

The Vine

From Pastor Doug....

For many people, the winter months of January and February are difficult months. It seems that people who have a tendency toward depression wander a bit more deeply into it during these months and even those who don't normally have that struggle are a bit more melancholy. It seems that the longer period of darkness and shorter periods of light have something to do with this. That is why they have developed light therapy to help people cope with the darkness. Light therapy exposes people to additional light so that it does not affect them.

Spiritually, we find ourselves sometimes in darkness and it feels like we are going through the motions without any real connection to God. The good news is that we have "light therapy" for our souls as well. In Isaiah, God speaks through the prophet, "But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder. (Isaiah 9:1-3)
A cute story in Homiletics Journal puts it another way:

Once there was a grandmother, struggling with a life-threatening illness, who had her little granddaughter with her one Christmas. The granddaughter was watching her as she lit a candle and placed it in the window. "Grandma," the little girl asked, "why do we light candles on Christmas?"

"We light candles on Christmas, my dear, to tell the darkness we beg to differ."

The light of God through Jesus Christ is real. God has shined the light into the darkness and the testimony of Scripture is that God has done so to help us when we walk in darkness. In a season of darkness may our souls be made whole by God's light therapy.

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.



The United Methodist Men of Mantua will host a chili contest/dinner on February 25th at 6:00 pm. This will be a men's event and an opportunity to gather for fellowship, food and fun. There will be a competition for the best recipe and lots of good food to eat. Other congregations will be participating as well. Come out and support the men's ministry here in Mantua!



To my church family:

After much prayer and thought, I have decided to no longer host the Friday Night Coffee House every month.

This was a very hard decision to come to because 9 years ago I was filled with such joy and excitement for this ministry. I have met many talented artists who gave their time to share God's love with others and never asking for anything in return. I have met many people, outside of our church, who came every month to enjoy the fellowship and the music.

When this ministry started, the Friday Night Coffee House received much traffic, young and old, children dancing (some adults too) and a WHOLE LOT OF FELLOWSHIP.

This has dissipated and as much as I believe that if God wants just one person to hear the music, then that is what we will give them, it does go beyond that as I have many musicians and artists who travel from very far to come here.

My means of advertising is futile and I can only do so much. My health lately has not been at its best and what used to fill me with much joy has now become very stressful.

It does truly break my heart but I can now put forth effort to think about any other journeys the Lord will put me on and where He feels I am most needed.

The Friday Night Coffee House is booked through 2017, however I am going to try to rearrange some events so that it can be done by May 2017.

For those of you who were by my side during this ministry, I thank you. Your support really helped motivate me month after month.

In Gods love,
Maria Kreh

Barnsboro UMC is hosting the annual Souper Bowl Luncheon Join us anytime from 12-1:30 for a great soup lunch and fellowship. Admission = donation 1 can of soup for the Corinthian Cupboard. RSVP to Kay Hutchinson 856-491-1356 dkhutch@comcast.net. Sign up to bring your favorite soup.

UPDATE ON CHLOE SHARP: Thank you to all who have been supporting Chloe Sharp with prayers, cards, etc. Chloe's mother, Jennifer, recently posted: "Amazing, awesome, happy, terrific news: Chloe's tumor has SHRUNK from the size of a grapefruit to about the size of a clementine. And it doesn't look like she'll need surgery! Final word will come after the Tumor Board (A.I. Dupont Hospital for Children) meeting on Tuesday, but it doesn't seem likely to change." Again, many thanks for your caring and concern for Chloe. ~ Elda Barger

Raising the Bar.... We will be meeting weekly beginning February 8 at 7:30 PM at different places around the community. The first few weeks we will gather at Starbuck's at the Mantua Target. The purpose is to provide a place outside of church to talk about faith, so we are encouraging you to invite you friends and neighbors who may not feel comfortable in church to join us. Meeting in public places can be far less intimidating. So come out and join us for a cup of coffee or tea and good conversation.

You are invited to...



Fill Your Cup

Come be filled by God's love and be inspired to overflow into others' lives!

A Women's Event

Saturday, March 4th

10 AM - Noon

McConnell Hall @ The United Methodist Church of Mantua

Sponsored by The Eve Circle

We'll have delicious café treats and deepen our friendships as we take time to fill our hearts and lives with God's love.

Eve Circle of the
United Methodist Church
Of Mantua

Cordially invites you to
Participate in our 4th

Pajama Drive

Benefiting Mom's Pajamas

We will be accepting donations of new women's pajamas in all sizes and styles to be given to women in local domestic violence shelters.

January 29th-February 19th

United Methodist Church of Mantua

201 Mantua Blvd, Mantua Township, NJ 08051

For more information please contact a member of Eve Circle.

For more information on Mom's Pajamas:

www.facebook.com/momspajamas

www.momspajamas.org

Crystal@momspajamas.org

"Providing Comfort, One Pair of Pajamas at a Time."



Valentine's Day Cards for Pitman Manor residents will be in McConnell Hall beginning January 22. Please stop by and sign a card, it may be the only one they receive.

Blanket Sunday February 5 You've helped us respond to disasters for more than six decades. We've seen CWS Blankets used as shelters, suitcases, coats, stretchers—you name it. But the first role the blanket plays is as a symbol that someone cares enough to help. Are you that someone? Each \$10 donation purchases one blanket to give to someone in need.



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Worship will be held here at 6:00 pm on March 1. We will have a light supper of soup, bread and fruit, then move to the sanctuary at 7:00 pm for the service. If you would like to bring a soup or some bread, there will be a sign up sheet in McConnell Hall or feel free to call the church office.

SPOTLITERS PRESENTS

INTO THE WOODS Junior

FEBRUARY 3, 4, 10, 11
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 8PM

FEBRUARY 5, 12
SUNDAY 3PM

COMMUNITY HALL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MANTUA
201 MANTUA BLVD. • MANTUA, NJ 08051

TICKETS IN ADVANCE:	TICKETS AT THE DOOR:
GENERAL ADMISSION: \$16.00	GENERAL ADMISSION: \$18.00
SENIORS (65+): \$14.00	SENIORS (65+): \$16.00
CHILDREN (12 & YOUNGER): \$14.00	CHILDREN (12 & YOUNGER): \$16.00

SPOTLITERS
INC
Community Theatre for ALL Ages!

856.812.5835
WWW.SPOTLITERS.COM

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5TH

Please remember to help us stock the Corinthian Cupboard with Soups and Stews for Souper Bowl Sunday!



1 Betty Jameson
Joyce Wescott

2 Amy Durand
Jody Miller
Linda Rudisill

4 Brenda Anderson
Nick Colamarino

6 Larissa Tumminia

7 Bill Lisle
Richard Lynch

8 Morgan Gallagher
Robert Hoskins

12 Patricia Nolte
Joe Vincent

13 Charlie Armstrong
Danielle Davis
Erin Munch
Marc Nagtegaal

14 Pam Baitinger
Ryan Borgersen

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



16 Chelsea Guarrera

17 Barbara Davis
Nancy Fink
Marilyn Heston
Kai Kraft
Karisa Wescott
Megan Yearicks
Morgan Yearicks

18 Chris Seabo

19 Anthony Dorisio

20 Judy Bufala

21 Shannon String

22 Kristin Baitinger
Thomas Booth
Marcie Daniels
Jeffrey Fuchs

25 Monica Dilio
Donald Rumbol
Lynn Varner

26 Jimmy Heise

27 Terry Grabert

Happy Anniversary

2 *Dan & Terri Smith*

6 *Doug & Pam Baitinger*

11 *Pardam & Theresa Skalit*

14 *Bill & Debbie Wolf*

22 *Harry & Lorraine Little*

27 *Jan & Janet Fuhrer*

28 *Bryson & Michelle Biglin*



Vacation Bible School 2017



Why not start off summer with a week of fun and learning with family and friends at The United Methodist Church of Mantua, VBS 2017. Vacation Bible School will be held Mon. June 26th - Fri. June 30th from 6pm - 8:30pm.

We will begin with dinner every night, then missions, music, classes for all ages, games, crafts, snacks and prayer.

This is the year we cut hair during our VBS program, I am looking for someone to coordinate this activity this year. We have cut our hair for Locks of Love 6 times (this year would be 7). There are other organizations that also collect the donated hair, you could look into these other organizations and maybe we could send the donated hair to them.

For more information or if you would like to help, please see Jenise Fraser. Thanks!



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! We managed to achieve it 2 weeks in 2016! 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!

Keep up the Good Work!

2015 Yearly Average
\$425 per week

2016 1st Quarter
\$552 per week

2016 2nd Quarter
\$521 per week


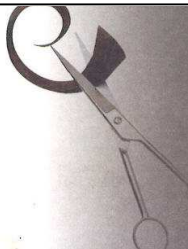


2016 3rd Quarter
\$338 per week

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!
Bruce Reyher, MTV Treasurer**

Upcoming MYF Events

- Feb. 3, 4, 5, & 10, 11, 12 Spotliters kids play. We will be running the concession stand as a fund raiser. There will be sign-ups.
- Feb. 5 Super Bowl Party at the Parsonage 5:30ish to 6 PM until you need to leave or the end of the game. Bring some snacks/drinks to share.
- Feb. 12 Ice Skating (probably at Hollydell, but we will be checking on outside rinks and let you know)
- Feb. 17-19 2017 Mid-Winter Advance—No youth meeting Sunday night.
- Feb. 26 Meeting at 7:00 PM at the church.

Please thank our sponsors by patronizing their businesses.

 <p style="text-align: center;">Daniel N. Smith Sr. NJ Lic. No. 3263 Manager</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Douglas W. Wagner NJ Lic. No. 4578 Funeral Director</p> <p style="text-align: center;">47 Main Street ~ Mantua, NJ 08051 Fax: 856-468-0672 Email: smithfh@comcast.net ~ www.smithfhmantua.com</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">(856) 468-0670</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">Nester & Wyckoff</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">General Dentistry For The Entire Family</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.7em;">200 East Mantua Avenue • Wenonah NJ 08090 856-468-5858 • 856-468-9098 fax southjerseydental.com</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-style: italic;">AIM TO PLEASE Hair Salon</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.7em;">9 N. Broadway Pitman, NJ 08071 (856) 250-1710</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.7em;">Tuesday-Thursday 10-8 Friday 10-6 Saturday 9-4</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Shute's Enterprise (856) 456-2675</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">BAT - A - RAMA</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">600 Gateway Blvd. (Rt. 45) Westville, NJ 08093 Indoor Batting Range & Pro Shop Baseball & Softball Camps, Clinics Private Lessons</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">George Arlene</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.7em;">bat-a-rama.com</p> </div> <hr/> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">MAYTAG KitchenAid Jerrn-Air Whirlpool</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Hours: Mon & Thurs 8 am - 7 pm Tues, Wed, Fri 8 am - 5 pm Sat 8:30 am - 3 pm</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">JOE THURSTON SALES</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">753 Mantua Avenue, Woodbury, NJ 08096 (856) 845-3710 • Fax (856) 845-9128 www.woodburyappliance.com</p> </div>
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