

The United Methodist Church of Red Bank 247 Broad Street, Red Bank, NJ 07701 732-747-0446 Fax: 732-530-5715 www.umcredbank.org

THE OUTLOOK

"A Church with open doors, empowered by God's love to be a Christ-like community, reaching out in ministry and service."

March 2016



Worship Opportunities

March 20 - Palm/Passion Sunday 8:30 am worship in Chapel and 10:30 am worship in Sanctuary 9:30 Palm Parade with a donkey (meet on the front lawn)

> Wednesday, March 23 - Holy Week Service 7pm in Sanctuary

March 24 - Maundy Thursday Seder 6:30 pm at Embury UMC in Little Silver

March 25 - *Good Friday Service* 7 pm at Christ Church in Fair Haven

March 27 – Easter Sunday Sunrise service – 6:30 am on Sea Bright beach (behind the Recreation Center, 1167 Ocean Ave., Sea Bright. Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn at 9 am sharp Easter celebration at 9:30 am in Sanctuary Easter 2016

Dear Church Family,

Lent is a season to journey deep with God – to lay our hearts open, to be honest about what we are struggling with, where we have messed up and, and our hopes for tomorrow. It is my prayer that through this season, whether you have chosen to take on a spiritual discipline, give something up, or simply open yourself to the journey as it unfolds, we may all grow in our faith. That our love of God may be nourished and strengthened for the road ahead. I invite you to pray this prayer of confession, and journey deep, asking Christ to lead you to the cross, and meet you there.

Forgive those things we have done which have caused you sadness, and those things we should have done that would have brought you joy. In both we have failed ourselves, and you. Bring us back to that place where our journey began, when we said that we would follow the way that you first trod. Lead us to the cross and meet us there. Amen.¹

We hope that you will join us for any or all of our Holy Week services.

Please feel free to invite a friend!

Peace along the journey,

1 Lenten prayer: <u>http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers</u> Lent.htm#ixzz40tixpCe0



What a winter! One day it's 2 degrees and the next it's 52. Then we get almost two feet of snow and the next day the rain starts washing it away. What a metaphor for the ups and downs of life in general. Through it all we long for the joys of new life promised by Spring.

Our experience in the church parallels this. The events of Jesus' life during the period we currently observe and call Lent recollect a downward spiral of events culminating in Our Lord's crucifixion and death. Followed by our exuberant joy at His resurrection and new life.

We symbolically re-create the New Life by filling the church with flowers on Easter Day. This letter comes to provide the opportunity for you to contribute to our affirmation of joy. We will decorate with a glorious combination of lilies, daffodils, hyacinths, tulips – Spring resurrection flowers. Sign up below to share the joy of the season in honor of, memory of, celebration of someone you love, or just to share your love of beauty. Flowers are available for \$20 each. Your name and the intention of your donation will be listed in an insert in Easter Day's worship bulletin.

Orders should be submitted to Sheila in the church office by March 14th. Fill out the form below and return it with your check in the appropriate amount. Forms and checks may be placed in the offering plate or dropped in the mail slot in Sheila's office door.

I/We would like to give a gift of \$_____ (at \$20 per plant)

In honor of:

In memory of:

In celebration of:

Given by:

Attached is a check for \$_____.

United Methodist Women = UMW.....Linda Babler Mission projects every month come join us !



Can you help? During our 2nd Sunday Seminar in February, we learned about Human Trafficking here in NJ from Keyla Munoz, Victim Specialist for the Newark Division of the FBI. She works with and helps young ladies (in particular) as well as young men that have been trafficked. Her work with these young people, it came to our attention that Keyla is need of some items. Here is the note she posted to me indicating what would be the most helpful.

"Hi Linda, thank you so much for the message. I apologize for the delayed response but I have been on the road covering the entire state is tough. I went through my stash of items for victims. I am good with toiletries. I am more in need of clothing, T-shirts (new), sweat pants or tights, food cards to fast food restaurants, gift cards to Target or Walmart or cash. We have been stocked by a few other agencies and would rather have the things that we don't receive much of. Thank you for your support. Have a great week. Keyla"

UMW of Red Bank and Outreach Committee of UMC would like to contribute to this project **during the month of March during Lent**. We will have a table for collecting items, gift cards and food cards **every Sunday beginning March 6th through Easter Sunday March 27th**. Anything you can give will be greatly appreciated. Make this part of your Lenten Experience this year!

Book Club - Meets every 4th Tuesday of the Month - The next meeting will be March 22nd at 7:15 pm in the Library. Our book for March is: **"The Miniaturist" by Jessie Burton**

<u>Saturday – April 30th</u> – Women's retreat – 9 – 3pm – A day out at our church, breakfast and lunch provided, Cost \$5.00. Registration forms are available Baby sitting available upon request. Rev Jessica Naulty will be our facilitator for the day. Mark your calendar more details to follow.

Back by Popular Demand...Women's Spiritual Day Apart! Stay tuned for more information.

UMW Red Bank Unit 2016 Emphasis: We will be looking for some volunteers to help with this endeavor for the upcoming months of **April, June, August, October and December.** It may not seem like much, but it really helps Lunch Break. UMW provides the food, and the volunteers to serve on the first Saturday of the months listed above. Any leftover food stays with Lunch Break to help with providing breakfast on the next Monday

Volunteer for April 2nd, we need 4/5 people. We will be cooking a hot breakfast for the clients. If you can lend a hand prior to Friday let us know, we need at least 3 cooks/ servers and 2/3 dishwashers on Saturday. It may not seem like much but it really helps Lunch Break. UMW provides the food, and the volunteers on the first Saturday of the months listed above. Any leftover food stays with Lunch Break to help with providing breakfast on the next Monday. If you can help, call or email Linda Babler @ 732-741-1793 or LSBABLER@AOL.COM

Reminder: Mission Team Meeting on March 28th, 1 pm in room 107.

Craft Group will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 11am in Fellowship Hall. On March 9th and 23rd, bring your lunch and come join the fellowship. The profit from the cards helps UMW meet its National pledge and community commitments.

Susanna Circle We will be meeting on **Tuesday, March 1st.** If you think you might like to join us – just come on out. We will be meeting at Linda Babler's home (387 Oak Hill Rd, in Middletown) at 6:30pm. We will be working on our craft ideas for the 2016 Bazaar. Never too early to start thinking! Everyone is welcome.

Red Bank UMW supports a **Prayer Shawl ministry** here at the church. We will be meeting in March 8th at 6:30 in the room 211 and on March 19th and 26th at 10 am in the lounge. Come join us – the next dedication of prayer shawls will be in May. So there is lots of time still to finish a prayer shawl.

March 5th – District UMW LEADERSHIP DAY – will be held at Red Bank UMC – 9 am-12 pm, with a Continental Breakfast provided. This event is sponsored by the Northern Shore District UMW. It is training for all local unit officers of UMW of the Northern Shore District. If you would like to help with the breakfast please let Linda Babler know.

Conference UMW Spring Meeting - April 2, 2016 will be held at Beverly UMC in Beverly, NJ, from 9:30 am- 2:30 pm. The **theme is "Immigration" and** Keynote speaker is Ester Morales. Ingathering: Items needed by Detainees, more details to follow.

Scholastic Assistance....Barbara Guenther

Your "Irish eyes" will be smiling when you sample the "best corned beef in town!" at the Scholastic Assistance Committee's annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner —to be held on, Saturday, March 12th from 4:30—6:30 pm. As usual, you can become a Patron and receive complimentary tickets or you can purchase tickets at \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children. Hope to see you there! Please sign the poster in fellowship hall if you can help with setting-up, peeling, serving, clean-up, or donating a cake. We appreciate any time and help you are able to give.

Reconciling Committee...Bobbie McArdle

We'll be showing the movie "An Act of Love" on Sunday, March 6 at 3 pm. Come see the story of a father, a son, a movement-and hear how one act can make a difference in the movement toward inclusion in the United Methodist Church. The screening will be following by a discussion with guests Rev. Gil Caldwell and Dr. Dorothee Benz, both pioneers in justice!

Remember to send in your letter to our delegates through the It's Time campaign. The link is http://www.rmnetwork.org/newrmn/itstime/ If you need help, we will have laptops available on March 6 and March 13 and folks ready to assist. Any questions contact Bobbie at 732-618-8218 or reconciling@umcredbank.org.

The Reconciling Committee will be sending a representative from our congregation to help support Reconciling Ministries and the Love Your Neighbor Coalition (<u>http://www.lyncoalition.org/vision-for-umc/</u>) at General Conference in their efforts to create change in current discriminatory policies against LGBTQ persons, racial/ethnic minorities, and disabled persons. LYNC is also working to promote environmental responsibility in the United Methodist Church. General Conference is in May in Portland, Oregon, so we need your help! We need to raise \$900.00 to pay for Diana Pearce's hotel room. Her flight has been donated. Please see Elaine Dawson if you'd like to help or give your donation to Sheila Leavitt our Church Secretary.

HUBOB....Marion Kleiner

DID YOU KNOW? There is a table set up in Fellowship Hall every Sunday morning and you can stop by to purchase **food cards** in the amount of \$25.00 for ShopRite and Foodtown. They work just like a credit card: you get full dollar value and the church receives a rebate from the store. You can donate them to Lunch Break or The Back Pack Crew. You can give them as gifts for a birthday, a get-well or a hostess gift. Or you can use them to do your family menu shopping. You can keep one in your pocket for that last minute trip to the store on the way home when you only need a couple of items. Every card can make a difference.

REMEMBER: IT'S ALWAYS TIME TO HUBOB! (Help Us Balance Our Budget)

Outreach....Barbara Valenti

When disaster strikes, the **United Methodist Committee of Relief (UMCOR)** is there to provide critical disaster relief. For more than 75 years, UMCOR has provided disaster relief, often long after others have left the scene. UMCOR has aided refugees and confronted the crippling challenges of world hunger and poverty. However, UMCOR simply cannot do it without us.

Unlike other benevolent causes, UMCOR does not receive any funds from the regular United Methodist Church budget. Our generous gifts help cover the agency's administrative costs so UMCOR can continue to guarantee that 100 percent of all other donations go toward specific relief projects. Examples are many — rebuilding after the Haiti earthquake, Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, Hurricane Katrina, Superstorm Sandy and many other disasters.

One Great Hour of Sharing allows UMCOR and The United Methodist Church to respond immediately when disaster strikes. Think of UMCOR as our "Go Team" who can be there when help is needed.

Please prayerfully consider how God would have you join us in cheerfully and generously showing God's love around the world with your gifts. There will be enveloped inserted in the 6 March bulletin to collect for UMCOR under the title "One Great Hour of Sharing".

Second Sunday Seminar....Jim Mellon

What is Common Core? The PARCC? What about Charter Schools? How do our schools really rank with the rest of the world? Join us for our **Second Sunday Seminar on March 13th at 12 pm** as we discuss these topics and more as we look at American education today. Contact Jim Mellon (jim.mellon@verizon.net or 732-647-5744).

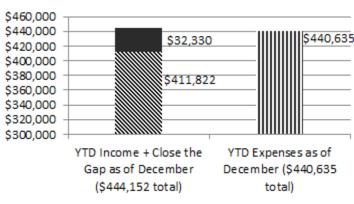
Change the World!....Jim Mellon

Want to MAKE a DIFFERENCE in this world? Join the team (all are welcome) as we work to "**Change-the-World**" on **Saturday, May 14th, 2016.** We will have sign-ups in Fellowship Hall with specifics, but one of them is volunteering to work at a Habitat House. Block out May 14th on your calendar and get ready to change the world! Contact Jim Mellon (jim.mellon@verizon.net or 732-647-5744)

Year End Financial Report for 2015

Thanks to the generosity and support of our Church Family, we were able to "Close the Gap" in 2015. Our "Close the Gap" campaign drew in \$32,330. In fact, at the close of 2015 our income was ahead of our expenses by \$3517. We are returning this money to the Endowment Fund, because we did borrow from the Endowment Fund in 2015 to help us meet cash flow requirements.

This kind of fiscal turn-around was possible only because of your prayers and the deep commitment and love so many share for the work of the United Methodist Church of Red Bank – work that reaches out into the neighborhood, across the state, the country, and around the world. Please pray for our Church, that we may continue to be financially stable, and able to be God's hands and feet in this world.



Giving vs Expenses 2015

God Squad...Greg Jansky and Jim Stonaker

The past couple of weeks has seen the culmination of two big fundraisers which help our mission team reach their goal of traveling this summer to work for Appalachia Service Project. First, the Spaghetti Dinner was another rousing success where we had much food, fun, and fellowship. Over \$2400 (less expenses) was brought in from the evening's activities. Secondly, the Second Annual Clothing drive finished in February as well, and this year we cleared \$600. There were A LOT of bags - see the church FaceBook page to see how high the bags were piled. God Squad thanks our church family for their support of these two fundraisers as it will allow us to be God's eyes and hands as we help to create warmer, dryer, safer environments.

This year the mission team will be traveling to Virginia, the actual site is to be determined. The team would not be able to get there without the support of the church; and for that we are grateful. We can't wait to tell our story when we get back.

Green Fair....Janie Schildge

Coming up after Easter - GREEN FAIR on Sunday, April 17th with continental breakfast at 9 with a program through 10:15am, and displays, games, and much more in Fellowship Hall until 12:30 pm. Invite your family and friends to join us to learn about electric cars, green cleaning for better health, where will we get water in future years, and much more. Milkweed seeds, tree seedlings and hope for a greener planet! Want to help? Please contact Janie Schildge at jschildge@optonline.net Thanks from the Green Team

Children's Ministries....Elaine Dawson



Mark your calendars! The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be at <u>9:00 am SHARP</u> on Easter morning, March 27th. <u>This year it will be in front of the church.</u> Meet us at the sanctuary door in the narthex at 9:00 am sharp to find some celebration Easter eggs on the front lawn. All those, 2 years old through 10 years old are invited. Call Elaine Dawson at 732-747-0446, ext. 11 with any questions. Don't be late as the hunt goes very quickly!! I need some adult and teenage help. Please let me know if you can help me?

Young Adult Group meets Wednesdays at 6:15 pm in room 108 to pack back packs for the Backpack Crew and at 7 pm for coffee and conversation in room 210. If you are 18-29 years of age join us! We just made 25 meals for the AIDS Center in Asbury Park and will be planning an outing to ESCAPE in Freehold.

VBS: June 27th-July 1st is our Vacation Bible School program. Reserve the week for the best adventure of your life! Join us from 9 am-12:30 pm if you are 4 years old through going into 6th grade. If you would like to help in leadership, please sign up to help the first day of registration on May 15th. The spaces for leadership filled up very quickly last year. Registration for this program begins May 15th for all VBS campers. We need adult help also, so please see Elaine Dawson if you can help.

Sunday School -The Sunday School will attend a Seder on March 6th to celebrate Jesus' last supper with his disciples. We will have a child friendly Passover supper during our Sunday School Time at the 10:30 am worship service. Join us at 9:30 am on Palm Sunday to take the walk into town to celebrate Jesus' walk into Jerusalem. **There will be no TEEN Sunday School on this Sunday.**

THERE WILL BE NO YOUTH GROUP ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 30TH FOR EASTER BREAK. The youth of the church wish their church family a happy and holy Easter.

Men's Fellowship....Jim Mellon

ATTENTION ALL MEN!! Join us for our Men's Fellowship. We will meet in Room 114, at **8 am on Saturday, March 5th!** Bring your favorite drink and breakfast item (and one to share!) and plan to share what's happening in your life (to whatever extent you're willing to share). We will discuss how to fully implement "Helping Hands". As a reminder, we have committed to a follow-up (to the meeting) with some work projects at the church. So come in work clothes!! John Walradt has a few projects for us.

Bring your ideas, your talents and your willingness to share into this fellowship. All are welcome, so, come join us in room 114, at the church on March 5th from 8 to 9:30 am, and, if possible, to work on church projects until 12:00 (noon).

Contact Jim Mellon (jim.mellon@verizon.net) or cell 732-647-5744.

Helping Hands

Need help? The Men's Fellowship of our church (UMC of Red Bank) have banned together to offer our help to those in need. If you need a ride (to the doctor or grocery store), or if you need assistance with

light jobs around the house, or if you simply need an extra hand, then call us. We are the Men's Fellowship and we are willingly volunteering our help where needed. We want you to know that you are in a loving, helping community. If you need help, contact Ken Glossbrenner (cell: 732-915-7884) or me, Jim Mellon (cell: 732-647-5744) or any church staff member.

Remember!! Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 13

Please bother us!!

Communication is crucial in letting us know when members of this congregation are hospitalized or ill. We would rather be told multiple times than to not know at all. So, let Pastor Naulty and Pastor Zito know, leave messages at church, or email us at <u>sleavitt@umcredbank.org</u>. Remember that hospitals no longer contact clergy when members are hospitalized.

Your Church Family would like to celebrate Birthdays, Weddings, Retirements, Anniversaries, Births and many more momentous occasions with you.

You can submit your celebrations to sleavitt@umcredbank.org or simply drop them in the office door mail slot



MEET UP

We have joined MEET UP <u>www.meetup.com</u> is a site that holds all the church's open scheduled events on a profile page so friends or new- comers can search for an event and be lead to us if interested. Now the Church has an additional way of getting our information out to others. Find "United Methodist Church of Red Bank" on MEET UP to start seeing events.

Congratulations to the Blake boys on their acceptance to "Rock It at the Basie" where Kenneth on the keyboard and William on the saxophone will practice for six weeks and then have a live performance on the main stage!

Could someone please nominate Eric Hacker's original play "I Suspect" at the First Avenue Play House for a Tony? Congratulations on the excellent performance and so well received!

In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

All those affected by natural and human-made disasters, economic conditions, famine, civil war and genocide, those serving our country, shut-ins, all who are ill in body and spirit, those struggling with illness and substance abuse. For and for strength and healing for all in the world who need it and for compassion and understanding in our relationships.