



TOWER TOPICS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHURCH EVENTS

- 3/3 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 3/5 Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm
- 3/6 Ash Wednesday
- 5:00 pm Ashes at RP train Station
- 7:30 pm Joint Service at CUMC
- 3/9 Men's Group 9:00 am
@ Sunrise Diner
- 3/10 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 3/12 Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 3/17 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 3/21 Bible Study 7:00 pm
- 3/24 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 3/28 Prayer Group Dinner
5:30 pm
- 4/2 Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm
- 4/7 Worship Service 11:00 am
- 4/13 Men's Group 9:00 am
- 4/14 Palm Sunday Worship
Service 11:00 am
- 4/18 Maundy Thursday Joint
Worship Service 7:30 pm
- 4/19 Good Friday Joint Worship
Service 7:30 pm
- 4/21 Easter Sunday Worship
Service 11:00 am

March 2019

We are sharing with everyone Bishop John Schol's letter following the Special Session of the General Conference held on February 23-26, 2019 in St Louis, MO.:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Special General Conference of The United Methodist Church gathered in St. Louis, MO February 24-26, 2019 and passed the Traditional Plan for the United Methodist way forward. This plan affirms the present policies in The Book of Discipline which does not allow same gender weddings and the ordination of gays and lesbians. This plan was preferred over the One Church Plan which would have left these issues up to individual conferences, congregations and clergy.

Personally, I experienced the church more contentious and divided at this General Conference, than any of the previous seven General Conference I have attended.

This General Conference:

- Passed the Traditional Plan. If 28 people of the more than 800 voting delegates had voted differently, the Traditional Plan would have been defeated.*
- Defeated the One Church Plan. If 26 people had voted differently, it would have passed.*
- Supported the Traditional Plan even though the Judicial Council ruled on two different occasions that core aspects of the plan, about 60% of it, was unconstitutional.*
- Called for an investigation into an accusation that some delegates were being given money and other goods to influence their vote.*
- Had a tie vote, 409 to 409 on a piece of legislation and approved another by two votes.*
- Was divided culturally with an estimated 65% of US delegates approving the One Church Plan and 85% of the delegates outside the US approving the Traditional Plan. GNJ is clearly a model for our church for how to honor difference and in the midst of difference to respect one another. GNJ is a One Church Plan conference that recognizes that we are in ministry with LGBTQ people in different ways. I came away from this General Conference appreciating even more the rich diversity and different expressions of GNJ. Thank you for your continued example of Christ-like love and grace in the midst of difference. You make me proud to be your bishop.*

The legislation that was passed, was again sent to the Judicial Council, the “supreme court” of The United Methodist Church where it is anticipated that much of the Traditional Plan will be ruled unconstitutional for a third time. We most likely will not receive final rulings from the Judicial Council for several months. United Methodists will continue under our present policies concerning homosexuality.

I want to take this opportunity to speak to our gay and lesbian sisters and brothers and to the family members of gays and lesbians. You are welcomed and accepted by me and most of the people of GNJ. While our denomination wrestles, we welcome you with the arms of grace found through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You are of sacred worth to God and me and I pledge to create space for you to worship, serve and engage through The United Methodist Church of GNJ.

I call upon all of our clergy and congregations to dedicate themselves to a season of prayer and to be the welcoming congregation that I have experienced you to be.

We are a One Church Conference where churches hold different beliefs and understandings and engage in different ministries with gays and lesbians. I will lead so that each of our congregations and clergy will have different expressions and ministries and yet serve one God, one Lord Jesus Christ and one mission – to transform the world as we make disciples and grow vital congregations.

I will be a bishop of the whole church and all of our people.

On March 16, 2019 we will meet in an annual conference special session to learn more about the actions of General Conference, how we will move together in mission and what we can do to work together and move forward.

These are challenging days for the church. We are blessed to have creative, resourceful and whole leaders who will guide us through this time.

Thank you for your service and participation in The United Methodist Church. We need you.

Keep the faith!

John

*John Schol, Bishop
The United Methodist Church
of Greater New Jersey*



Sloane Kessler – Eileen & Joe
 Ken McCauley
 Nancy Rineer & Family
 Holly VanBuskirk & Family
 Smith Family
 Frank Wargo
 John Kostopoulos
 Denuel Cruz – Alix (Kessler) Grigal

**NURSING HOMES &
 REHABILITATION FACILITIES**

Jesse Rineer *
 Edna Delventhal * Patricia Gunther

**BOARD OF
 TRUSTEES**

Trustees Meetings

March 5
 April 2nd
 7:00 pm
 Reeves Hall

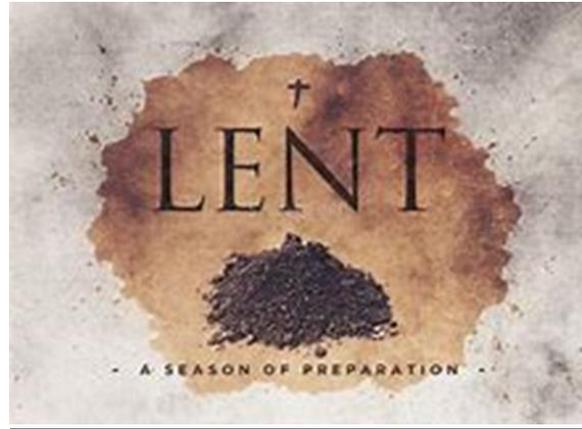


Church Council Meeting
 March 12th

7:00 pm
 Reeves Hall



Wednesday, March 14th
 9:30 am to 11:30 am
 In Fellowship Hall



3/6/19 Ash Wednesday **

8:45 a.m. Preschool service

7:30 p.m. Joint Worship Service

4/7/19 Preschool Sunday

4/14/19 Palm Sunday
 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

4/18/19 Maundy Thursday **
 7:30 p.m. Joint Worship Service

4/19/19 Good Friday **
 7:30 p.m. Joint Worship Service

4/21/19 Easter Sunday
 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

** Joint Worship Services held at CUMC of Roselle Park.



Men's Group

March 9th 9:00 a.m.
Sunrise Diner
April 13th 9:00 a.m.
Location TBD

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



- March 3 Milt Woodruff
- Rod Thomas
- March 4 Ella Thomas
- March 7 Chloe Stafford
- March 14 Kelly Gallagher
- March 20 Stacy Amador
- March 31 David Kessler
- April 1 Nancy Rineer
- April 2 Ireez Villaluz
- April 3 Diane Kurz
- April 4 Andrew Stafford
- April 8 Billy Van Buskirk
- April 26 Albert Martinez
- April 27 Israel Martinez
- April 28 Sardea Stafford

Easter Lillies

"The Season of Lent is already upon us as is our anticipation of Easter and planning for the beautiful CUMC Lily Cross. If you would like to remember or honor a special someone this season, please consider purchasing a lily or two. It takes a minimum of 92 lilies to make our cross 'bloom'. The price of the lily will be \$9.00 per plant and you can take it home with you after the Easter morning service. Please fill out the enclosed order form and return it in the offering plate, mail or give it to Eileen Hirsch or the church office. The deadline for orders this year is Sunday, March 31st - with the remittance due on or before Palm Sunday, April 14th. Wishing you and your families all the joy of the celebration of our risen Lord. "

Preschool Happenings

Sonya Leingang, Director



Community Preschool is not short of excitement. The months are flying by and each is more fun than the previous one. We celebrated Special Persons Week in conjunction with our 2nd annual Scholastic Book Fair. The book sale allowed us to purchase \$470 worth of new books!

During Read Across America week we had the pleasure to have one special guest reader each day (Mayor Joe, Officer Fitzgerald, Librarian Kit, crossing guard Jackie and Pastor Manny). Children ate green eggs and ham in Mrs. Huxford's class, and the students and staff dressed up for Dr. Seuss' memorable week. The school was filled with Things 1 & Things 2, wacky hair and silly clothes.

Children are thrilled to see Sister Marivic at Chapel time every week. We are grateful to have her with us and are looking forward to our Preschool Sunday on April 7th.

Mission – Sharon Kessler

Holiday Baskets for Community Health Law Project



Thank you to all who donated to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday food baskets. Your generosity is truly inspiring. The food baskets that each family received were greatly appreciated and allowed the families to enjoy a festive, filling meal for the holidays. Please read the enclosed thank you letter from Community Health Law Project, who has shared some stories from the families who benefited from the baskets.

Box Tops for Education



We will no longer be collecting Box Tops or Labels for Education because we are not able to collect the quantity necessary for submission. However, our support of the Red Bird Mission will continue through the Joyful Noise offering and missions appeals.

Missions Update

Missions and Outreach is alive and well at CUMC! Let's take a look at what we've accomplished:



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING – We collected \$75 for the Cranford/Elmora Soup Kitchen and 55 cans of soup for the Casano Center food pantry.

PINK TREE - A total of \$340 was donated for CUMAC, Community Food Bank and Cranford/Elmora Soup Kitchen.



HEIFER - \$337 worth of “animals” were purchased. Our donation was tripled to become \$1,011 by a matching grant.

BRIDGES – Last week we prepared 100 brown bag lunches to feed the homeless.

MILES OF PENNIES – We are only \$16.87 away from reaching our one-mile goal of \$844.80.

We continue to support our **HeroRat, Magawa** and also collect plastic grocery bags for CUMAC and travel size toiletries for Bridges.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION PROJECTS.

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

Attributed to John Wesley



RESIDENT PASTOR

Rev. Manuel P. Cruz, Jr.

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Cell Number: (908) 590-3288

Email: manpcruz@yahoo.com

CHURCH STAFF

Sonya Leingang	Preschool Director
Susan Green	Admin. Assistant
Sharon Kessler	Business Manager
Jeffrey Manno	Music Director
Tim Orcutt	Custodian

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday

8:30 am to 12:30 pm



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED DATED MATERIAL: DO NOT
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