

247 Broad Street | Red Bank NJ 07701 | (732) 747-0446

Online: www.umcredbank.org
Email: office@umcredbank.org

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

Dear Church Family,

It has now been a year since COVID-19 has rocked our realities and changed so much about the way we live and work. No one could have guessed that "two weeks to flatten the curve" would have stretched out into a year of social distancing, masking – and even now double masking, remote classrooms and worship spaces, Zoom meetings for work and online family gatherings, and more. The astounding number of lives lost from this pandemic helps to put the sacrifices we've endured into perspective, for the numbers would have been much higher had we not responded with caution and care. We mourn the loss of life and livelihoods that this pandemic has caused, but we rejoice that God has been with us through this dark valley. As more and more people are vaccinated, I see hope emerging, almost as a pre-Easter dawn. While we are not out of the woods yet, and there are still many people in line to receive the vaccine, hope is on the horizon.

I know the struggles we're all facing as those who try to schedule vaccine appointments are shut out by the digital mastery it seems to take, but I pray that we will all stay vigilant and persistent in our efforts to be vaccinated and continue to mask and social distance to keep one another safe. If you are able, reach out to neighbors and friends who may need technical assistance to see how you can help. As more and more people are vaccinated, we will see the rates of transmission go down, which will decrease the likelihood of more variants developing among the population. I am looking forward to my first shot, which is scheduled for March 30th, and pray that if you have not yet received or scheduled your vaccine appointment, that your turn would come quickly.

As we all continue this season of waiting, I want to express my thanks for our church family and our leaders who have stepped up to meet these unforeseen challenges head on. Our ministry and mission have continued strong, even through remote gatherings and organizational meetings. This pandemic has not stopped us from being the church of hope and love – it has just changed the way we've done it! Through the generosity of donors and countless hours of volunteers, we are helping to feed hundreds of people each week through the Backpack Crew, meeting the emerging needs in our surrounding community. We're supporting our youth and children as we're able and continuing to grow in our faith through adult education and fellowship opportunities. It's good to be a part of such a vibrant and faithful church!

May God continue to strengthen us for the journey ahead. I can't wait to see you all!

Pastor Jess

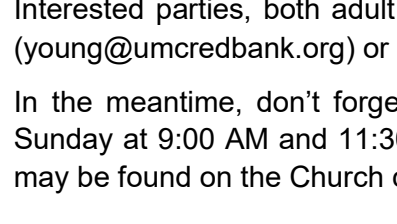
Rev. Jessica Brendler Naulty

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

TAMMY YOUNG

732-299-6203, young@umcredbank.org

The Children and Youth ministries program is currently conducting an assessment of potential volunteers who may be interested in participating in a Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2021 should it be deemed safe to proceed with this summer programming. While the uncertainty of the current pandemic and vaccine distribution prohibits the Church from committing to an actual plan or program at this time, an assessment of a potential volunteer base is most helpful as we discern in the upcoming weeks if and how to move forward.



Potential volunteers, please note that all VBS planning and program implementation will be in strict compliance with the requirements outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State of New Jersey, and the UMCRB safety policy as outlined and approved by the Building Use Safety Committee (BUS); require all volunteers and attendees to adhere to the safety measures provided by the BUS Committee for this programming which will include masking, social distancing, hand hygiene, and personal health assessments as well as any other safety measures deemed appropriate at that time and be subject to both the BUS and Church Council's final approval. All participating minors will need the written consent of their parents or guardians to participate. For safety reasons, this year's VBS will most likely be held outdoors with shortened hours.

Expressed interest in volunteering by no means commits you to actually participating in this program should there be one nor is it meant to infer the Church has made a final decision; there are no plans at this time. It is simply to get a feel of who may be interested in coming onboard.

Interested parties, both adult and youth, are encouraged to reach out to me as soon as possible via email (young@umcredbank.org) or by phone or text at 732-299-6203.

In the meantime, don't forget to join us for online Sunday School (K-8) and Bagels & Faith (9-12) every Sunday at 9:00 AM and 11:30-ish respectively and virtual Youth Groups on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. Links may be found on the Church calendar or accessed through group leaders.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

EVAN COURTNEY

ecourtney@umcredbank.org

Join the Sanctuary Choir at UMCRB!

The Sanctuary Choir will resume rehearsing together via Zoom, and preparing music for our virtual choir. Video and audio recordings will be used for our Sunday morning service. If you would like to join the choir, or if you have questions, please contact the Director of Music, Evan Courtney at ecourtney@umcredbank.org

SCHOLASTIC ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

BARBARA GUENTHER

bjguenther@verizon.net

The Scholastic Assistance Committee is preparing for awarding scholarships to next year's recipients. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, our committee has adopted the slogan of *"no eligible and deserving scholar left unsupported!"*

Although we all are wishing for and "tasting" the delicious food at our annual March Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, because of COVID-19 safety protocols, the Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner cannot be held this year in March. We have decided to hold the dinner in some form later in the year, during the summer, if possible.

In the meantime, if you (as a supporter of our youth) wish to make a donation to the work of our committee to award scholarships to the youth of our church, your donations, once again, would be very much appreciated. Please send your donation check made out to:

Scholastic Assistance, UMCRB to:
Peg Rizzo, 66 Dale Road, Middletown, NJ 07748

Scholastic Assistance Sunday is scheduled for June 20th.

Applications

Editable online applications for the 2021—22 school year will be available April 1st. They will be automatically sent by email to last year's junior, sophomore, and freshman recipients (if your email has changed let me know) and to high school seniors in the youth group. If you wish to apply and do not receive an application by email, you may request one by emailing Barbara Guenther, bjguenther@verizon.net.

GREEN FAITH

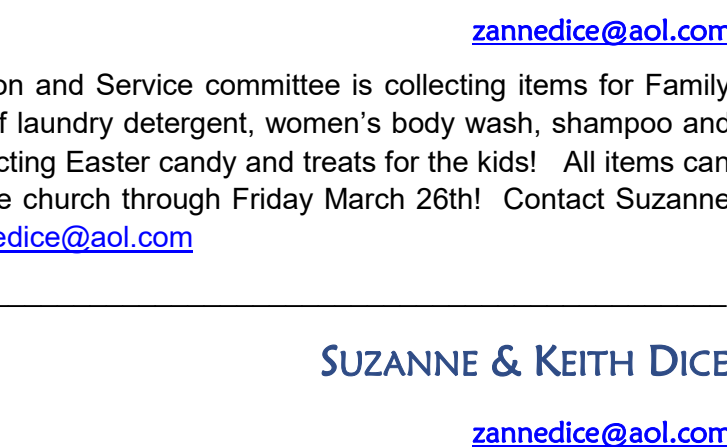
JANIE SCHILDGE

732.741.0528 jschildge@optonline.net

In order to receive a GreenFaith certification, our congregation was required to do audits of our worship services, our youth education programs, our community gatherings and food choices including organic and vegetarian, our energy focus (we had already installed our solar panels) our interactions with other denominations and faiths, trash audits, and elimination of plastic usage in our building, and more. We have worked very hard since receiving our certification to maintain standards that protect our environment and people.

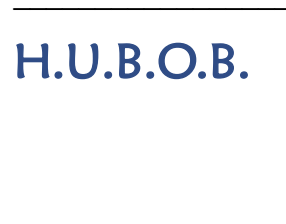
This month we are continuing with our recycling efforts as bottle caps kept coming into the building all through the pandemic, and we are once again recycling any single use plastic. Styrofoam usage is discouraged but we will take it to recycle. HUBOB is encouraging you to order bulbs to beautify your yards, and our church grounds too. Our youth will be working on a pollinator garden this spring, and we encourage all families to get children outside and watching the rejuvenation of spring. Our GreenFaith team continues to ask for your help in supporting our church's pledge and also encourages you to submit your ideas for making our planet even greener. Thank you for all you do to share with neighbors and legislators and your co workers about our concern for our natural world and God's Creation of all that is in it.

Please visit our page on the UMCRB website for more information: <https://www.umcredbank.org/green-faith-congregation/>



MISSION & SERVICE

SUZANNE & KEITH DICE



This Lenten season the Mission and Service committee is collecting items for Family Promise. They are in need of laundry detergent, women's body wash, shampoo and conditioner. We are also collecting Easter candy and treats for the kids! All items can be left on the back porch of the church through Friday March 26th! Contact Suzanne Dice with any questions. Zannedice@aol.com

BACKPACK CREW

SUZANNE & KEITH DICE

zannedice@aol.com

The Backpack Crew is asking for donations of Mac and cheese this month. This is our number one kid-friendly item that we give out and it is not currently available from Fulfill. Donations can be left on the church porch. Thank you!

H.U.B.O.B.

MARION KLEINER

732-918-9587; marionkleiner@gmail.com

NOW is the time to think SPRING!! Your HUBOB Team would like to help you plan as you dress up your garden this year. Check out this website:

(<https://www.umcredbank.org/hubob-spring-flower-sale/>)

Wander through the different sections of the site to see the variety of bulbs and seeds that are available in all price ranges. Buy guaranteed-to-grow bulbs or seeds for your garden or someone else's. Maybe consider making a cash donation to the church so our Master Gardener, Cyndi Skove can upgrade the grounds around the building. This is your opportunity to HUBOB!!

Help Us Balance Our Budget - and add some color and beauty to the world!

Let's make 2021 the Year of the Bulbs!!

If you would like to work with us, and have some fun, please contact Marion Kleiner at marionkleiner@gmail.com, or 732-918-9587.

REMEMBER: IT IS ALWAYS TIME TO HUBOB!

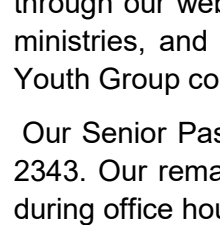
(Help Us Balance Our Budget)



LEARNING TREE

KARA CRESPO

learningtreepreschoolredbank@gmail.com



Learning Tree is Now Enrolling for the 2021-2022 School Year. We have limited spots available in our 2.5, 3's and Pre-K classes. We also offer enrichment classes for our 3's and Pre-K students. Please share this information with any family, friends, and neighbors that may be looking for a preschool in the fall.

Website: www.learningtreepreschoolredbank.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LearningTreePreschoolRedBank>

UMC OF RED BANK CHURCH REOPENING PLAN UPDATE

The COVID pandemic presents new challenges every day and our church community continues to do our best to rise to the challenge. Our online worship continues to meet each Sunday at 10am. Our building is open for pre-scheduled, indoor, small group, church meetings and the church office is open Tuesday-Thursday from 9-2 and Fridays from 9-1:30 pm. The calendar of events, available through our website, has up-to-date information about our many adult and youth ministries, and how to join in. For information regarding our Wednesday Night Youth Group contact our Youth Director, Rev Tammy Young

Our Senior Pastor, Reverend Jessica Naulty, may be reached by email or at her mobile number, 908-400-2343. Our remaining church staff may be reached by email or by calling our church office at 732-747-0446 during office hours.



CHURCH AND SOCIETY

KATHY HACKLER

hackler@optonline.net

Join us in reading *Between the World and Me* by Ta Nehisi Coates. Watch the *Weekly Connections* for the date of our book discussion.

Join us for the movie *My Father Named Me Malala* later in March as we observe Women's History Month and discuss girls' education around the world.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 17th as we participate in Clean Ocean Action's Beach Sweep. Sign ups will begin in early March; watch the *Weekly Connections* for the site where we will meet together to clean up our local beaches. Visit the following website for more information: <https://www.cleanoceanaction.org/index.php?id=153>

Be on the look out for other family friendly activities coming up in April and May as we celebrate Earth Day and the beautiful world we live in.

If anyone has any questions about any of the above, contact Kathy Hackler at hackler@optonline.net.

Noontime Lenten Services of Prayer and Music each Wednesday, 12:00-12:30 pm through the month of March

Daylight Saving Time begins 2 am Sunday, March 14th

And remember to check &/or change the batteries in your fire detectors!

March is National Women's History & National Nutrition Month			
Here are some other important upcoming dates this month			
4 th —Thursday	Holy Experiment Day	15 th —Monday	Ides of March (Roman New Year)
5 th —Friday	World Day of Prayer	17 th —Wednesday	St. Patrick's Day
8 th —Monday	International Women's Day	20 th —Saturday	Vernal Equinox (First Day of Spring)
11 th —Thursday	Popcorn Lover's Day	20 th —Saturday	International Day of Happiness
12 th —Friday	Plant a Flower Day	28 th —Sunday	Palm Sunday
14 th —Sunday	National Pi π Day	31 st —Wednesday	National Crayon Day

In honor of National Nutrition month, here's an easy, healthful meal to try:

Salsa Spaghetti Squash

Ingredients:

- 1 medium spaghetti squash
- 1 can (15 ounces) black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 tablespoons minced fresh cilantro
- 2 cups salsa
- 1 medium ripe avocado, peeled and cubed

Directions:

- Cut squash lengthwise in half; discard seeds. Place squash on a microwave-safe plate, cut side down. Microwave, uncovered, on high for 15-18 minutes or until tender.
- Meanwhile, in a lightly oiled nonstick skillet, cook and stir onion over medium heat until tender. Stir in salsa, beans and cilantro; heat through. Gently stir in avocado; cook 1 minute longer.
- When squash is cool enough to handle, use a fork to separate strands. Serve squash topped with salsa mixture.

Nutrition Facts:

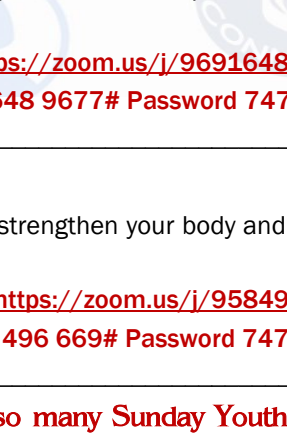
1 cup: 308 calories, 9g fat (2g saturated fat), 0 cholesterol, 822mg sodium, 46g carbohydrate (6g sugars, 16g fiber), 8g protein.

Condolences

It is with heavy hearts that we mourn the loss of faithful members of our congregation.

☛ **Herbert Burtis** - February 5

☛ **Tom Brounley** - February 13



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 office@umcredbank.org. Remember that hospitals no longer contact clergy when members are hospitalized.

STAYING CONNECTED VIRTUALLY

Worship

Though we cannot gather in person, we will certainly gather in spirit for our church ministry is very much alive, even in this time of social distancing. Join us Sundays at 10 AM. Feel free to invite a friend!

Watch Online

◊ Through church website: www.umcredbank.org/church-service-streaming-live/

◊ YouTube Live: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkt9RJslC_eeCuMFQwPb2Q

Each week while you are worshipping, you will have access to a link to complete a Weekly Connect Card. When you click on the provided link each Sunday, you will be asked to answer a few short questions. This is our attempt to learn not only who is worshipping with us, but how the experience is going

Virtual Fellowship Time Sundays After Worship

Join in a time to meet together and check in after online worship each Sunday.

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/411045493>

Phone: (646) 558-8656 Meeting ID: 411.045.493# Password: 7470446

Balance and Strength Training ~ Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:00 pm

Join us for online Balance and Strength Training with Janet Tartaglia. Beginners welcome! Items needed: chair (with no arms) and weights (can be 2 16 oz. water bottles), or you can choose to follow along without the weights. These no-impact exercises are done with chair or standing, no floor work.

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96916489677>

Phone: (646) 876-9923 Meeting ID: 969.1648.9677# Password 7470446

Online Yoga ~ Wednesdays at 9:30 am

Join us for online yoga with Tiffany McCann as she instructs the class how to calm your mind, strengthen your body and open your heart.

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/958496669>

Phone: (646) 876-9923 Meeting ID: 958.496.669# Password 7470446

The preceding is only a partial list of available classes and meetings. There are also many Sunday Youth Classes as well as Wednesday Youth Groups. Please visit our website at umcredbank.org for more information. All classes and meetings can be found on the calendar by scrolling to the bottom left of our home page. Just find the event you're interested in and click on it for detailed information on how to join in