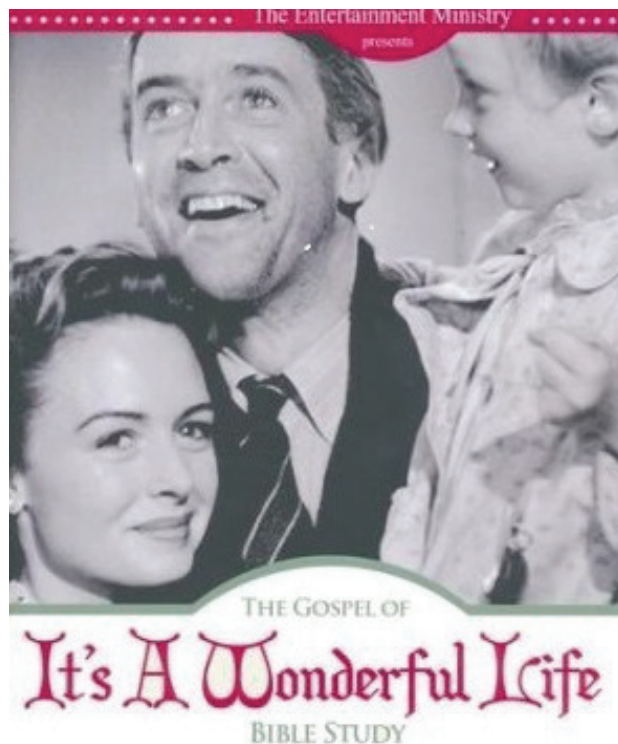
*With everything going on several attendees packed 30,000 emergency meals for "Rise Against Hunger". The offering collected \$31,632 for the new Miracles Everywhere campaign. There are more detailed summaries of the Conference and the Miracles Everywhere Campaign. Let me know if you want either.

Again this year I left Annual Conference proud to be a member of the United Methodist Church.

Sonia Butler

Lay Representative to Annual Conference

Get Ready for Christmas with....



Advent Bible Study with Pastor Ed

This classic holiday movie has some powerful themes that can help us grow together as disciples of Jesus. Come on out and enjoy the Advent season with us!

7:00pm ~ Thompson Hall
November 29
December 6
December 13
December 20

Study Guide ~ \$8.00...scholarships available ☺



Holly Berry Bazaar

**Saturday, November 3, 2018 | 9-4
Family Life Center**

Quilts

Gifts

Dolls

Cards

Crafts

Books

Attic Treasures

Table Runners

Jewelry (New & Used)

Baked goods

Plants and mors...

Lunch will be available
for purchase



Deaths

Margaret Patterson 6-26-18.

Reducing Social Isolation

All are invited to a free program, including lunch, on Wednesday, November 7, Noon - 2 pm at the Bishop Building of the Ocean County Library, 101 Washington Street, Toms River.

We will discuss how we can work better together to reduce social isolation and loneliness among our senior population. Parking will be reimbursed! Space is limited so you must call or email Caregiver Volunteers 732-505-2273 ext. 212 or info@caregivervolunteers.org to attend.

Sight and Sound

Thursday, November 8, 2018

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 Bazaar Set up Mark Bible Study 7:00, R4	2 Bazaar Set up	3 Holly Berry Bazaar 10-6 FLC
4 Communion Sunday	5 UMW Exec Bd. Mtg. 7:00, R4 CHNS CLOSED	6	7	8 Mark Bible Study 7:00, R4 Sight & Sound Bus Trip	9 Breakfast set-up 10:00, FLC	10 Church Family Breakfast 8-10, FLC
11 Veterans Day	12 Ruth Circle 7:00	13 UMM Covered Dish & Bible Study 6:30, TH	14 Finance Committee Meeting 6:00, WR Esther Circle 7:00	15 Mark Bible Study 7:00, R4 Messenger Deadline	16	17 Church Conference Calvary Korean UMC East Brunswick
18 Rental FLC 12:00-7:00	19 CHNS Thanksgiving Feast FLC	20 Trustees Meeting 6:30, WR	21 CHNS ½ DAY	22 OFFICE CLOSED CHNS CLOSED	23 OFFICE CLOSED CHNS CLOSED	24 Rental FLC 12:00-4:00 FLC
25	26 Sarah Circle 12:00, TH	27 Church Council 7:00, TH It's a Wonderful Life Bible study 7:00, TH	28	29 Mark Bible Study 7:00, R4	30	

SUNDAYS

9:00 Family Life Center Worship
 10:30 Sanctuary Worship
 5:00 Teen Praise, FLC
 6:00 Youth Group, TH
 8:15 College Gathering, TH

MONDAYS

9:00 Crafters, TH
 7:00 Scouts, FLC

TUESDAYS

10:00 (2nd & 4th) Knitters, TH
 3-4:30 (3rd & 4th) Soup Kitchen, FLC
 7-9 Praise Team, FLC

WEDNESDAYS

3-5 (2nd & 4th) Nine Patchers, TH
 7:00 Sanctuary Choir, CR



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