

**Shoebox Update:
Reaching 11 Million Children**

I recently had a special opportunity to take four of my grandchildren to the Dominican Republic to help hand out Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts. What a joy it was to see this through their eyes, as they befriended these sweet children, gave them shoeboxes, and shared their delight at the gifts inside.

Most importantly, they witnessed how God uses each and every shoebox gift to open doors for us to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This winter, we've sent gift boxes to 11 million children in over 110 countries. On behalf of all these boys and girls, I want to say thank you to everyone who packed shoeboxes and volunteered with Operation Christmas Child.

Please continue to pray for these children, as millions of them will be enrolling in The Greatest Journey discipleship lessons in the coming months. They will learn Bible stories, memorize Scripture, hear the Gospel, and have opportunities to give their hearts to Jesus. As they finish the lessons and proudly graduate, we will give them a New Testament in their local language and encourage them to share their faith with family and friends.

Thank you, and may God bless you.

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham

Join us for our ministerium Soup and Study through the season of Lent. We will be gathering with brothers and sisters throughout our area to look at some of the people who were present at the cross. On Good Friday, we will be hearing how these people were affected by hearing the words from the Cross. The schedule will be as follows:

- 3/7—Woodbury Heights Presbyterian Church
- 3/14—Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Wenonah
- 3/21—Wenonah UMC

We meet at Noon for soup and share in a brief study on these 5 Wednesdays. Good Friday will be a shared service at Noon as well on March 30. It will be held at our church this year.



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.

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!

2017 1st Quarter \$292 per week	2017 2nd Quarter \$375 per week	2017 3rd Quarter \$328 per week	2016 4th Quarter \$387 per week
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!
Bruce Reyher, MTV Treasurer

*Come Join us in a time of revival and blessing
as we prepare our hearts for Easter*

Resurrection Renewal



Jim Hughes, Special Guest Leader
Saturday, March 10
and Sunday, March 11
at 6:00 pm

(Sunday March 11 we will have a Covered Dish Supper
at 5:00 pm before the 6:00 pm service)

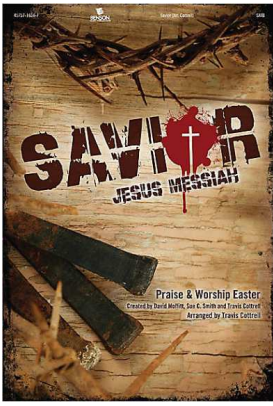
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The United Methodist Church of Mantua

Everyone is invited to join us as we prepare our hearts for Easter with a Resurrection Renewal and a time of fellowship at our covered dish supper. We look forward to this special service led by Jim Hughes that will include special music and congregational singing.

A love offering will be taken during the services.





The Choirs of our church will present their annual Easter Cantata

SAVIOR JESUS MESSIAH on Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018 at 4:00 in the afternoon.

All are welcome to join us as we prepare for the events of Holy Week and Jesus' resurrection. Please invite family, friends, and neighbors as well.

Happy March from The EONS!!!

What an exciting year it has been so far and we are only 3 months in!

The month of February was exciting for us because we went to Shamong, NJ to visit the Indian Mills United Methodist Church and we played a two hour concert.

It has been awhile since we played outside of our church so we were really looking forward to it.

On 2/17/17 we met at our church at 4pm and packed our equipment up into Rob's van. We left the church at 4:45 and we were on our way. It was dreary and raining while traveling there but we arrived with no issues. We unpacked the van and proceeded to set up, Curt went out to the van at one point and he came back inside the church covered in snow! In just the 20 minutes that we were there, the snow had covered the cars and started covering the streets. The flakes were very big and heavy and made visibility quite difficult and then within 30 minutes it stopped and went back to rain.

We found out the night before, that a gentlemen in the congregation of the Indian Mill Church died of a massive heart attack just 5 days before while making pancakes for their monthly Pancake Breakfast. The church was distraught as he was a prominent member and it was so sudden and quite shocking. He was only 61. We had a small audience, which is absolutely fine, we always have the motto of: traveling practice. Our song list for this night was prepared about 2 months in advance and it just so happens that I'll Fly Away was on our set list and we decided at the moment before we sand to speak about this member and dedicate this song to him. Those that knew him shared what he was like and his passion for Christ. It was a powerful moment and we were so blessed to have been a part of it. God had us in mind to help and share with them. What an honor!!!

It was a long night, we did not return back to the church until 12:30am Sunday morning, tired with feet hurting but we were just filled with happiness. What a great night. We were also invited back to play in May for an outside music festival! We love when we have the opportunity to go outside the church and meet other brothers and sisters in Christ.

On Sunday March 11th we will be a part of the revival service which we are really looking forward to and we hope that you can join us at the covered dish at 5pm.

If anyone ever wants to reach out to us please know we are always available.

You can also reach us at theeons4@gmail.com

...or visit us on facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/TheEONS/)

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Peace,
Maria, Pam, Curt, Nick & Rob

A promotional poster for an event titled "ROCK THE BLOCK". The background is dark with scattered autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow. A large, bright orange pumpkin is the central focus. Text on the pumpkin reads "SEPTEMBER 8TH" and "4-7PM". To the right of the pumpkin, it says "SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!". Below the pumpkin, the event title "ROCK THE BLOCK" is written in large, bold, orange letters. Underneath, a list of activities is provided: "FACE PAINTING", "INFLATABLES", "CAR SHOW & FREE DINNER!!!", "LIVE WORSHIP MUSIC", and "CARNIVAL GAMES & MORE". At the bottom, the location "MANTUA UMC" is listed, along with the address "221 MANTUA BLVD, MANTUA, NJ 08051".

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

2 Jessica DeGirolamo
Tamara Friedman
Lance Holman
3 Karlynn Bradley
Ian Kruithof
George Wescott Jr.
4 Phil Varner
5 Cheryl Finley
6 Wendy Ensor
7 Mackenzie Brooks
Ryan Hausman
Ed Wescott
8 Steven Brickner
Doug Fraser
Scott McMullen
Nick Godsey
10 Grady Fraser
Frank Heiss
11 Eric Humble



12 Allison Gooch
14 Robert Brickner Jr.
Briana Morgan
Colleen Shute
George Wescott III
16 Billie Ann Ingram
17 John Degirolamo
18 Chelly Kraft
Meggan Whitcraft
Delle Zelinsky
19 Abby Stanton
20 Amelia Ensor
Maci Fox
23 Payton Makaro
Bruce Reyher
24 Justin Baitinger
Julianna Wardrop
28 Theresa Skalit
29 Rich Guarrera
30 Kevin Kraft
31 Nancy Wescott

Happy Anniversary



4 Karl & Karen Dickel
11 Bob & Terry Grabert
15 Nick & Delle Zelinsky
18 Greg & Jody Miller
John & Vickie Stens
23 Roy & Nancy Overton
25 Carl & Karen Kressley

PetPALS of Southern New Jersey, Inc.

Pets Are Loving Support

January 19, 2018

Dear Rev. Baitinger, Lorraine and Church Family at Mantua United Methodist Church,

The holidays seem to have flashed by in an instant this year! I can remember, as a young girl, hearing my mother say that "the older you get, the faster time moves". All those decades ago, that seemed like a senseless statement, but the older I get, the more I understand her logic!!

Your Christmas baskets were- as they always are- amazing! My clients are always astounded by the personal touches that are unique to each basket- gifts carefully thought out to let the person know that they are not just a number or a first name to you... they are individuals for whom you care deeply. And for many of the families with whom I work, this is a feeling seldom experienced. Thank you so very much, both from our PetPALS' clients and from me for having made their Christmas such a gift of love as well as of food!

This year, God's gift to us came in the form of an additional basket that had been given to me for use by someone who might need it. One of my PetPALS' volunteers was heading to upper Burlington County to deliver two baskets to a senior center where we have clients, and I asked if she would be willing to take it to this facility. When she arrived, she learned that her client had been taken to the hospital and was not expected to return for several weeks. Now she had not one, but TWO unclaimed baskets in her possession!! When she went to the second client's door (a woman who is a friend of the hospitalized client), she suggested that Lynn give her friend's basket to a retired pastor who lives in that building.

Taking the baskets to the pastor's apartment, Lynn asked if she might know of someone who could use them. That pastor began to cry. It seems that for every holiday, she prepares a huge meal and invites everyone in the building who would otherwise be alone or unable, for whatever reason, to have a holiday meal. On a fixed income herself, this year the number of lonely, hungry people in the building had grown to a point where the pastor was unsure of having enough to feed everyone. She told Lynn she had been praying for two weeks that God would find a way for her to get two more turkeys to help feed those who needed her help. And there stood Lynn- with your tremendously generous gifts in hand (INCLUDING ONE TURKEY AND ONE HAM!!), and she was reduced to grateful tears. Because of you and the giver of the "extra" basket, those baskets fed not two people, but many individuals who needed to know that someone loved them! What a phenomenal gift of God's mercy and grace, and a reminder of the good that can be done when we network together as God's children!

Thank you for one of the best Christmases ever! May each of you and those you love enjoy the blessings of health and happiness, family and togetherness as enter a New Year filled with opportunity to serve the God who Loves us beyond measure! We are so appreciative of the ministry and work we share together in Christ's name!!

In Christ's Love,



Rev. Shellie K. Pinner, Chaplain/Client Services Director

Women's Community Bible Study meets on the 2nd & 4th Tues. September-May at 9:30 am. Please join with us as we study God's Word. All are welcome. Please contact the church office at 468-2711 or call 468-5549 with questions.

Please thank our sponsors by patronizing their businesses.



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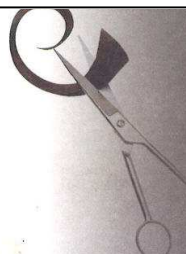
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