

**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,

Throughout Lent, we have been using the metaphor of a cup to reflect on the way God's grace is poured into our lives, and how we are invited to share all that we receive – blessings of love, peace, hope, and light – back out into the world around us. Sometimes the Bible uses the metaphor of a cup to talk about one's lot in life, one's chosen portion or inheritance, such as when Jesus prays that the cup of suffering pass from him in the garden of Gethsemane. Other times our very selves are the vessel that holds the gift of our lives and our cups may be full or empty with the blessings or challenges we face.

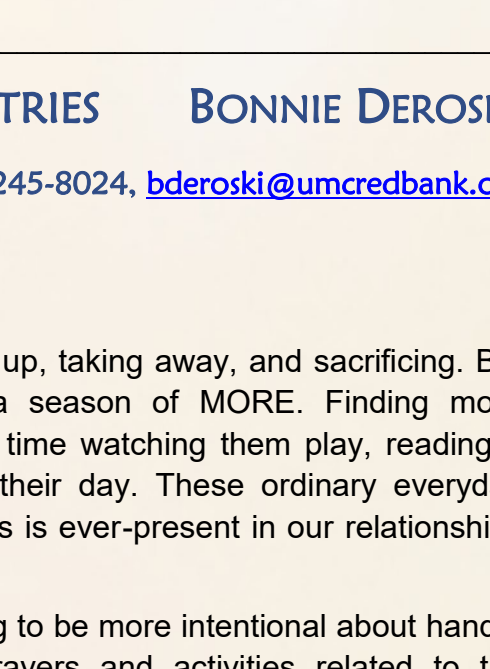
So often our cups are full of "stuff" that does not quench the deep thirst of our souls. Schedules and budgets get filled with things that end up draining our spirits of energy and joy, and we are left exhausted and empty. I invite each of us in this Lenten season of reflection to think about what is in our cup? Are there things we've taken on that are draining us of life? Are you spiritually thirsty and longing for God's grace to be poured into your cup? What are the ways that you can tap into the living water and be refreshed, filled to overflowing with the love and grace of God?

As we journey through the final stretch of Lent, into Holy Week, and arrive at the celebration of Easter, I pray that we all experience the refreshing grace of God. May the hope of resurrection and new life be yours in this season as the fountain of God's grace is poured into your heart.

Peace and abundant blessings,

*Pastor Jess*

Rev. Jessica Brendler Naulty



## DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

**BONNIE DEROSKI**

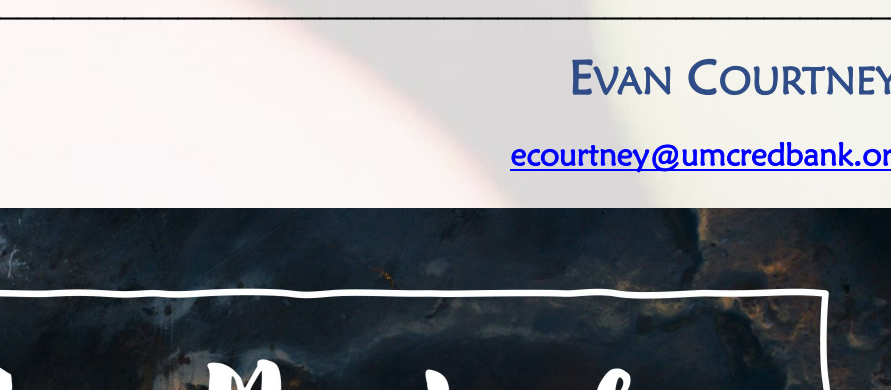
732-245-8024, [bderoski@umcredbank.org](mailto:bderoski@umcredbank.org)

### Welcoming Questions

Welcome to the season of Lent. Ordinarily it's a time of giving up, taking away, and sacrificing. But I'd like you to consider turning it around and making it a season of MORE. Finding more opportunities for time with your kids and family – maybe just time watching them play, reading a book together, sharing a meal, or hearing them talk about their day. These ordinary everyday moments are holy, and I urge you to treat them as such. Jesus is ever-present in our relationships with each other.

... This book is my attempt to give you hands-on practices, stories, prayers, and ideas that teach about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in a way that both acknowledges the hard and sad details of the story while keeping the focus on the resurrecting work of Christ."

Whatever you choose to do to prepare for Easter, remember to find God in the ordinary, celebrate relational moments as holy, and give yourself grace in the journey.



## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

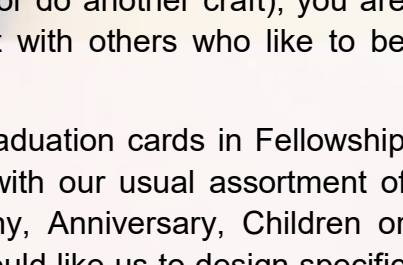
**EVAN COURTNEY**

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

# Lenten Musical Reflections

Every Wednesday at 12:00 pm during Lent, tune in to our YouTube page for a series of Lenten musical reflections. Every week, members of the congregation will reflect on a featured hymn that will be sung the following Sunday to help center us during this season of renewal.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



### UMW CRAFT GROUP

Craft Group will be meeting on Tuesday, April 12 and Tuesday, April 26 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Lobby above the Church Library. Come for part or for all of that time to help us make our greeting cards. Bring your snack/cold drink for our short lunch break -- or you can use the hot water tap in the kitchen for a hot drink. If you would like to knit or crochet (or do another craft), you are welcome to bring your handiwork to Craft Group meetings and meet with others who like to be creative with those skills. Masks are optional at this time.

We will be featuring our Easter cards and then Mother's Day and Graduation cards in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings after the 10 a.m. Church service -- along with our usual assortment of cards for Birthday, Thinking of You, Get Well, Sympathy, Anniversary, Children or Blank (to write your own message). Let us know if you would like us to design specific cards for you. Your purchases (at \$1.00 a card) help UMW make its budgeted mission donations. Any questions? Contact Peggy Wien ([rwien@infionline.net](mailto:rwien@infionline.net)).

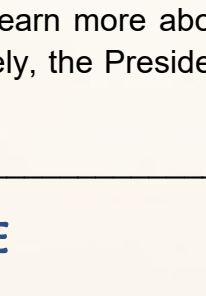
### UMW MILDRED-RUTH CIRCLE:

Mildred-Ruth Circle will be meeting on Thursday, April 14 from 11 a.m. to 12 noon in the Lounge. Please bring any items you would like to share such as devotions, poems, articles, etc. Masks are optional at this time.

All UMW ladies (and those interested in learning more about UMW) are invited to come for our hour of fellowship together. Any questions? Contact Helen Vetter or Peggy Wien.

### BOOK CLUB:

Book Club will meet on Thursday, April 28 at 1 p.m. in the Lounge. The book for April is *Black Cake: A Novel* by Charmaine Wilkerson.



Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Helen Vetter.

## TRUSTEES

**BOBBIE RIDGELY**

It is with grateful hearts that our Trustees and Church Council recently accepted three very generous bequests to be deposited into the Church's endowment account including:

- ♦ \$50,054.33 from the Janet Schmidt Charitable Remainder Trust
- ♦ \$87,469.83 from Mildred Schmidt Charitable Remainder Trust
- ♦ \$10,000 from the Estate of Shirley Davis

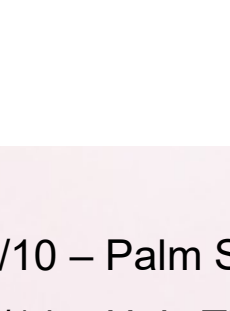
We are truly thankful for all the saints who have gone before us and are continuing to have a positive impact on our church still today and into the future. If you would like to learn more about how to include the church in your will, please contact Pastor Jess or Bobbie Ridgely, the President of our Trustees.

## COVID SAFETY MEASURES – MASKING POLICY CHANGE

In the church building, **masks are now ENCOURAGED and OPTIONAL for ALL** - including for Sunday morning activities, as well as children and youth ministry gatherings. Starting TODAY, we are reopening our nursery, so children 2 and under are invited to play in the nursery while parents worship in the Sanctuary.

For worship, there are still a few exceptions to the pre-COVID "normal" in an attempt to provide care and a fully inclusive space for all. These exceptions are as follows:

**A Mask Or Face Covering Is Encouraged But Optional**  
*Thank You!*



⇒ The socially distanced section in the rear of the Sanctuary (under the balcony) will remain in effect, and will be maintained as a "masks required" section.

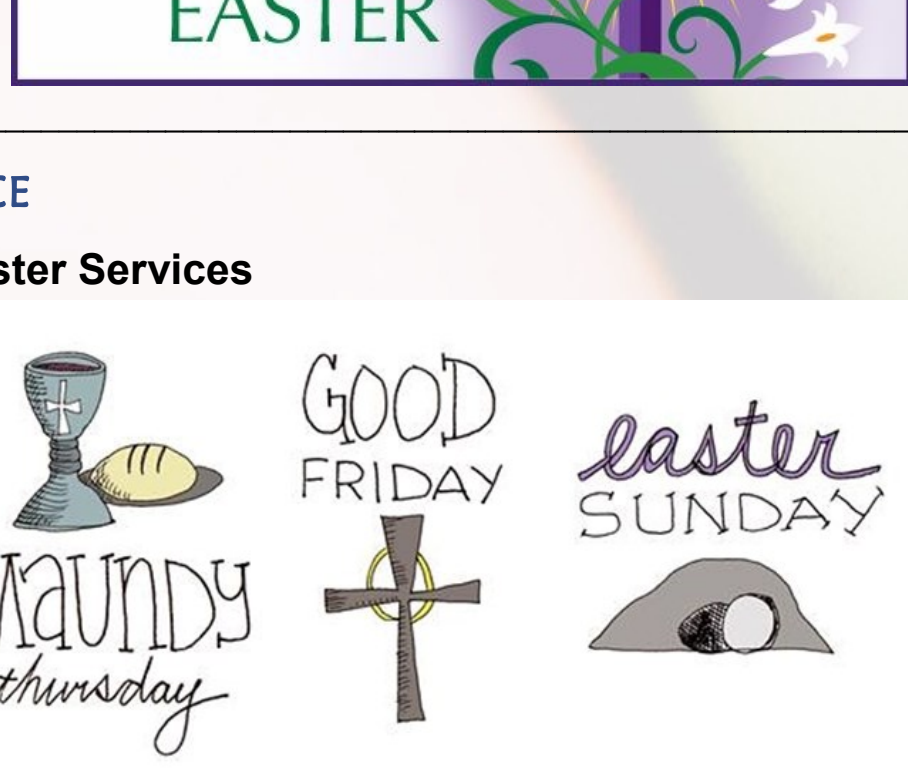
⇒ Offering plates will be passed in the masking optional section, and an offering drop plate will be available at the rear door of the socially distanced section.

⇒ **Masks are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED while singing.** When we sing, there is an increased risk for COVID transmission because of the increased expulsion of respiratory droplets. Our choir will be masking while they sing, and we highly encourage all congregants to do the same.

⇒ For now, Holy Communion will still be served by partaking in the individually wrapped communion kits. Pastor Jess is working with the worship committee to transition us back to partaking in the shared loaf, so this change will be forthcoming.

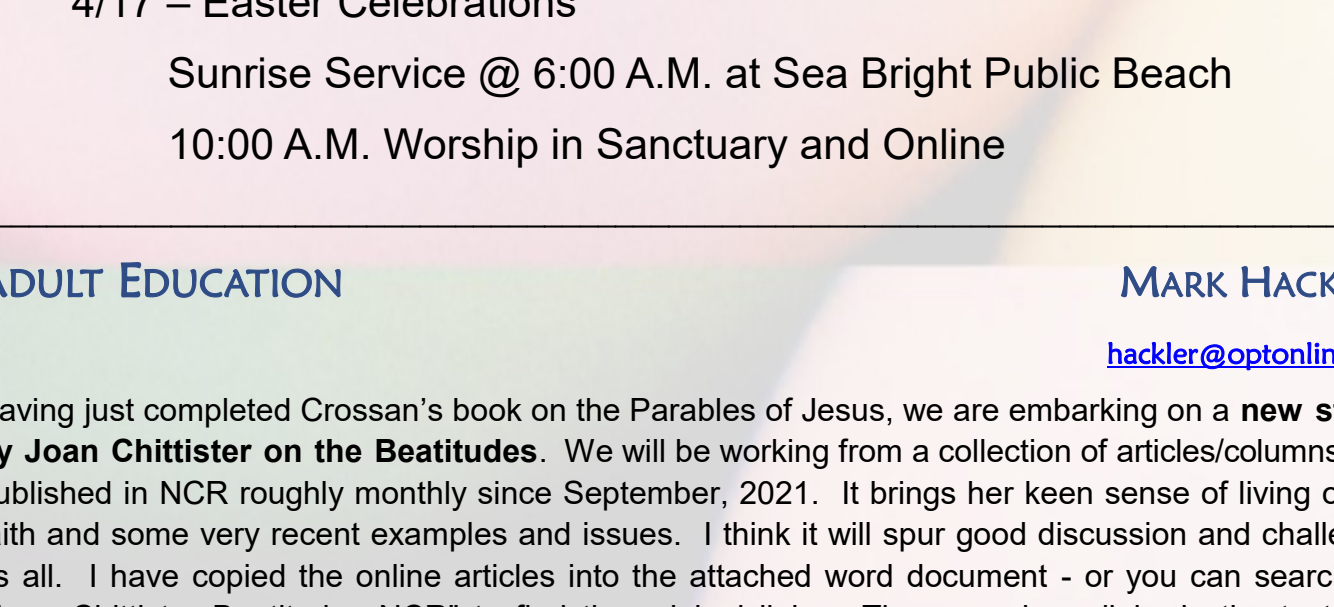
⇒ Exiting will be staggered to allow for social distancing where desired.

As we shift into this new "encouraged and optional" masking policy, it is important for us to remember that masking is a personal choice based on comfort level and individual health concerns. Whether people choose to mask or not is up to each individual and it is extremely important that we respect the choices of one another. If you are in a vulnerable population, we encourage you to take advantage of the better quality masks that are now readily available to the public and we recommend all stay up to date with vaccinations and boosters.



## WORSHIP AT A GLANCE

### Holy Week and Easter Services



4/10 – Palm Sunday Worship @ 10:00 AM

4/14 – Holy Thursday @ 7:00 P.M. in Sanctuary and Online

4/15 – Good Friday @ 7:00 P.M. in Sanctuary and Online

4/17 – Easter Celebrations

Sunrise Service @ 6:00 A.M. at Sea Bright Public Beach

10:00 A.M. Worship in Sanctuary and Online

## ADULT EDUCATION

**MARK HACKLER**

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

Having just completed Crossan's book on the Parables of Jesus, we are embarking on a **new study by Joan Chittister on the Beatitudes**. We will be working from a collection of articles/columns she published in NCR very recently monthly since September, 2021. It brings her keen sense of living one's faith and some very recent examples and issues. I think it will spur good discussion and challenge us all. I have copied the online articles into the attached word document - or you can search for "Joan Chittister Beatitudes NCR" to find the original links. There are hyperlinks in the text that should take you to a news reference for the topic; hopefully they survive the cross platform translations and email systems!

**We will start this series on Wednesday March 30 (7:00 pm on Zoom) and Sunday April 3 (8:45 am in person in the Lounge).** I anticipate one beatitude per week, but we will see how the discussion goes. If you are a regular or looking to re-engage, this is an opportune time to do so! Please let me know if you have questions. **Please forward this to others who might want to join the discussion.**

A PDF file of *The Beatitudes revisited: a template of the good life* can be found online at

<https://www.umcredbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/The-Beatitudes-Chittister.pdf>

## GREEN FAITH

**JANIE SCHILDGE**

732.741.0528 [jschildge@optonline.net](mailto:jschildge@optonline.net)

As we plan for this spring and gardening both at church and in our yards, please consider native plants that benefit pollinating insects, and also please do not use Round Up and other neonicotinoids that actually will kill pollinators and are not doing humans any good either. I am sharing highlights of an article by Alison Mitchell, Co Exec. Director of NJ Conservation Foundation, from the Two River Times on March 3, 2022, and adding some comments of my own.

Spring arrived March 21, and there is much to look forward to with longer, warmer days, daffodils blooming, first green leaves emerging on trees, and the songs of returning birds. You are probably planning what to plant this year, or a trip to a local garden center to get ideas! Many of us choose plants for aesthetic reasons for color or shape or scent. But the plants that catch our eye in garden centers are not always those that support healthy ecosystems for birds, bees, butterflies and other wildlife. Many plants are native to other continents and for wildlife, these exotic plants are an empty pantry providing little to sustain wild creatures. Or they can be invasive and spread throughout the landscape, pushing out beneficial native plants. So how about "going native" this year in your yard?

What is a native plant? Those that occur naturally without human introduction, in a specific location. The Native Plant Society of NJ has identified over 2000 native plant species. The advantage of natives is that they are well adapted to local climate and soils, making them generally heartier than introduced plants. They will flourish with minimal care if planted in the right place. They don't need fertilizers or pesticides and need little, if any additional watering.

The Garden State has a wide variety of native flowers, shrubs, and trees that look gorgeous and provide food and shelter for wildlife. Cardinal flower, Eastern columbine, bee balm, orange butterfly weed, purple coneflower, black-eyed Susan, wild geranium, rose mallow, Virginia bluebells and New England Aster are only a few of the showy native wildflowers that look fantastic and attract pollinators.

How to start – first check your soil and climate for the best choices. Then check out online resources. A good one is The New Jersey Yards website, [jerseyyards.org](http://jerseyyards.org). This features an extensive database of NJ native plants, and friendly non-natives that don't spread. You can look for soil type, light requirements, bloom time, deer resistance, and type of wildlife that will be attractive. Have fun searching this site. Then head for a garden center. (I really like Morganville Flower Farm on Rt. 79, owned by Harry Cross, who is very wise and carries a huge variety of plants, and donated some flats to our UMC Pollinator Garden last year) But wherever you buy, please check to make sure they are not grown using seeds or soils treated with neonicotinoid pesticides. These will kill the insect pollinators that are supposed to benefit from their presence.

To learn what plants to avoid, see the "Do Not Plant" list on the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team website at [fhnvos.info/invasive-species-strike-team/info-center](http://fhnvos.info/invasive-species-strike-team/info-center). To learn more about invasives, our friend and native plant sharer, Laura Bagwell, is Chair of the Eatontown Environmental Team and she has invited us to join the team in Monmouth County the first Saturday of each month to learn how to prevent the spread of invasives. Please RSVP to [jschildge@optonline.net](mailto:jschildge@optonline.net), or to Laura Bagwell [l.bagwell3@verizon.net](mailto:l.bagwell3@verizon.net).

If you are interested, please sign up to join our Pollinator Garden Team of kids and parents, who last year planted, weeded, and watered our beautiful first edition of the Red Bank UMC Pollinator Garden! You can sign up at church on the bulletin board, or in the office. We will also have milkweed seeds to give away in April to prepare for planting. You can keep them for 30 days in a damp paper towel in your refrigerator (in a zip lock bag) and then plant for the Monarch Butterflies to feed on. Green Team holds its next meeting April 3 after church service. We are working on our resource list for recycling, and for good information on going green.

## CHURCH HISTORIAN

**GREG JANSKY**

### Did you know?

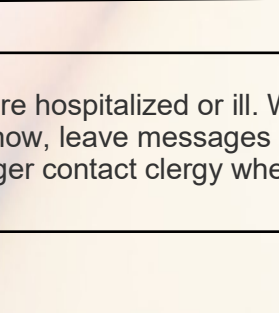
The beautiful church organ was dedicated on September 14, 1975. The year can always be remembered as it is part of the woodwork in front of the pipes that do not spread. While looking at the balcony, you can see the "19" on the left side, and "75" on the right, as part of the wood carving.



### Condolences

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

- ☛ **Chauncy Lehman** - February 6
- ☛ **Martha Vetterl** - February 21



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