

# The Vine

## From Pastor Doug...

Sitting here just a few days out from the violence in Orlando, I still find it hard to find words. There is a lot of talk, guessing as to why, wondering if it could have been prevented, trying to figure out who or what political persuasion or religion to blame, etc. etc. etc. Not to diminish the number of victims (and our prayers go out for all of the individuals and the families who experienced the loss), the scope of the evil, or the toll this has taken on all of us, this is not the first time that something like this has happened, nor, unfortunately because of sinful human nature and evil, will it be the last. That is the nature of evil, it will find a way to express itself. So what is our response? I think in any of these type situations, our task is not one of judgment, blame, or criticism.

The statement of faith from the United Church of Canada, I think, guides us in our task, not just in times like these, but always. It says:

We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and to serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In tragedy, we are called to love and serve and to seek justice for all of God's creatures and creation. This is exactly what Jesus did. When he helped people, he didn't stop to ask first about religion or nationality, gender or orientation, citizen or non-citizen, or political persuasion before demonstrating love. We should do no less. We are also called to put aside any judgements we might make and allow the one who is worthy to judge, the crucified and risen Jesus, take care of the judgement. If there is any hope of transformation of people who perpetrate evil, it won't happen through judgment, it will only happen through love. Not only is this our best response at time like this, but it may be our only hope of preventing more of these types of tragedy. You can't legislate or force or create public policy to curb evil. Only the people of God living out the ethics of God's kingdom, truly being the church, with the power and presence of the Holy Spirit will have any hope of doing so.

As Paul says in Ephesians 6 (The Message) This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.

<sup>13-18</sup> Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. And the promise in this also comes from the end of the creed that I quoted earlier. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

**Wawa Hoagie Coupons!** The JUG Class is selling Wawa Hoagie Coupons. They make great small gifts! Your purchase helps support JUG projects and is sincerely appreciated.

## **Family Promise of Gloucester County - 2016 Nonprofit of the Year**

Family Promise of Gloucester County was honored by the Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce as Nonprofit of the Year at their 12 Annual Community Service Awards banquet on June 14. We received a beautiful plaque from the Chamber, a Joint Legislative Commendation from the State of NJ and a Proclamation from the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders. We were recognized for our outstanding work helping the homeless families of our community. Thank you to all past and present board members and volunteers for your dedication to the mission of Family Promise. Your compassion to serve those in need is the driving force behind this well deserved recognition. Congratulations!

*Sincerely - Family Promise Board of Trustees*







**JUST A FEW PICTURES OF OUR 8TH ANNUAL  
ROCK THE BLOCK!**



### MTV Painless Fundraiser

Buy Shop Rite (\$20) Cards \* The Church receives 5% \* You receive gift cards dollar for dollar  
**It costs you nothing!**



*Where does the money go?*

*It pays for some of the equipment needs of MTV.*

*In addition, contributions have been made to UMC Mission Trips and The Waterproofing Fund.*

**Goal:** We have a goal of **\$1,000 per week**. This is easily achievable! If we only had 50 families that shop at Shop Rite and each family bought one card per week, that would be \$1,000. The church would earn **\$2,600 per year**.  
**When we meet this goal, MTV would not only be mostly self-supporting, we would also be able to make larger contributions for other church needs.**

**Action:** LET'S DO IT! Exchange your cash or check for Shop Rite gift cards and go food shopping for your family or donate cards to The Corinthian Cupboard or Family Promise! It costs nothing but reaps great rewards!

#### Average Gift Card Purchases

2015 1st Quarter  
\$455 per week

2015 2nd Quarter  
\$337 per week

2015 3rd Quarter  
\$434 per week

**-Keep up the Good Work  
Thank you for your continued support!  
Bruce Reyher, MTV Treasurer**

### DOROTHY MOLL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

After many years of inactivity, our church library will be ready to reopen in September 2016. While the remaining weeding and organizing are being completed, we will begin accepting donations of new or very gently-used fiction and nonfiction Christian books for children and adults. Of course, monetary donations would also be gratefully received as there are still some things needed to fully organize the room. We will let you know as soon as an official opening day is set. Questions may be directed to Kathy Durand, 468-0384.

# The Coffee House at Mantua UMC

There is no coffee house during the summer months. Make plans now to join us when the FNCH resumes in September!

**Eddy Mann**  
Friday, Sept. 16th

**The Adams Family**  
Friday, Oct. 21st

**Regenerated Soul**  
Friday, Nov. 18th

Third Fridays at 7:30pm • Free Admission • Free Coffee, Tea, Baked Goods!

Mantua United Methodist Church  
201 Mantua Blvd. Mantua, NJ 08051 • 856-468-2711.  
Check out [www.mantuaumc.org](http://www.mantuaumc.org) for more info or email [mamakreh@gmail.com](mailto:mamakreh@gmail.com) Donations of baked goods gratefully accepted. Call Maria if you can help.



# Happy July Birthday!

- |                   |                      |                       |                     |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Curt Bobzin     | 12 Danyeale Brickner | 18 William Cundey     | 25 Todd Heston      |
| 3 Rachel Kreh     | Walter Seehouz       | Gerry Kemner          | 26 John Brickner    |
| 4 Nancy Chew      | 13 Ruth McManany     | Kaitlyn Toppin        | David Donat         |
| Chris Freshcoln   | Jennifer Wardrop     | 20 Doris Donat        | Ryan Lisle          |
| 10 Bill Crowley   | 14 Cassie Anderson   | Arlene Shute          | 28 Jennifer Jameson |
| Madison Liloia    | Sophie Rollins       | 21 Debbie Gooch       | 30 Ann Godsey       |
| John Stewart      | 16 Maria Kreh        | Neil Riggs            | Emily Sullivan      |
| 11 Shawn Blubaugh | Aaron Miller         | Pardam Skalit         | 31 Fred Patane      |
| George Davis, Jr. | 17 Robin Dole        | 22 Leonard Donat      | Gail Slimm          |
| Abriana Godsey    | Dorothy Frazier      | 23 Anthony String Sr. |                     |
| George Teale      | Bobby Grabert        | 24 Kendall Munch      |                     |
|                   | Lillian Howey        | Cassie Vincent        |                     |



# Happy August Birthday!

- |                      |                      |                       |                     |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Lauren Rosenberger | Rebecca Litle        | Pam Runyan            | 29 Jamie Fink       |
| Viola Yeager         | George Rozzell       | 16 Emily Godsey       | 30 Joe Daniels      |
| 3 Luke Farace        | Harrison Wescott     | Rachael Raively       | Chris Grabert       |
| Kaden Kraft          | 9 Alyssa Kruithof    | 20 Colin Ewan         | Gavin Hoskins       |
| Jeff Kreh            | 10 Ashley Blubaugh   | Ted Popecki           | Ricky Sullivan      |
| Ryan Toppin          | Caitlin Humble       | 24 Terri Smith        | 31 Tabitha Campbell |
| 4 Nina Brickner      | Bryan Tobin          | Kaylee Wagner         |                     |
| Denise Maden         | Avery Wyckoff        | 26 Kathy Durand       |                     |
| 5 Dylan Borgersen    | 11 Ryan Jameson      | Nick Farace           |                     |
| Dot Dorofee          | 12 Justin Preece     | 27 Charlene Borgersen |                     |
| Joel Seabo           | 14 Jacqueline Sepsey | Emma DeHaas           |                     |
| 8 Jacob Guarrera     | 15 Bob Bufala        | Cindy Hall            |                     |

## Happy July Anniversary

- 8 Jeff & Heather DeHaas
- 10 Wayne & Alice Histan
- 13 Wayne & Tricia Eckert
- 17 Jeff & Maria Kreh
- 18 Robert & Denise Maden
- 19 James & Lynn Jameson
- 20 Todd & Debbie Hickman
- 21 James & Laurie Kruithof
- Marc & Wilma Nagtegaal
- 25 Anthony & Shannon String Sr.
- 26 Gunnar & Moira Fox



## Happy August Anniversary

- 7 Nick & Jackie Farace
- 8 Ed & Heather Szychoski
- 9 Carl & Patricia Wyckoff
- 13 Walt & Sue Seibel
- 15 Craig & Linda Rudisill
- 16 Michael & Wendy DiSalvio
- 17 John & Jessica DeGirolamo
- 20 Steve & Bonnie Fearon
- 21 Kevin & Jennifer Kraft
- 25 Rob & Patti Smith
- 28 Ed & Joyce Wescott

# JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Fellowship	4	5 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Newcomb's 7:00 pm Jr. Starlitter's Rehearsal	6 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Hisland's 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Hickman's 7:00 pm LifeGroup TBA 7:00 pm HOPE Group 7:00 pm Jr. Starlitter's Rehearsal	7 7:00 pm Jr. Starlitter's Rehearsal	8	9 6:00 pm McConnell Hall Resd 4:00 pm Open Door Service
10 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Fellowship	11	12 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Newcomb's 7:00 pm Jr. Starlitter's Rehearsal	13 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Hisland's 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Hickman's 7:00 pm LifeGroup TBA 7:00 pm HOPE Group 7:00 pm Jr. Starlitter's Rehearsal	14 7:00 pm Jr. Starlitter's Rehearsal	15	16 4:00 pm Open Door Service
17 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Fellowship	18 7:00 pm Jr. Starlitter's Rehearsal	19 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Newcomb's 7:00 pm Jr. Starlitter's Rehearsal 7:30 pm Trustee's Meeting	20 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Hisland's 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Hickman's 7:00 pm LifeGroup TBA 7:00 pm HOPE Group 7:00 pm Jr. Starlitter's Rehearsal	21 7:00 pm Jr. Starlitter's Rehearsal	22 7:00 pm Jr. Starlitter's Rehearsal	23 4:00 pm Open Door Service
24 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Fellowship	25 7:00 pm Jr. Starlitter's Rehearsal	26 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Newcomb's 7:00 pm Jr. Starlitter's Rehearsal	27 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Hisland's 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Hickman's 7:00 pm LifeGroup TBA 7:00 pm HOPE Group 7:00 pm Jr. Starlitter's Rehearsal	28 5:00 pm Jr. Starlitter's Play	29 5:00 pm Jr. Starlitter's Play	30 4:00 pm Open Door Service 1:00 pm Jr. Starlitter's Play
31 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Fellowship						

# AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7 Mission Trip 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Fellowship	8 Mission Trip	9 Mission Trip 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Newcomb's	10 Mission Trip 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Hisland's 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Hickman's 7:00 pm LifeGroup TBA	11 Mission Trip	12 Mission Trip	13 4:00 pm Open Door Service
14 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Fellowship	15	16 9:00 am Vine Due 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Newcomb's 7:30 pm Trustee's Meeting	17 Floors Cleaned 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Hisland's 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Hickman's 7:00 pm LifeGroup TBA 7:00 pm HOPE Group	18 9:30 am Vine Committee	19	20 4:00 pm Open Door Service
21 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Fellowship	22	23 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Newcomb's	24 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Hisland's 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Hickman's 7:00 pm LifeGroup TBA	25	26	27 4:00 pm Open Door Service
28 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Fellowship	29	30 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Newcomb's	31 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Hisland's 7:00 pm LifeGroup at Hickman's 7:00 pm LifeGroup TBA			

**MILITARY SUPPORT GROUP OF N.J.** - Thank you to all who donated items during the month of May for the Military Support Group of NJ, Inc. Four members of the J.U.G. Class delivered the items to the MSGNJ on Thursday evening, June 9th, at their regular meeting. We were warmly welcomed. In addition to the items we delivered, there were many bags of groceries which would be made available to families at the military base. Also collected were many baby blankets and hats which will be given out at the Virtua Hospital closest to the base, because that is where many of the young military mothers deliver their babies. Blankets were also received for Vineland Veterans Home and Indian Gap. Karen Jennings-Rabeau led the meeting, sharing information on coming events, acknowledging contributions received, but most important of all, she read many letters of appreciation from deployed troops. Karen, as you may remember from her visit here last November, is from Boston, and it was a special night for her because her mother and sister from Boston were visiting and attended this meeting. It was obvious that all who were part of this organization and attended the meeting were fully dedicated to supporting the deployed troops and their families as they give of themselves so that we may continue to enjoy the freedom of being a United States citizen. Their meetings are open to all and they meet on the second Thursday of the month, with their next meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 14th at 7:00 pm. The J.U.G. Class will be collecting items for them again during the month November and we wanted you to know how much these things are needed and appreciated. Again, we sincerely thank you for your support. Elda Barger, JUG Class

Please thank our sponsors by patronizing their businesses.



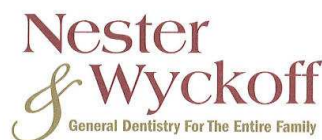
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