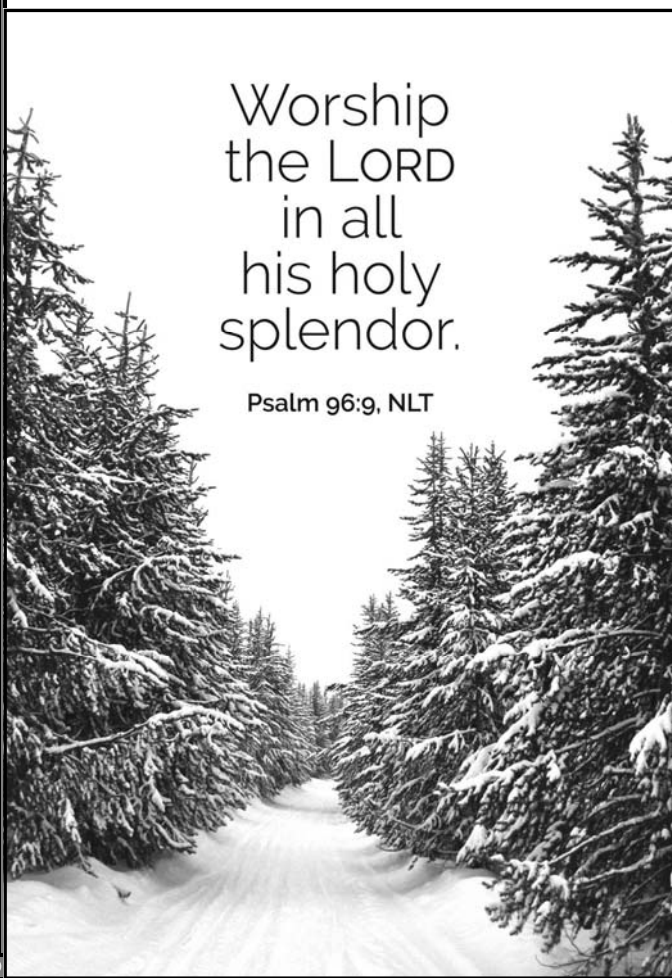




February 2016

Worship
the LORD
in all
his holy
splendor.

Psalm 96:9, NLT



Worship the Lord with Us!

Sunday Worship

Traditional Worship Service: 8:30 am

Sunday School for all ages: 9:40 am

Contemporary Worship Service: 10:45 am

Listen to our service online at

www.fumccollingswood.org.

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is published by:

The First United Methodist Church

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Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

(Closed for lunch 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm)

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is online at
www.fumccollingswood.org and is available via
e-mail. Send an e-mail to
ewindows@fumccollingswood.org to subscribe.

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The submission deadline for the *March* issue of Windows is February 10th.

***THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING WINDOWS!***



From The Pastor's Heart

Growing Deeper in God's Love 2016

Growing deeper in God's love is our heart's prayer for 2016. Let's look at what Apostle Paul had to say 2000 years ago on this great truth and how it can help us today. In Paul's prayer he reveals to us the wellspring from which the power and the glory of God comes. He prays that the Ephesian church would grasp hold of something that would pave the way for God's work among them. What is this amazing something Paul prays they would get hold of? Here is just a glimpse of what is in his heart...

*¹⁶ I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. **Ephesians 3:16-19 New Living Translation (NLT)***

Here it is: "God loves you." Apostle Paul, in this amazing prayer, is not just praying that God's people would know that God loves them, but that they would personally know God's love. Is there a big difference? There are four dimensions of God's love that Paul prays we might understand. As we consider them in our minds, may they also penetrate our hearts.

- The width of God's love: God's love is so wide - wide enough to encompass everyone - even you and me.
- The length of God's love: God's love is so long - it is eternal, never-ending, long-suffering, and patient.

- The height of God's love: God's love is so high - it is the very best, and highest of all - it is perfect.
- The depth of God's love: God's love is so deep - it is absolutely solid and real - it reaches to the deepest parts of our being.

The width of God's love may be the most obvious thing that distinguishes His love from human love. We love certain people but not others. We love certain types of people, but not others.

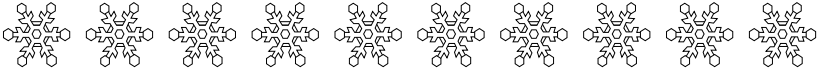
Think about the person you most dislike in the world. Now think about this: God is crazy about you and about that person! He desires to set everyone free from sin and make us more like Christ. He longs that everyone might experience that love.

Max Lucado said it well when he wrote these words in his book *A Gentle Thunder*: *"If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. If he had a wallet, your photo would be in it. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen. He can live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart...Face it, friend. He's crazy about you."* Does that sound a little farfetched for you? Does God really love each of us that much and that personally? I wonder if we will really allow ourselves to think about God's love in those terms.



I have to admit that I feel so inadequate trying to describe the truth of God's crazy love for us. 1 John 3:1 declares, "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are!"

(Continued on page 17)



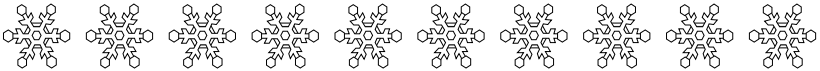
In case of inclement weather, you can find updated service and event information at the following locations:



◆ Call the church at 856-858-1186



- ◆ Visit our website at www.fumccollingswood.org
- ◆ Visit the Collingswood FUMC Facebook page



Wee Soccer (Grades K-3)

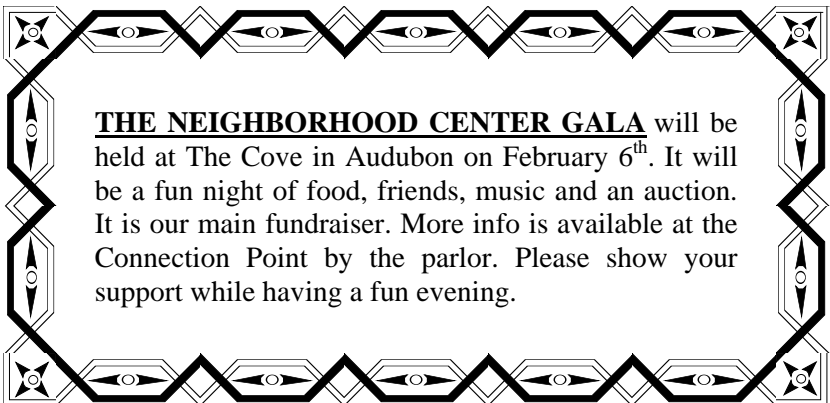
Saturdays, February 7, 14, 21 and 28.

Times assigned to each team.

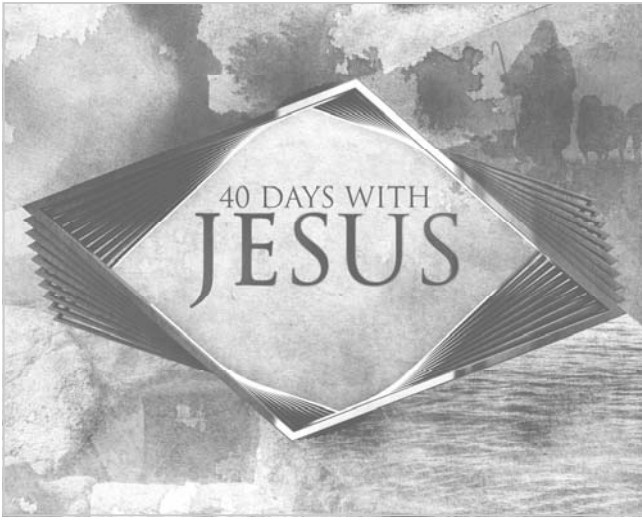


JOURNEY OF FAITH MEMBERSHIP CLASS

has been postponed until March 13th.

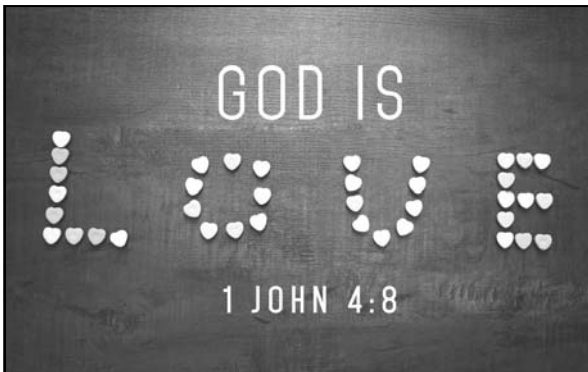


THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER GALA will be held at The Cove in Audubon on February 6th. It will be a fun night of food, friends, music and an auction. It is our main fundraiser. More info is available at the Connection Point by the parlor. Please show your support while having a fun evening.



40 Days with Jesus Sermon series....begins in February and run throughout the time of Lent. This series is based on the last 40 days of the life of Jesus and helps to sense his heart and desire to experience his love for our lives. Each message will help us deal with a different aspect of our journey with Jesus. May each of us grow in God's love as we journey together through 40 Days with Jesus.

February 7	Giving your Treasure back to God (Communion)	Matthew 6:1-6
February 14	God Is On The Move	Mark 1:9-15
February 21	The Strength of God's Love	Mark 8: 31-38
February 28	There is More Happening than We Can See	John 2:13-22



Seeking God's Face Week February 7 - 14

We are putting aside this week for a special time of prayer, meditation and fasting to God so we might know God's mind intimately, know His will for our lives and our church, and for the future. We'll seek Him through...

- Daily prayer – challenging each to devote 30 minutes a day to prayer for God's will.
- Wednesday evening prayer – meet in the sanctuary from 6:00 - 7:00 pm to pray (Holy Wednesday.)
- Friday and Saturday - for 24 hours of prayer (sign up in the church office.)



Souper Bowl on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th.

Please bring cans of soup, or any food to donate to the food pantry that Sunday! Thank you!



The Collingswood Food Pantry is in a continuous need for donations. Please bring your nonperishable items to the church and place them in the baskets in the parlor and/or the boardroom. Thank you.



Opportunities for Serving Others in 2016

Looking for a resolution to make for the new year?
How about serving in one of our behind-the-scenes ministries?



We are always looking for volunteers to expand our Technical Ministries team (including the laptop team.) Each Sunday, we are responsible for the lights and sound for our services, recording and editing the service for streaming from our website and for running the projection system in the Sanctuary. We serve the Lord by enabling His message to be seen and heard by others. You don't need any experience - just a willingness to learn. If you are interested in helping us out, you may contact Phil Boswell or you are also welcome to drop by the sound booth or control room and talk to any of our operators.

We are also looking for new faces for our Nursery teams. Each week we staff the nurseries at both the 8:30 and 10:45 am services. No experience is necessary, just a love of children. Please contact Kathy Boswell if you are interested in helping in this vital ministry.



Can YOU Help?





Special Guest Speaker Matthew Maher at both the 8:30 and 10:45 am. services on Sunday, March 6, 2016.

Matthew Maher grew up achieving in every area of his life. He was a role model, active in his community, excelled in academics and athletics, earned a full scholarship to Temple University, and eventually signed a professional contract as a soccer player. Matthew's entire life was marked by good decision-making and thoughtful steps toward each of his goals. Until...

The early hours of Saturday, March 7th, 2009, when Matthew made the fatal decision to drive while under the influence of alcohol. Traveling at a high rate of speed on the Atlantic City Expressway, Matthew struck the vehicle of 55 year-old man, a father of six children. Matthew was arrested and subsequently charged with aggravated manslaughter. Matthew's poor decision to drink and drive would tragically change many lives. In January, 2010, Matthew was sentenced to 5 years 5 months in prison, of which he served 85 percent (55 months) and was released on August 3, 2014.

Matthew was raised in a strong Christian home and when everything around him began to crumble, he fell back on his strong foundation of faith in Jesus Christ. From the onset, he had dedicated himself to honoring the memory of his victim, by continuing the call of finding purpose in this unspeakable tragedy and holding himself fully accountable.

Matthew has experienced what it means to go from the height of success to the depths of sorrow. Thus, he began to share his prison journey by writing in a daily journal, which eventually was posted on a web site created by family and friends. The result

was astounding. In the course of just the first year 80,000 people visited the site in over 98 countries and 6 continents.

He continually strives to “Be Still”, the Bible verse he clung to from the onset of his tragedy, “Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10) Matthew is owning his life calling by reminding people of the power of God, the power of forgiveness, the power of redemption, and distributing a message of hope that centers on the theme of “Decisions Determine Destiny.”



Special Youth Event – Featuring Matt Maher

Shocking Soccer: Tournaments and Truth Saturday, 3/5

This shockingly spectacular event needs to be on YOUR calendar! Something for the star athlete, the proud non-athlete and EVERYONE in between (grades 6 -12.) Shock people with your skill in multiple tournaments – including a video game FIFA tourney on the large screen and a HUMAN foosball tourney! Then interact with Philadelphia KIXX player, Matt Maher, as he shares the true but shocking story of his journey from professional soccer player to prison inmate and the life-changing truth that God’s love is even bigger than all that! And most shocking of all – you and all your friends can do all this for FREE! More details are coming soon, but talk to Shawn right away to see how you can be involved!

ONLINE GIVING - 2016

What it is



Online Giving is an easy, consistent way to donate to our church. It eliminates constantly writing checks and using the church envelope system. It also permits donors to support the church without being physically present due to weather, travel, illness, second homes, sick kids, etc. It is convenient for the donor and very useful to the church because income is received consistently. In February 2015 our church was closed for two consecutive Sundays due to weather. The offerings received through Online Giving were very helpful in meeting our payroll and paying our bills.

Donor Registration

Donors sign up at the church website <http://fumccollingswood.org>. Touch or click the “DONATE” button and complete the form. This method may be used for Checking or Savings (EFT), Credit or Debit cards (MasterCard, Discover, and VISA).

Frequency of donations

Donors may choose weekly, semi-monthly, monthly, or one-time. Donors may also select weekly for some funds and monthly (or whatever) for other funds by registering each donation plan separately.

Church Fund Designations

1. Local Ministries/Missions – 90% of these donations go to Local Ministries/Operations and 10% to Missions.
2. Local Ministries/Operations - All ministries of the church depend on this fund which pays for our staff, our buildings, our operating costs, Conference Shared Ministries, worship expenses, some costs of ministries to children and youth, etc. 100% goes to Local Ministries. Our 2016 Local Ministries net budget is \$416,000, an increase of less than 1%.
3. Missions – Missions primarily supports mission organizations

founded by our church and missionaries from our church. Our 2016 budget is \$100,500.

4. World Service – Methodist missionaries both in the USA and around the world are supported by this denominational fund.
5. Sunday School/Discipleship – Expenses for various children’s and youth programs such as teaching materials, children’s supplies, and Jr. High and Sr. High youth activities and retreats are paid by Discipleship. Donations here supplement Sunday School offerings.
6. Communion – Monthly offering for various needs as announced.
7. Local Benevolence Fund – Helps meet specific needs of members/friends of the church as determined by church staff.
8. Vacation Bible School. This early summer program is an excellent ministry/outreach to both church and neighborhood children.
9. Other Donations - This line is for any ministry or project not listed such as “Collingswood Manor” or “Sandy Relief.” The donor designates the recipient.
10. Seasonal - During the year we make available seasonal funds such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Staff Gift, Easter, etc.

Servicer

Vanco Services, LLC, is the endorsed servicer of The United Methodist Church and has been since 2002. 1,500 UM churches use Vanco. Our experience with Vanco has been excellent.

Usage/Questions

In our first four years, 58 donors have signed on. Donations in 2015 were \$169,500. Contact Stan Sheaffer with any questions.



Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

Malachi 3:10

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	1 7:00 PM Church Council	2 9:15 AM Smooth Stones Bible Study 10:00 AM Followers Bible Study 7:00 PM Children's Ministry Planning Team	3 6:00 PM Senior Youth Group 6:00 PM WNL 6:45 PM Children's Bible Studies 6:45 PM Master
7 Prayer Week 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Youth Super Bowl Party	8 Prayer Week 7:00 PM Discipleship Meeting 7:00 PM Missions-Evangelism 7:00 PM Nurture Committee Meeting 7:00 PM SPR	9 Prayer Week 9:15 AM Smooth Stones Bible Study 10:00 AM Followers Bible Study	10 Prayer Week 6:00 PM Ashes Prayer Service 6:00 PM Senior Youth Group 7:00 PM WNL Classes <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>
14 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Junior High Youth Group VALENTINE'S DAY 1st SUNDAY IN LENT	15 7:00 PM Trustees <i>PRESIDENTS DAY</i>	16 9:15 AM Smooth Stones Bible Study 10:00 AM Followers Bible Study	17 6:00 PM Senior Youth Group 6:00 PM WNL 6:45 PM Children's Bible Studies 6:45 PM Master
21 JH MWA 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Junior High Youth Group 2nd SUNDAY IN LENT	22 7:00 PM Finance Meeting	23 9:15 AM Smooth Stones Bible Study 10:00 AM Followers Bible Study	24 6:00 PM Senior Youth Group 6:00 PM WNL 6:45 PM Children's Bible Studies 6:45 PM Master
28 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Junior High Youth Group 3rd SUNDAY IN LENT	29		

RY 2016

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
for High Dinner dren & Adult ter's Men	4 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	5	6 Wee Soccer
Wednesday e for High Children's WEDNESDAY	11 Prayer Week 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	12 Prayer Week	13 Prayer Week Wee Soccer
for High Dinner dren & Adult ter's Men	18 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice 7:30 PM Handi*Vangelism Support Group	19 JH MWA	20 JH MWA Wee Soccer
for High Dinner dren & Adult ter's Men	25 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	26	27 Wee Soccer



... loving God,
loving people,
connecting with
our neighbors

This is a youth ministry for people in grades 6-12, and everyone is welcome! There are a few regular times we meet each week (as follows), as well as other extra special events throughout the month (see below.)

But one thing is certain – we are never stagnant, because God is always moving!!

the ryver (Grades 6-8 meet Sunday; Grades 9-12 meet Wednesday – both 6:00 - 8:00 pm)

The perfect place to get started! Designed to help people connect with God and each other through games, music, and conversations about God, the Bible, and life.

the ryver deep (Sunday morning, 9:30 - 10:30 am)

Essential for those who really want to grow in their faith! Grades 6-12 are together as we dig deeper in the Bible and learn how to live it.

Don't forget to check us out on **facebook:**
"The Ryver Youth Ministry"

COMING EVENTS

Super Bowl Party

Sunday 2/7 – 6:00 pm

Great food! Great game (hopefully!)

Great commercials! Or just hang out and play games with great people! Open to grades 6-12.



Cost: No charge, but if you want, we will accept monetary donations for the food or talk to Shawn about your favorite food you'd like to bring!



JH MWA – February 19-21

Please pray for our junior high group at Keswick this weekend. God is doing great things!



(From The Pastor's Heart - Continued from page 5)

I'm praying today that the love of God grows personally in all our lives in this New Year! I'm praying that we might begin to grasp just how wide, and long, and high and deep is that love. I'm praying that we would realize that the love that God has for us is deeper than we can ever dream or imagine. It is so important that the truth of God's love for us makes its way deep into our hearts so that it can have its transforming effect.

When we truly know God's love, then we can love God in return. When we truly know God's love, then we can love ourselves as God loves us. When we truly know God's love, then we can love others with God's love. When we truly know God's love, then we can even love those we disagree with in God's love. When we truly know God's love, then we will want to tell others the Good News of God's love. Let's allow God's love to make a difference together this year!

In His love and grace,
Pastor Sam



Curt and Carol Detwiler

In our last prayer letter, we had an insert mentioning our need for financial help as a result of Curt's heart attacks. We are thrilled to report that the total need has been met through specified gifts from six churches and 42 friends. What a wonderful encouragement it has been as we watched these gifts arrive to help. Thank you so much to everyone who had a part in this and also for those that were praying that we would receive the needed help. We are humbled and grateful. Because of these results, we were able to close the fund as of 31 December.

John and Alice Barcus

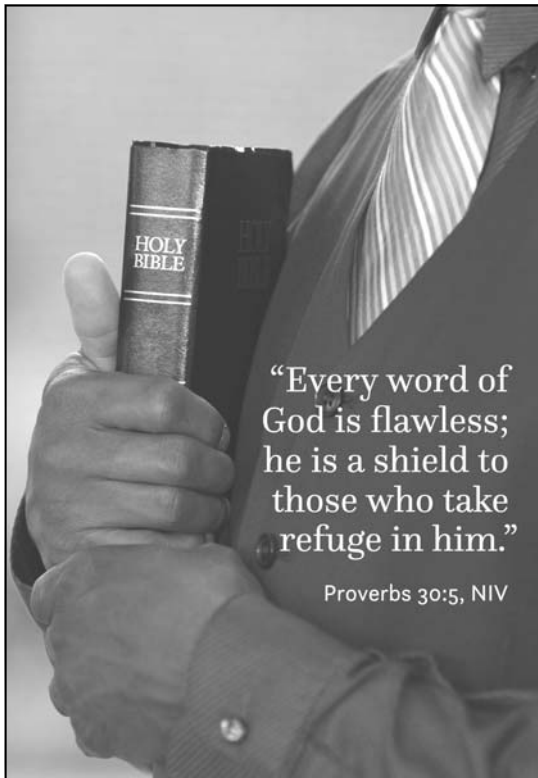
A pastor from Syria recently shared his perspective as a believer living and serving in a war zone where Christians are hated. "The suffering is very huge in Syria, and it is dangerous everywhere. There is fear in the hearts of the people."

"One day the terrorists announced that they wanted to attack our city. They said about 30,000 of them were ready to attack as soon as they finished Friday prayers at 1:00 pm. It was a terrible day, but a few believers in the church were praying and fasting from very early until about noon, the first week in June. At 1:00 pm, thousands of them entered the mosque to start to pray. Suddenly the weather changed from sunny to cloudy, in one minute. They finished praying at 1:15 pm and went out into the street shouting and heading toward the city. Then it started raining — not just raining but hailing huge hailstones. It was the first time that had happened in Syria in many years. After 15 minutes no one was left in the streets. All of them ran away. Even the secular Syrian media took a picture of the hail and showed it on the evening news, saying, 'God fought with us.' Many Christians are deciding to stay on the front lines, rather than to leave Syria."

"Right now there is a big revival inside the Church, and the church buildings cannot seat any more people. Whereas before the war another pastor had only 5 to 10 people attending church, they now have worshippers sitting on chairs, on the floor, in the

churchyard, everywhere. One lady shared her testimony before she was baptized: I lost my house; I lost my furniture; I lost everything, but I won the Lord as my Savior. I am the daughter of the Lord; I am going to the heaven.’ All her family came to faith in the Lord.”

“God is working in a mighty way in Syria. We have a special protection from the Lord; there is big danger anywhere we move, but we feel the Lord’s hand upon us. Rockets and mortars fall down inside the city everywhere. One day a rocket hit the wall of our church while inside there was a meeting going on, but God protected us!”



Fred and Julia Wentz

Christmas, a time to remember and a time to be thankful for God’s great gift of love for us in sending His One and only Son to take on human form and become the perfect, sinless sacrifice for the sins of all mankind.

(Continued on page 20)

(Missionary Messages - Continued from page 19)

We are also thankful and blessed to continue being apartment dwelling independent living residents at Homewood at Plum Creek, a continuing health care retirement community. It's hard to believe that on Christmas Day it will be 10 1/2 years that we've been here. We participate in some of the many activities and trips offered. We serve as volunteers clerking in the on-campus store, and Fred serves on the Food Committee. Most Wednesday afternoons, Fred shows Great Course DVD lectures in the auditorium. He also assists at the campus chapel when needed as lay reader or usher. After producing/directing 30+ residents in 4 variety shows for the other residents, this year he did the fifth show, which he says is his last. We feel so fortunate and thankful to be living among the large "family" that we have here, and we appreciate the dedicated staff.

At church, Fred continues to bring the devotions at the monthly senior luncheons and leads services at the church's outreach ministry at nearby nursing homes.

Chuck and Bev Truxton

For us, 2015 has been another year of enjoying God's blessings and seeing Him at work around us. One of the things we felt keenly during our last years of full time ministry in Nigeria was the fact that we were missing out on so many family times. Since settling in Pennsylvania, we've been thrilled with all the opportunities to be together. Although Ryan's in El Salvador, both Jenny and Martha and their families are just a few miles away. We all enjoy fellowship at the same church and Sunday dinner together right after church almost every week. The year started off with lots of snow.

Chuck has really enjoyed the opportunity to travel back to Nigeria twice each year for involvement in The ECWA AIDS Ministry (TEAM) and also at the SIM Retreat and Conference Center at Miango. The AIDS work is at an exciting stage where people in very remote areas are able to receive help for the first time. And there's been excitement at Miango, too, with three much-needed guest units being built within the past year. Some of our buildings are more than 100 years old and still in use!

We want to thank you for your prayer and financial support which bless us always.

Don and Esther Parsons

Thank you for your love, support, care, and prayers in 2015! God blessed the year in amazing ways and we are very grateful. As we enter 2016, please take the following before the Throne of Grace:

- Many of you have seen the news regarding the refugee crisis in Europe. These people need the Gospel of Jesus and are now in places where they can more readily hear the truth. SEND, working with partners, is responding to the need and is sending short term and long term workers to help respond. Please pray that we would be able to plant many seeds and even see fruit.
- Our team is helping launch a global mobilization initiative to send workers to Muslim ministry locations. Our goal is to see 40 workers mobilized in the next two years, the majority of which we want to see come from Asia and Latin America. Please pray for wisdom, unity, and especially that God would raise up workers!

Thank you, again, for your love and partnership!

Tom and Glenda Lowell

This has been a celebratory year for Tom and Glenda Lowell; We have been with the ministry of Trans World Radio for 50 years, enjoyed 60 years of marriage and both of us have had our 80th birthday!!

It seems that we are living in a world of turmoil as we read or watch the daily news. If it were not for the faith that we have in our Lord Jesus Christ and the sure knowledge that He is in control of this world, our country and our lives, we would be confused and fearful as many around us are today.

This Christmas season we will touch hands around our table with our family that is arriving from Colorado, Canada, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and of course, North Carolina! What a blessing this will be for all of us.

Thank you for your faithfulness to us through these years. Your friendship remains a blessing as we have shared many memories. May our loving Lord and Savior give you His peace and hope as we celebrate together His birth and a coming new year.





Wings of Prayer

What a
Friend
we have
in Jesus

It is actually just past 3:30 AM and I have just had a “dialogue” with a friend via Facebook with each of us asking the other why she was awake at this hour. It quickly became a reaffirmation for each of us that as unworthy as we are, God loves us – unconditionally. He is *always* there, whether we acknowledge Him or not. God is there, caring about us at 3 AM as well as 3 PM.

Towards the end, I said that “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” (written by Joseph M. Scriven) was my favorite song as a child. Unfortunately, like my faith sometimes, I have let it wander to the back of my mind. It is there, but I don’t think of it very often. Yet, when I think of it, this hymn remains a beacon – whether I am at peace or in distress or uncertain.

Jesus tells us in John 15:13, “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (NIV) This is exactly what Jesus did – He laid down his life for His friends. That is you. That is me.

Tennessee Ernie Ford (1919-1991), a country singer and song writer, is quoted as saying, “The teacher told us that when the author was asked how he had come to write this song, he replied, ‘The Lord and I did it together.’ That’s what I mean - you can’t collaborate unless you’re friends. I know enough about song writing to know that.”

I have been on this earth long enough to know that it is not just song-writing that requires collaboration. You cannot truly live, have a life with any meaning or satisfaction, without a friend. In this age of social media, many of us have “friends” on Facebook. Some have friends that number in the hundreds. We can even “unfriend” people. These are not who I am writing about. The friends I mean are there for you through thick and thin, the good and the not so

good, happy and sad times. They may be disappointed in things you do or say, yet they are there.

Perhaps, like me, you have attempted these relationships and found there is a barrier, some “thing” that stops the fulfillment of this desire. The most amazing thing is - Jesus does not care! His arms are wide open, simply waiting. “O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!”

Are you looking for a friend? Do you need someone who will always be there at 3 in the morning? Jesus wants to be to that friend. Have you accepted Him, known Him to be your friend, yet now He does not seem as close as He once was? He hasn't moved. He is waiting for you to “take it to [Him] in prayer.

There are many messages in these three stanzas. My prayer is that you find in them the friend Jesus is waiting to be. He does not guarantee any answer or solution other than that He is there now and He will always be there. “In His arms He'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a solace there.”

**What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!**

**Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge –
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.**

Blessings and Son shine,
Mary Emily Cameron



If you have not already done so, please give your dates (birth dates and anniversary dates) to the church office in writing or by e-mail: maria@fumccollingswood.org.

- | | | | |
|---------|--|---------|------------------------------------|
| Feb. 2 | Sandra Wright | Feb. 17 | Tom Thompson
Lou VanPelt, Jr. |
| Feb. 6 | Jim Doyle
Marilyn Ellis | Feb. 18 | Marva Wallace |
| Feb. 7 | Stan Sheaffer | Feb. 20 | Jennifer Schwehm |
| Feb. 9 | Ruthmarie Weinberg | Feb. 22 | Cheryl Aversa |
| Feb. 10 | Carol Vernon Grant
Will Jungclaus
Ruth Smith | Feb. 23 | Barb Oliver |
| Feb. 11 | Julie Ross | Feb. 24 | Barbara Edelman
George Hemphill |
| Feb. 16 | Jadon Hamilton
Rose Hamilton | Feb. 26 | Jane Doyle |
| | | Feb. 27 | Megan Bickel
Jennifer Kennedy |

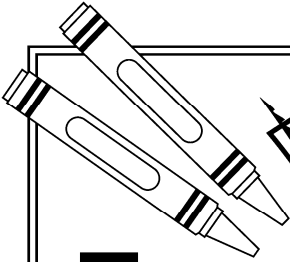


Deaths at First Church

Virginia Armitage
11-21-15

Polly Souder
01-13-16





PUZZLE

True Friendship

What makes someone a good friend?
The Bible offers lots of advice about true friendship.

*Directions: Starting at the *, connect the dots clockwise and complete the words using the word bank. Then fill in Proverbs 27:9, NIV.*

WORD BANK:

heart prings ir verbs vice ness end

27:9, NIV

pleasant

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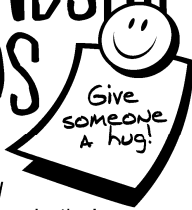
• s

from

27:9, NIV

Answer: The pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice. Proverbs 27:9, NIV

FRIENDSHIP CARDS



This month, don't just *send* valentines; *be* a valentine! Create these Friendship Cards to express love through kind acts for your loved ones — all month long.



What you need:

- 29 index cards
- A small box or container
- Colored pens or glitter pens
- Stickers

What you do:

1. On each card, write something nice you can do for other people. Ideas include “Give someone a hug,” “Clean someone’s room,” “Read to someone” and so on. You can use colored pens to draw a picture.
2. Decorate the box or container. Place the cards inside.
3. Each day in February, select a card and do that nice thing for someone!

Bible Quiz

At a time of deep struggle in Elijah’s life, God made his presence known to him. How?

- A. In a strong and destructive wind
- B. In an earthquake
- C. Through fire
- D. Through silence



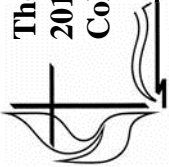
THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL

On Valentine’s Day, we remember that God is the source of all love in the world. His perfect love for us has made all human love possible.

For God so loVed the world
thAt He gave His
onLy
begottEN
SoN,
thaT whoever
belIeves
iN Him should not perish
but havE everlasting life.

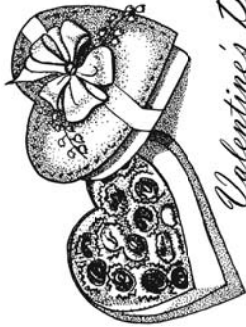
(John 3:16, NKJV)

Answer: D (See 1 Kings 19:9-12, NRSV.)

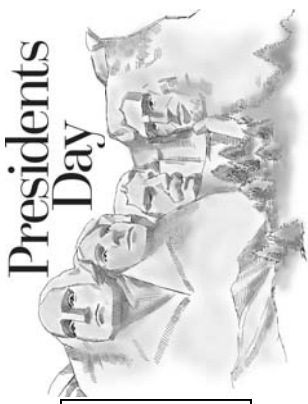
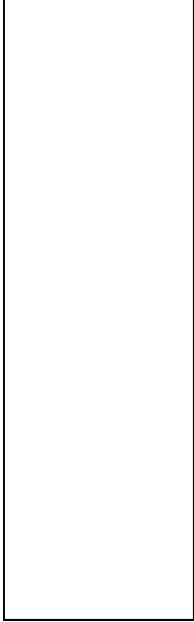


The First United Methodist Church
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Collingswood, NJ 08108

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Valentine's Day



Loving God...Loving People...Connecting With Our Neighbors