



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

“UMC Red Bank is a Church open to ALL to CONNECT with God and others, to GROW in our faith, and to SERVE in love.”

December 2019

Dear Church Family,

Advent is here and Christmas is near!!! As we journey through December, we often take on the harried pace of the season – rushing about from stores to parties, wrapping gifts and planning menus. Our attention is focused on the now, on what tasks need to be accomplished to ensure that everything gets done in time!

We come into this rush after just focusing in the month of November on approaching life with an attitude of gratitude. I invite you to carry that spirit of thanksgiving with you into December! To look at each opportunity and item on your checklist as something to give thanks for. As you cross things off, lift a prayer of thanks for that which you just accomplished, or the relationships and blessings in your life that they represent. And remember also that gratitude is not just a feeling, an emotion of thankfulness, but it is a way of life that inspires generosity. As you think about the gift exchanges that you will be a part of, think also about those for whom Christmas is a financial challenge for. If you are able, take an angel from the Angel Tree and bring back a gift for a stranger who needs a helping hand. We invite you also to keep in mind the alternative gift options available through Advent Options on Dec 8th and 15th by our Outreach Committee. These are gifts that keep on giving, offering hope and blessings for others to experience for years to come.

I pray that in the midst of this busy season, that you would be intentional about slowing down and reflecting on the heart of this holiday season. Join us in worship throughout Advent as we recall the Promises of Christmas that were made by the prophets, the angels, the wise men and shepherds, and how their fulfillment is still what makes this “the most wonderful time of the year.”



May you and yours have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Pastor Jess

Rev. Jessica B. Naulty

Director of Children & Youth Ministries

...Elaine Dawson

732-747-0446, ext 11, ed45yrs@aol.com



Advent is here and Christmas is near!!!!

On December 22nd all Sunday School classes will be having our group Christmas Party (Jesus' birthday party) after Children's Time at the 10:00 AM worship service. Our Youth Groups will also celebrate Jesus' birthday on Wednesday the 18th.

There is no Youth Group on December 25th and January 1st! We resume on January 8th at 6:00 sharp!

On December 29th at our one worship service at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall, we will have the blessing of the gifts during Children's Time. **Please have your child bring a gift they received for Christmas to this FUN service over breakfast.**

Our Family Christmas Eve service is at 5:00 PM on the 24th and all children present will be able to participate in the service. This service is perfect for families with excited children! We are all excited!

The youth and children of the church wish everyone a Holy Christmas and a Blessed New Year!



Featuring Daniel Pinkham's

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

(SINFONIA SACRA)

Along with readings and congregational hymns

December 15, 2019

7:00 pm

UMCRB Festival Choir and Brass

Evan Courtney, Director of Music

There will be a free will offering during the service

Music Opportunity

...Evan Courtney

ecourtney@umcredbank.org

Last Sundays Are All-Sing Sundays!

If you want to sing in the choir, but don't want to make a commitment to every Sunday, you can sing with us on the last Sunday of each month for the 10am service! Just come up to the balcony at 9am and helpful choir members will get you set up to sing! Contact Evan for more details.



*Join us each Sunday as we prepare
our hearts for Christmas*

8:15 am – Communion worship service in the Chapel
10:00 am – Traditional worship & Sunday school
11:30 am - The Village contemporary/progressive worship
Childcare available from 9:45 am - 11:15 pm



Church Flowers

...Sheila Leavitt

sleavitt@umcredbank.org

Dear Friends:

The lovely flowers we see on the altar with the variety of green leaves and bright colors remind us of God's beauty. What better way to lift our spirits and remember nature's beauty than to include some of that beauty in our church and worship.

This is your opportunity to contribute to the beautification of our church by donating flowers. You may designate flowers in memory of (IMO), in honor of (IHO), in celebration of (ICO) an individual or organization as you choose. Floral arrangements are available for \$45 each and you may subscribe for one or more arrangements. Your name and purpose of your donation will be listed in Sunday's bulletin. You may specify a particular Sunday or Sundays (for an anniversary, birthday or whatever) on a first-come, first-served basis. You may also choose to bring a "personal donation" of store-bought or garden flowers.



Please note we will only purchase flowers on Sundays that are subscribed and paid in advance; other Sundays provide the opportunity to show off our potted plants. Orders should be submitted to Sheila at your convenience anytime during the year.

Please fill write information on memo line of your check or attach a post-it with info.

United Methodist Women – UMW

..Linda Babler

732-741-1793, lsbabler@aol.com



United Methodist Women 150 Years in Mission

UMW Wishes everyone a healthy and a Merry Christmas!

UMW General Meeting—December 14th, 11—1 pm. room 114. Bring some small cookies to package up for our shut ins and join us for a provided lunch. Come celebrate the 2019 Woman of the Year. Bring an offering for World Thanks Day.

Book Club – No book club in December. Our January 25, 2020 read is *Velveteen Daughter* by Laurel Davis Huber

Susanna Circle Christmas Gathering: December 3rd at 6:30 in the Library. Bring a snack to share. A nice way to start the season of love. Everyone is welcome!

Mildred-Ruth Circle will meet at Olive Garden in Eatontown on December 12 at 12:30 PM to enjoy a holiday lunch together!

Mission Team Meeting: No meeting in December

Craft Group: will meet on December 10 (second Tuesday) in the Library Lounge area from 11 AM to 2PM. The fourth Tuesday will be Christmas Eve so we will not meet that day. An additional December date may be added instead. Christmas cards will be available on December Sundays at the card table in Fellowship Hall.

Lunch Break: The Men's Group will be cooking a hot breakfast for the clients of Lunch Break on December 7th between 8:30 and 12 noon. If you would like to help with this ministry please let Jim Mellon know. No experience needed, just willing hands and a warm heart.

Camden Neighborhood Center Through December 21st UMW, between services, will be collecting donations for the children of Camden Neighborhood Center. Visit our table in Fellowship Hall.

Prayer Shawl will meet on December 21st, our final meeting of the year. Please bring any items to the meeting to be dedicated on the 22nd during the church services..

Box Tops for Education: This collection will be changing its format in the upcoming months, so please collect as many labels as possible during these last month. UMW collects labels to help the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. Please take a moment and clip the label off the products you normally use and leave them in the box by the mail bins in the hall outside the Church office.

Learning TreeKara Crespo

learningtreepreschoolredbank@gmail.com

During the month of December, Learning Tree will be collecting toddler to adult size pajamas to donate to the Pajama Program that is based out of Poricy Park in Middletown. Please consider making a donation to this wonderful cause. We have a collection basket in the hallway outside of the Learning Tree office from December 1st—18th. We are also collecting hot chocolate for the Backpack Crew.

We will be opening up registration on January 13th to all current and alumni families as well as church members for our 2020/2021 school year. If you know any families looking for a preschool home, our Open House is January 25th from 9:30-11:00, which is when we open up registration to the public.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



H.U.B.O.B

....Marion Kleiner

732-918-9587; marionkleiner@gmail.com



Stop by the HUBOB table in Fellowship Hall on Sundays to pick up a food card from ShopRite or Foodtown for your holiday grocery runs. PLUS, we offer gift cards to a *huge* variety of stores, and small denomination gift cards make wonderful stocking stuffers! Remember, every card you buy provides a rebate from the vendor directly to the church...and it doesn't cost you anything extra!

REMEMBER: IT IS ALWAYS TIME TO HUBOB!



Blue Christmas Worship

Thursday, December 19th at 6 pm

A service for those who struggle with grief and loss, especially in this season

JOIN OUR TREX® CHALLENGE FOR A GREENER EARTH

Now through February 28, 2020

Our TREX® Challenge for a Greener Earth continues now through February 28, 2020. As of mid-November we have collected 94 garbage bags of plastic weighing 316 lbs! We invite you to join the challenge by bringing in single use plastics (details noted below) to the collection bin at the back door. When we meet our goal of 500 lbs, TREX® will donate an outdoor bench for use on our Pre-K playground and together we will have eliminated unwanted plastic from our area landfills! Please see Janie Schildge or Bobbie Ridgely (bjridgely@yahoo.com) for more information.

Any plastic marked with a 2 or 4 recycle symbol can be donated. Universally accepted items are: Pallet wrap and stretch film • Grocery bags • Bread bags • Case overwrap • Dry cleaning bags • Newspaper sleeves • Ice bags • Wood pellet bags • Ziploc® food storage bags • Produce bags • Bubble wrap and air pillows • Salt bags • Cereal bags • Plastic shipping envelopes



Please note, it is VERY IMPORTANT that ALL materials are CLEAN, DRY AND FREE OF FOOD RESIDUE!

A Note From the Finance Chair

....Bobbie Ridgely

bjridgely@yahoo.com



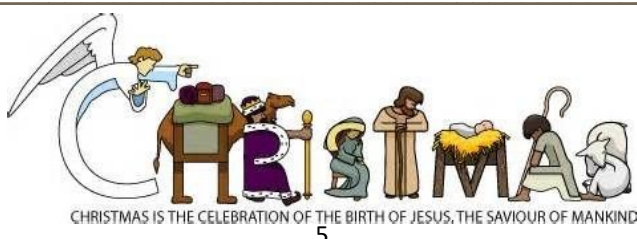
I am pleased to share we have made considerable progress this year on our way to a balanced operating budget. Our income is running higher than this time last year as a result of both increased giving and increased building use income. In addition, our expenses are running lower than this time last year primarily as a result of significant volunteer time contributed toward office support and lawn/landscaping maintenance. The results of these combined efforts put us well within striking distance of closing 2019 with a balanced budget!

In addition to this good news, our 2020 Stewardship Campaign is in full swing and our pledged giving currently stands at over \$289,000 which means we are at 95% of our \$300,000 goal.

I invite you to join me in helping our church begin 2020 in a strong financial position by doing any or all of the following:

- If you have not done so already, become current in your 2019 pledged giving
- If possible, consider an additional Thanksgiving or Christmas gift to our church to support our mission in the community
- If you have not done so already, consider making a 2020 pledged giving commitment. No pledged amount is too big or too small because every pledge moves us one step closer to our goal.

I am truly inspired by the generosity of all of you who give of your time and financial gifts to our church and community. On behalf of the finance committee and the people whose lives are changed through your gifts, THANK YOU for your continued generosity. When our gifts come together, we make a difference in ways we never imagined. Should you have any questions regarding our church finances please don't hesitate to contact me at bjridgely@yahoo.com or 732-671-6891.



Angel Tree.....Hosted by Club 77

..Kathy Kelley, Keith Dice, Alyce Zabawa

This year Club 77 has new ornaments for the Angel Tree—Christmas stockings for the Backpack Crew! We're asking for packs of socks for the families the BPC serves. (Due by Friday, Dec. 20)

There are gift card options in the tree as well, and we encourage you to purchase those through HUBOB if possible. See Marion Kleiner in Fellowship Hall. (Also due Friday, Dec. 20)

There's also new Christmas bell ornaments (because every time a bell rings, an angel gets its wings!) which have toys for the group *Mom's Helping Friends in Need*. (These are due by Friday, Dec. 13)



God Squad

....Greg Jansky, Jim Stonaker & Suzanne Dice



The night before Halloween, God Squad traveled to Sunrise and painted pumpkins with the Alzheimer's patients. Cupcakes and cider were served to everyone. It's an important night for our teens and we were very proud of how they interacted with the patients.

November started off with a night planned by our Executive Board. The teenagers bonded by playing various board games and eating junk food.

We also did community service by shopping for Thanksgiving dinners. 20 teenagers stormed the aisles of Foodtown with lists and \$5.00 each. 4 meals were assembled and will be delivered to Monmouth Day Care Center. Thank you to Michael Gibson and Jake Dice for organizing a total of 8 dinners for the youth groups.

We also helped the worship committee by bringing up Christmas trees and other supplies in preparation of decorating the sanctuary. After all that work, we watched *Home Alone* and had popcorn.



HEALTH AND WHOLENESS OPPORTUNITIES

BALANCE AND STRENGTH TRAINING - Join the group to strengthen balance and fitness led by Janet Tartaglia, on **Tuesdays at 12 pm** in room B1. A no impact, no mat workout for the older adult done standing or sitting on chairs. Call Janet at 732-284-8222 or the church office for more information.

PRANA FLOW YOGA – Join us **every Wednesday morning from 9:30-11 am** in room B1 for **Prana Flow® Yoga**. Tiffany McCann will instruct the class to calm your mind, strengthen your body and open your heart.

CROP WALK UPDATE ~

....JANIE SCHILDGE

Thank you Red Bank Methodists of all ages. To date, CROP Walk #39 has raised over \$101,000 to help our 15 local partners fighting hunger and reaching out around the world. We also collected 17,000 pounds of food that went out to 24 local pantries to fill their shelves. This was a record year and we did it in the rain!

LIBRARY NEWS

New books in our Church Library include three books for ages 8-12 years (grades 3-7) donated by Helen Vetter.

The Adventures of a Girl Called Bicycle by Christina Uss (860 Lexile) is the story of a 12-year old girl named Bicycle who was raised in a Washington D.C. monastery. She absolutely does not want to go to camp and learn how to make friends. Instead she takes off on a cross-country quest to meet her idol, a famous cyclist, and discovers much about herself on the journey.

Bob by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead (590 Lexile) tells of Livy's visit to her grandmother's home in Australia. At her last visit five years ago, she had met Bob, a shorty greenish creature dressed in a chicken suit who had been hiding in a closet at Gram's house waiting for Livy to return. It's a tale of magic, mystery, friendship, identity and belonging.

Ending the Last: Book One by Katherine Applegate (690 Lexile) tells the story of Byx who fears she may be the last of her species, a mythical doglike species that has been hunted to near extinction in the war-torn kingdom of Nedarra. As Byx seeks safe haven, she meets new allies (animals and humans) along the way.

We also thank Rev. Christina Zito for donating books from her collection. A list of titles can be found on top of the card catalog in the Library.



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 know, leave messages at church, or email us at sleavitt@umcredbank.org. Remember that hospitals no longer contact clergy when members are hospitalized.

Please check our website www.umcredbank.org for an up-to-date church calendar.

The Outlook is a newsletter published monthly (except July and August) by The United Methodist Church of Red Bank, 247 Broad Street, Red Bank, NJ 07701.

Rev. Jessica B. Naulty, Senior Pastor

Elaine Dawson, Director of Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Evan Courtney, Director of Music Ministries

Sheila Leavitt, Financial Secretary

Bob Shindel and Tom Sutton, Sextons

Rev. David G. Henritzy, Retired Pastor Emeritus

Worship Services

8:15 am Communion Service

9:00 am Youth & Adult Classes

10:00 am Traditional Service and Children's Sunday School

11:30 am The Village Contemporary Conversational Service

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