



TOWER TOPICS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2019

CHURCH EVENTS

- 11/2 Gateway North Church
Conference – 8:45 am
- 11/3 Worship Service
11:00 am
- 11/6 Trustees 6:00 pm
Sun Tavern
- 11/9 Men's Group 9:00 am
- 11/10 Worship Service
All Saints Day
Communion 11:00 am
- 11/14 Bible Study 7:00 pm
- 11/17 Worship Service
11:00 am
- 11/21 Prayer Dinner
5:30 pm
- 11/24 Worship Service
Thanksgiving Sunday
Stewardship Sunday
11:00 am
- 11/28 Thanksgiving Day

2019 Special Session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

We are sharing with you the **Recommendations Approved by the 2019 Annual Conference Special Session** held on October 26, 2019 at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, NJ, as follows:

On Saturday, October 26, 2019, United Methodists of Greater New Jersey affirmed the report and recommendations of the GNJ Way Forward Team on how we will move forward concerning ministry with the LGBTQ community. Recognizing different contexts and convictions among congregations, the GNJ Way Forward Team invited interested congregations to develop covenants about their ministry recognizing some would affirm present policies of our denominations and others would develop ministries to be in ministry with the LGBTQ community outside our present policies.

GNJ Annual Conference accepted the 10 calls to GNJ leadership in the GNJ Way Forward Report as follows:

1. Continue to resource congregational leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations to transform the world.
2. Shepherd all congregations into the future recognizing our diversity of culture, ethnicity and belief.
3. Create sacred space for congregations to thrive in their context.
4. Seek to eliminate harm to the people in our communities and congregations.
5. Care for youth in our congregations and in our communities, who face discrimination, hatred and harm because of their sexuality and gender identity. Death by suicide is significantly higher among LGBTQ youth than among their heterosexual and cisgender counterparts. The Team calls all congregations to be sensitive and alert to the needs of youth in our congregations and community and to use the resources for LGBTQ youth found at gnjumc.org/protecting-children-and-youth/end-harm-to-youth.
6. Make available trained facilitators to assist interested congregations with conversations about ministry with LGBTQ persons and to develop covenants about ministry with the LGBTQ community as well as other missional commitments that empower contextual ministries of justice, mercy and peace.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustees Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, November 6
6:00 pm
Sun Tavern



Men's Group
Saturday, November 9
9:00 a.m.



Bible Study
Thursday, November 21
7:00 pm
Reeves Hall



Prayer Dinner Gathering
November 21
5:30 pm
Reeves Hall

7. Honor congregational covenants, particularly the cabinet when making appointments and working with congregations.
8. Engage someone to coordinate and resource the covenanting process for congregations.
9. Make training and coaching available, particularly in congregations where there are differences concerning human sexuality, so that each person can see that others matter just like they do.
10. Provide a web page for congregations to communicate that they are a welcoming congregation who affirms the full inclusion of LGBTQ people so that people from the community, especially LGBTQ people, can locate a congregation to worship with and participate in ministry.

GNJ Annual Conference affirmed:

1. Bishop Schol's prayerful declaration that he will not forward for trial any charges arising out of the ministry of LGBTQ+ clergy or any clergy person's ministry with the LGBTQ+ community.
2. The principled decision of the Board of Ordained Ministry to disregard sexual orientation or gender identity as a basis for recommending candidates for ministry, and
3. The Spirit-led witness of local churches and clergy who will create covenants for ministry with the LGBTQ+ community, while recognizing the courageous leadership of churches and pastors who have been engaged in this ministry for years.

For more information, please visit: www.gnjumc.org.



We will be preparing Thanksgiving baskets for families in need. We will be collecting the following items:

*turkeys - vegetables - yams
stuffing - cranberries - 5 lb. bags of potatoes
dessert - gravy - rolls or bread - pancake syrup
complete pancake mix (that only needs water added)*

Items must be brought in by Sunday, November 24th. Please sign up on the poster in Reeves Hall so we know what you are donating.



November

November 10 Eliana Auriemma

November 16 Jeff Manno



Vincent Auriemma
 Madeleine Joinville (Sonya Leingang's mother)
 Diane Wirkus - Jo Fusco – Pat K.
 Eileen and Joe – Sue Getz & family
 Diana Smith - Sloane Kessler
 Our youth - Nancy Rineer
 Holly VanBuskirk & family
 Frank Wargo - John Kostopoulos
 – DS Rev. Manolo Sardinas
 Denuel Cruz—Alix (Kessler) Grigal



NURSING HOMES & REHABILITATION FACILITIES

Jesse Rineer
Patricia Gunther

PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS



Sonya Leingang, Director

Just 8 weeks into the school year and students have mastered the daily routine, fire drills, and are coming with happy faces looking forward to our morning song and prayer! We celebrated Fall's beautiful colors with our field trip to the farm, pumpkin picking and Halloween. We are about to start getting ready for our Nativity skit. November promises to go by quickly with the parent/teacher conferences and the Thanksgiving break. We wish to extend our gratitude to the Trustees who took good care of us by removing our AC units. We wish you a peaceful Thanksgiving.

Fall Work Day

Church members gathered on Saturday, October 19th for an autumn clean up/work day. All of the air conditioners in the building were either removed and put into storage or covered in preparation for winter. The boiler room was cleaned out, new lights were installed, old items were brought to the curb for bulk pick up and touch up paint was applied to the exterior doors. The outdoor sign on Grant Avenue was repaired and a new flag was raised on the flag pole. Thanks to Pastor Manny, Eileen Hirsch, Diane Wirkus, Drew Batich, Rod and Ella Thomas and James Manzo for a very productive day!





RESIDENT PASTOR

Rev. Manuel P. Cruz, Jr.
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CHURCH STAFF

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday and Thursday
8:30 am to 12:30 pm

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