

**United Methodist Church of Red Bank**  
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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,

A new year has begun, whether we're ready for it or not... although I would guess that many of us are not sad to see 2021 come to a close. The challenges we have faced these past few years have reminded me that no matter what struggles come our way, God remains steadfastly with us through it all, and invites us to remain faithful and loving. It is my prayer that as we enter this new year, we would all know the comfort, strength, and even challenge that comes from such a persistently present God.

In the spirit of newness, I invite us to adopt a new practice for the new year! I have learned of a tradition that many churches are adopting during their celebration of Epiphany – Star Words. Star words, or star gifts, is simply a star-shaped piece of brightly colored paper with a word printed on it. Every person from the congregation receives a star word as a gift and is asked to reflect on that word for the coming year. The people are invited to ponder what significance this word might have in their lives, and how God might be speaking to them through that simple message.

The word I have received this year is HOLD, and I look forward to prayerfully reflecting on what will be revealed to me through this star gift. In order to receive your star word, I invite you to email or ask me for a word – or if you would like to make use of a star word generator, simply follow this link - <https://www.wordofftheyear.me/>

I pray that this Epiphany might offer you the gift of God's presence breaking through to shine as a light in the darkness!

Peace and light,

*Pastor Jess*  
Rev. Jessica Brendler Naulty

## DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

**BONNIE DEROSKI**

732-245-8024, [bderoski@umcredbank.org](mailto:bderoski@umcredbank.org)

Welcome to January, the calm after the storm of the holiday season. There is a holiday that doesn't get much air-time: Epiphany. It's the celebration of the visit of the Magi, or in some cultures: Three Kings Day. It's the 12th Night of Christmas. It's celebrated on January 6th every year.

Part of the tradition is an Epiphany cake. In Spanish speaking cultures, a tiny plastic baby is hidden in the cake. In the UK it's called a 12th Night Cake. In the US, in New Orleans, Mardi Gras is celebrated.

This year for Epiphany, consider gifting your child with a new children's bible. There are some amazing newer bibles on the market with an emphasis on wondering questions and a more open and progressive approach to the bible stories. Here are a few of my favorites:

**Shine On Bible** – Uses the NRSV translation for the 156 stories and the vibrant pictures with diverse peoples represented invite the reader into the story. There are prompts for wondering, exploring more and connecting with the story. Recommended for ages 8 to 10 years.

**Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook** – Again, uses wondering questions to draw the reader into the story. Recommended for ages 3 to 7 years.

**Children of God Storybook** – a beautifully illustrated and multicultural look at 56 stories, by Desmond Tutu. Recommended for ages 4 to 8 years.

And my favorite translation of the full bible text is the **International Children's Bible**.

Happy reading and wondering!

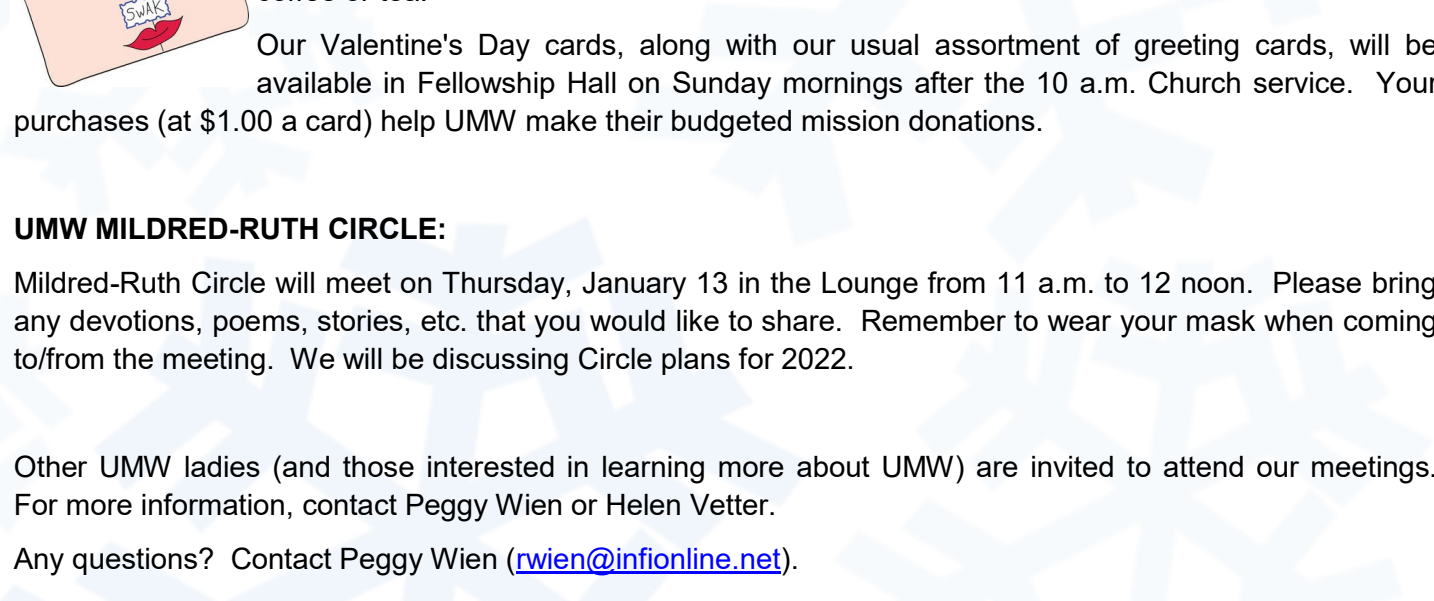


## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

**EVAN COURTNEY**

[ecourtney@umcredbank.org](mailto:ecourtney@umcredbank.org)

Singing has returned for in person worship! Warm up your vocal cords and join the choir in singing on the hymns during worship on Sundays. Reminder: masks are still required for all on Sunday mornings, and there is a socially distanced section under the balcony in the Sanctuary.



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

### UMW CRAFT GROUP:

Craft Group will be meeting on Tuesday, January 11 and Tuesday, January 25 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Lobby above the Church Library. Come for the whole meeting or whatever portion you can attend. We will be making Valentine's cards, St. Patrick's Day cards and will begin designing Easter cards. Bring your snack and cold drink for our short lunch break. Masks are needed while coming/leaving and whenever we go to the kitchen to make instant coffee or tea.

Our Valentine's Day cards, along with our usual assortment of greeting cards, will be available in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings after the 10 a.m. Church service. Your purchases (at \$1.00 a card) help UMW make their budgeted mission donations.

### UMW MILDRED-RUTH CIRCLE:

Mildred-Ruth Circle will meet on Thursday, January 13 in the Lounge from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Please bring any devotions, poems, stories, etc. that you would like to share. Remember to wear your mask when coming to/from the meeting. We will be discussing Circle plans for 2022.

Other UMW ladies (and those interested in learning more about UMW) are invited to attend our meetings. For more information, contact Peggy Wien or Helen Vetter.

Any questions? Contact Peggy Wien ([rwien@infionline.net](mailto:rwien@infionline.net)).

## MASKING POLICY UPDATE

In light of the high transmission rate of COVID right now, and highly contagious nature of the Omicron variant, we are rolling back our masking policy - requiring masks for EVERYONE in shared spaces throughout the building, regardless of vaccination status.

When you are heading to the church for any reason, please don't forget to bring your mask.

Let's keep one another safe and minimize the spread of COVID-19.

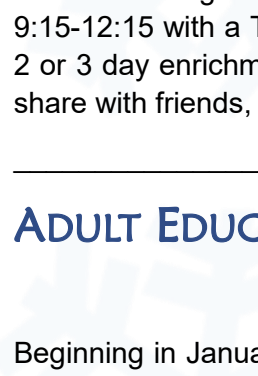
Thank you!



## CARD SHOWERING

**MARION KLEINER**

732-918-9587; [marionkleiner@gmail.com](mailto:marionkleiner@gmail.com)

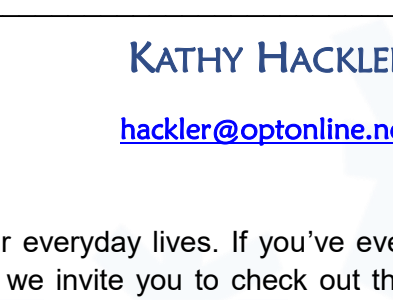


At the beginning of the pandemic a group was assembled to discuss ways of keeping the congregation connected while staying apart. One of the suggestions was the introduction of "card showering". Each month since then the members of at least one group have been selected to receive a "Thank You" card in recognition and gratitude for their faithful contributions of time and support for the church. Our efforts are continuing in the new year and we have the opportunity to contact additional groups. If you would like to join us, please contact Marion Kleiner at 732-918-9587.

## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATIONS

All are invited to join in two different virtual services of commemoration and remembrance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- On Friday, Jan 14<sup>th</sup> at 8 am, a service will be hosted by the YMCA of Monmouth County and will feature Keynote Speaker Andrea McChristian, Law & Policy Director at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. A scholarship will also be awarded to our very own William Blake who was selected as a winner of the essay contest.



**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
~ Virtual Service of Remembrance ~  
**Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00am**  
**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Carol Paterson, American Baptist Churches of NJ**  
**Featuring: Downtown, Jeffrey Baga (Violinist), PBC Women of Worship, Local Pastors, PBC Men's Praise Team**  
**Video Presentations, Essay Reading, and more!**  
To connect to the Live Stream, visit: [www.pilgrim-baptist.org](http://www.pilgrim-baptist.org)  
To Call-In & Listen, dial: 732-434-2066  
LIVE! Streaming  
Presented by Social Justice Ministry of Pilgrim Baptist Church, Citizens for Diversity & Open Society

- On Monday, Jan 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, a service will be hosted by Pastor Porter of Pilgrim Baptist Church and other local clergy and community partners. Rev. Dr. Carol Paterson will be preaching.

- To connect to the Live Stream, visit: [www.pilgrim-baptist.org](http://www.pilgrim-baptist.org)

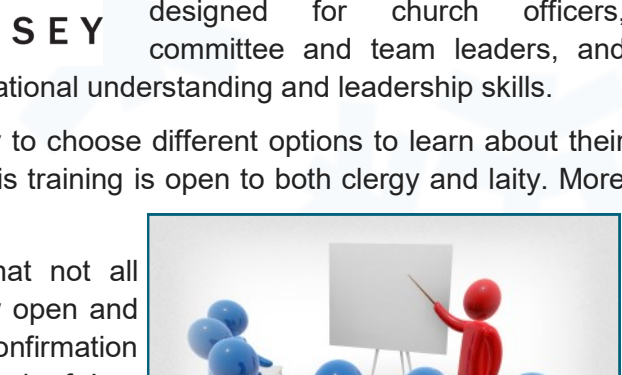
- To call-in and listen, dial: 732-494-2066

## MISSION & SERVICE

**SUZANNE & KEITH DICE**

[zannedice@aol.com](mailto:zannedice@aol.com)

UMC Red Bank-Feeding the Hungry with Family Promise: The UMCR Mission and Service Committee, together with the United Methodist Women and Backpack Crew are excited to begin a campaign, in collaboration with Family Promise, to help feed needy families. We will be preparing and delivering 25 meals each Monday throughout the month of January. Volunteers will be hard at work on Saturday, January 8th and January 15th preparing meals for Monday deliveries.



## LEARNING TREE

**KARA CRESPO**

[learningtreepreschoolredbank@gmail.com](mailto:learningtreepreschoolredbank@gmail.com)

Happy New Year! Learning Tree is now Enrolling for the 2022-2023 school year.

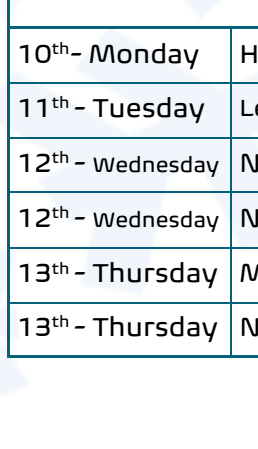
We are offering a one day 2.5 class on Fridays from 9:15-12:15. Our 3's class runs Monday - Thursday from 9:15-12:15 with a Tuesday enrichment class option. Our Pre-K program is Monday - Friday from 9-12 with a 2 or 3 day enrichment class option. We are hosting an Open House on January 29th from 9:30-11. Please share with friends, family or neighbors that may be looking for a new preschool in the fall.

## ADULT EDUCATION

**MARK HACKLER**

[hackler@optonline.net](mailto:hackler@optonline.net)

Beginning in January, we will be starting a new book, *The Power of Parable - How Fiction by Jesus Became Fiction About Jesus* by John Dominic Crossan. This is a brief look at parables and discussion of why Jesus chose to teach primarily this way. It starts with some parables from the Old Testament and moves to the Gospels, eventually looking at each gospel as a parable of its own. Crossan says at one point that a parable is designed to make you think. If one left one of Jesus's parables and said, "Great parable today Rabbi, what an inspiring message..." Jesus would have been disappointed. A parable should spark discussion, questioning, differing opinions and perspectives, and challenge our thinking. I hope our class will do that for you. Come and join us either in person on Sunday mornings at 8:45 in the Lounge or Wednesday night at 7:00 pm by Zoom (link is on the church calendar or [click here](#)). Invite a friend - or two! If you missed our Fall study on Richard Rohr, now is an opportune time to reconnect and not be behind!



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## CHURCH AND SOCIETY

**KATHY HACKLER**

[hackler@optonline.net](mailto:hackler@optonline.net)

### Support Free and Fair Elections for All

Our Christian faith impacts our life not only in the church building, but in our everyday lives. If you've ever wondered how our Methodist beliefs intersect with our social/political world, we invite you to check out the website of the UMC General Board of Church and Society – [www.umcjustice.org](http://www.umcjustice.org).

One of the topics they highlight in our contemporary context is our calling to support free and fair elections for all. If you click on the link provided, you can read the following:

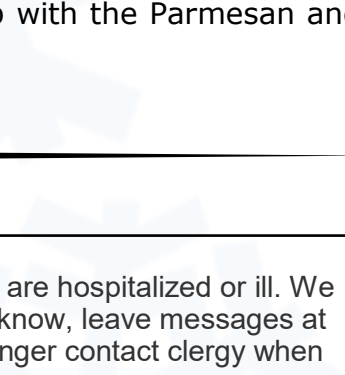
As United Methodists, we "hold governments responsible for the protection of the rights of the people to free and fair elections" believing that "the form and the leaders of all governments should be determined by exercise of the right to vote guaranteed to all adult citizens." (2016 [Book of Discipline](#), ¶164A)

### VOTING RIGHTS

In the United States, generations of advocates fought to expand the right to vote beyond the original electorate of land-owning white men. And despite constitutional guarantees, this right to vote continues to be under attack by ever-shifting tactics that suppress voter turnout and disenfranchise communities of color. In response to the continued systemic racism that undermines the guarantee of the right to vote to all citizens, The United Methodist Church specifically calls for re-instating and strengthening voting rights protections. (2016 [Book of Resolutions](#) 3378: [Racism and Economic Justice Against People of Color](#))

At the bottom of the page, you are urged to write your senator to advocate for free and fair elections. It is a good time to find out how your state handles elections, since not all states are equal. As Methodists we believe all people are equal and all citizens should have access to voter registration & voting, and thus we advocate for reform at a national level. Would you consider putting your faith to work and adding your voice to the call for free and fair voting rights?

Living FAITH Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE



## NORTHERN REGION FOUNDATIONAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Two workshop sessions will give participants the opportunity to choose different options to learn about their area of ministry and other more general leadership skills. This training is open to both clergy and laity. More details can be found at [gnjmc.org](http://gnjmc.org) or by [clicking here](#).

All workshops will take place via Zoom. Please note that not all workshops are offered in both sessions. Registration is now open and required to attend. Upon registering, you will receive a confirmation email. A separate email, however, will be sent to you the week of Jan. 17, which will include the Zoom information of the workshops for which you are registered.

Registration is now being facilitated through the Arena system. A login is not required to register, and you will still be able to register on behalf of others in your church as well as for yourself.

[Click here to register](#)

Registrations must be received by Wednesday, Jan. 19.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY SERVICE

We are looking for volunteers to help with our Sunday services.

Would you like to help our Tech Team provide a smooth, contemporary service? We are looking for people to help monitor and run audio and video components on Sunday mornings. No experience is necessary, we will provide all easy-to-understand training! Join our team today!

For more information, contact:  
Evan Courtney at [ecourtney@umcredbank.org](mailto:ecourtney@umcredbank.org)  
or Jim Stonaker at [jimbo.stonaker@gmail.com](mailto:jimbo.stonaker@gmail.com)



January - Happy New Year!			
There's more to celebrate than just the new year this month...			
10 <sup>th</sup> - Monday	Houseplant Appreciation Day	17 <sup>th</sup> - Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr Birthday
11 <sup>th</sup> - Tuesday	Learn Your Name in Morse Code Day	19 <sup>th</sup> - Wednesday	National Popcorn Day
12 <sup>th</sup> - Wednesday	National Hot Tea Day	21 <sup>st</sup> - Friday	National Hugging Day
12 <sup>th</sup> - Wednesday	National Take the Stairs Day	24 <sup>th</sup> - Monday	Compliment Day
13 <sup>th</sup> - Thursday	Make Your Dream Come True Day	28 <sup>th</sup> - Friday	National Kazoo Day
13 <sup>th</sup> - Thursday	Nat'l Rubber Duckie Day	31 <sup>st</sup> - Monday	Inspire Your Heart with Art Day

January is also National Soup Month. Here's a recipe to try:

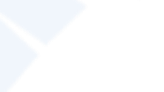
## Lasagna Soup

SERVES: 8 PREP TIME: 10 min COOK TIME: 30 min

- 1 lb. Italian sausage, ground
- ½ lb. Lean ground beef
- 1 Onion, diced
- 6 Cloves garlic, minced, about 1½ tbsp
- 1 (28 oz) can Crushed tomatoes
- 1 (6 oz) can Tomato paste
- 1 (14 oz) can Tomato sauce
- 4 cups Chicken broth
- 1 tsp Fennel seeds
- 2 tsp Italian seasoning
- 2 tsp Salt
- ½ tsp Black pepper
- 8 Lasagna noodles, cooked
- 8 oz Mozzarella, shredded
- ½ cup Parmesan cheese



- In a large stock pot, heat 1 tablespoon of olive oil over medium high heat. Add the ground beef, sausage and onions and cook until meat is browned, about 8 minutes. Halfway through cooking the meat add the garlic.
- Once the meat is cooked through, pour in the tomato paste, canned tomatoes, tomato sauce, chicken broth, Italian seasoning, salt, pepper and fennel and simmer on low for 20 minutes.
- While the soup is cooking, prepare the lasagna noodles in a separate pot according to package directions and drain.
- Add the cooked lasagna noodles to the pot and stir to combine. Top with the Parmesan and mozzarella cheeses, and some fresh parsley



### Please notice 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 [office@umcredbank.org](mailto:office@umcredbank.org). Remember that hospitals no longer contact clergy when members are hospitalized.