



THE MESSENGER



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TOMS RIVER
FEBRUARY 2012

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
11am
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

Pastor's Page

A Prayer For This Season In Our Life And World:

O Lord, I ponder days when no sun shines and the clouds are dark and heavy overhead, when the flowers are dead and the trees are stripped bare by the wind.

Can I rejoice still and be glad?

I would rejoice, not with that surface joy that sometimes overlies my true feelings, but with deep-down joy that throbs through life in spite of pain.

I would be glad, not with the easy gladness of frivolity and mirth, but with the depth of gladness that rises at the heart of life.

For Life, I know, moves along different ways for each of us.

Each of us knows times of exultation when life seems good and rich.

Each of us knows days of uncertainty when life seems to wobble and weave along an unmarked way.

We have lost the sun and we are

chilled and anxious.

Those too are days of which we may say, "This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad..." Let me rejoice and be glad. For I am aware, O God, that you have given me life in a world

I cannot always manage. I cannot control events and circumstances, nor can I escape involvement in human hurt and pain. I cannot ward off illness and suffering either from my own life or from the lives of those I love. But I can rejoice that each day brings the marks of your Presence. I can be glad that nowhere is outside the circle of your care.

So keep me living, O Lord, not lopsidedly, but wholly. Keep me alive to your Presence in our world everywhere. In your name and Spirit, help me to reach out hands of help and hope to others. This is the day you have made, this day and tomorrow and tomorrow.

Let me rejoice and be glad in them all. Amen

Bruce



- Inside this issue...
- ❖ Stewardship Report
 - ❖ Upcoming Youth Events

- ❖ Mission/Outreach News
- ❖ Advent / Christmas Happenings
- ❖ Eagle Ridge Golf Club - New View Value



When the Money Doesn't Come Does the Ministry Still Happen?

Ministry can happen just about anywhere. Whenever someone encounters the Lord Jesus Christ, whether it's through music, compassionate service from a brother or sister in Christ or a visit from the Pastor, ministry can happen in all kinds of places. This is especially important to remember in difficult financial times!

Over the last few months the youth ministry has had to make some tough decisions regarding our programming. A major reduction in our financial support from the church this year has meant our yearly mission trip with the UMARMY will not happen this summer. The youth group, though, instead of seeing this as an outright failure, has embraced this change as an opportunity to do a different kind of ministry! Our youth council gathered in October to discuss what this change would mean for our group and they have made their choice. The youth group of First United Methodist Church will be doing *local mission work* in the summer of 2012! We hope to get some other local churches to join us in this effort. We'll do a week of projects in the Toms River area, especially with Habitat for Humanity, a group we've worked with for the last several years. We'll also try and find some other organizations we can partner with that will help make our week of local projects truly worthwhile.

Even though this year will be very different from the last few years of mission trips, I think it's really important to recognize that different doesn't mean 'less,' and different doesn't mean 'not as good.' This new project is full of potential. It could literally be anything we want it to be. It's also important to recognize how much help and support we will need from our home church in order to pull this off! We'll need several adult volunteers to help with transportation, making meals, assisting with the work of our young people and keeping our youth safe. Even small contributions can make an enormous difference for both our young people and those in our community. Who knows, maybe you will help one of our young people encounter the Lord this summer! Or, maybe you will encounter the Lord through the blessing of our youth group...

I encourage you to keep an open mind about what ministry looks like. As important as the finances of the church are, making ministry happen in our church doesn't have to cost a lot of money. The cost of ministry is in the time and dedication spent by the people of God to see others encounter the Lord Jesus Christ. So come support our youth group by joining us for our spaghetti dinner fundraiser on February 12th. Come support our church ministry by giving of your tithes and offerings to the Lord. But don't forget that ministry is about much more than money. It's about making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Let's make sure that is happening in every part of our church and in every part of our lives. Amen!

Brian Neville, Assistant Pastor



Youth Events:

February 5th Superbowl Party at 101 Walchest Drive 6pm

February 12th – Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser 5pm

March 23rd-25th IMPACT retreat (Senior High)



The Youth Group would like to thank all of you who purchased mums at our first ever mum sale. It was quite a success.. We raised over \$300.00 towards our mission trip. We hope to be back again next year.

OUR FEBRUARY STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Thanking God with our Tithes and Offerings

As we begin the New Year let us look and see how we are doing in terms of Estimate of Giving Cards received. The chart below shows a two-year comparison of the total amount of cards submitted as of January 13th:

	<u>FOR 2011</u>	<u>FOR 2012</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
MINISTRY	245,501	248,684	3,183
# OF CARDS	168	152	-16
AVERAGE PER CARD	1,461	1,636	175
MAINT. & REPAIRS	36,354	48,677	12,323
# OF CARDS	78	92	14
AVERAGE PER CARD	466	529	63
NEW BUILDING FUND	61,478	62,005	527
# OF CARDS	83	87	4
AVERAGE PER CARD	741	713	-28
GRAND TOTAL	343,333	359,366	16,033

As you can see from the chart above, the total amount submitted on the Estimate of Giving Cards for 2012 is greater than the year before. Hopefully this total will climb even higher as we approach a final tally of these cards in early February.

For those who have submitted their Estimate of Giving Card we say thank you for your steadfast stewardship toward the ministry of First United Methodist Church. Your willingness to submit this card in the face of very difficult financial times is a true demonstration of your faithfulness. Without your financial support, our mission work is simply not possible.

Once we believe all the cards are in, a listing of those who have pledged (name but not dollar amount) will be published in either the Messenger or the Sunday Bulletin.

For those who have not yet submitted a card, there is still time to do so. Submit the card and be part of the winning team that supports the over 40 ministries carried out through the mission work of First Church.





OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Important Information

A Holiday-ific Thank You goes out to all the congregants who donated gifts and gift certificates to the Hope Centers program to provide a "Christmas" for the needy children of Ocean County. Over 250 Gifts and 29 Gift Certificates were donated to the program which allowed the Center to provide gifts for over **400 children**. Both the gifts donated by the FUMC congregation and the number of children who received gifts are record totals. We can all have a warm feeling that we made many children's Christmas "Merry and Bright" and that, as a congregation, we followed scripture found in Matthew 25. "God Bless Us, Everyone!"

Secondly, "Thank You's" go out to the congregation for supporting "Harvest Home Sunday" in November and "Fruit Baskets for Shut-Ins" in December. A big thank you goes to those individuals that had the Joy of delivering the fruit baskets. The Harvest Home drive filled the pantries of the Hope Center and Jackson Baptist Church and the fruit baskets brought some "Joy to the World" of shut-ins who realize that someone cares.

A CORRECTION:

Last month we reported that there were 246 shoeboxes sent to Samaritan's Purse. Actually there were a few boxes that were given after our deadline. One of the nurses from Community Hospital spread the word and I found 2 bags of toys and socks at my doorstep. So we created a few more which brings our Grand total to 254 shoeboxes!!!! Thank you for all you do.

Simply Prayer

Due to circumstances that have developed over the past month, two members of the Simply Prayer team will no longer be able to serve. While we will certainly feel the loss of not having Jeff and Vivian Sayre offering prayers and encouragement to those who stop by, we welcome the opportunity to add new disciples to our little band of "prayer warriors." Joining our team does not necessarily mean you would have to be the person offering prayers...there are other roles that you could fill! If however you would like to pray with the guests who drive-in, a short (2-3 sessions) training course is available...and is taught by Heike Graef. Please consider joining us in this outreach mission of our church. The payback is HUGE!

If you would like to find out more about this opportunity for Christian stewardship, please see Linda Geran or Dave Correll.



Remember...inquiring does not obligate you to join us!!!

DO ALL YOU CAN
DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN,
BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN,
AT ALL THE TIMES YOU CAN,
TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN,
AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN.
-JOHN WESLEY



Don and Nancy Kaulback wrote: To The Congregation for their thoughts and prayers and response to Don's sudden collapse during church on January 1st. A Special THANK YOU to Brian and Linda for handling a difficult situation so well "Prayers are answered!"

Dot Vaughn wrote: I'd like to thank the pastors, members and friends of the church for their prayers, cards and calls during my recent spine surgery. The power of prayer is a wonderful healer, as I have experienced in the past and present. I have been blessed and am so grateful for the amazing recovery I am experiencing, thanks be to God! May He bless each of you in your special needs.

CHESTNUT HILL NURSERY SCHOOL

Happy New Year! Chestnut Hill is nestling in nicely for the winter! After a short Christmas break full of special family time a wonderful giving, we are back ready for more fun. A huge thank you to all the families who supported our Giving Tree for Children's Specialized Hospital. We were able to donate gifts for 21 children to open up on Christmas morning! Our children are working hard as we prepare for parent-teacher conferences to be held the first full week in February. We will be cutting and gluing to show our parents what fun we have learned at Chestnut Hill. The halls will be filling up with wonderful wintertime crafts. Our Valentine parties will be the perfect time to show just how much love we have to go around! Our sweet children have so much to share, they are truly wonderful. The month tops off with Open House February 21, 22, & 23rd. Please stop by the office to register, or call 732.286.9388 for information. Classes fill up quickly!



HAPPY NEW YEAR

We would like to THANK everyone who came out in December to decorate, then decorate again with flowers, then un-decorate. It's a big job but with so much help the jobs were much easier. Thank You. A special note of THANKS to Becky Lemasters for her helping with the watering of all the flowers.

Now that 2012 is here, the work does not stop. Right around the corner is Easter so keep a look out in the bulletin when we will need help with Easter flowers. Mark your calendars: February 22 is Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. Again THANK-YOU everyone for all your help and making our first year of Chairwomen of The Worship Committee a great one.

Michele Kanzler & Lorraine Abate

Adult Sunday School Class Begins the Study of Why Christianity Makes Sense

Do you wrestle with your faith?

Do you want to gain a closer walk with God?

You are invited to join us, as we study the book Simply Christian, by Bishop N. T. Wright. Week by week, Bishop Wright takes us through different "building blocks" of our faith. Topics of the ten-week course running through the end of February will deal with such issues as, Spirituality, Relationships, God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Worship and Prayer. A twenty-minute video for each lesson will be followed by discussion.

All are welcome, Sundays at 9:30AM in Room 4 (call Jeff Sayre, 732-961-0174 with questions).

TOMS RIVER FIRST CHURCH EIGHTEENTH FLORIDA REUNION

The date has been set for **Tuesday, March 13th, 2012 12:30PM** at Olivia Restaurant in Old Key West

Call Harold & Caroline Schmul for more information or to make reservations
(239) 437.8134

LENTEN STUDY

Pastor Quigley will be leading a Lenten Study on Adam Hamilton's book Final Words From The Cross. We will examine Christ's dying hours and his final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross. The study will be held on Wednesday evenings beginning February 29th, at 7pm in the Family Life Center. In order to ensure that enough books are on hand, please sign up NOW. There are signup sheets on the tables in the narthex and Family Life Center. You can also call the church office to register.



Doris Laib wrote: Thank you very much for your prayers, calls and cards that you sent to me while I was suffering with shingles. They were very uplifting and helped me have patience during this time. God bless you all.

Jill Metzler, Joyce, Andrew and Matthew Fullerton wrote: To our wonderful church family, we were so blessed to have your love and support during our mom's illness and passing. Whether it was just a card, hug or a few words of comfort, it meant the world to us. Our mom loved First United Church of Toms River and we're sure she's smiling down from above.



LET LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS
NEVER LEAVE YOU;
 BIND THEM AROUND YOUR NECK,
 WRITE THEM ON THE TABLET OF
YOUR HEART.



For I know the
Plans
I have for you,
 DECLARES THE LORD
Plans for
Hope and a Future.
 Jer. 29:11



Whatever you do,
 do your work heartily,
 as for the Lord
 rather than for men,

knowing that
 from the Lord
 you will receive
 the reward
 of the inheritance.

It is the Lord Christ
 Whom you serve.

Work from
 the heart

For God!



MEMORIALS RECEIVED SINCE LAST MESSENGER

TO CURRENT EXPENSES

In memory of husband, John, and son, Edwin
by Antoinette Frank

TO PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of wife, Edna Comp
by Don Comp



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.

ROBERT H. KELM

joined FUMCTR 02.19.84 died 11.21.11



SARAH KATHERINE

daughter of Darrell & Bonnie Hendricks 11.27.11

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.



Faith

Hope

Love

"Constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 1:3).



Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

(Traditional)

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

SONG OF THE MONTH

Hallelujah, Your Love Is Amazing

by [Brian Doerksen](#) (Contemporary)

VERSE:

Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging
Your love is a mountain, firm beneath my feet
Your love is a mystery, how You gently lift me
When I am surrounded, Your love carries me

CHORUS:

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Your love makes me sing
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Your love makes me sing

VERSE:

Your love is surprising, I can feel it rising
All the joy that's growing deep inside of me
Every time I see You, all Your goodness shines
through and I can feel this God song,
rising up in me



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129 Chestnut Street
Toms River, NJ 08753

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FUMCTR Staff:

Bruce E. Quigley, Senior Pastor
Brian Neville, Associate Pastor
Frederick S. Richardett, Pastor of Visitation
Linda J. Hendrickson, Director of Music
Carl W. Halvorsen, Pastor Emeritus
Dr. Harold E. Schmul II, Pastor Emeritus
Linda Cottrell, Lay Leader
Judy Iovino, Administrative Assistant
Kimberly Dillon, Nursery School Director

The Messenger is posted monthly on the
FUMCTR website @ www.fumctr.org

**Deadline for the March issue of
The Messenger is February 10, 2012.**

*The Messenger is published by
FUMC Toms River.*

*Publisher: Terry Waterhouse
(happycaterer2002@yahoo.com)*

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Copy: Michele Kanzler

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George & Dolores Fredrichs, Martin & Janice
Moen, Fred Muller & Members of Sarah Circle*

*Eagle Ridge Golf Club and The View Restaurant are proud to support
The Messenger and all the charitable outreach programs of
First United Methodist Church of Toms River.*



**All for \$14.95
per person**
plus tax & gratuity

NEW

The View Value

Thursdays - Saturdays 4pm - 8pm

Choice of Soup or Salad
Choice of 3 Entrees
Choice of Dessert


EAGLE RIDGE
GOLF CLUB

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