



The United Methodist Town Crier

Belvidere United Methodist Church

219 Hardwick Street, Belvidere, New Jersey 07823

February 2022 Vol. LXXV No. 2

The Reverend Evan Rohrs-Dodge, Pastor

Dean Tshudy, Lay Leader

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

E-Mail: Church@BelvidereUMC.org Website: belvidereumc.com

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear friends:

We are currently in the season of "Ordinary Time." This time of the church calendar year pops up twice: between the Epiphany (always 12 days after Christmas Day) and the beginning of Lent, and just after Pentecost to the first Sunday of Advent. It is the longest segment of the Christian calendar. It is a time where we hear about Jesus' ministry, his teachings, healings, and words on discipleship. We hear from the Old Testament and New Testament on what it means to be a follower of God. To me, this season reflects our lives; most of us find each day rather "ordinary," and yet, even in the mundane, we follow God.

Here is a poem I love that reflects on "Ordinary Time":

These midwinter days that bridge
Epiphany to Lent
can seem anything but ordinary
as the steady waxing light reflects
across old December's glaze of ice,
a biting wind hisses across
the stark bones of the bracken,
and treetops signal sparse
against a sky expecting still
more snow before nightfall.
Scarlet and speckled birds
announce themselves about
the brightness of the holly,
spray from the creek creates
bright frosted chandeliers among
the tangled overhanging branches,
and dusk draws down its spangling
of stars so crystalline they lift the eye—
heart too—toward a principality
that banishes any vestige
of routine predictability.
Ordinariness exists—if at all—
within the desiccated soul,
too distracted by its fearful self
to notice.

- by J. Barrie Shepherd

January 8, 2007 (originally published in *The Christian Century*)

Be Blessed,
Pastor Evan

February 2022

PASTOR :

Rev. Evan Rohrs-Dodge

EDITOR:

Liz Burkat

PRINTING:

Carolann Ficarra

REPORTERS:

FINANCE:

Rose Haller

MISSIONS:

Jan Lee

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Becky & Tim Driscoll

UMW :

Paula Hilliard

Nancy Brown

WORSHIP :

Marilou Tshudy

YOUTH GROUP:

Rev. Evan Rohrs-Dodge

FAMILY MINISTRIES:

Debbie Perelli

CIRCULATION:

Linda & John Benton,

Lois Hampshire, and

Fran Oldehoff

BULLETIN

SPONSOR

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

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

“HEART GIFTS”

BY CAROL CONLEY

You ask, what are “heart gifts?” Gifts of love shown in many ways,

Given freely, without expecting anything in return, little kindness’ along life’s way,

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

A helping hand to lighten someone’s load; Time spent together sharing and listening, caring and feeling.

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

The joy of laughter, the harmony of music.

Celebrating our diversities, sharing in Christian fellowship and love,

Giving of ourselves and the talents God has given us to help those around us.

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

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



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

Part of the healing process is sharing with other people who care.

- Jerry Cantrell



Nancy Ainsworth

Edith Ballard

John & Linda Benton & Family

Family & Friends of Joan Caskey

Janet Cline
Helen Grauso's daughter

Carol Conley

Ed, Carolynn, & Sarah Conley
Carol Conley's son, daughter-in-law, & granddaughter
Family & Friends of Joan Caskey

Sean Conley
Carol Conley's grandson

Gary Diciak
friend of Skip Detweiler

The family and friends of Darren Daniello

Debbie & William Dodge

Phyllis Downing & Family
Carol Conley's sister

Tom Evans
Barbara & Don Loock's son-in-law

Judy Farmer

Matthew Germain
Frank & Murnie Dragotta's son-in-law

Marge Guerrazzi
Friend of Walter & Alexis Burkat

Ken & Paula Hilliard
705 Oxford Street
Belvidere, NJ 07823

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

Linda Krychowecky
Christine Howard's sister

Richard Lauer Sr.
Rich Lauer's Dad

Connie Krueger
112 Kensington Court
Belvidere, NJ 07823

Olivia Leigh

Laura Levine

Becky Long
PO Box 279 Martins Creek PA 18063

Barbara & Don Loock
7971 Little Creek Rd
Bangor, PA 18013

Louise Manning

Kyra Marsh
Nancy Higgins's granddaughter

Betty Merring
833 Lopatcong street
Belvidere, NJ 07823

Paul Merring

Tracy Mooney
Barbara & Don Loock's daughter-in-law

Fran Oldehoff

Dominick Puelo

Shirley Pulsinelli

Margie Riedel
Adella & BJ Wauhopp's daughter

Tim & Mary Rue

Cindy Rufe
Mike Benton's mother-in-law

Teri Rumore
8520 West Price Blvd.
North Port, FL 34287

Barbara Scillitoe

Eileen Smith
Friend of Jan Lee

Betty Slater
Kathi Luton's sister

Charlotte Fiduk Snow
Friend of Liz Burkat

Marie Sweet
139 Cedar Lake Road
Blairstown, NJ 07825

Bev VanAlthuis
34 Race Street
Belvidere, NJ07823

Cliff VanKirk
Linda Benton's brother

Nancy Wassil & Family
Barbara Loock's sister -in-law

Jody Liegel

Nicole Carroll & Family

Laurie Ritz Dragotta

baby Logan

Ray
Fran Oldehoff's nephew

Chris
Fran Oldehoff's nsister-in-law

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

"What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Just don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong."

- Ella Fitzgerald

"If you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely."

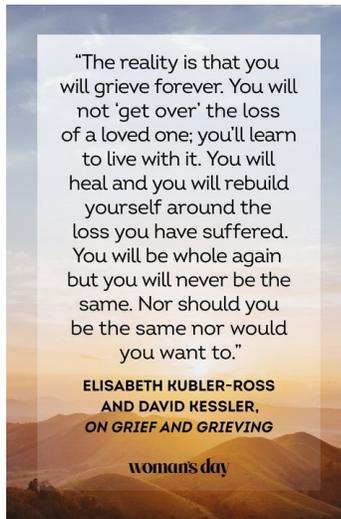
— Roald Dahl



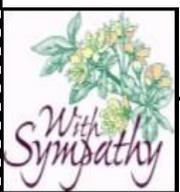
We offer our condolences to the families and friends of Whip Snover who passed away recently. Our hearts go out to you in this time of sadness.



We offer our condolences to the families and friends of Darren Daniello on the loss of his mother who passed away recently. Our hearts go out to you in this time of sadness.



We offer our condolences to the families and friends of Jan Lee on the loss of her uncle Bob who passed away recently. Our hearts go out to you in this time of sadness.



We offer our condolences to the families and friends of Debbie Perelli on the loss of her aunt who passed away recently. Our hearts go out to you in this time of sadness.



Please Mark Your Calendar

LITURGISTS

Please check email for the verses.

Feb 6 Communion	Linda Benton
Feb 13	Nancy Brown
Feb 20	Marilou Tshudy
Feb 27	Dean Tshudy

Greeter Schedule

February 6	Jim & Lisa McAleer
February 13	Maritza Baakman
February 20	Rose Haller
February 27	Kathie Luton



Tanya has been assigned as a pastor to the Bushkill United Methodist Church as of January 2, 2022. We are very happy for her and very proud of her!! We wish her the very best at this first pastoring assignment in the Methodist Church. Her church is located in Wind Gap, PA. Tanya's address is: 189 Belvidere Ave Oxford, NJ 07863

**Friends & Relatives
Called to Serve Our
Country**



Maj. John Henry, U.S. Marines	Friend of the Grogan family
Cpl Patrick Sansavere, U.S. Marines	Friend of Dennis Lee
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	
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	431 Rifle Range Road, Box 930, Monterey, CA 93944
Michael Jago, US Army	
Tech Sgt Russell J. Stanley	209 Choctau Drive, Brown Mills, NJ 08015; Son of Evelyn Stanley



Average Budget

December budget	\$14,524
January budget	\$19,280



ShopRite gift cards!

Once again, we have Shoprite gift cards for sale.

Until we find a person to handle this every Sunday, you can leave a message on the church office phone if you would like to purchase some, and we will have them ready for you on Sunday. Also, we have a volunteer who will bring them to your home."

Our youth is collecting and assembling care packages for residents of the Chelsea at Brookfield. Items requested: small bottles of toiletries (soaps, deodorant, shampoo), toothpaste, toothbrushes; small crossword or word search books; hand dispenser soaps, such as dial soap that comes with a pump. Small fall decorative items, such as hand towels, soaps, etc. *There is a receptacle in the entry of the church for donations.*



You can find us on the web at:
www.belvidereumc.com



BUMC Missions: People Helping People

In January we brought over 125 hats and scarfs to St Phillip and James Church in Phillipsburg to be distributed to the homeless and needy at the soup kitchens and the street missions. We also put a couple of dozen hat and scarf sets in the food pantry for the clients. In order to keep this mission going we really need #4 worsted weight yarns, any brand, any color. I will place a basket on the bench in the narthex for your donations. They will be greatly appreciated. If you know of a need for crocheted hats and scarves, please let me know.

If you have any questions or would like to help please contact me.

Blessings to all,
Kathie Luton



Interested in joining Belvidere UMC as a member? Pastor Evan is hoping to welcome new members in February or March. ***If you are interested in joining BUMC, please contact the main office.***

Adult Sunday School on the Psalms will resume sometime in February. Please watch church communication for specifics.

Follow us on Social Media!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/belvidereumcnj

Twitter: @BelvidereUMC

Food Pantry Stats

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

	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	128	171	207	
February	129	141	233	
March	98	125	240	
April	135	110	251	
May	141	124	246	
June	156	115	199	
July	161	167	219	
August	161	137	206	
September	144	157	211	
October	149	197	232	
November	170	188	163	
December	171	152	233	

"Make each day your masterpiece."
—John Wooden

Prayer for those in Need
By Carol Conley

Gracious God, we turn to you for Wisdom and strength, as we face the challenges ahead of us. Sometimes our world spins out of control and we are afraid for so many reasons. For our health problems we seek your healing power to work through the doctors and their staff to get to the route of our problems and guide us in a direction for the best possible outcome. Also for your peace within, which passes all understanding as we go through life's currents, keeping us steady on course for a better outcome. This we pray in Jesus name. Amen



Remember Your Offerings

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. At this time, our giving is down. You can continue to support BUMC online through our website (visit 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.

Please remember to continue to give as you are able to our Christian education ministries and Pastor's Discretionary Fund!

Thank You Received ~

Dear Church Family :

Thank you so very much for celebrating my 90th birthday with me. I appreciated all of the cards and phone calls I received.

Also, I want to thank you for all of the well-wishes received as I have been recovering from my recent hip surgery.

Sincerely,
Connie Krueger

To BUMC :

Thank you for the Advent Box I received this year. What a lovely surprise it was,

Sincerely,
Esther Sweigert

To: Belvidere United Methodist Church & UMW;

Sincerest thanks for the birthday cards and gift bag celebrating my 90th birthday. I am blessed with good health. Happy New Year to all.

Sincerely,
June Sweeney

PASTORAL VISITATIONS

If you would like a visit from Pastor Evan, 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.

Thank You!

To Dean Tshudy, who volunteers and faithfully shovels and salts the church and parsonage sidewalks and back parking area.

~ Food Pantry Volunteers, who faithfully volunteer on this very important mission to the community.

Mike Bullis
Paul Heiney
Pete Jackson
Martha Linbo-Terhaar
Faith & Mike Hann
Carolann & Mark Ficarra
Nancy Brown

January 2022
Paint Day





**Family Ministries -
Holiday Break Bowling
December '21**



Happy Birthday February



*“Celebrate your birthday with gratitude, kindness, and compassion to give a good reason for your existence in this world.
Happy birthday !!!*

~ Invajy



- 1 Nancy Lovering
Ryan Pensack
- 2 Rod Pensack
- 5 Thomas Hughes
Michelle Lauer
- 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

- 48 Years John Knerr
Sandra Knerr
- 29 Years Susan Cole
- 21 Years Jean Dubiel
Robert Farmer
Judith Farmer
Fran Oldehof
- 5 years Craig Hyson
Jennifer Hyson



The Missions Committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous donations towards our Alternative Christmas 2021. We raised \$1180.00 to present to Habitat for Humanity—Warren County Chapter.

We are still accepting donations towards Hurricane Ida relief fund. We are blessed to have such a giving church community.

Jan Lee & Paula Hilliard
Missions Co-chairs



SAVE the DATE!

BUMC Family Ministry is planning a trip to see a Lehigh Valley Phantoms hockey game on February 20. Cost of the tickets is \$23 each. Look for a sign-up sheet in November.



COVID-19 precautions: At this time, we are not mandating masks for vaccinated worshippers. All unvaccinated worshippers, including children, are asked to continue wearing a face mask, which are available before you enter the sanctuary. We also ask you use the touchless hand sanitizer station before entering. The balcony is available for worshippers who would like to observe stricter social distancing. Please be aware that Pastor Evan stays in contact with the county offices, and should there be any need to revise our plans we shall do so immediately. The health and safety of all is of the utmost importance to us. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office and someone will get back to you!

Note: This will be for when we return to in-person worship.

Praying you are well. I spoke to Dennis Riley recently I know that case numbers are going up significantly in Warren County, and I wanted to touch base with him and see if he had any recommendations for us. Here is a short summary:

- Yes, cases are increasing, and they are predominantly among the unvaccinated. He said that vaccination and reminding people of the efficacy of the booster after 6 months of the original vaccine is the best way to prevent illness.
- He said that the way we are holding our worship service is fine, and to remind unvaccinated folks to wear a face covering and to keep the balcony free for folks who need to distance, etc.
- He **did recommend that we suspend coffee fellowship time for now**. Since that is a time when many people are in a close space talking and breathing shared air in a way that they are not in the sanctuary during worship, it makes sense to suspend for the time being and re-evaluate in January.

There is no omicron in Warren County yet, and initial data shows the vaccine/booster does have efficacy in preventing serious illness from omicron.

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.

Our current donation needs are: razors (men & women), paper towels, conditioner, liquid hand soap, dish soap, small bottles of laundry detergent, ketchup, tea bags, hot chocolate, sugar 16oz, canned pasta meals, pretzels (8oz), potato chips(8oz), hearty soups, spam, canned pasta meals and canned chili. Also if you are unable to make it to the store but would still like to help, we also accept monetary donations (please make checks payable to the Belvidere Food Pantry). We again thank you for all of your very generous donations as they have been wonderful in helping us to help others!! We would also like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers who work so hard all week to make the pantry continue.

Brownie Troop 90256 is sponsoring a Birthday Bag Drive To benefit the Belvidere Food Pantry

Help the troop collect birthday supplies to make kits for our community! Items Needed: Cake mixes, Frosting and Cake Decorations, Vegetable Oil, Candles, Party decorations like streamers, banner, etc., Paper Plates, Napkins and silverware, Balloons, Noisemakers, Blank Birthday Cards, Favors like bubbles, necklaces, etc. A collection box will be located in fellowship hall from January 17th to February 14th.

CHICKEN BBQ



On Sunday 3/14 from 3-4:30 Good Will Fire Co. is having a chicken BBQ take out dinner.

ADVANCED TICKET SALES ONLY. Available at Food Mart or Monday Nights 6:30 pm see any firefighter. Facebook Messenger Michelle Hosterman or contact via cell 908-619-4806!

15.00 per dinner includes 1/2 BBQ chicken, potato, vegetable, coleslaw, roll, & dessert. Pick up starts 3 PM; ends at 4:30 PM.

Dates to Remember

February

Each **Friday** (unless otherwise noted) 9:30-11:30 Food Pantry. **Social distancing and wearing masks is MANDATORY when delivering donations or receiving food.**

Feb. 2 (Wed.) 8:30 AM Daily Devotional online

Feb. 2 (Wed.) 5 PM Food Pantry

Feb 4 (Fri.) 8 PM NA Support Group

Feb. 5 (Sat.) 10 AM AA Support Group

Feb. 6 (Sun.) 10 AM Worship Service with Communion

Feb. 8 (Tues.) 8 PM AA Support Group

Feb. 9 (Wed.) 8:30 AM Daily Devotional online

Feb. 9 (Wed.) 5 PM Food Pantry

Feb. 11 (Fri.) 8 PM NA Support Group

Feb. 12 (Sat.) 10 AM AA Support Group

Feb. 13 (Sun.) 10 AM Worship Service /

Feb. 13 (Sun.) Hoagie pickup

Feb. 15 (Tues.) 8 PM AA Support Group

Feb. 16 (Wed.) 8:30 AM Daily Devotional online

Feb. 16 (Wed.) 5 PM Food Pantry

Feb. 18 (Fri.) 8 PM NA Support Group

Feb. 19 (Sat.) 10 AM AA Support Group

Feb. 20 (Sun.) 10 AM Worship Service

Feb. 22 (Tues.) 8 PM AA Support Group

Feb. 23 (Wed.) 8:30 AM Daily Devotional online

Feb. 23 (Wed.) 5 PM Food Pantry

Feb. 24 (Fri.) 8 PM NA Support Group

Feb. 25 (Sat.) 10 AM AA Support Group

Feb. 27 (Sun.) 10 AM Worship Service

Feb. 27 (Sun.) Krispy Kreme delivery



Holy Humor





February 6, 2022

5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)
 Psalm 138 (UMH 853)
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 Luke 5:1-11

February 13, 2022

6th Sunday after the Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10
 Psalm 1 (UMH 738)
 1 Corinthians 15:12-20
 Luke 6:17-26

Scouting Ministries Sunday

February 20, 2022

7th Sunday after the Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 (UMH 772)
 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
 Luke 6:27-38

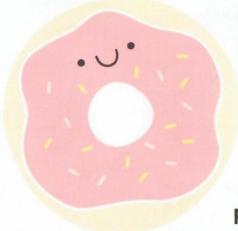
February 27, 2022

Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 34:29-35
 Psalm 99 (UMH 819)
 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
 Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

Belvidere United Methodist Church

KRISPY KREME DONUT SALE



\$9 Dozen
Original Glazed

\$8 Half Dozen
Chocolate Frosted, Raspberry Filled,
Kreme Filled, and Lemon Filled

12oz. Bagged Coffee \$10
Dark Roast, House Blend
or House Blend Decaf

Please write checks out to: **BUMC**
Orders/Payment Due: 2/22
Pickup: 2/27 at BUMC from 11-12pm

Our **Annual Krispy Kreme Donut Sale** has begun!

Look for order forms on the church website, Facebook page or on the table outside the fellowship hall. Orders and payment are due by February 20. Delivery is February 27 just in time for Fasnacht Day and the beginning of Lent! Contact Debbie Perelli at 610-905-8409 with any questions. *This year's proceeds will help defray the cost of the recent elevator repair.* Thank you for your continued support.

The 2021 Contribution Statements have been mailed out. If anyone would like to have theirs emailed, please contact Donna Paradise directly at paradises117@gmail.com.



Presents ...

Dinner and Comedy

Live * Laugh * Love

Live: It's time to gather! Meet with friends and share a meal.

Laugh: Enjoy the comedy of Sue Duffield, Singer, Songwriter and Humorist from Nashville, TN.

Love: February is the month of love. Grab someone you love and join us for an evening of fun. Welcome All.

Saturday, February 19, 2022

Time: 5:00 PM

Held at "The Chapel"

384 Route 57 West
Washington, NJ 07882

Cost: \$15.00 Per Person

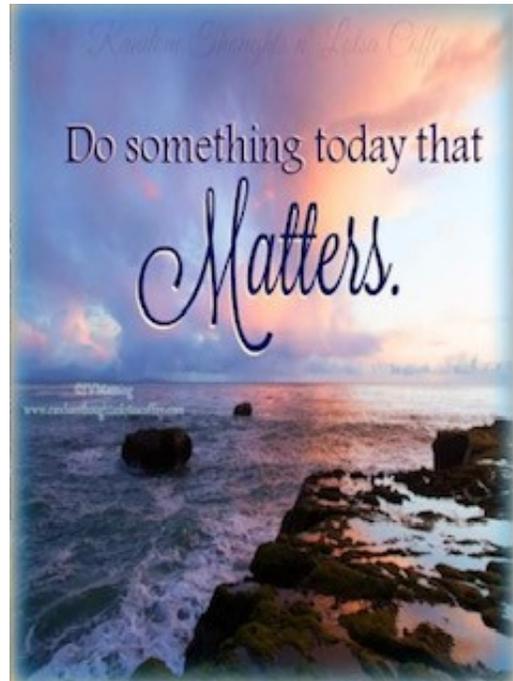
Payment options: Venmo @Jewell-Utt-1

Communityblend.org (for PayPal)

Or Call: 908.758.5787 or 908.310.0116

Register early - Seating is limited

♥ Please be our guest if you cannot afford the cost ♥



SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

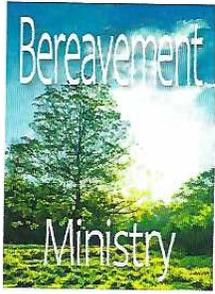
- (1). Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
- (2). When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
- (3). Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.
- (4). We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
- (5). We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.
- (6). On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.' That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember - Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!!



United Methodist
will be sponsoring
Fellowship Hour
on February 13

(contingent on COVID safety). UMW will be inviting organizations to which it sends donations to come and present what their missions are and their accomplishments in the recent past. Come enjoy refreshments and learn about/ ask questions of the leaders of groups such as Habitat for Humanity, Family Promise, and Rolling Thunder.



Journey Through Grief

When we lose a loved one, our world changes forever and we are overwhelmed with sadness, loneliness, fear and perhaps anger.

The mission of the Bereavement Ministry is to help those who grieve find that there is life after loss. "Journey Through Grief" is an invitation to come together to find ways to go on living and healing, and to discover paths toward peace.

Feb. 23rd April 13th

The Bereavement Group will be offered as a series, for eight consecutive weeks from 6:30-7:30pm. We will meet in the St. Patrick Hall addition, known as "The Little White House" it is located at 327 Greenwich St. Belvidere, NJ. The Meeting House can be seen straight ahead on the right as you pull into the parking lot behind St. Patrick Church.

We welcome anyone who is grieving to join us, irrespective of religious beliefs.

Please register and call Peter Lombardi with any questions (973) 722-2611

Please complete this registration form and email Peter Lombardi at plombardijeweler@gmail.com or drop registration form off at the parish office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Deceased Name: _____ Date of Death: _____

_____ Spouse _____ Child _____ Relative

_____ Parent _____ Friend

_____ Sibling _____ Companion

You've been hearing about these free tests, this is where you can sign up to receive them:

Get free at-home COVID-19 tests.

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order #4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are completely free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days.

<https://www.covidtests.gov>

Get free at-home COVID-19 tests

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order #44 free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are completely free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days.

ABOUT THE AT-HOME COVID-19 TESTS

The tests available for order:

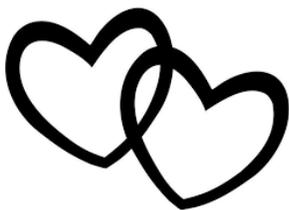
- Are rapid antigen at-home tests, not PCR
- Can be taken anywhere
- Give results within 30 minutes (no lab drop-off required)
- Work whether or not you have COVID-19 symptoms
- Work whether or not you are up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines
- Are also referred to self-tests or over-the-counter (OTC) test

Order your tests now so you have them when you need them. Go to link above for further information and to order your free tests.

**Attention
Please!**



The United Methodist Women in Washington NJ has invited us to join them in their first 2022 program on February 6th at 12:30 p.m. The program can be attended in person or via ZOOM and will be a presentation discussion about their Deaconess and Home Missioner Program in NJ. The address of the church is: 116 East Washington Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882. For Zoom info, see email from Rose Haller.



*Remember that there is no happiness in having or in getting,
but only in giving. Reach out. Share. Smile. Hug.*

AT COUNTY LIBRARY - APPOINTMENT NEEDED

FREE TAX PREPARATION

No fees. No gimmicks. No contact. No problem!

United Way of Northern New Jersey and its partners have launched a FREE and SECURE online tax preparation site for low- and moderate-income households. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, our **IRS-certified tax preparers** are committed to safely delivering our signature top-notch preparation and filing service to maximize your tax refund.

Tax Filing Opens February 1, 2022

Visit uwnnj.org/freetaxprep to access everything you need:

- ✓ Easy-to-use, secure online tax portal
- ✓ Checklist for documents to upload
- ✓ Answers to frequently asked questions
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- ✓ Access to free self-filing software

OUR RESULTS

6,000+ returns filed annually

\$6.6 million in tax refunds annually

98% return acceptance rate

7-to-10 day return completion

For questions or if you need additional assistance, email UnitedWayTaxPrep@UnitedWayNNJ.org or call 973.993.1160, x521.





CLOTHING DRIVE

to benefit the
Missions of the United Methodist Church

Drop off through the end of 2022

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



Here is GOOD NEWS from
the United Methodist Global Aids Committee January 2022 Newsletter



Researchers at UCLA are closer than ever to finding a possible cure for HIV, which attacks the body's immune system.

In a recent study, scientists were able to eradicate HIV in 40 percent of HIV-infected mice.

Globally, 38 million people are currently living with HIV, and an estimated 36 million have died of HIV-related diseases since the 1980s.

Researchers at UCLA have inched closer to finding a cure for human immunodeficiency virus by targeting infected cells that could be lying dormant in the body.

In a study published in the journal Nature Communications this week, researchers improved upon a method originally developed in 2017 to kill hidden HIV-infected cells using cells that are naturally produced by the body's immune system.

The advance brings scientists one step closer to control or even eradicate the virus, which attacks the body's immune system.

"These findings show proof-of-concept for a therapeutic strategy to potentially eliminate HIV from the body, a task that had been nearly insurmountable for many years," Jocelyn Kim, the study's lead author, said in a press release. "The study opens a new paradigm for a possible HIV cure in the future."

*"Where there is love in the heart,
there is joy in the home."*

-Unknown

Over the last few months, I've been reflecting on how the Mission of the United Methodist Church, "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," connects to our works of justice here at Church and Society. Reflecting on my experience growing up in the United Methodist Church, I have heard our Mission cited regularly, as it should be; however, I have realized that it's most often referenced in our acts of charity and service. I've always tended to focus on the action-oriented part of our Mission, "to make disciples." I have begun to wonder more about the implications of the second half of our Mission, "the transformation of the world," and how that changes our perception of the way we should live out our faith in our social lives. Is this "transformation" just an end goal we are striving toward or is it a simultaneous action we are called to engage in?

As I reflected on this question, I was reminded of two very similar quotes, one from Frederick Buechner and the other from Martin Luther King Jr. Buechner says in his book *Whistling in the Dark*, that "peace is not the absence of struggle, but the presence of love." Buechner wrote this in contrast to MLK's famous line from his book *Stride Toward Freedom*, "True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice." These two similar quotes differ in very important ways. It raises the question in my mind, what leads to peace? Is it the presence of love or justice?

I believe that the Mission of the United Methodist Church testifies that we must have both the presence of love and justice, not one or the other, in order to truly experience peace. We are called to "make disciples of Jesus Christ," and do so by sharing the love and grace of God abundantly with everyone we meet, ushering in the presence of love in the midst of struggle. We are also called to engage in "the transformation of the world," through engaging in the struggle toward justice in our society. "The transformation of the world" is not just a variable of our Mission that is outside of our control, it is a simultaneous calling to meet the many great injustices we see in our world today with acts of justice. The Mission of our United Methodist Church calls us to live out our callings through acts of love and justice simultaneously in order to fulfill it.

by Wyatt Robinson

RECIPE FOR HAPPINESS

Given to me by my mom in 1961, Carol Conley

- Take:
- 2 Heaping cups of Patience
 - 1 Heart full of Love
 - 2 Hands full of Generosity
 - 1 Dash of Laughter
 - 1 Head full of Understanding

Sprinkle generously with kindness..

Add plenty of Faith, and mix well.

Spread over a period of a lifetime – AND SERVE
EVERYBODY YOU MEET!

