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# The Cornerstone

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The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

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*Psalm 118:22-23*

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VOLUME LXIV NUMBER 17

April 23, 2026



*Faith In Action:*  
*Community of Creation*  
*Genesis 1:26-31*

In these 50 days of Easter (and a bit beyond) we are looking at contemporary issues through the lenses of our resurrection faith in relation to our United Methodist Social Principals. Last Sunday, we introduced why we have Social Principals and how they lead us in faithful living. This Sunday, we will explore our relationship with the Community of Creation as we celebrate the Earth and consider our care as faithful stewards of this beautiful Natural World we have been gifted from our Creator.

As you meditate this week, may you reflect on the familiar words of the hymn, *How Great Thou Art* and consider what emotions and thoughts it brings up in you.

*O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

What of creation makes your soul sing?  
What causes you to pause and stand in awe of our Creator?



In the next few weeks, we will continue to dig deep into each social principal, looking to learn, grow and understand more about who we are as a United Methodist and how we engage new lives of resurrection faith into action.

- April 26 - Faith In Action: Community of Creation... *Genesis 1:26-31*
- May 3 - Faith In Action: Economic Community... *Leviticus 19:9-18*
- May 10 - Faith In Action: Social Community... *Matthew 5:43-48*
- May 17 - Faith In Action: Political Community... *Jeremiah 22:13-17 & Romans 12:14-18*
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- May 24 – We will pause our series.
- May 31 - Faith In Action: Embodying Our Principals... *Romans 12:1-2*

"See" you in person and online for worship! *Jill*



**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 4/24**



**THIS WEEKEND**

**April 25<sup>th</sup> 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Set up Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

It's time to start gathering your unwanted "treasures" to donate to the UWIF annual garage sale! A few guidelines:

No books

No heavy furniture

No curtain or drapery rods

No linens

No heavy exercise equipment

No clothes or shoes

Please be sure your donations are clean and in working order

Also greatly needed are some hale and hearty volunteers to help clean up at the end of the day on Saturday. To help plan for set-up day on Friday, please sign up on the UWIF bulletin board (next to the upstairs kitchen).



**Calling all bakers**

Once again, the UWIF will offer delicious baked goods for sale at the garage sale. Please contribute home-made items. The UWIF is grateful to all who contributed to the bake sale last year. It was almost sold out!

Helpful hints:

Bake now and freeze

Pretty packaging helps things sell

Questions? Contact Diane Maher, 732-513-8413



## DR. JOHN D. BLAIR SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for the 2026 Dr. John D. Blair Scholarships are available on the church website or in the church office. Scholarships are available for up to four years of undergraduate education. Grade transcript must accompany application. The deadline for applications is April 25.

## Conference opportunity

### **Saving the Soul of Our Nation, State, and Church-Faith Forum & Historical Tour**

Mark your calendars! On **May 12** from **1-6:30 p.m.**, attend a faith forum, **“Striving to End the Sin of Racism in Church & State: Contemporary and Historical Methodist Perspectives”** featuring keynote speakers Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Bishop Ernest S. Lyght, Rupert Hall, Jr., and Kevin Dusenberry. The forum will be held at Pennington UMC (60 South Main Street, Pennington). Then on **May 13**, plan to attend the “Historical Tour: Saving the Soul of Our Nation and State” featuring keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Kevin Newburg and visiting such sights as Washinton’s Crossing State Park, Princeton Battlefield, Historic Tenant Church and more. Buses leave from the Courtyard by Marriot Ewing Princeton at 8:30 a.m. These events are open to all and form part of the **Northeastern Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History (NEJCAH) Annual Meeting and Program**. For details, registration link or paper registration form contact FUMCO’s church office 732-531-1150. Need accommodation? Register for the conference hotel, Courtyard Marriott Ewing Princeton.

**Coffeehouse Invitation**  
**Presbyterian Church on the Hill**  
10 Cold Indian Springs Road  
**Friday May 1st, 7:00 till 8:30 p.m.**

Praise Team from local churches including our own.  
Refreshments will be served.  
**All are welcome!**



## Summer Book Club



Summer is a great season to enjoy the beautiful weather and take in a new book. So, in the summer months of June, July, and August; Jill invites you to come together on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at noon for conversation and sharing. Bring your lunch if you choose and your thoughts on the book of the month. The book for June is: *Joyful Anyway* by Kate Bowler.



**Faith-filled Fieldtrips:** Jill is introducing a new opportunity to explore faith in new locations. This new ministry begins with a trip to the Cloisters in Manhattan on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Please RSVP to the church office if you are interested, so we can arrange transportation. There is a cost for entrance into the Cloisters.



### Adult Sunday School

Starting May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11 a.m., the Adult Sunday School class will be using Max Lucado's *You Are Never Alone* for their next study. Each of us longs for Someone who will meet us in the midst of life's messes. In this study, Max Lucado reminds us that God's presence and power are nearer than we think. In the Gospel of John, John had been through a lot as a disciple of Christ. At times, it had been a lonely journey. He was never alone. In this study you will find that Jesus is right there with you and cares about every aspect of your life. There is a companion book available to purchase if you would like to gain more insight into the classes each week. During class you will watch a DVD session presented by Max and then reflect and have a discussion on what was viewed. There will also be biblical foundations that will be explored.



Congratulations Kayleigh Becker!

At a recent dance competition, Kayleigh took 1<sup>st</sup> place in tap and 5<sup>th</sup> place overall (out of 32).



### **Spartan Jazz Band Members Selected to All Shore Jazz A-Band**

Ocean Township High School students Gabby Silva, Sam Pagnoni and David Furda were selected to perform with the All Shore A-Band. Director Kyle Titmas of OTHS was selected to direct the performance. The Spartans joined other top performers from Shore schools for a concert at Manalapan High School.

*Photo credit: Ocean Township Schools Facebook page*

Congratulations David Furda!

David was accepted to play with the All Shore Jazz A-Band. (David is pictured on the far left.)



Jean Blair Gillette

Not many in our present congregation remember Jean Blair Gillette who passed away recently, but she is an important part of our church history. Jean is the daughter of our former pastor, Dr. John D. Blair and Gladys Blair. Jean literally grew up in the church during Dr. Blair's first pastorate with us (1935-1946) and as an adult during his second pastorate (1959-1973) and beyond she was an active church member and leader in the choir and United Methodist Women for many years until she relocated to Virginia. We are grateful for what she meant to our church. (Our thanks to Ron Danielson)



**4th Sunday after Easter  
April 26, 2026**

**Counters: Mary Bailey, Cheryl McLoughlin, John Montgomery**

**Greeter: Randy Danielson**

**Usher: Jay Aretino**

**Acolyte: Susan McRae**

**Lay Reader: Judy Gorra**

**Fellowship Host: Kitty Amato**

**Altar Flowers**

**Given by Bonnie McNamara in honor of her son-in-law, Buddy.  
Given in loving memory of Viola Miller by David & Janice Hiers.**



**5th Sunday after Easter  
May 3, 2026**

**Counters: Patty Aria, John Montgomery, Judy Gorra**

**Greeter: Len Gruezke**

**Usher: Chip Stoll**

**Acolyte: Faye Snorton**

**Lay Reader: Carol Steinat**

**Fellowship Host: Bonnie McNamara**

**Altar Flowers**

**Given in honor of Owen Petit's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday by his family.  
Given in honor of Michele's, Isaac's, & Alex's birthdays by Gerry Busfield.**



**FEMININE HYGIENE COLLECTION**

During the month of May, the Outreach Commission will be collecting feminine hygiene items to be donated to Mercy Center. These items are not covered by SNAP benefits and are a necessary expense. You may drop off items to the church office.

**Altar Flowers Needed**

May 17- one urn

May 24-one urn

If you would like to honor or remember a loved one or event with altar flowers, please contact Diane Maher at 732-513-8413. Price \$20.

Checks made out to Altar Guild. Thank you



We are saddened by the passing of former member Sherry Brenner on 4/21/26. All funeral arrangements will be held in North Carolina. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Sherry's daughter, Karin Fuller, 121 Holly Drive, Sharpsburg, NC 27878.

**Tsedalech, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of April by Marty & Mary Bailey in memory of their grandparents.**

**WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS**

**Apr. 26-May 2**

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10: 1-10



# COFFEE & COMMUNITY

JAVA WITH JILL  
May 26 10 a.m.

Join Pastor Hubbard-Smith and friends at the Blue Swan Diner for an informal gathering to share conversation and perhaps a treat of your choosing.

*Please be Praying for...*

**Our homebound:** Bev Itell, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Carey Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Elaine Gould

**Jersey Shore Care Center:** Dave Miller

**Sunnyside Manor, Wall:** Nancy Burt

**Our church family worshipping at a distance:** Barbara Novick, Laura Eble, Jack & Caroline Chesbro



Coffee Fellowship

## FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED

Do you have what it takes to be a fellowship host? **YES, YOU DO!**

Please sign up in the upstairs kitchen. The very simple requirements to be a fellowship host are posted

on the poster board. Or you may speak with Bonnie McNamara.

## OUR APRIL COMMUNION OFFERING BENEFITS MERCY CENTER



Spaghetti Dinner

The next free community spaghetti dinner will be on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. Everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall for a delicious meal and community.

## The Little Free Pantry



Please think of stocking shelf-stable milk, powdered milk, soup, stew, chili, whole grain cereal, toiletries, hygiene products, baby food, applesauce, canned beans, canned chicken, canned tuna, canned salmon, SPAM, canned ham, canned vegetables, olive oil, canola oil, crackers, dried herbs, spices, canned fruit, dried fruit, granola bars, instant mashed potatoes, meals in a box, nuts, pasta, peanut butter, & rice.

A good idea this week:  
Bread



MERCY CENTER

The Outreach Commission thanks you for your continued support of the Mercy Center food bank. Here are the current needs: **canned meats, canned fish, beans, lentils, rice, pasta, oats, whole-grain cereals, low-sodium soup, canned fruits, canned vegetables, peanut butter, powdered milk, & nonperishable oils.**

## Beaded Crosses for Sale to Benefit Keswick Ministry.

Debbie Eckert (Old First UMC) is making & selling these small, beaded crosses to support the Keswick ministry. Keswick provides a program for addiction recovery that costs approximately \$11,000.00 yet they only charge the participant \$600.00.

By providing a donation to this life changing ministry, you will receive a handmade beaded cross from Debbie. They are available from Debbie on Sunday mornings.

