First United Methodist Church NewSletter March 2021 Issue Deadline for April Issue March 18, 2021

"Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly. Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." (1 Timothy 4.7-8, NLT)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



We are almost one quarter through 2021! Isn't that hard to believe? We are now in the midst of Lent and I have been leading us through a worship series entitled, "Purple Theory". Purple, as most of you probably know, is the

liturgical color of Lent, which is a time of reflection and repentance as we prepare our hearts for the triumphant joy of Easter.

So, what is Purple Theory? Well, that is actually simple. It is something that you can put into practice and measure the results. What if I said that I could provide a way for you to not only grow closer to God, but to grow in your spiritual and emotional health as well? Would you take the opportunity to try that way out and see what happens, or would you pass it up? Well, I do know the way to such things; however, I didn't come up with it...GOD DID!

The Purple Theory banks on this: if you take the opportunity to fully INVEST your life in Jesus Christ, you will see a spiritual and emotional transformation in ways you could never imagine. Such transformation will even manifest physically. People will notice a change about you. They will see a DIFFERENCE in you and probably will even ask you about it. What a great opportunity to share your faith if that happens!

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So, are you up for the challenge? Are you willing to go on an adventure that is bound to transform you into the person God created you to be? Are you willing to invest yourself in your Lord and Savior? The church is worried about attendance and a decline in membership across the board. That is not an uncommon worry in any congregation, but it was uncommon to the earliest Christians. Their worry was not on membership numbers, but on the development of quality disciples. If we had a church of 15 passionate, committed disciples of Jesus Christ, we would have enough to people to rock the world around us.

The irony is, actually, that if you work on discipleship in the church, the church WILL grow because disciples make more disciples for Jesus Christ. That is the call of a Christian, isn't it? Being a Christian means that we WILL be a witness of Jesus Christ to others, because it fulfills Christ's great commission. The Purple Theory is taking us through the essential spiritual disciplines (or practices) that will transform us into such disciples.

So, at this point, you are hopefully wondering what those disciplines are. No doubt, you probably already know some of them. They are praying, reading Scripture, fasting, confessing, worshiping, observing silence, and showing gratitude. Now, for Protestants, "confessing" sounds a lot like the Roman Catholic sacrament of "confession". While confession is not a sacrament in the Protestant church, that does not mean that there isn't great spiritual value in the act of confessing one's sins. We will be learning more about the spiritual discipline of confession on Sunday, March 14 at 10:30 a.m. on youtube.com/NewtonUMChurch. So, definitely tune in.

I obviously don't have the space here to go into detail on each of the seven essential spiritual disciplines, nor do I want to spoil the worship series for you; however, I do want to encourage you to look at the list above and pray over which one you want to work on. I would suggest prayer and reading Scripture as the places to start, but maybe God is calling to a different one. Regardless, take the step of building up your spiritual disciplines and I promise that you will see how God works in your life as a result. You will grow spiritually, emotionally and, no doubt, people will see the transformation as well.

We have put together a Lenten Scripture reading plan. You can access that by visiting: http://newtonumc.com/cp/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/PurpleTheory Daily Readings.pdf

These daily readings are not long and you can easily incorporate prayer into your Bible readings. If you are seeing this resource for the first time you can catch up or simply start on them in the middle. One simple way to read the Bible is called Lectio Divina. You can watch this YouTube video on this method of incorporating prayer with reading Scripture: https://youtu.be/RZ Vm-E31BO

Also, we have put together mission ideas for you to consider during the Lenten season. They're simple and easy and good for the Christian life! We are called to engage in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. We are called to serve others and express our faith through acts of gratitude and love. While we are not saved because of our good works, our good works are the natural response to the grace we have received in Jesus Christ. You can access these ideas by visiting: http://newtonumc.com/cp/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/PurpleTheory-Mission-Engagement-Ideas.pdf

Finally, did you know that our church posts worship guides to help you follow along during worship. I also post notes to accompany my sermon. In that handout, you can fill in the blanks, and engage with the sermon in ways that will help you learn and grow. These are resources for you that we hope you will find helpful and take full advantage of. To access and download the worship guide you can visit: https://newtonumc.com/cp/?cat=7 and to access and download the sermon notes handout you can simply visit: https://newtonumc.com/cp/?cat=31

With Love in Christ, Pastor Todd



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Sunday Worship is online

Our worship service premieres at 10:30 a.m. on our YouTube Channel youtube.com/NewtonUMChurch



Support your Church

Giving has never been easier! We now offer online giving. Thank you for your generous, consistent, and faithful support!





March 2021

https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/ tithely/give-one-time/1377216

paypal.me/newtonumc



Treasures is open every Saturday from 9 to 2.

Thank you for donating We are in need of more jewelry. Please help.

Blessings, Linda 972-222-0487





The Weekend Bag Program

Our Food Barrel has been moved to our entrance vestibule to make it handy for donors and those picking up the gifts.

This pandemic has created an enormous need.

You may leave your donations in bags outside the front doors of the church. Or call the office and let Delia know when you want to drop them off.

Help feed our local families in need.







MEMORIALS, SPECIAL GIFTS & ESTATES



When special occasions arise, consider the "Perfect Gift"

Gifts to our Memorials and Special Gifts fund perpetuate our church, providing special needs beyond the operating budget and making an eternal connection through our Book of Remembrance in the narthex.

Please remember your church in your will.

Consider asking your loved ones to suggest that friends make a gift in your memory to the church memorial fund, in lieu of flowers.

This may be included in your obituary.

Newton's 1st Annual Operation Easter Bunny

This year the Easter Bunny will team up with the Newton Fire Department. On Saturday, March 27th, 2021 beginning at 11:00am. The Easter Bunny will stop by your home on a fire truck and deliver your Easter gift to your child(ren).

Attention! Due to the covid-19 pandemic this year we ask all people at the drop-off to have masks on and limit the amount of people around The Easter Bunny. Also, The Easter Bunny will not be entering anyone's homes this year.

\$10.00 donation first child, \$5.00 for each additional child(ren). You will need to drop off your Easter gift(s) at firehouse #1 located at 22 Mill Street March 23rd and 25th between the time of 6pm-9pm top parking lot.

Please fill out The Easter Bunny request form with donation made payable to Newton Fire Department. Send form and payment to Newton Fire Department 56 Woodside Ave Newton, NJ 07860 Any questions or more information please Call #973-383-1050 or 973-383-4746 Please leave a message: Attention Operation Easter Bunny Deadline is the final drop-off date March 25th, 2021

http://www.newtontownhall.com/DocumentCenter/View/2908/1st-annual-Operation-Easter-Bunny-Application-2021pdf-5?bidId=

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HOLLAND HALL

Our Fellowship Hall, named in honor of Rev. E. T. Holland who led the construction of our new facility in 1962 and served as our pastor from 1962 through 1974, is a very im-

portant part of our ministry.

It provides a space for members and friends to gather for sociability following worship, for special meetings and religious services, for use of the Cub Scouts for more than 50 years, Election Day training and voting, Rotary Pancake breakfasts, Craft Shows, Organ and Choral receptions, special occasion celebrations, pot-lock suppers, to name just a few of its many uses.

Over the years it has served our church and our community for many special occasions. Most recently it has been used for our JOY Praise Services on Sunday

Mornings.

The original development and the progressive updates of this area have been funded through special gifts and special fund drives to provide tables, chairs, video and sound equipment, accordion doors to the chapel area, air conditioning and other furnishings. We give thanks for the many gifts and the efforts of our volunteers to maintain and improve this area.

This monthly informational series is provided in appreciation of past gifts and as an encouragement to our members and friends to continue support of the Memorials, Special Gifts and Estate Planning Fund

WITH A SONG IN OUR HEARTS

From Barbara & Henry Repp

Although we can't sing with Church Choir or Unity Choir, we still have songs in our hearts. We decided that it would be a nice gesture to share the songs in our hearts with people who could use some joy and cheer during this Pandemic.

Did you know that the residents of Bristol Glen have been almost totally isolated since October 16? Can you imagine not being able to congregate with others for more than four months? It is hoped that by the time you read this newsletter, the next stage will be in effect and friends will be able to gather together in groups of six. Even so, some cheer from us would be a welcome "song".

We thought that having a card ministry would be a cheerful gesture. We contacted Dave who is Activities Director at Bristol Glen. He loved the idea and said that the residents are absolutely thrilled when they get cards. That's how you can help! Would you be willing to send cards to the residents? Here's how to participate.

The cards can be purchased cards, or they can be hand-made. Do you know children who are bored while being away from school? What a perfect project this would be for their participation. If you are not creative or artistic, any card would suffice. It is not necessary for each card to be in its own individual envelope. If you know a resident of Bristol Glen, a card could be given specifically to that person. Cards could also be addressed to "Neighbor" or "Friend". They would then be given to individuals who could use a "song" sent from our hearts to theirs.

You are probably asking how the cards will be taken to Bristol Glen. Cards should be put in some sort of envelope or box. The container should be labeled "Attention: Dave---Activities Director". You could take the cards to Bristol Glen yourselves and leave them at the front desk. Visitors are not allowed at this time. OR you could bring the cards to the church and someone will see that they are taken to Bristol Glen. The church office is open from 9 to 1 Monday through Friday. It would probably be a good idea to be sure that Delia will be in the office. She occasionally works from home during inclement weather. The church phone number is 973-383-4450.

If you have any questions, please contact Henry or Barbara Repp at 973-347-0945 or brepp@verizon.net. We would love to hear from those who are sharing the songs in their hearts with others!!!

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'TIS WINTER NOW

Tis winter now; the fallen snow

Has left the heav'ns all coldly clear; Through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow, And all the earth lies dead and drear.

And yet God's love is not withdrawn; His life within the keen air breathes, His beauty paints the crimson dawn, And clothes the boughs with glitt'ring wreaths.

And though abroad the sharp winds blow, And skies are chill, and frosts are keen, Home closer draws her circle now, And warmer glows her light within.

O God! who giv'st the winter's cold As well as summer's joyous rays, Us warmly in Thy love enfold And keep us through life's wintry days.



Samuel Longfellow (1819-1892)

As the heavy snow piled up on the ground, I thought of these words as the choir anthem "Winter Carol" by Austin Lovelace resonated in my head. As I listened to the music play itself in my brain, I wondered about the man who wrote the words. I searched for information and discovered that Samuel Longfellow was the youngest brother of the famous poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Surely you've heard "Listen, my children, and you shall hear of the midnight ride of Paul Revere." Many of you have probably read "The Song of Hiawatha" and "Evangeline".

Wanting to learn more about Samuel Longfellow, I found myself at the online site for the Longfellow House Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site. The house is at 105 Brattle Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It was there that George Washington took command of the Continental Army during the American Revolution. The first use in the United States of anesthesia for childbirth was administered to Fanny Longfellow at the house!!!! Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote most of the poetry that made him famous in this home. Longfellow's descendants donated the house and property. The stories of the people and the collections make the site come to life.

I learned that Samuel Longfellow was the youngest brother of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. He was born in Portland, Maine on June 18, 1819. He was educated at Portland Academy and then went to Harvard College where his older brother Henry was teaching. He taught for a short time in Maryland and then entered Harvard Divinity School in 1839. He eventually made his home with his brother Henry and family. His first position as a clergyman was at West Cambridge, followed by positions in Fall River, Massachusetts, and in 1853 in Brooklyn, New York. He did not hide his abolitionist views, but his sermons portraying John Brown as a courageous martyr after the Harper's Ferry raid drew dissent. Samuel was also a pacifist and a supporter of women's rights. He left his position in Brooklyn in 1860 to travel to Europe.

He spent much of the 1860's and 1870's giving sermons at various New England parishes while the regular clergyman was away. The Quaker-leaning parish of Germantown, Pennsylvania welcomed Samuel as their pastor in 1878. He reluctantly left there in 1882 to start the biography of his late brother Henry.

While on a visit to Portland, Samuel fell ill and was admitted to the Maine General Hospital. He died on October 3, 1892.

Jeremiah 17:8

They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long



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	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn
	L Turn away E N T from sin	1	2	3 6:00 Cub S
,	7 Third Sunday in Lent	8	9	10 6:00 Cub S
	14 Fourth Sunday in Lent Daylight savings time begins	15	16 10:00 Manna House	17 2:00 AB(Book Clu

23

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PALM SUNDAY
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21

28

Fifth Sunday

in Lent

22

29

March 2021

24

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6:00

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6:00

Cub S



Psalm 1:1
Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,

	A		
esday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
couts	4	5	6 9-2 Treasures
couts	1 1	12	13 9—2Treasures Spring Ahead
b via Zoom Scouts	18	19	20 9-2 Treasures
couts	25	26	27 9-2 Treasures
couts		NT	

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March 2021

From Kathleen's Kitchen

With COVID-19 restrictions in place, our International Dinner will most likely not happen again this year. So, in honor of my Irish heritage and St. Patrick's Day, I thought I would share the recipes for the dishes I usually serve at the Ireland table. They are hearty, heartwarming, and always served with love. Slainte! (A Gaelic toast meaning "health")

Irish Brown Bread

Ingredients

- 4 cups Irish-Style Flour*
- 2 to 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 1/2 cups buttermilk
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil or 2 tablespoons melted butter

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Lightly grease a baking sheet, or line it with parchment.

In a large bowl, stir together the flour, sugar, salt, baking soda and baking powder.

Make a well in the dry ingredients and pour in the buttermilk and the oil or butter. Stir together until blended — some lumps will remain.

Turn the dough out onto a floured board and knead about 10 times, or until it all holds together.

Form the dough into a large ball and place it on the prepared baking sheet. Cut a deep cross in the top.

Bake the bread for approximately 40 minutes, or until it tests done (a cake tester or toothpick inserted into the center will come out clean).

Remove the bread from the oven, and cool it on a rack. Enjoy warm or at room temperature. Serve with sweet butter and a dollop of marmalade, if desired.

Store, well-wrapped, for a couple of days at room temperature; freeze for longer storage.

*I order mine from King Arthur Flour Company (www.kingarthurflour.com)



Delicious Beef Stew

Ingredients

2 tablespoons olive oil

6 thick slices bacon, cut into 1-inch pieces

2 pounds boneless beef chuck, cut into 1 -inch cubes

Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

3 large yellow onions, roughly chopped

6 large carrots, peeled, cut in

half lengthwise, and then cut into 2-inch lengths

- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 3 cups homemade beef stock or canned broth
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons red currant jelly
- 2 teaspoons dried thyme leaves
- 8 small red new potatoes, halved
- 6 cloves garlic, mince

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 350°F.

Heat the olive oil in a large skillet. Add the bacon, and cook over medium heat until fat is rendered, 4 to 5 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the bacon to a heavy flameproof casserole.

Brown the beef in the same skillet, in small batches, over mediumhigh heat. Sprinkle the beef with pepper as it is cooking. Transfer the beef to the casserole with the bacon.

Place the onions and carrots in the same skillet. Sprinkle them with the sugar and sauté over medium heat to caramelize them slightly, 6 to 8 minutes. Remove the vegetables from the skillet and set aside.

Add the stock to the skillet and bring to a boil, scraping up any brown bits. Swirl in the butter, red currant jelly, and thyme. Cook for 1 minute, then pour over the meat in the casserole.

Add the potatoes and garlic to the casserole, and bring the mixture to a boil. Cover, transfer to the oven, and bake for 45 minutes.

Remove the casserole from the oven, and add the reserved vegetables. Stir gently, adjust the seasonings, and return the casserole to the oven. Bake, uncovered, until the beef is tender, 45 minutes.



Beef Shepherd's Pie

Ingredients

1 1/2 to 2 pounds potatoes (about 3 large), peeled and guartered

8 Tablespoons (1 stick) butter

1 medium onion, chopped (about 1 1/2 cups)

2 cups vegetables—diced carrots, corn, peas

2 lbs ground round beef

3/4 cup beef broth

2 tbsps Worcestershire sauce

1 tsp thyme

Salt, pepper, to taste

Directions



Place the peeled and quartered potatoes in medium sized pot. Cover with at least an inch of cold water. Add a teaspoon of salt. Bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer, and cook until tender (about 20 minutes).

While the potatoes are cooking, melt 4 tablespoons of the butter in a large sauté pan on medium heat. Add the chopped onions and carrots and cook until tender, about 6 to 10 minutes.

Add peas and corn toward the end of the cooking of the onions and carrots, as they take very little cooking time.

Add ground beef to the pan with the onions and vegetables. Cook until no longer pink. Season with salt and pepper.

Add the beef broth, Worcestershire sauce, and thyme. Bring to a simmer and reduce heat to low. Cook uncovered for 10 minutes, adding more beef broth if necessary to keep the meat from drying out. Remove from heat.

When the potatoes are done cooking (a fork can easily pierce), drain them and return them to their pot with the remaining 4 Tbsp of butter. Mash them and season with salt and pepper to taste.

Preheat oven to 400°F. Spread the beef, onions, and vegetables in an even layer in a large baking dish (9x13 casserole).

Spread the mashed potatoes over the top of the ground beef. Rough up the surface of the mashed potatoes with a fork so there are peaks that will get well browned. You can even use a fork to make creative designs in the mashed potatoes.

Place in a 400°F oven and cook until browned and bubbling, about 30 minutes. If necessary, broil for the last few minutes to help brown the surface of the mashed potatoes.

(Be careful when broiling using Pyrex or glass dishes, they have been known to shatter under the high heat of the broiler. It's not a worry if you are using a ceramic or metal casserole dish.)

This recipe can also be made with 2 lbs shredded chicken breast (poach breasts and shred) by using chicken broth instead of beef broth and omitting the Worcestershire sauce.



03/02	Jessica DeRose, Elizabeth Legon, Steven Walter
03/04	Minnie Sagar
03/06	Lois Mitchell
03/07	Maureen Snellen
03/10	Lois McCue, Quinn Stoner
03/11	Joan Wolfe
03/13	Marilyn Sappio
03/16	Terry Anderson, Jean Maher
03/17	Stephanie Doyle
03/18	Emily Buckmaster-Plotts, Keith Virga
03/19	Jessie DeWire, Anne Mohan, Gemma Mohan
03/20	James DeRose
03/22	Ken Waldron
03/24	Shannon Cooper, Kim Fabiano, Debra Hurtt
03/25	Chester Morris, Jr.
03/29	Kathleen Baldwin, Anthony Elvidge,
	Abraham Jacinto, Donald Woods
03/30	Hester Baldwin, Theresa Iliff
03/31	Kerry Stoner

Is your birthday missing or listed incorrectly? Let the church office know so that we may correct our records!



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In Need of Prayer: (alpha. order)

Lynn Anderson, Ethan Bechtold, Sam Bennett, Rina Benos, Lori Bischoff, Diane Bozzone, Jean Brendler, Richard Brizendine, Ken & the Buckmaster family, Jennifer Buyer & family, Bob Cambell, Herb Caton (Donna Meisinger's Uncle), Peg Coats, Bill Coe, Larry Conover, family of Michele Conard, Ted Cosgrove, Samantha Daniel (Shirley's daughter), Jane Dunstan (Erin Siipola's mom), Neil Faber, Dan Finkle (Donna Meisinger's nephew), Laura Frasier, Muriel Gallo, Linda Gallo, Ron & Laurie Gallo, all cousins of Cindy Rich, Diane Gelone, Anne Handy, Jane & Peter Hartmann, Patricia Hefferan (Unity Choir), Jaclyn Holmberg, Albert Huff, Theresa Iliff, Beverly Kays, Bob Kays, Rhonda Kays, The Kempf family, Edward Kuhn, the Lattig family, family of Marion Lanterman, Laura Lewis, Kay Lid, Jean Maher, Peter Mahler, Lois McCue, Bruce Messina & family, Joe Miller, The Monesmith family, The Morris family, the family of Mary Jane Nemeth, Anne McNally, Heidi Parsons (Kathleen Meredith's sister), Skip Parsons (Kathleen Meredith's brother), The Plotts family, Ralph Porter, Sally Porter, Family of Joyce Post, Paul Rafalco, Henry Repp, Willard Repp, Cindy Rich, Elizabeth Roe, Family of Dan Rutan, Claus Seebeck, Tina Simon, Mary Kate Sinclair, Merle Tanis, Sawyer Vaughan, Carol Wallenburg, Stephanie Walter, Kate Bertelli-Wilinski, Jodi Wilson, John Wilson, Family of Eleanor Windt, Angela Woods, Molly Young (Rev. David Young's Daughter)

Members and Friends at Bristol Glen, the members of our military and their families.

If anyone listed above can be removed, please notify the church office.

First United Methodist Church

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www.newtonumc.com newtonumc07860@gmail.com www.facebook.com/newton.umc

MINISTRY TEAM

Pastor Rev. Todd R. Lattig
Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. H. Alden Welch
Lay Servants Joseph Capitulik, Mark Hontz,

Kathleen Meredith, Neil VanderGroef

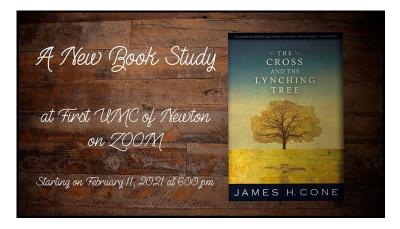
Director of Music/Organist

Music Coordinator/JOY Service

Office Administrator

Henry Repp
Christie Spriggs
Delia Mason

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The Cross and the Lynching Tree

A Study based on Rev. Dr. James H. Cone's book

Sign up for our Spring Adult Christian Education Book Study, The Cross and the Lynching Tree. We will be reading and discussing James H. Cone's book, The Cross and the Lynching Tree. The book examines how both the cross and the lynching tree are the "two most emotionally charged symbols in the history of the African American community." This study will be centered on Black Liberation Theology, racism, and the power of Christ to save and empower the oppressed, providing hope from the hopeless, and liberating them from their oppression.

SYNOPSIS: "The cross and the lynching tree are the two most emotionally charged symbols in the history of the African American community. In this powerful new work, theologian James H. Cone explores these symbols and their interconnection in the history and souls of black folk. Both the cross and the lynching tree represent the worst in human beings and at the same time a thirst for life that refuses to let the worst determine our final meaning. While the lynching tree symbolized white power and black death, the cross symbolizes divine power and black life God overcoming the power of sin and death. For African Americans, the image of Jesus, hung on a tree to die, powerfully grounded their faith that God was with them, even in the suffering of the lynching era." - from Amazon.com

When and Where:

We will be meeting virtually on Thursdays, starting on February 11, 2021 at 6 P.M. on Zoom at https://zoom.us/ij/99336911430? pwd=OXVVRIpwRHg5NUpzaDN3bkNMd2xFUT09

DIAL IN on Phone: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) Meeting ID: 993 3691 1430 Passcode: 377373

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40 Park Place "On the Square" Newton, New Jersey 07860

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Pastor Todd Lattig, Delia Mason

Preparers: Kathleen Meredith, Beulah Capitulik

The newsletter is produced 11 times per year. Deadlines are the third Tuesday of the month. It is also available via e-mail or on the church's website.



Thank you to First UMC for all you do in our community and around the world

with McCualtan Europal Har

Smith-McCracken Funeral Home

63 High Street, Newton, NJ 07860 (973/383-4600)

Wood Funeral Home

16 Main Street, Branchville, NJ 07826 (973/948-3030)

Robert E. McCracken, Owner/Manager



Volunteers Needed at Manna House

Manna House is still doing a 'no contact lunch'. Just 3 volunteers are needed to help Laura with prep of a simple bagged lunch. They are left at the door, no one comes in to eat yet. Always the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Next date is March 16th

at 10 am. Contact Cindy at 973-670-2597

Our Mission:

Transform the world with God's Love by being and making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our Vision:

Reaching and serving all people with God's message of hope.

Our Values:

We share our faith and commitment to Jesus Christ through fellowship, worship and witness.

PLACE STAMP HERE

First United Methodist Church 111 RYERSON AVE NEWTON, NEW JERSEY 07860

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED