



*Being
United in Christ
Teaching the Word
Loving and Caring
Empowering and Enabling Disciples
Responding to Needs*

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor

Pat Inglis
Editor

TABERNACLE TIMES

***** MARCH 2024 *****

Lent IS A TIME TO
GROW
CLOSER TO JESUS

Well-ness Words: Mind, Body & Soul

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

(Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42;
Luke 22:39-46; John 18:1-3)

Lent has begun (February 14, Ash Wednesday), and so has our journey through the wilderness, which will last for the remainder of March until Maundy Thursday. What did you decide to let go, and what spiritual disciplines have you taken on that will help you grow and transform how you live your Christ-like life? Do you need support and prayer for the journey? How can we pray for you? We know that Jesus prayed.



He taught us how to do this when he shared the Lord's Prayer. And Jesus prayed some more.

The gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John offer us a glimpse of what Jesus's prayer was like, especially during the days leading to his crucifixion. Each gospel tells the story differently. **Matthew** describes Jesus as agitated and deeply grieved. He invited three of his disciples, Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, to stay awake with him while Jesus prayed, throwing himself on the ground. Three times, Jesus returned only to find the disciples asleep and said to them, "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Jesus prayed three times with the same words: "My Father if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. It is not what I want, but what you want."

Mark's gospel tells a similar story. Mark, believed to be the source from which Matthew and Luke gather some details and information and add to the stories according to their experiences, is why they are considered synoptic gospels. Mark calls the three disciples Peter, John, and Jacob. Again, we see in Mark an agitated and grieving Jesus and the weakness of the three disciples who cannot remain awake and keep watch.

The gospel of **Luke**, written in Greek for the Gentiles, tells a distinct story. There are two verses, 43 and 44, "Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling on the ground," not found in earlier translations. Jesus seems less agitated in Luke's version of Gethsemane until verses 43 and 44. He prays "more earnestly" after the angel has given him strength and intensifies when "his sweat became like great drops of blood falling on the ground."

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Well-ness Words: Mind, Body & Soul (continued from page 2)

The gospel of **John** is different in all accounts. John's Jesus has been sharing alone time with his disciples in chapters 13-17, known as the Farewell Discourse, and preparing his disciples for what's to come. In chapter 17, Jesus prays for his disciples and asks for protection from the world and evil and for unity, just as he and God are one. Jesus also prays that his disciples experience the kind of joy of the Lord that provides strength and peace and sanctifies them as they, not being of the world or belonging to the world, are sent into the world bearing the word of truth. Jesus's prayer is that through the disciples, the world may come to believe and that those who believe may become one and know how much they are loved. Verse 24-25 (I love this!) is Jesus's desire, "Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world...and that the same love may be in them and I in them."

We learn from each gospel that when we are struggling, feeling betrayed, rejected, unloved, unwanted, misunderstood, and mistaken for something else, we lean on the Rock, as Jesus did when he prayed in Gethsemane. When we find ourselves searching for words to pray, we know that Jesus has not only taught us to pray, but has prayed and prays and advocates for us when we feel alone and unwanted by others. While others do not desire our company, Jesus desires that we come to know of the most significant and unconditional love we will ever find, the love of Jesus that leads us to experience the glory of God, no matter the circumstances we face in our daily lives.

Are you feeling like you don't know how to pray or have no words to say? Are you not able to remain awake or keep watch? Pray for yourself and others for protection from the world and from evil, unity, oneness, joy, strength to trust and follow the will of God, and live with peace. Pray for transforming minds, hearts, souls, and humbleness while bearing the word of truth so that others may come to believe. Pray that we may become the love of God for each other and the least of these so that the glory of God is revealed to the lost and the brokenhearted. Close with the Lord's prayer, and become aware of each word and its meaning. May our "amen" be the affirmation that Jesus has already saved the world, every one of us. May we live resurrected lives! Happy and blessed Easter!

In Christ,

Pastor Iraida



JOIN US ON PALM SUNDAY AND INVITE A FRIEND!

Our “Here We Sing, Hear We Sing” Service will be on Palm Sunday, March 24th, at 10 am, in the Sanctuary! We will have readings from Palm Sunday and the Passion and sing hymns that tell the story of the journey of Jesus to the cross and leading into Holy Week. Save the following dates:

Thursday, March 28th: Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm
Friday, March 29th: Good Friday Service, 7 pm
Sunday, March 31st: Easter Sunrise Service at Butler Park, 6 am;
(followed by Pancake Breakfast in Fellowship Hall)
Easter Sunday Service 9:30 am (English) and 11:30 am (Spanish)

A few of our Methodist Men will once again be serving a delicious Pancake Breakfast in Fellowship Hall immediately following the Easter Dawn service. Donations of the needed supplies would be greatly appreciated. See Jack Inglis on March 14th for what items will be needed, and come out and enjoy breakfast with your church family on Easter morning.



2023 Year End Statements

PLEASE NOTE: Anyone needing a copy of their 2023 Giving Statement should contact our Financial Secretary, Lauren Thorburn and she will print yours out for you. Lauren can be contacted via email at laurent@bumcni.com or you can speak to her at church on Sunday morning.



*God gave us sunshine, birds, and trees;
the star filled sky above –
God gave us beauty, flowers, friends,
and special ones to love.
But sometimes life brings us concerns
or cares from day to day,
So God gave us all a special gift
to help us on our way.
God gave us the assurance
that God's love is always there
To comfort and to guide us
through the miracle of prayer.*

EASTER PLANTS

DEADLINE: March 24th

Orders are being taken for Easter flowers. Here is an opportunity for you to help beautify the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, as you remember or honor a loved one. Please clearly print your name, and the names that you wish to remember or honor. Enclose \$14 and the tear-off portion of this page in an envelope marked "Easter Plants" in the offering plate, or you may submit your payment through PayPal, just remember to note the payment is for "Easter Plants" when submitting it.

I / We wish to order _____ Easter Plants. \$_____ Enclosed _____ Paying by PayPal

Name of Donor: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Plants may be removed for your own enjoyment after the Easter Service. Any remaining plants will be distributed following the Spanish service. Thank you.



MARCH 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 9:30am English Worship and Sunday School 10:45am Coffee Hour 11:30am Spanish Worship	4 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 7-9pm Gleaners Open 7pm Zumba in Hall	5 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Lent Bible Study	6 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 6:30-7:30pm Choir 7pm Zumba in Hall 7:30pm Spanish Praise Team 8:00pm Bells	7 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 7pm Al-A-Teen (Youth Rm) 7pm Ball Room Dancing in Hall 8pm Estudio Biblico	1 / 8 6am Men's Bible Study 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting	2 / 9 10-1:00pm Gleaners 10 am NA Meeting  <i>Daylight Savings begins on March 10th. Turn clocks <u>forward</u> one hour before going to bed!</i>
10 9:30am English Worship and Sunday School 10:45am Coffee Hour 11:30am Spanish Worship	11 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 7-9pm Gleaners Open 7pm Zumba in Hall	12 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Lent Bible Study	13 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 6:30-7:30pm Choir 7pm Zumba in Hall 7:30pm Spanish Praise Team 8:00pm Bells	14 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 7pm Al-A-Teen (Youth Rm) 7pm Ball Room Dancing in Hall 8pm Estudio Biblico	15 6am Men's Bible Study 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting	16 10-1:00pm Gleaners 10 am NA Meeting
17 9:30am English Worship and Sunday School 10:45am Coffee Hour 11:30am Spanish Worship	18 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 7-9pm Gleaners Open 7pm Zumba in Hall	19 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Lent Bible Study	20 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 6:30-7:30pm Choir 7pm Zumba in Hall 7:30pm Spanish Praise Team 8:00pm Bells Service	21 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 7pm Al-A-Teen (Youth Rm) 7pm Ball Room Dancing in Hall 8pm Estudio Biblico	22 6am Men's Bible Study 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting	23 9-12:30pm Loaves & Fishes 10-1:00pm Gleaners 10 am NA Meeting
PALM SUNDAY 24 10am "Here We Sing, Hear We Sing" Worship service in Sanctuary 10:45am Coffee Hour	25 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 7-9pm Gleaners Open 7-9pm Loaves & Fishes 7pm Zumba in Hall	26 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Lent Bible Study	27 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 6:30-7:30pm Choir No Zumba 7:30pm Spanish Praise Team 8:00pm Bells	MAUNDY THURSDAY 28 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 7pm Al-A-Teen (Youth Rm) 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service 8pm Estudio Biblico	GOOD FRIDAY 29 6am Men's Bible Study 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 7pm Good Friday Service	30 10-1:00pm Gleaners 10 am NA Meeting
EASTER SUNDAY 31 6am Easter Dawn in Butler Park 7am Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 9:30am English Worship 10:45am Coffee Hour 11:30am Spanish Worship						



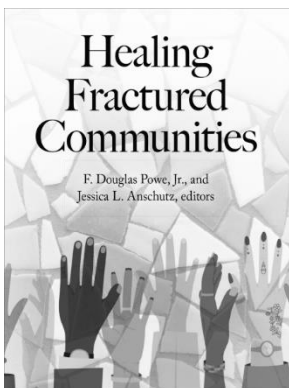
It has come to our attention that there have been some scam emails going out, supposedly from members of our congregation, and we thought it would be a good idea to remind everyone to be cautious when clicking on, or responding to any email or text you receive, even if it is from someone you think you know... it may be from someone unknown to you who is looking to

fraudulently gather information or aid from you. To check an email address for validity, recipients should hover their mouse over the sender's name to reveal where the email came from prior to opening it. Email addresses should be checked carefully to look for misspellings in a trusted individual's name or a company name

What are some things to look for in phishing messages?

- Urgent action demands.
- Suspicious or unsolicited requests or attachments.
- Poor grammar and spelling errors.
- An unfamiliar greeting or salutation.
- Requests for login credentials, payment information or sensitive data.
- Offers that are too good to be true.
- Inconsistencies in email addresses, links and domain names

If you have any doubt as to the validity of an email or text, contact the sender personally to confirm it was indeed sent by them. Do not respond or click on any links to avoid further problems. Taking time to verify any email or text before responding to it will benefit you in the long run. Trust your instincts - If an email or email attachment seems suspicious, don't open it, even if your anti-virus software indicates that the message is clean. Attackers are constantly releasing new viruses, and the anti-virus software might not have the signature.



GNJ pastor featured in new book, *Healing Fractured Communities* (article from *GNJ Digest*, February 14, 2024.)

The Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary has released *Healing Fractured Communities*, a new book that includes a chapter by the **Rev. Irida Ruiz de Porras, pastor of Butler (NJ) United Methodist Church**. Each chapter of the book, edited by the Revs. Douglas Powe Jr. and Jessica Anschutz is written by a pastor engaged in the work of renewal, resilience, and resistance in congregations, on college campuses and in communities. **Rev. Ruiz de Porras' chapter is titled "Bridging the Divide."**



Loaves & Fishes

The food pantry needs everything as we prepare for our Easter distribution! Help us to restock our shelves ... the requests for help continue to rise, and we need your help more than ever. Any and all donations are needed and appreciated, but **please check expiration dates and make sure all packages are sealed and not used**. If you can donate any of the following, it would be a great help ... the items listed below in bold print are particularly needed each month...

Macaroni & Cheese

Canned Tuna

Canned Fruit

Canned Vegetables

Canned Red & Black Beans

Dried Red & Black Beans

Canned Tomatoes

Cooking Oil

Hot or Cold Cereals

Pancake Mixes

(just add water type)

Sugar

Toilet Paper

Toothpaste

Deodorant

Shampoo / Conditioner

Dish Detergent

Cleaning Wipes

Peanut Butter

Jelly – Strawberry or Grape

Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo

Tomato Products

Pasta Side Dishes

Pasta / Pasta Sauce

Boxed Potatoes

Rice a Roni/Pasta Roni

Bags of White Rice

Soup

Snack Foods

(chips/cookies/nuts/granola bars)

Paper Towels

Tissues / Napkins

Toothbrush

Hand Soap

Bleach

Laundry Detergent

Any donations of non-refrigerated items from the above list can be left in the *Loaves & Fishes* bin outside the church office or in the entry to the Narthex, clearly marked for *Loaves & Fishes*. **No time to shop, no problem...** monetary donations are always welcome. They can be made online, mailed to the church office, or dropped in the offering plate. Just please be sure they are designated for *Loaves & Fishes*.

Thank you for your generosity,
Debby Smeilus, Coordinator

Coins for Lent 2024 for Butler UMC's Shared Ministries Giving,

BY KEVIN JOHNSON for umcdiscipleship.org



During Lent, many of us are reminded once again to examine our lifestyles and ask, "What can we do for others?" Part of faith formation at any age is compassion and offering a serving heart to our neighbors. These past few years have been challenging when trying to find ways to serve our neighbors while remaining physically distant. This time has also

reminded us that we need to demonstrate compassion to others now more than ever. Lent is a good time to commit to giving money to a project that helps those in need. One way to involve the whole family is to collect coins (You may want to contribute a quarter for every item on the giving calendar. You may want to simply collect loose change and give whatever coins you have for each item) during the season of Lent and then following Easter, **donate the money to Butler UMC for Shared Ministries.**

Each month a project or mission is named to which members and friends are invited to make a Communion Offering. Envelopes for the Communion Offering are available or you may make use of the Giving Button on the Church Web Site (www.bumcnj.org). Simply click onto 'Communion' and your offering will be applied to that month's designated mission.

**Communion
Offering**



The Communion offering for March is dedicated to *One Great Hour of Sharing* or *UMCOR Sunday*. UMCOR Sunday calls United Methodists to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. Your gifts to UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to share God's love with communities everywhere. The special offering underwrites UMCOR's "costs of doing business." This helps UMCOR to keep the promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs.

Scrapbooking/Card Making/Crafting Event

Come and be in fellowship with other scrappers/stampers/crafters

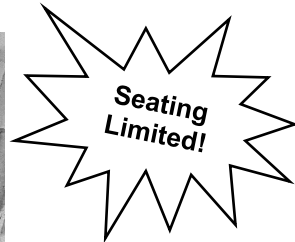
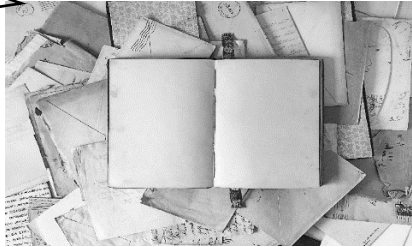
May 4, 2024

Butler United Methodist Church-Fellowship Hall

Benefit: **Butler United Methodist Church**

9:00am – 6:00pm

Cost: Whole Day \$60



Breakfast, Lunch, and Snacks will be provided.
Goody Bags, Door Prizes

Registration Form

**Deadline to register will be April 26th so we can make sure to have enough food for all.
Thank you!**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Dietary needs _____ Electrical needs _____

Cost: \$60 Whole Day

Make checks payable to: Butler United Methodist Church, 5 Bartholdi Ave, Butler, NJ 07405
PayPal or Venmo via the church website www.bumcnj.org, please mark your payment for
Scrapbook Day. Church office phone: (973) 838-2026

For questions or information, please contact Dawn Kruimer (862)274-0631 Dksunrise@aol.com

SPECIAL

Service

OPPORTUNITIES

SOUND TECHNICIAN

Karl Barton

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

VIDEO TECHNICIANS

(Pat Inglis 973-838-1916)

(pat.inglis@bumcnj.com)

March 3 rd	Pam Campbell
March 10 th	Pat Inglis
March 17 th	Pam Campbell
March 24 th	Pat Inglis
March 28 th	Pat Inglis
March 29 th	Lauren Thorburn
March 31 st	Lauren Thorburn

WORSHIP LEADERS

(Dawn Kruimer 862-274-0631)

March 3 rd	Chris Worden
March 10 th	OPEN
March 17 th	Cathi Berteele
March 24 th	Keith Worman
March 28 th	Dawn Kruimer
March 29 th	Dawn Kruimer
March 31 st	6am Laura Weingarten 9:30am Chris Worden



The most powerful weapon against trials is Prayer. Please join us as we pray for:

Family of Isabelle Butler (grief)

Marc Gibson (grief)

Linda Meilan (healing)

Betty Greig (healing)

Carroll Campbell (healing)

Carolyn Campbell (strength)

Greg Beaumont (healing)

Amelia Bechtold (healing)

Detective Kyle Gilmartin (healing)

Dean Family (grief)

Susan Davenport (strength)

Laura Weingarten (strength) and

Her Mom (healing)

Denise Mott (strength) and

Her Mom (healing)

Peter Shepard (Health)

Enid Amaro (Health)

Eileen Weinbrecht (Health)

COUNTERS

(Tim Campbell 973-768-2476)

(tjcamp13@optonline.net)

March 3 rd	Dawn Kruimer & Jean Bresett
March 10 th	Carroll Campbell, Janet Schaefer & Jeff Matthews
March 17 th	Linda Meilan & Karen Bailey
March 24 th	Dawn Kruimer & Jean Bresett
March 31 st	Carroll Campbell, Janet Schaefer & Jeff Matthews