

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 129 Chestnut Street Toms River, NJ 08753 Phone: 732.349.8155 Chestnut Hill Nursery School: 732.286.9388 Email: fumctr@verizon.net Website: www.fumctr.org

Sunday **Worship Services**

8am & 11am Traditional (Sanctuary) 9:30am Contemporary (Family Life Center)

Sunday School 9:30am

Preschool - 6th Grade & Adults 11:00am 7th-12th Grade

SIX MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP

I will strive to:

- 1) PRAY daily
- 2) WORSHIP weekly
- 3) **READ** the Bible
- 4) **SERVE** at and beyond FUMCTR
- 5) **ENCOURAGE** SPIRITUAL **GROWTH** in others
- 6) GIVE of my time, talents & resources

THE MESSENGER



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TOMS RIVER DECEMBER 2013



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS



THREE MODELS FOR ADVENT

The season of Advent begins the church year with a mixture of hope, repentance and joy.

Our Advent models are the prophet Isaiah who stirred his people with hope in the Lord's coming, John the Baptist who announced the presence of Christ, and Mary whose faith was blessed with the awesome gift of God's Son.

Like Isaiah, we look forward to Christ's glorious return at the end of Like John, we recognize Christ's presence among us now in his Word, sacraments and the Christian community and take to heart his call to repentance. And like Mary, we seek to accept the will of God in order to make a place for Christ in our May the blessings of this season hearts and lives.

ISAIAH The great prophet of the Old Testament foretold the coming of Christ, the Suffering Servant, bringing justice to a corrupt society and blessing upon the faithful through his own faithfulness. Isaiah held before God's people a vision of who they were and

what they hoped for in a world bent on its own destruction.

JOHN THE BAPTIST The fiercely self -effacing contemporary of Jesus pointed to his Lord as "the Lamb of God," although others wanted John to be the Messiah. Like John, we need to know that we are the servants of the Lord and each other, while only He is the Chosen One of God. Look in faith at those around us to see the presence of Christ, calling us to fill their needs and receive their blessings.

MARY The life of this young woman was transformed by God's grace when he presented his plan to her. Mary accepted it, becoming a necessary part of the Incarnation - God's becoming flesh and blood. Today God acts through our hands and head and heart, as we repeat her words, "Let it be done to me according to your will."

come to you and your family as you turn your hearts and minds toward Jesus Christ.

The entire Church Staff and their families join me in wishing a blessed Christmas to each and everyone.

Bruce

Inside this issue...

- **Music Corner**
- **Stewardship Report**

- **Upcoming Youth Events**
- **United Methodist Women**
- Eagle Ridge Golf Club New View Value

Youth Group

The year is off in full swing. The youth group meets Sunday nights. Middle school (6-8th) meets from 5-7pm and Senior high (9-12th) meets from 7-9pm. Any youth in grades 6-12 is welcome to come join us! We play games and learn a bible lesson about everyday life. Disciples of Christ. Having fun. If you have any questions about our meetings or things we are doing, don't be afraid to contact me. Want to get involved, but don't know how? You can contact me through the church office or my email. Parents and adult chaperones are needed (you don't need to come all the time, once in a while helps a ton!) You can contact me at <a href="mailto:function-unitary-com/mailto:func

God Bless Jessica Gorczyca

UPCOMING EVENTS

No Youth Group Dec. 1st

Youth Christmas Party Dec. 15th 6 - 8 pm

No Youth Group Dec. 22nd or Dec. 29th

Ski Trip January 3rd - 5th

Valentine's Spaghetti Dinner (\$7) February 9th 5 - 7 pm

Confirmation classes will be starting in <u>February</u>, If your son or daughter is in the 7th grade or older you can call the church to register your child. This confirmation class will be held on <u>Sunday evenings</u>. **Confirmation Sunday** will be on **Sunday**, **June 8th**, **2014**. For our confirmation classes each of your youth need a mentor to help them through the process. If you would like to be a mentor, you can also contact the church office.

Christian Education - Sunday School of all ages meets Sunday Mornings. Adult and Pre-K - 5th grade meet at 9:30AM and 6th grade through 12th grade meet at 10:45AN. Registration is still open and we are looking forward to seeing you soon.

Vacation Bible School will be here before you know it. We are looking for someone willing to run or co-run the vacation bible school program. For more information and details, please contact Jessica.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- 1. The Visitors Team has distributed 52 holy bibles to visitors and congregants since Ann Cattley came up with the idea approximately 4 years ago. If you know somebody in the congregation who needs a holy bible, please inform a member of the Visitors Team. They can be found at the Visitors Table in the narthex and Family Life Center.
- 2. First United Methodist Church will be one of just a few organizations that will be supplying Christmas gifts for the Hope Center to distribute to children of clients. This is our fourth year of participation in this holiday program and our contributions are much needed and much appreciated. Gifts for younger children include toys, games, arts and crafts and stuffed animals, Gifts for teenagers should be \$15 gift cards to local stores. Let local children experience the "Magic" of Christmas and the "Love" of Jesus Christ working thorough us. Please give generously with a loving heart. Collection date will be Sunday, December 1st before each service. If you forget, gifts may be brought to the church office until 12 noon of December 6th. Please remember the need this year is great
- 3. An annual United Methodist Women's Christmas project 3. Keep Christmas Eve simple. Instead of slaving to precontinues this Christmas season at FUMC. On Sunday, December 8th congregants are asked to bring in donations of fruit to make Christmas baskets of holiday cheer for homebound members of our congregation. Members who for one reason or another can't attend church services. Fruit will be collected before each service, the baskets prepared, and congregants will be asked to help deliver the finished basket symbolizing our love and concern for our homebound members. Bring the "Joy of Christmas" into the hearts of our homebound members. Please donate generously.

This Christmas season share the Christmas story of the incarnation with a friend, co-worker, or neighbor who needs to experience the love of Jesus Christ.

The Paula Brown Soup Kitchen

served a total of 96 quests in the month September. This is for both the third and fourth Tuesdays combined. We are seeing many new faces and a lot more people in need. Grandmothers Cupboard has not been able to attend as often as they have in the past as they don't have the help. Their services are sorely missed by our guests. Anyone

wanting to give of their time to this worthy mission may either go there 137A Route 37 West, Toms River, NJ 08755 or call 732-240-0441.

4 Ways To Remember the True Meaning of Christmas

Amid the bustle and the buying, the eats and the treats, take time to rekindle the real spirit of the season.

- 1. Keep a candle burning. The constantly burning flame, holding back the darkness, is a potent symbol of life in the heart of winter. On the first Sunday of Advent (the period beginning four Sundays before Christmas), some Christians carry home a taper, lit from their church's Advent candle, and keep it burning until Christmas Day using a series of candles. Keep your Christmas flame on the table during family meals. You might also like to follow the tradition of lighting three more candles — one for each week of Ad-
- 2. Trim the tree stress-free. Give each family member his own part of the tree to decorate. "Using beautiful red ribbon, divide the tree into sections so that everyone gets his own place to work," she suggests. "This will eliminate the familiar 'Hey! I was going to put something there! That was my spot! I quit!"
- pare a fantastic spread on Christmas Eve as well as Christmas Day, suggest a simple meal, such as pizza, or let guests make their own sandwiches from a selection of fillings. That way, you'll have more time to relax and enjoy each other's company — which is what Christmas is all about.
- 4. Set an extra place at Christmas dinner. Each year, there are many people without families who spend the holiday alone. If you know someone like that, ask them to join you at your table. Cooking for an extra person won't take much more effort, but it will make all the difference to them.



OUR CHRISTMAS STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Stewardship: A Future with Hope

By the time you read this message, our congregation will have celebrated Stewardship Sunday and Thanksgiving. We will have heard Jessica challenge us to volunteer to help with our youth and education programs. We will have heard Rev. Louis Strugala challenge us to help provide a future with hope for those still suffering from the terrible effects of Hurricane Sandy. And we will have heard Rev. Quigley challenge us to be faithful stewards by supporting our church's over 40 outreach ministries through our time, talents, tithes and offerings. You have heard all of this and one question remains to be answered:

Have you submitted an Estimate of Giving Card as a sign of your gratitude for all God's blessings and as a reflection of your support for the mission work of our church?

The following is a summary of the Ministry Fund for the period 1/1-10/31/13

Revenues:

Offering Income	\$368,316				
Non-offering Income	87,723				
Benevolence Income	21,530	(Communion,	Missions,	Special	Giving)
Total Revenue	\$477 569	•		-	

Expenses:

Pastoral Support	\$224,723	(Payroll and Benefits)
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Programs 11,470

Missions 75,624 (Shared Giving and Benevolences)

 Administration
 26,281

 Utilities
 49,343

 Maintenance
 32,179

 Mortgage
 76,072

 Total Expenses
 \$495,692

Operating Deficit (\$18,123)

As you can see from the numbers above, the first ten months of 2013 ended with an operating deficit of (\$18,123). Please help turn this deficit into a surplus by giving generously in the special Christmas Offering Envelope. Last year due to your overwhelming generosity, our church received the largest Christmas offering in its history. Let's see if we can once again set a new record!!!!

It is with deepest gratitude that we thank all our members for your faithful Stewardship and wish all of you a very blessed and Merry Christmas!!!!!!



Judy Widner writes: To our beautiful church family, thank you so much for all of your love through all our years at First United Methodist Church. Ron loved his family first, his church second, and his flying third. Cards, flowers, edible fruit, wonderful food was much appreciated. We love you all.

Joyce Fullerton writes: To my church family, I would like to express my deepest thank you to each of you during my recent illness. Your visits, phone calls, many cards and especially the prayers, they have been so comforting to me. It is a true blessing to have each of you in my life. Please continue your prayers as I go thru my chemotherapy. May God's blessings be with each of you.

Etna Blair writes: I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls, visits and gifts while I recovered from my surgery. I would especially like to thank Pastor Quigley for all the visits in the hospital and rehab center. You will never know how much it was appreciated. God Bless you all.

BIBLE STUDIES

There will be a few Bible studies starting soon. Disciple "Old Testament" (9 week study) run by Charlie Burch will be starting the 1st or 2nd week in Januarv. either on a Wednesday or Sunday night from 6-8 pm. More details to follow. We will also be starting the Red book (Disciple Study) run by Heike Graef on Wednesday night from 6-8 pm starting after the 1st of the year. There also will be a study on United Methodism, starting after the first of the year, there will be one run during the day and at night this study will be 6 - 8 weeks. If you would like to register for any of these studies, you can contact the church office or email me. If you have any questions or concerns or would like to see a different topic, please contact Jessica at the church office or at my email fumctryouth@gmail.com



CHESTNUT HILL NURSERY SCHOOL

The children are anxiously counting down the days until Christmas! The hall ways are filling with decorations and it really beginning to look a lot like Christmas. The children have been busy making gifts for their parents and are trying very hard to be good. No naughty at Chestnut Hill as we prepare for a visit from the man in the red suit. We loved visiting the Sanctuary filled with poinsettia's as we learn about Christmas around the world. It was truly beautiful! A long winter's nap will follow as we prepare for our parent-teacher conferences. Snuggling in for the cold month of January will be a perfect time to test all the little ones to see how smart they are! We love to talk to our parents at conference time, we can't wait to see you all. To all our families and church members- we wish you a perfect holiday filled with family, friends, peace and love.



THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

This has been a busy year. Thank you to everyone who made the Holly Berry Bazaar a success. Some of you have been working all year making items to sell. Others baked the night before, helped set up, manned booths and/or all of the above. Many of you are United Methodist Women members. Many of you are not. Many of the men, youth, and even people outside the church helped. We couldn't do it without all of you. A special thank you to Jane Laub who works all year supervising, organizing and coordinating everything that needs to get done.

The United Methodist Women will again be having their Christmas Dinner Meeting at the Legend Lounge. This year it will be on **December 9**th, **6PM**. There will be reservation forms in future bulletins or on narthex/Family Life Center tables. You need to make reservations in advance.

On **December 15**th the UMW will be coordinating a covered dish brunch/lunch in the Family Life Center following the Annual Cantata Service. Watch the bulletin for more information.

Looking ahead to 2014. "Spa Day for the Soul" is being planned for **Saturday**, **January 25**th. The theme will be *A New Year*, *A New You*. We already have many great breakout programs lined up and the keynote speaker will soon be confirmed. You won't want to miss it!

We are planning to start a new circle this year. If you are not in a circle or would like to try another circle call or see Sonia

The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 20 tells a story about some workers in a vineyard. Some workers toiled all day, some only a few hours and a few worked only a single hour. But the Lord of the vineyard knew that howsoever long each person worked, the success of the harvest depended on the work of all. This year, the **Holly Berry Bazaar** collected more than \$11,000 for furtherance of the Lord's work. The women of this church - and some of the men too - just finished our fall Holly Berry Bazaar. Some of you worked of and on all year long, some of you could only work part of a single day, but like the toilers in the vineyard, the effort which each of you put in contributed equally to the success of the whole. Thank you each and everyone.

Jane Laub



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SANCTUARYCHOIR Presents

"SING WITH THE ANGELS" A Christmas Musical by Joel Raney

Featuring original music interspersed with familiar carols. This musical re-tells the Christmas story from the vantage point of **angels**.

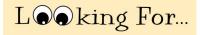
Angels are referenced throughout the scriptures and play a major role in the story of Christ's birth, from Gabriel's first appearance to Zacharias, to the glorious scene of angels filling the heavens singing "Gloria in excelsis Deo."

It is our hope that his celebration of our Savior's birth will serve to fill you with the glorious images and sounds of the *angels*, just as the world experienced on that first Christmas.

Please join us on Sunday, December 15th at 10:00 AM

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem," Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."





audiovisual

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN THE AUDIO-VISUAL BOOTH for the Contemporary Service

Must have computer skills, will be trained in Media Shout program. Please see Linda or Billy Hendrickson if you are interested.



NEW POLICIES have been made for the <u>use</u> of the <u>audio—visual room</u> and <u>TV / DVD players</u>. If you are planning a program or Bible study and need this equipment, you must contact the church office for a copy of the policies and request form.



We cannot believe it is that time of year already. **HOLIDAY** planning time. Please mark your calendars to help the Worship Committee get our church ready for Christmas. Yes CHRISTMAS is upon us. As everyone knows many hands make light work.

Saturday December 7th to set up the poinsettias.

Both days we will meet at 10AM. Please join us in the preparations.

Lorraine Abate & Michele Kanzler Chairwomen of The Worship Committee



MEMORIALS RECEIVED SINCE LAST MESSENGER

TO NEW BUILDING FUND In memory of Ron Widner by John, Marge & Kim General

TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FUND In memory of Ron Widner

by Kris & Paul Olsen by Jim & Heike Graef

In memory of Mae Cooper by Jim & Heike Graef

TO MEMORIAL FUND In memory of Ron Widner

by Don & Nancy Kaulback by Dan & Barbara Clinch by Bob & Gail Auer by Richard & Jean Ostrander by Dale Cottrell

In memory of Howard Miske by Dale Cottrell

TO PAULA BROWN SOUP KITCHEN In memory of Marilyn Groak

by Eleanor M. Vinton



DEATHS

We celebrate and cherish the memory of the following members who have died and pray God's abiding support for the loved ones who mourn their passing.

MARGARET J. BEEDE

joined FUMCTR 09.27.87 and died earlier this year (exact date unknown)

HELEN CONNER

joined FUMCTR 02.19.78 and died 11.05.13



PATRICK NICHOLAS SCARANGELLA

son of Patrick & Larissa Scarangella 10.27.13

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Remember the Memorial Garden at First United Methodist Church. For more information on this place of honor and remembrance, contact the church office or Jim Graef at 732.270.6428.

EXCITING INFO ABOUT THE CHURCH'S ENDOWMENT FUND

The Permanent Endowment Fund continues to grow with generous gifts. Last year, \$16,000 was donated, while this year \$3,150 has been donated so far. The First United Methodist Church Toms River Heritage Society, named in honor of Harold and Caroline Schmul, is made up of persons who commit a minimum of \$5,000 in cash, securities, or promised future gifts (such as being beneficiary of a will, gift annuities, life insurance or charitable trust) to our Church's Permanent Endowment Fund.

Current members are:

William & Mary Bode Samuel Brethwaite
Townsend* & Sonia Butler Don & Edna* Comp
Burt & Lynn Davis Gerald & Nancy* Dwyer
Doug & Ann Earle Grace & James Farnsworth*
Nathan & Margaret Fletcher* John & Edna Fischer
Hugh* & Jo-An George Phil & Grace* Hartley

Evelyn Herbst* Marie Howard*

Harry* & Jewell Hurd John & Doris Hockenjos

Michele Kanzler J. Frank Johnson*
Jean Lacey Jack & Virginia Lamping*
Donald & Nancy Kaulback Irene Mc Gurn*
Martin & Janice Moen Fred Muller

Grace Myskaitys Ray & June Rambo*

Jeffrey & Vivien Sayre Rev. Harold & Caroline Schmul Robert Shidal* Ida Tangemann

J. Elizabeth Thompson* Helen Tucker*

Thomas VanKirk Robert & Denise Wahlers Sibyl Walczak Bill & Eva Walther*
Herb & Irma Walton* Jere & Beverly Williams

*denotes deceased members

Members and friends of our Church have donated \$611,684.68 to the Permanent Endowment Fund when one takes into account the inflation amount added each year to keep the original gift's buying power the same as when it was donated. In addition, others have the Permanent Endowment Fund as a beneficiary of their wills, life insurance, and gift annuities. One person has the Permanent Endowment Fund as a beneficiary of their charitable trust. All have dedicated part of their "treasure" to provide for Christ's work **forever.**

The Permanent Endowment Fund has made the distribution of \$25,000 of its earnings to the Church for its important work in 2013. The original gifts are never distributed from our endowment fund.

Any members or friends who have made a provision in their plans for our Church's Permanent Endowment Fund should let a member of our committee know, so we can add you to the Heritage Society Membership.

Permanent Endowment Committee members are: Jere Williams, Chair, Frank Strucki, Treasurer, Bob Auer, Mary Bode, Jim Graef, Peter Rich, and Sibyl Walczak.

The Permanent Endowment Fund accounts are audited annually by the Church's auditor.

Family Ministries presents...



Parent's Day Out

2013



Saturday, December 7th
10:00am - 3:00pm
Family Life Center

Lunch will include:
Grilled Cheese, Chicken Noodle
Soup & carrots
(peanut butter & jelly will
also be available)

There is no charge for this event, but registration is required. Please place registration form (bottom portion) in the offering plate or in the Family Ministries mailbox no later than **November 24**th. For any questions or changes please call Bob & Terri Ferrara 732.323.8588

Parent's Day Out 2013 Registration

(for children ages 3 to 12)

Family	Phone Number	
Please list	t each child and age: (children must be potty trained)	
		\mathcal{L}
		*

** Will your child(ren) be with us for lunch (11:30)? YES/NO





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FUMCTR Staff:

Bruce E. Quigley, Pastor
Jessica Gorczyca, Director of Youth, Christian
Education & Minister of Visitation
Linda J. Hendrickson, Director of Music
Dr. Harold E. Schmul II, Pastor Emeritus
Fred Muller, Lay Leader
Judy Iovino, Administrative Assistant
Kimberly Dillon, Nursery School Director

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Publisher: Terry Waterhouse (happycaterer2002@yahoo.com)

Editor: *Traci Maloney*Copy: *Michele Kanzler*

Distribution Staff: Dan & Barbara Clinch, George & Dolores Fredrichs, Martin & Janice Moen Fred Muller & Members of Sarah Circle The Messenger

