



# *The United Methodist Town Crier*

## **Belvidere United Methodist Church**

219 Hardwick Street, Belvidere, New Jersey 07823

**February 2024 Vol. LXXVII No. 2**

**The Reverend Janice McCrostie, Pastor**

**Dean Tshudy, Lay Leader**

Office Hours: 9:00am - 1:00pm/Telephone: (908) 475-4065/Fax: (908) 475-4006

E-Mail: [belvidereumchurch@gmail.com](mailto:belvidereumchurch@gmail.com) Website: [belvidereumc.com](http://belvidereumc.com)

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### **From the Pastor's Desk**

Dear Church,

This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 14<sup>th</sup>, which for many is a point of irony. As I watch as colleagues question their schedules and liturgies for Ash Wednesday services, I can't help but feel the connection appropriate. God's love for us is complete and radical, and the Lenten season is an opportunity for us to reflect of all that God has done and all that Jesus sacrificed in the name of that love. I pray that you will take time out from your Valentine's Day to attend one of our two Ash Wednesday services, one at noon in Fellowship Hall and the other at 7 PM in the choir room, as we prepare our hearts and minds for this Lenten season.

Our sermon series through the season of Lent is titled *Through the Valley*. We will look at the emotion of lament and how it is a deeply human response to our suffering, one that many of us no longer make space for in our busy lives. How would our healing from life's harshness be fuller and more empowering if we allowed ourselves to feel our lament? And how will our relationship with our Creator be enriched by inviting God to join us there? Join us as we reflect on these questions over the 40 Days of Lent.

In Christ, Pastor Janice



February 2024

**PASTOR :**

Rev. Janice McCrostie

**EDITOR:**

Liz Burkat

**PRINTING:**

Carolann Ficarra

**REPORTERS:**

**FINANCE:**

Rose Haller

**MISSIONS:**

Jan Lee

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

Becky & Tim Driscoll

**UPF :**

Paula Hilliard

Nancy Brown

**WORSHIP :**

Marilou Tshudy

**YOUTH GROUP:**

Rev. Janice McCrostie

Debbie Perelli

**FAMILY MINISTRIES:**

Debbie Perelli

**CIRCULATION:**

Carolann Ficarra

**BULLETIN**

**SPONSOR**

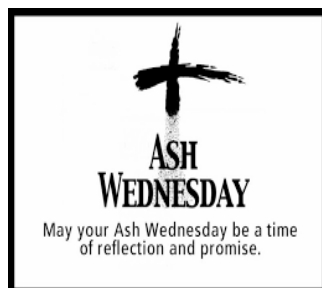
The cost of sponsoring bulletins is \$25 per month. If

you are interested, please contact the church office at (908) 475-4065.



**Why Do We Put Ashes on Forehead?**

Ashes are blessed in the Church on Ash Wednesday. They are used to keep us in mind of our humble origin and of how the body of Adam, our forefather, was formed out of the slime or clay of the earth; also to remind us of death, when our bodies will return to dust, and of the necessity of doing penance for our sins. These ashes are obtained by burning the blessed palms of the previous year.



**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The Belvidere United Methodist Church is an open door, open heart, open minded Christian community.

**Our mission is to:**

- \* Become true disciples of God;
- \* Share the love of God through ministry;
- \* Mature in Christian faith; and
- \* Serve the constantly changing needs of our community and the world.

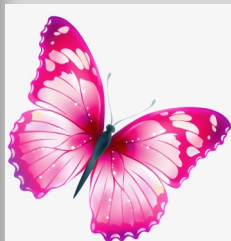


## Because We Care

Please include these persons in your daily prayers

*"It's not the strength of the body that counts, but the strength of the spirit."*

—J.R.R. Tolkien



### Edith Ballard

#### Janet Cline

*Helen Grauso's daughter*

#### Ed, Carollynn, & Sarah Conley

*Carol Conley's son, daughter-in-law, & granddaughter*

#### Sean Conley

*Carol Conley's grandson*

#### Gary Diciak

*friend of Skip Detweiler*

#### Phyllis Downing & Family

*Carol Conley's sister*

#### Judy Farmer

*8 Coventry Circle  
Belvidere, NJ 07823*

#### Matthew Germain

*Frank & Murnie Dragotta's son-in-law*

#### Ken & Paula Hilliard

*705 Oxford Street  
Belvidere, NJ 07823*

#### JoAnn Holland

*62 Ridge Rd., Hackettstown 07840  
(Marilou's sister-in-law)*

#### Sharon Johnson

*Friend of Liz Burkat*

#### Robin & Tracy

*Barbara Loock's daughters*

#### Family & Friends of Connie Krueger

*112 Kensington Court  
Belvidere, NJ 07823*

#### Dennis Lee

*91 Beechwood Road  
Belvidere, NJ 07823*

#### Bev Lommatzsch

*2 Rosewood Terrace  
Belvidere, NJ 07823*

#### Olivia Leigh

#### Laura Levine

### Jody Liegel

#### Becky Long

*PO Box 279 Martins Creek PA 18063*

#### Don Loock

*7971 Little Creek Rd  
Bangor, PA 18013*

#### Paul Merring

#### Fran Oldehoff

*8 Cypress Lane  
Belvidere, NJ 07823*

#### Dominick Puelo

#### Shirley Pulsinelli

#### Meghan & Kevin Richards

*Friends of Liz Burkat*

#### Margie Riedel

*Adella & BJ Wauhop's daughter*

#### Bonnie Riley & Family

*38 Green Street  
Oxford, NJ 07863*

#### Cindy Rufe

*Mike Benton's mother-in-law*

#### Randall Sandt

*718 Pahaquarry Street  
Belvidere, NJ 07823*

#### Barbara Scillitoe

#### Eileen Smith

*Friend of Jan Lee*

#### Sharon Smith

#### Betty Slater

*Kathi Luton's sister*

#### Bev VanAlthuis

*34 Race Street  
Belvidere, NJ 07823*

### Cliff VanKirk

*Linda Benton's brother*

#### Nancy Wassil & Family

*Barbara Loock's sister –in – law*

#### Peg Young

*Friend of Liz Burkat*

#### Olivia

*Friend of Barb Call*

#### Ashley Oettinger

*Rev. Janice's friend*

#### Brittany

*Granddaughter of Fran Oldehoff*

If you have a loved one, family or friend, who can be removed from the prayer list, please call the church office (908) 475-4065 or email [church@belvidereumc.org](mailto:church@belvidereumc.org)

## Please Mark Your Calendar

### LITURGISTS

Please check email for the verses.

Feb. 4 - communion	Lisa McAleer
Feb. 11	Dean Tshudy
Feb. 18	Lois Hampshire
Feb. 25	Marilou Tshudy

### Greeter Schedule

Feb. 4	Kathie Luton
Feb. 11	Rose Haller
Feb. 18	Rob & Courtenay Haupin
Feb. 25	Jim & Lisa McAleer

### Children's Time

Feb. 4	Eli Spencer
Feb. 11	Dean Tshudy
Feb. 18	Pastor Janice McCrostie
Feb. 25	Nancy Brown

## Dates to Remember

Each **Friday** (unless otherwise noted) 9:30-11:30 Food Pantry.

*Feb. 2 (Fri.) 8 PM NA Support Group*  
*Feb. 3 (Sat.) 10 AM AA Support Group*

### **Feb. 4 (Sun.) 10 AM Worship Service / communion**

*Feb. 6 (Tues.) 12 PM Mahjong group*  
*Feb. 6 (Tues.) 8 PM NA Support Group*  
*Feb. 7 (Wed.) 5 PM Food Pantry*  
*Feb. 9 (Fri.) 8 PM NA Support Group*  
*Feb. 10 (Sat.) 10 AM AA Support Group*  
*Feb. 10 (Sat.) 11:30 AM Planning Retreat*

### **Feb. 11 (Sun.) 10 AM Worship Service**

*Feb. 13 (Tues.) 12 PM Mahjong group*  
*Feb. 13 (Tues.) 8 PM NA Support Group*  
*Feb. 14 (Wed.) 5 PM Food Pantry*  
*Feb. 14 (Wed.) 12 PM Ash Wednesday Service*  
*Feb. 14 (Wed.) 7 PM Ash Wednesday Service*  
*Feb. 16 (Fri.) 8 PM NA Support Group*  
*Feb. 17 (Sat.) 10 AM AA Support Group*  
*Feb. 17 (Sat.) 7 PM Phantoms Game*

### **Feb. 18 (Sun.) 10 AM Worship Service**

*Feb. 19 (Mon.) UPF Meeting*  
*Feb. 20 (Tues.) 12 PM Mahjong group*  
*Feb. 20 (Tues.) 8 PM NA Support Group*  
*Feb. 21 (Wed.) 5 PM Food Pantry*  
*Feb. 23 (Fri.) 8 PM NA Support Group*  
*Feb. 24 (Sat.) 10 AM AA Support Group*

### **Feb. 25 (Sun.) 10 AM Worship Service**

*Feb. 27 (Tues.) 12 PM Mahjong group*  
*Feb. 27 (Tues.) 8 PM NA Support Group*  
*Feb. 28 (Wed.) 5 PM Food Pantry*  
*Feb. 29 (Thurs.) Leap Year Day*



**February 4, 2024**

**5th Sunday after the Epiphany**

Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c (UMH 859)  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

**February 11, 2024**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

2 Kings 2:1-12  
Psalm 50:1-6 (UMH 783)  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9

*Scouting Ministries Sunday*

**February 14, 2024**

**Ash Wednesday**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 **or** Isaiah 58:1-12  
Psalm 51:1-17 (UMH 785)  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*Valentine's Day*

**February 18, 2024**

**1st Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 25:1-10 (UMH 756)  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:9-15

**February 25, 2024**

**2nd Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22:23-31 (UMH 752)  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38 **or** Mark 9:2-9

Lehigh Valley Phantoms  
Saturday, February 17

Contact Debbie Perelli at  
610 905-8409 with any  
questions.



The United Presbyterian Church is holding a Pet CPR & First Aid class on Feb 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 12:30 PM or from 1:30 PM. Training is geared towards pet parents, pet care professionals, and animal rescue volunteers. \$60 per person, includes handbook, certificate and emergency muzzle. To register, visit [www.pawsnclaws911.com](http://www.pawsnclaws911.com) and click register online. Questions call Tom Rinelli (631) 721-8129.



"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."

— Charles M. Schulz



"Love is a condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own."

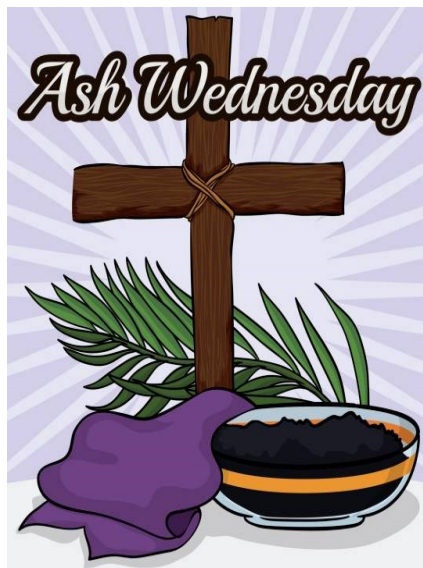
♦ Robert Heinlei



**Giving:** We thank you so much for continuing to support the mission and ministries of the church and ask that you continue to give as you are able. You can continue to support BUMC online through our website (visit [www.belvidereumc.com](http://www.belvidereumc.com) and click the green "give" button on the home page of our website), through your online banking (designating the church as a payee), or by sending in your check to the church.



Attention All BUMC Members, Friends & Family— Our annual trip to the PPL Center in Allentown, PA, to see the Lehigh Valley Phantom's hockey game is scheduled for President's Weekend on Saturday, February 17 at 7:05 PM. Group tickets are limited and are \$25 each. Please sign up in the fellowship hall ASAP. Payment is due by 1/14/24. Make checks payable to BUMC. Contact Debbie Perelli at 610 905-8409



Many thanks to Cathie LaBar for taking over the selling of the Shop Rite gift cards on Sunday morning. If you are in need of any, please see Cathie during fellowship time. if you watch our service from home and are in the area, we have a volunteer who will bring them to your home. Please call the office to order.

# Food Pantry Stats

Below you will see the number of community members served each month.

	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	171	207	209	374
February	141	233	202	301
March	125	240	211	303
April	110	251	202	277
May	124	246	301	286
June	115	199	256	286
July	167	219	308	333
August	137	206	297	342
September	157	211	286	401
October	197	232	311	342
November	188	163	331	296
December	152	233	356	388

*"It is not just about giving up our favorite food but it's about going further and giving up things like hatred and unforgiveness. You need to clean your heart and prepare yourself for purity."*

Amanda Jobs

## PASTORAL VISITATIONS

If you would like a visit from Pastor Janice, please call the office at 908-475-4065. In case of emergency, or if the church office is closed, you may call 973-615-4804.

Friends & Relatives  
Called to Serve Our  
Country



Maj. John Henry, U.S. Marines	Friend of the Grogan family
Lt Col Christopher O'Connor, U.S. Marines	Brother-in-law of Victoria & Kevin Call; Phil Bronico ; Jim & Tricia Bronico
Captain Neil Bucken, U.S. Marines , San Diego	Neighbor of the Harts
Mitchell Lango, U.S. Army	Neighbor of the Harts
SPC Phillip Hampton, US Army	ERF 14.4 ATTN: SPC Hampton, Phillip, B CO 2-5 Cav, Unit# 36250, APO AE. 09016-6250; Son of Bill & Theresa Hampton
Cooper Kornegay, US Army	627 5th Street Belvidere, NJ 07823
Michael Jago, US Army	
Tech Sgt Russell J. Stanley	433 Rt # 46 Belvidere, NJ 07823 ; son of Evelyn Stanley



## Average Budget

January budget	\$15, 512
February budget	\$15, 512



Many thanks to the following families and groups who hosted fellowship time over the past few weeks: Tshudy family, Pastor Janice, Connie Krueger family, Rob & Courtenay Haupin, and those who contributed to the soup & roll luncheon for Good News Home guests. Thank you again for your kindness and good food.

Updated information for the Belvidere Food Pantry.

**Current operating hours are:**

Wednesday from 5:00 to 7:00pm and

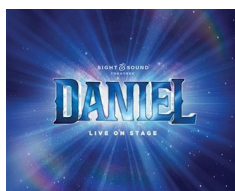
Fridays from 9:30 to 11:30am.

Current operating hours are: Wednesday from 5:00 to 7:00pm and Fridays from 9:30 to 11:30am. Donations can be dropped off beginning at 4:30 PM on Wednesdays and 9:00 AM on Fridays, up until closing. If one of these times isn't convenient for you, please call the church office at 908-475-4065 and we will be happy to arrange another time.\*

***Please do not leave donations on the parsonage porch or outside the church.***

The weather is getting colder and the pantry would greatly appreciate donations of soup, pork 'n beans, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and chili.

Thank you in advance!!



Easter week 2024 on Wednesday, the 3rd of April, there will be a bus trip to Sight and Sound to see Daniel.

Tickets include bus, show and trip to Kitchen Kettle. For more information please see flyer and sign up sheet on the table in the fellowship hall. Any questions please see Kathie Luton .

The food pantry wants to extend a thank you to the United Presbyterian Board of Deacons and the United People in Faith for their generous donations, which helped us

prepare over 50 gift bags for the food pantry clients. We would also like to thank the Sunday School for providing additional holiday gift bags for our clients. The clients were very happy to receive them! Thank you!



You can find us on the web at:  
[www.belvidereumc.com](http://www.belvidereumc.com)

**Follow us on Social Media!**

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/belvidereumcnj](https://www.facebook.com/belvidereumcnj)

Twitter: @BelvidereUMC





## **Become Part of Our Church Family**

### **New Member Sunday!**

Sunday, March 17th we will be welcoming New Members to Belvidere United Methodist Church! If you have thought about what membership means and if it's right for you, please reach out to Pastor Janice at [janice.pastor83@gmail.com](mailto:janice.pastor83@gmail.com) for a chat. While not necessary to your involvement at BUMC, we'd love to celebrate all that you do through this special liturgy during worship and officially welcome you into our church family!



### **IT'S TIME TO SELL THE DONUTS!**

Our annual Krispy Kreme Donut Fundraiser begins on January 14th. Orders and payment are due by 2/5/24. Make checks payable to BUMC. Delivery is on Sunday, February 11th from 10-12 AM just in time for Fasnacht Day which is the day before Ash Wednesday. We hope you'll grab an order form from the fellowship hall and sell to your friends and family to make this the best delectable fundraiser for the church so far this year. Thank you for your continued support! See Debbie Perelli or contact her at 610 905-8409 with any concerns.



We would like to thank everyone who participated in the many holiday gift programs we ran through the ministries of the church this Christmas. In conjunction with the Salvation Army and the Department of Child Protection and Permanency, we were able to provide 96 children with gifts. A special thank you to the Warren County 4H Teen Council, St. Luke's Belvidere Physical Therapy, Overko Farms, and The Harmony Hoodsters, who each adopted a family for the holidays, and also a big thank you to everyone who took a child's wish tag from the tree. We are so grateful to have been able to help so many children and couldn't have done it without all your help!

### **COMMUNITY BLEND ~ UPCOMING EVENTS**

Aging Issues - March 2, 2024 - 9-Noon - Community Blend and The Chapel team up to present a workshop on the issues associated with aging; leaving a legacy, financial concerns, trusts, paperwork, etc. Presented by Nick Yzzi, CPA



## SUPER BOWL HOAGIE LUNCH BAGS

Place your orders January 21 – Feb 4 in the collection plate, church office or contact Debbie Perelli at (610) 905- 8409. Lunch bags will include freshly made Italian Hoagies from Brass Castle Market, with a water and a treat. Orders are limited. First Come, First Served!

HOW MANY \_\_\_\_\_ Indicate (Lettuce -Tomato- Onion) Circle your choice

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lettuce -Tomato- Onion

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lettuce -Tomato- Onion

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lettuce -Tomato- Onion

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lettuce -Tomato- Onion

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lettuce -Tomato- Onion

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lettuce -Tomato- Onion

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\$10.00 per Hoagie Lunch Bag (Checks payable to BUMC)

Orders will be ready to pick up at 11:00 after church on February 11

Thank you for your support to help defray heating expenses.

Belvidere United Methodist Church  
219 Hardwick St.  
Belvidere, NJ 07823  
908-475-4065

## Our lives flow like the Seasons, With its Ebbs and Tides!

By Carol Conley

The past few years I have learned that the words '*Complicated*' and '*It is what it is*' are still powerful wherever we might be in our journey along life's road and the signs and roadmaps are constantly changing!

What does this mean for us? We have to learn to adapt and be open to the changes and look and observe with new eyes! We learn to view our spirituality and faith journey in new and different ways.

We are constantly being molded and shaped for God's work in an ever changing world around us. We gain new insights and vision gaining new knowledge and vision for future growth. If we stayed in a little box we would never grow.

God empowers us through the Holy Spirit. I always say we work together as a team. Times are in continual motion. We need to relax more and not be so uptight; go with the flow. If plan A doesn't work, go to B or C and so forth and not be so rigid.

Most of us, no matter what our age, are in so many directions for many reasons that we truly are not connecting with God. Our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren are sometimes over-programed. They need to relax more and take time to enjoy the beauty of nature around them and have that special time with friends in a safe environment.

We also need to keep our Prayers strong for the difficulties our world struggles with; that are out of our control as we have concerns for future generations.



Did you know that we host a Mahjong group on Tuesdays from 12 PM to 3 PM? All are welcome!

Beginners (we teach) to experts (we pray, your mercy! )

Please join us on Tuesday for some fun!





*"Today you  
have added  
another  
candle of  
knowledge  
and wisdom  
to your life.  
May it give  
you the  
power to  
enlighten  
the whole  
world."*

Debasish  
Mridha



*Happy Birthday*

*February*

- 1 Nancy Lovering  
Ryan Pensack
- 2 Rod Pensack
- 5 Thomas Hughes  
Michelle Lauer
- 6 Christopher Stout
- 9 Ian Lauer  
Logan Lauer
- 10 Judy Farmer  
Cole Redfern
- 12 Alexis Krych
- 13 Brenda Marsh
- 15 Robert Hildebrant, Jr.  
Christopher Lauer  
Tyler Tresslar
- 16 Ron Lommatzsch
- 17 Emma Blake  
Dale Detweiler
- 19 Rose Haller  
Michaela Krouse  
James Krouse
- 20 James Cook
- 21 Danielle Gyuricza
- 23 Thom Sella
- 24 Bryan Paradise  
Heather Sumba  
James Ritchie  
Michael Tresslar
- 25 Hope Johnson

- 26 Chris Ritchie  
Amanda Fisher
- 27 Dylan Albergato

### ***Church Membership Anniversaries***

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 50 Years | John Knerr<br>Sandra Knerr                                    |
| 31 Years | Susan Cole  |
| 23 Years | Jean Dubiel<br>Robert Farmer<br>Judith Farmer<br>Fran Oldehof |
| 7 years  | Craig Hyson<br>Jennifer Hyson                                 |

*Dear Church members,  
If we are missing your birthday  
and/or anniversary in our issues ,  
please contact me so I can add  
them. You can email to  
[jdb3283@embarqmail.com](mailto:jdb3283@embarqmail.com).*

*Thanks, Liz Burkat*



# **CLOTHING DRIVE**

to benefit the  
Missions of the United Methodist Church

Drop off through the end of 2023

**Drop off location**

**United Methodist Church**

**219 Hardwick St, Belvidere, NJ 07823**

*In plastic bags: Clean, wearable clothing, coats, shoes, boots, belts, purses, backpacks, suitcases, towels, linens, blankets, curtains, suits, gowns, stuffed toys & small clean toys, bikes, Car seats (only together with base) and strollers,*

*Donations are not shredded!*

*Donation receipts available*





*Donations needed for:*

Belvidere United Methodist Church

# Rummage Sale



**June 2024**

**During the Townwide Garage Sale**

**Donations can be dropped off at the church**

**Acceptable Items:** Clothing (in good clean condition), kitchen & household items, gently used toys, puzzles, games, purses, shoes, jewelry, linens, knick-knacks, holiday decorations, books

**Unacceptable Items:** TV's, computers, VHS and cassette tapes, air conditioners, furniture, car seats, cribs, medical equipment

If you have any questions or are willing to help with the rummage sale,  
contact Robin Stokes @ 908-783-0337  
or Marilou Tshudy @ 908-887-8887

## A Guy named Bill

Rebecca Manley Pippert  
retold by Alice Gray

His name is Bill. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college.

He is brilliant. Kinda esoteric and very, very bright. He became a Christian while attending college. Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed, very conservative church. They want to develop a ministry to the students, but are not sure how to go about it.

One day Bill decides to go there. He walks in with no shoes, jeans, his T-shirt, and wild hair. The service has already started and so Bill starts down the aisle looking for a seat. The church is completely packed and he can't find a seat. By now people are looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything.

Bill gets closer and closer and closer to the pulpit and when he realizes there are no seats, he just squats down right on the carpet. (Although perfectly acceptable behavior at a college fellowship, trust me, this had never happened in this church before!) By now the people are really uptight, and tension in the air is thick.

About this time, the minister realizes that from way at the back of the church, a deacon is slowly making his way toward Bill. Now the deacon is in his eighties, has silver-gray hair, a three-piece suit, and a pocket watch. A godly man - very elegant, very dignified, very courtly. He walks with a cane and as he starts walking toward this boy, everyone is saying to themselves, *You can't blame him for what he's going to do. How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid on the floor?*

It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy. The church is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes are focused on him; you can't even hear anyone breathing. The people are thinking, *The minister can't even preach the sermon until the deacon does what he has to do.*

And now they see this elderly man drop his cane on the floor. With great difficulty he lowers himself and sits down next to Bill and worships with him so he won't be alone. Everyone chokes up with the emotion. When the minister gains control he says, "What I'm about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget."

From **More Stories for the Heart**

Compiled by Alice Gray

Submitted by Liz Burkat



BY CAROL CONLEY

Shown in many ways,

Perhaps a “smile” to brighten a day, a word of  
Cheer and encouragement, to lend support,

A reaching out to care for the needy and help the Sick.

Celebrating our diversities, sharing in Christian Fellowship and love,

The excitement of learning and growing, nurturing  
And loving our children.

May God's light so shine through us in service and love!





"I don't think I can adequately begin to explain how much the advent box meant to both my Dad and I this past December. Unless you have been hanging out daily with someone who is in the hospital and rehab, you can't imagine what a lifeline it was for us. When I realized that many of the envelopes had ornaments in them I brought over a mini tree. Then the tree came with us to the hospital and then to rehab and eventually back to his assisted living home.

Everywhere we took it, it drew attention and gave my dad the opportunity to tell about your church and how it blessed us. It was really the only Christmas decorations we had out. Each day when I asked him if he wanted me to open the box and read the envelope he enthusiastically said "yes". And every single day we discussed how kind it was and how much we appreciated your thoughtfulness. Please pass on our gratitude to the others who contributed to it!

Susan Merring Marsh

### **CHRISTMAS MISSION PROJECT**

Thank you to all that donated towards the Shoprite gift cards to the Veterans at Veterans Have North for our Christmas mission project- located in Glen Gardner. Rose, Debbie and I presented 50 gift cards to them after touring the facility. We were so impressed with the facility itself and the programs they offer to the Veterans.

### **TRASH CLEANUP**

Did you know that 3 cleanups- White Township, Belvidere & Warren County netted a total of \$2000 for 2023?!! Thank you to all who participated in some or all of them. We had more participation this year than any other year! It is SO appreciated. Besides being fun, we are doing our part in beautifying our area. There is SO much more to do!

### **GOOD NEWS HOME FOR WOMEN**

Thank you to all for the donations of delicious assortment of soup, crackers, desserts & fresh challah (made by Robin & friends), set up and cleanup for the fellowship time after the service.

Thank you all for your monetary donations to a worthy cause.



# STEWARDSHIP: A WAY OF LIFE

## TIME. TALENT. TREASURE.

FROM A HEART OF GRATITUDE  
WE GIVE OUR TREASURE

In Acts 20:35, the Apostle Paul tells us:  
"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

### **BUMC Teens**

We are blessed to have these teens who continue to serve, worship, and learn with us.

BUMC youth at January 14<sup>th</sup>'s fun and informative Teen Bible Talk with Pastor Janice, Family Ministry Director Debbie Perelli, and Tim Driscoll, our Hope in the Hills Mission Representative.

Pictured are teens Michaela Krouse, James Krouse, Lilly Duckworth, Grace Duckworth and Eli Spencer.





The 2023 Clothing Drive 'officially' ended on Jan 30<sup>th</sup>.

### SPECIAL THANKS ...

~ to Debbie Perelli for arranging for all of the Belvidere HS student assistance. What a blessing to have all of those young strong helpful kids with us!

~ to Dean Tshudy for always being available when needed!

~ to Bill Hazelton who stacked and restacked the bags as they arrived during the year.

~ to BHS teacher and FB Coach, Mr. Schreffler, who walked his students to the church so they could help us!





## United People in Faith

Join Us..... Monday evening, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M.

Many of us have enjoyed seeing various parts of Lois Hampshire's fabulous Vintage Post Card collection that has been handed down through her family. We are so fortunate that Lois has agreed to share her knowledge of the Methodist Meeting Ground Resort at Island Heights along with her Vintage collection. Join us for a fun evening .

*Lent signifies a solemn 40-day period preceding Easter. Commencing on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Holy Saturday, Lent is characterized by fasting, prayer, and repentance as believers prepare for the celebration of Easter Sunday. This season of reflection and self-discipline involves practices such as abstaining from certain indulgences, fostering a deeper spiritual connection, and commemorating the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.*







## COMMUNITY BLEND UPCOMING EVENTS

✓ Us Out @ [Communityblend.org/events](https://communityblend.org/events)

February 24, 2024 | 10-11:30 a.m.

**Swing dancing** instruction. Work off that winter weight. Join us and bring a friend. Come early and enjoy a great cup of coffee.

MARCH 2, 2024

*Long-Term*  
**FINANCIAL  
PLANNING**  
*& Aging Issues*

Brought to you by  
**TheChapel**  
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ADULTS OF ALL AGES WELCOME  
FREE SEMINAR

- Estate & Retirement Planning
- Social Security
- Medicare
- IRA, 401k
- Final Instructions & Wills
- Power of Attorney

...and more!

Saturday, March 2, 2024  
9 AM - 12 PM  
light breakfast served  
384 Rt 57, Washington, NJ 07882

Scan to Register  
or visit [communityblend.org](https://communityblend.org)

**NICHOLAS C. YZZI, CPA**

March 8, 2024 – 6:00 p.m. **6-F** – Women's Monthly Potluck fellowship

March 16, 2024 – **SPIDERS** - 10-11:30 AM Join us for an educational program on spiders.

April 6 – 10-11:30 **Line Dancing** – Great exercise & lots of fun. Bring a friend.

Upcoming - **ServSafe** certification course. Three weeks, 9-noon, in April or May.