B*eing*
U*nited in Christ*
T*eaching the Word*
L*oving and Caring*
E*mpowering and Enabling Disciples*
R*esponding to Needs*

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor

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Editor

TABERNACLE TIMES

***** NOVEMBER 2026 *****

Well-ness Words: Mind, Body & Soul

One of my favorite songs to open worship with is *He Has Made Me Glad*, written by Leona Von Brethhorst. The song is in The Faith We Sing on page 2270. The worship song expresses thanksgiving based on Psalms 92:4, 100:2, 4, and 118:24.

"I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart;
I will enter His courts with praise.
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made.
I will rejoice for He has made me glad."

He Has Made Me Glad is a joyful reminder of why we gather to worship and the attitude of joy with which we approach God; with praise and thanksgiving in our hearts, for no matter what circumstances, strife, grief, sorrow, trials, and testing we may be going through, God has made each day for us to experience God's healing love and grace to restore the joy in our hearts.

Psalm 95, another of my favorites, calls us to worship and obedience. Like most Psalms written by David, this one, too, is a conversation with God, about God, to God, born of deep reflection and a desire for a meaningful relationship with the Creator and Life-Giving God.

David invites us to sing to the Lord, make a joyful noise, listen to God's voice, and enter God's presence with thanksgiving because God has prepared the place of praise before we enter to worship: ***3 For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods.***
4 In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.
5 The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed. 6 O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! 7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

Through personal experience, the Psalmist knows that life gets difficult when we choose our own will over God's and live in moments of strife, contention, and tests that feel like we're living in the wilderness longer than we'd like. The Hebrew people traveled through the wilderness for forty years, during which they succumbed to their emotions, quarrels and complaints, doubts and fears, instead of trusting God's plan for a future of hope and fulfilled promises in the Promised Land, the land where milk and honey flow.

(continued on Page 3)

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

Then God extends an invitation that we not allow our hearts to harden as the hearts of many were when in Meribah (place of strife and contention) and Massah (place of testing) in the wilderness, even after seeing with their own eyes all that God is capable of doing for God's people in those forty years, as the people continued to go astray and disregarded God's company, direction, and guidance.

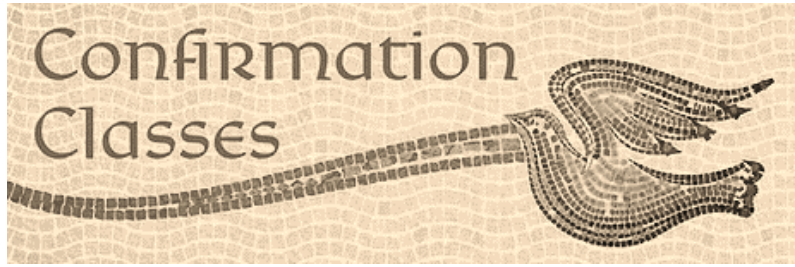
In this Psalm, God reflects on those days and expresses his disgust and intolerance toward that generation. **10** For forty years I loathed that generation. **11** Therefore in my anger I swore, "They shall not enter my rest." God warned that those who are disobedient and live in disbelief of God's ability to bring us to rest will struggle to lie down in green pastures and quiet waters, where God restores the soul and leads in paths of righteousness for the sake of His name (Psalm 23).

Many forty years have gone by; God came to this world as Emmanuel to show us firsthand the goodness of God and to give us a life-giving reason to worship and praise Him by following God's ways and softening our hearts. In dying for us and rising, we are a redeemed people, beloved, forgiven, freed, and gifted to do greater things together in the name of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. We all matter to God. We are all beloved. There is worth in each human being called to follow Emmanuel to the path of abundant love, grace, mercy, and life in God's kingdom here and now and to eternity, for the joy of the Lord is our strength, and He has made us glad!

Have a blessed and peaceful month of thanksgiving!

In Christ,

Pastor Iraida



November 22, 2026	Lessons 3 & 4	11:00 am in the Church Library
December no class	Merry Christmas! See you in January!	

The 2026 Finance Committee's first Chili Cook-off Fundraising Event was a success!

Six cooks, Alex Nafz, Karl Barton, Jeff Ziegler, Deb Matthews, Kevin Newland, and Lea Shupp, put together their unique chili recipes, and over fifty people attended to taste and choose their favorite! Thank you for supporting our church's events and programs! Only one word described this event: **FUN!!!**

Congratulations to Deb Matthews on the Best Chili at the Cook-off Event!

A huge shout out to Jeff Matthews for the warm welcome and for managing and collecting registration, and to **ALL the volunteers** who helped with setup and cleanup after the event! You're awesome!

Communion Offerings 2026

On Communion Sundays (usually the first Sunday of each month), we collect a special offering, in addition to tithes, pledges, and offerings, for the following missions and ministries. Please identify the designated mission and the amount on a separate envelope.

November	Loaves & Fishes	**December**	General Funds

Other 2026 Special Offerings: (subject to change if a specific need arises)

April	Easter Offering – General Fund
December	Christmas Eve Offering – General Fund

BALLROOM DANCING

Ballroom Dancing continues to meet at 7:00pm **on Thursdays.** Any questions?? You can call or text Kate Nafz (973) 879-0320 with any questions or for more information. Please join us for free instruction. No experience is needed. Everyone is invited!

November Upcoming Events

Bible Study	Tuesday, Bible Study at 7 pm, in the Church Library! Virtual and in-person! Better Ways to Read the Bible: Transforming a Weapon of Harm into a Tool of Healing | Four New Lenses to Study and Understand Scripture Participant Guide by Zach W. Lambert (Author)
November 1st	Sunday, Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 1st	Sunday, All Saints Sunday with Holy Communion and Fellowship Hour following
November 3rd	Election Day
November 11th	Wednesday, November 11, Veterans Day
November 14th	Saturday, Butler UMC Charge Conference at Grace Wyckoff, 9 am
November 20th	Bishop's Day on the District, 4:45 pm at Denville Community Church, Denville
November 21st	Saturday, Scrapbooking/Card Making/Crafting Event, 9 am – 6 pm
November 26th	Thanksgiving Day
November 28th	Decorating the Sanctuary at 9 am
November 29th	First Sunday in Advent: Hope Thanksgiving/Advent Service at 10 am

December Save the Dates!

December 6th	Second Sunday in Advent: Peace
December 13th	Third Sunday in Advent: Joy Christmas Cantata! Butler UMC Choir and Rich Lovallo, Choir and Music Director
December 20th	Fourth Sunday in Advent: Love
December 21st	Monday, Blue Christmas Service
December 24th	Christmas Eve Services, 8 pm and 11 pm Both services are Candlelight with Holy Communion
December 27th	New Year's Eve Service

NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY **1** 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am English Worship 10am Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:30am Spanish Worship	**2** 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 7-9pm Gleaners Open NO Zumba in Hall	**3** 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Bible Study	**4** 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting NO Zumba in Hall 7pm Spanish Bible Study	**5** 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 6:30pm Choir 7pm Ball Room Dancing 8pm Bells	**6** 6am Men's Bible Study 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting	**7** 10-1:00pm Gleaners 10 am NA Meeting
8 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am English Worship 10am Sunday School 11:30am Spanish Worship	**9** 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 7-9pm Gleaners Open 7pm Zumba in Hall	**10** 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Bible Study	***VETERANS DAY*** **11** 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 7pm Zumba in Hall 7pm Spanish Bible Study	**12** 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 6:30pm Choir 7pm Ball Room Dancing 8pm Bells	**13** 6am Men's Bible Study 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting	**14** 9am Charge Conference at Grace UMC in Wyckoff 10-1:00pm Gleaners 10 am NA Meeting
15 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am English Worship 10am Sunday School 11:30am Spanish Worship	**16** 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 7-9pm Gleaners Open 7pm Zumba in Hall	**17** 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Bible Study	**18** 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 7pm Zumba in Hall 7pm Spanish Bible Study	**19** 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 6:30pm Choir 7pm Ball Room Dancing 8pm Bells	**20** 6am Men's Bible Study 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 7pm Scrapbook Hall Set Up	**21** 9am-6pm Scrapbooking in Hall 9:30-12:30pm Loaves & Fishes 10-1:00pm Gleaners 10 am NA Meeting
22 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am English Worship 10am Sunday School 11am Confirmation Meeting 11:30am Spanish Worship	**23** 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 7-9pm Gleaners Open 7pm Zumba in Hall 7-9pm Loaves & Fishes	**24** 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 7pm Al-Anon 7pm Bible Study	**25** 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting NO Zumba in Hall	**26** 	**27** 6am Men's Bible Study 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting	**28** 9am Decorating the Sanctuary 10-1:00pm Gleaners 10 am NA Meeting
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT **29** 10am Thanksgiving/Advent Service 10am Sunday School	**30** 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 7-9pm Gleaners Open 7pm Zumba in Hall		**Come join the fun!** The first Sunday of Advent this year falls on November 29th. We will be gathering to decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas on **Saturday, November 28th at 9:00am** and we'd love to have you join us! There will be something for everyone to help with, so bring the family and help us usher in the Advent & Christmas season!			

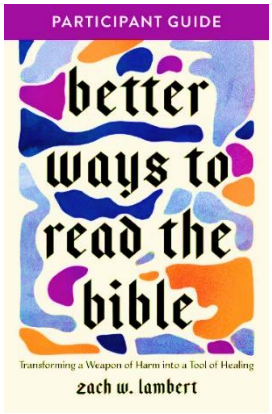
Loaves & Fishes

The Food Pantry has been very busy, and we need to have our staple items restocked each month… pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, tuna fish for this month. 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… (Please see special Thanksgiving needs on page 9)**

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
Side Dishes
(Ricearoni, Knorr pasta or rice sides)
Pasta / Pasta Sauce
Boxed Potatoes
Bags of White Rice
Soup
Snack Foods
(chips/cookies/nuts/granola bars)
Paper Towels
Tissues / Napkins
Women's personal Hygiene
Hand Soap / Bar Soap
Diapers (all sizes)
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



Bible Study on Tuesdays at 7 pm,in the Church Library! Virtual and in-person!

Better Ways to Read the Bible: Transforming a Weapon of Harm into a Tool of Healing | Four New Lenses to Study and Understand Scripture Participant Guide by Zach W. Lambert

We will use the Participant Guide, and if you would like to purchase the book, both are on sale on Amazon.

According to the Amazon description, "This study offers trusted, pastorally grounded teaching that has already touched thousands of lives. This study reshapes Lambert's book for small groups and individual reflection and can be used alone or in conjunction with the main book. Lambert leads participants through dismantling four harmful interpretive lenses and discovering four new ones that bring healing and wholeness, while testing these lenses on a familiar biblical text. Participants can identify and release interpretive frameworks built on racism, sexism, exclusion, and misuse of power, then embrace four Christ-centered alternatives that cultivate compassion, justice, and spiritual renewal."

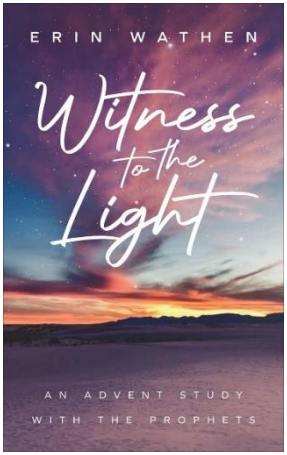
Come for the Fellowship, Stay for the Fall Flavors! Celebrate the beauty of the season with us and enjoy some delicious **Fall-flavored goodies** at Coffee Hour! **Sunday, November 1st, Immediately following the 9:30 AM service.** All are welcome! Bring your family, invite a friend, and join us for a little Autumn sweetness, warm fellowship, and a whole lot of love!

We can't wait to see you there!

Turkeys Needed for Thanksgiving …

Loaves & Fishes will not be getting as many turkeys from the Community Food Bank this year, so any donations would be greatly appreciated. In addition to our normal monthly needs, we could use donations of any of the following items as we try to provide a Thanksgiving dinner for our families:

Turkeys	Boxed Potatoes	Gravy
Flour	Cranberry Sauce	Sugar
	Cookiing Oil	



Advent Bible Study! Starting on Tuesday, December 1st! Witness to the Light: An Advent Study with the Prophets, by Erin Wathen.

Amazon description: When the night is long, the light still comes. Find hope this Advent through the words of the prophets.

For many, Advent and Christmas are celebrated in the darkest time of the year. Waiting and longing for the first glimmer of sunlight over the horizon becomes a poignant, perennial metaphor for the human quest to find hope amid sorrow, hardship, and fear.

The prophets knew this feeling well and spoke hope to God's people with the power to sustain them, and us, through uncertain times. Some sang of God's faithfulness, some spoke of a messiah, and all cast a vision for when current trials would be no more because God's kingdom would have come to earth. As we await the birth of Jesus, our Messiah, we carry the heaviness of daily life and listen for the voices of those witnessing to the light.

This Advent study features the words and stories of prophetic figures in Scripture, from Major Prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and John the Baptist to lesser-heard voices like Miriam, Joel, Ezekiel, and Anna. Weekly themes—reveal, renew, rejoice, and return—guide readers through an Advent practice that speaks ancient comfort to modern souls, turning our heads toward the signs of life these biblical heroes proclaimed: flowing water in the desert, a vibrant branch from a felled stump, a virgin with child, a dawn to shine in the darkness.

Each week's chapter includes daily readings and study questions to facilitate group discussion, and the back of the book includes helpful resources for congregational worship, mission, and fellowship.

Our Scrapbooking fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, November 21st and your help is needed!

- Help is needed setting up on Friday night (11/20) at 7pm or earlier
- Help is need in the kitchen on Saturday (11/21)
- Can you make a dish for any of the meals… breakfast, lunch or dessert?

If you could lend a hand in any way, please contact Dawn Kruimer (862)274-0631 or Dksunrise@aol.com. Thank you!

Scrapbooking/Card Making/Crafting Event

Come and be in fellowship with other scrappers/stampers/crafters
before the craziness of the holidays

November 21, 2026

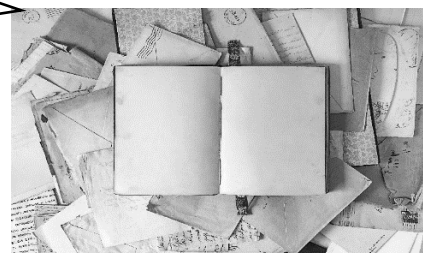
Butler United Methodist Church-Fellowship Hall

Benefit: Butler United Methodist Church

9:00am – 6:00pm

Cost: Whole Day $60

Register Early!



Seating Limited!

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

Registration Form

Deadline to register will be November 13th so we can make sure to have enough food for all. Thank you!

Name:_____Phone:_____

Email Address:_____

Mailing Address:_____

Dietary needs_____Electrical needs _____

Sitting prefrences: _____

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 973-650-1830)
(pat.inglis@bumcnj.com)

Pat Inglis

COUNTERS

(Jeff Ziegler 732-236-7178)
(jeffziegler129@gmail.com)

November 1st Dawn Kruimer
November 8th ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED***
November 15th Jeff & Deb Matthews
November 22nd Dawn Kruimer
November 29th ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED***

WORSHIP LEADERS

(Dawn Kruimer 862-274-0631)

November 1st OPEN
November 8th OPEN
November 15th OPEN
November 22nd Lori Shepard
November 29th OPEN

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

The Greig Family (peace & strength)
Patty & Rocky Sassone (healing & strength)
Debbie Pitt & family (grief on loss of her mom)
Tracey Gleason & family (grief on loss of her mom)
Jay Rogers (healing & strength)
Anna Langbein (healing)
Ken Mackey (healing)
Teresa Ziegler (strength, healing)
David Peters (healing)
Irene Averill (healing)
Lola Ramirez & family (strength & peace)
Elizabeth Peters (healing)
Linda McKeever (recovering from surgery)
Terry Medino (healing, strength)
Karen Alisse (strength)
The Coombs family (grief on loss of son)
Conchita Laporte (surgery recovery)
Mark Gallo (coma from septic shock)
Albert Miller (Dawn Kruimer's brother, healing)
James H. (car accident)
Sue Zee (Health)
Claudia (healing)
Anthony (strength)
Jerri (health, healing)
Michele Barton (health)
John Bosma (healing)
Lucy Matyisin (health)
Bob & Linda Corter (health & healing)
Pam Shirley (healing)
Liz Mack (healing)
Carroll & Carolyn Campbell (strength)
Sandy (Teresa) Weigel (healing)
Susan Davenport (healing/strength)
Denise Mott (strength) & Her Mom (healing)
Enid Amaro (Health)
Eileen Weinbrecht (Health)

What is Christmas ?

Every time a hand reaches out to help another …
That is Christmas.

Every time someone puts anger aside and strives for understanding …
That is Christmas.

Every time people forget their differences and realize their love for each other …
That is Christmas.

May this Christmas bring us closer to the spirt of human understanding,
closer to the blessing of peace

ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Here is an opportunity for you to help beautify the sanctuary this Christmas, as you remember or recognize a loved one.

Please print clearly your name, and the name(s) of person(s) whom you wish to remember or honor. Enclose $15.00 and the tear off portion of this page in an envelope marked "Christmas" for each plant ordered. This may be left in the church office or placed in the offering plate on Sunday. **Deadline for ordering is December 18th.**

I/We wish to order _____ Poinsettias/Decorations. $_____ Enclosed.

Name of Donor _____

In Loving Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

(Plants may be removed for your own enjoyment, or to give to one of our shut-ins following the last Christmas Eve service)