

First United Methodist Church Newsletter

September 2023 Issue

Deadline for October Issue — September 19, 2023

“Jesus came and told his disciples, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20 NLT)



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Evangelism is a scary word for most of us. We imagine all sorts of horrible situations when we think of that word. We imagine people with “Turn or Burn” signs; we imagine people getting up into our grills about Jesus and the Bible. We imagine, if we imagine, ourselves being ridiculed by others for sharing our faith. Some of us imagine that faith is private and should not be shared with others or, if we do believe we should share our faith, we’d rather let someone else do that work. It just simply is “for us”.

Yet, in the Scripture above, sharing one’s faith isn’t a requirement, but an expression of our life in Jesus Christ. Let’s pause and think about this, if Jesus Christ is the Savior of our souls and the Lord of our lives...if we really see that as GOOD NEWS that is FOR EVERYONE...then we have a moral duty to share the Gospel with people. We, as Christians, know THE WAY to eternal, abundant life: JESUS CHRIST.

With all of that said, it still is scary to imagine ourselves evangelizing in any way, shape, or form. That reality comes from the fact that we see evangelism as something different than relationships. When we go to a ball game and we witness an historic, hall-of-fame play, do we fail to tell our family, friends or neighbors? Of course not! We have no problem sharing all sorts of awesome good news to people, just so long as it is NOT THE SINGLE-MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE OF GOOD NEWS in the history of Creation. So let me briefly share a true tale with you to illustrate how evangelism can be both natural and rewarding.

Once we started to open back up after being in lockdown during the pandemic, I (Pastor Todd) began to reemerge out in community again. A lot of Spring Street had stayed shut down, including what was once The Barrel House, where I would often go and hang...to get to know people. This was a regular practice of mine, as well as frequenting other places on Spring Street that have since closed, changed or moved.

As a guy who loves beer in all of its beautiful variety, I decided to go back to a place that I had not been to that much prior the pandemic: Angry Erik Brewing. A local brewery in Hampton, NJ (originally it was located in Lafayette, NJ), Angry Erik is owned by Erik and Heide, who established their business in 2014. In fact, Heide is the real genius behind their brews, having a degree in biochemistry and trained in culinary school as well.

Anyway, I started to show up at their establishment and would just sit there and interact with the tasting room attendants. By interacting, I mean that I would sit there, sip a beer, and just chit-chat. Over time, I got to know and look forward to seeing each of them. In other words, I became a regular, and through that, I also got to know the people sitting around me as they would also join in conversation.

Week after week, for two years, I would show up and talk. One great conversation starter is my tattoo sleeve...well, all of my tattoos really. In fact, two people who are now members of our church first started talking with me over my tattoos. People will often ask about them, what they mean, or some just ask to look at them, and that often sparks great conversations because each of my tattoos have significant meaning that very much ties into my faith.

In doing that, I have opened myself up to people and they have in turn opened themselves up to me. You may not realize this, but we have been visited by Angry Erik patrons in the past and, I suspect, that will continue to be the case. What's more, as mentioned above, it has resulted in two people, Anne and Scott, joining our church.

What I have been doing there and elsewhere is NOT ingenuine either. I did not attend Angry Erik's "to grow the church". I went there because I love beer and it's nice to have a "third place" (not work, not home...but a third place) to hang out in. It's fun to be a part of community. It's fun to meet new people and hear their stories. It's something that I, typically an introvert, have come to appreciate.

With that said, everything I do, I do for the glory of God and so I don't hide who I am or what I do from anyone. I am authentically me and people have gotten to know me for who I am...not just what I do. Because of that, I can share my faith and do it in a non-threatening and INVITING way that reaches people where they are. This is how I, regardless of where I am, live into the call to spread the Good News to all people.

Friends, the tale I told above is not a tall-tale. It is the truth. Evangelism is...and SHOULD BE...natural. What makes you passionate? What sparks life-giving joy in you. Go do it...but do it for the glory of God. Open yourselves up to people. Get to know them. Come to love them. In doing so, you will also find yourself spreading the Good News faithfully for the Kingdom of God. Don't believe me; shadow me and I will show you. Remember, our next Theology on Tap at Angry Erik is Thursday, September 7 at 6 p.m. If you are able, I hope to see you there.

With Love in Christ,

Pastor Todd





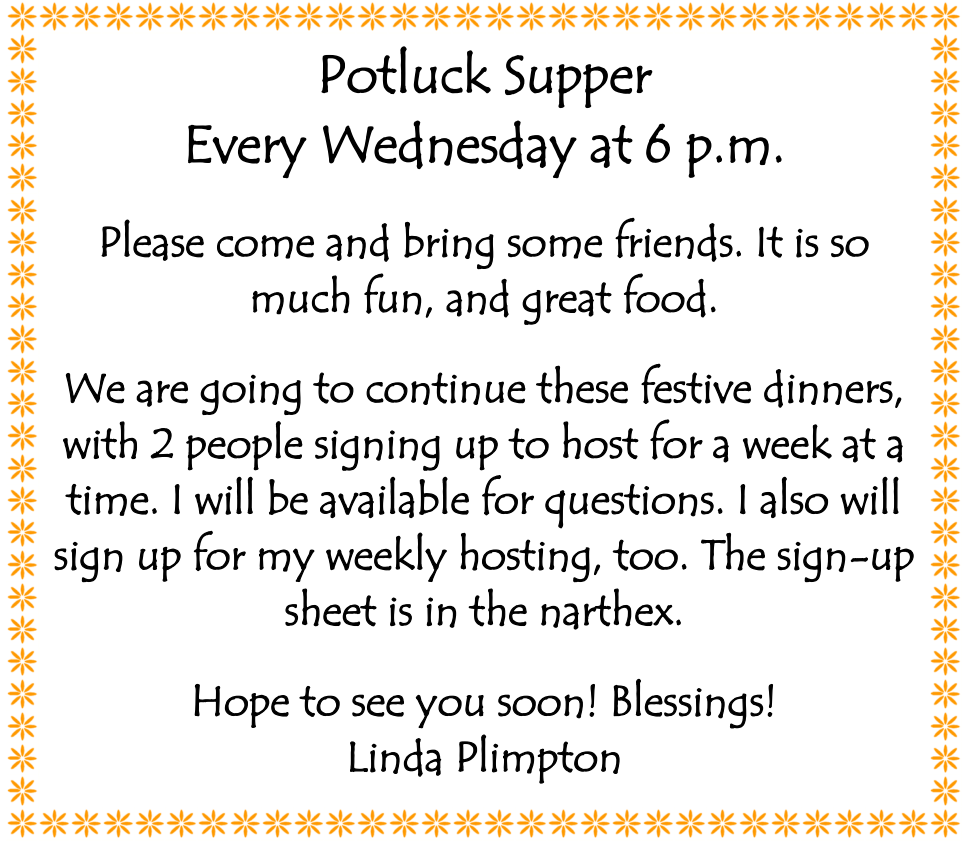
Sunday School

September already???
Calling all kids!!!

On September 10, our one-room schoolhouse Sunday School class will begin a brand new season of celebrating the wonder of God. Our teachers are ready to welcome children from age 5 on up. Please call the church office (973-383-4450) if you have children planning to attend this year.

We look forward to seeing you on September 10th!

Evelyn Cornwell
Sunday School Superintendent and Teacher



Potluck Supper Every Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Please come and bring some friends. It is so much fun, and great food.

We are going to continue these festive dinners, with 2 people signing up to host for a week at a time. I will be available for questions. I also will sign up for my weekly hosting, too. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Hope to see you soon! Blessings!
Linda Plimpton

Hypnosis for Health

**First Tuesday Monthly
starting September 5th
at 6:00pm**

**join Tim Ringenberg
Board Certified Clinical Hypnotist
for**

**"Hypnosis for Health"
at First United Methodist Church
in Newton**

Tim will lead and instruct this class on hypnotic techniques everyone can employ on their own for desired changes in their health and well-being. Enjoy a lively hour of learning and sharing while becoming a "hypno-hipster"!

Questions? Call Tim at 260.460.7783 or email tim@pshypno.com



Treasures of Hope

Treasures of Hope
Every Saturday from 9-2.

Business is popping! Lots of new customers leaving happy with their boxes of treasures. More people means I need more help. Anyone who has wanted to help but hasn't, come on in. You will have fun and enjoy helping.

If 4 men or strong women were to each take a week to help with some heavy stuff, I very much need some muscle. I have a hernia and am limited to what I can lift. Any help would be so appreciated.

Shop Treasures for school supplies. Everything from backpacks, notebooks, and lots of clothes, too. All at the best prices in town. Pass the word!

Any questions, call me, Linda, at 973-222-0487.

Blessings!

MANNA HOUSE

We celebrate our 35 years of love and service
with grateful hearts

We joyously celebrate and gratefully thank
our 26 dedicated Congregations,
our Board Members, and Volunteers.

It is because of your tireless and faithful spirit that Manna House
continues to thrive and provide meals each day
to any and all who enter.

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you,
whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine,
you did for me.' NIV

Let us be reminded of the power of the human connection
and the coming together.
It is because of our ecumenical efforts and the coming together
that we have been able to open the door
and give the gift of an abundant meal,
as we offer God's love through our human connection.

May the journey that we travel together
bring light, and life,
and God's enormous and unending love
into your hearts and the hearts of those we serve.

Thank you

Manna House

Through volunteers from our congregation and from 25 others participating from our community, Manna House serves a daily free meal to anyone who enters. Together we have served hundreds of thousands of meals during our 55 years of service. We receive no government funding and exist entirely on spontaneous giving.

Pastor Todd is looking forward to representing our church family as a volunteer in the Manna House kitchen on a day set aside this month especially for clergy. He has enjoyed the satisfaction and fellowship of volunteering on previous Manna House Clergy Days.

If anyone — men, women, youth — is interested in joining other volunteers representing our church family for one day, or one day a month, please contact Evelyn Cornwell at 973-919-9933, or call the church office at 973-383-4450.

Thank you to each of you who are already volunteering in this mission. God is using your "BEAUTIFUL FEET"!

*"How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"
— Romans 10:15 (NLT)*

Evelyn Cornwell
Manna House Board Member and Volunteer



ABC Book Club

**Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.,
via Zoom.**

The book for September is "BLUSH" by Jamie Brenner the discussion for which will be led by Evelyn Cornwell.

If you need the Zoom link, please don't hesitate to contact the church office at 973-383-4450 and it will be sent to you.



EVERYBODY
TELL SOMEBODY

“Everybody Tell Somebody” Sermon Series Discussions

The idea of talking about our faith and sharing it with others can cause strong reactions. Fear. Nerves. Excitement. Uncertainty. Let’s face it, telling the Good News of the Gospel can be difficult for lots of reasons, even when our faith is at its strongest. Yet a faith worth having is a faith worth sharing! Thankfully, scripture not only tells us *to* share our faith, it also helps us learn *how*, for our own time and place.

**Join us weekly for a discussion of this sermon series.
Mondays, September 11th, 18th, and 25th at 6:00 p.m.**

Call the church office to sign up and to receive the Zoom link.
(973-383-4450)

SAVE THESE DATES!

September 10th

September 17th

For a fall cleaning of the church. Please, just for 2 hours after church, let's work together. Garbage pails need washing out; the outside trash area needs cleaning out.

Lightbulbs need replacing in classroom and all over. Either bring your healthy lunch or we can order pizza or sandwiches.

There is so much that needs to be done. Please join in and help. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex.

Memorials, Special Gifts & Requests



MEMORIALS, SPECIAL GIFTS, AND BEQUESTS

DONOR

**E. Diane Maher
Mary Lou Santoro
Carol Baldwin**

Ron and Alice Shenusay

IN MEMORY OF

**Al Mearns
Elizabeth "Scottie" Hontz
Elizabeth "Scottie" Hontz
John Edwards
Elizabeth "Scottie" Hontz**

BEQUESTS

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.

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
3 Worship! 9 Joy Fellowship 10:30 Service	4 LABOR DAY Church office closed	5 10-3 Life With Joy 6 Hypnosis for Health	6 10-3 Life With Joy 6 Potluck Dinner
10 Worship! 9 Joy Fellowship/ Sunday School 10:30 Service	11 10 Chair Yoga-HH 6 Sermon Series Discussion—Zoom	12 10-3 Life With Joy 6 Cub Scouts HH	13 10-3 Life With Joy 6 Potluck Dinner
17 Worship! 9 Joy Fellowship/ Sunday School 10:30 Service 4-6 SCYO (HH+kit)	18 10 Chair Yoga-HH 6 Sermon Series Discussion—Zoom	19 10-3 Life With Joy	20 10-3 Life With Joy 6 Potluck Dinner
24 Worship! 9 Joy Fellowship 10:30 Sanctuary Service	25 10 Chair Yoga-HH 6 Sermon Series Discussion—Zoom	26 10-3 Life With Joy 6 Cub Scouts HH	27 10-3 Life With Joy 6 Potluck Dinner

er 2023

ed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2 9-2 Treasures
With Joy HH	7 10-3 Life With Joy 6 Theology on Tap Angry Erik	8	9 9-2 Treasures Al Mearns 10 Visitation 11 Funeral 12 Reception HH
With Joy HH	14 9-8:15 PM Poll worker training HH 7 Choir rehearsal	15 8-5:15 PM Poll worker training HH	16 9-2 Treasures 8-6 PM Poll worker training HH
With Joy HH	21 10-3 Life With Joy 2:00 ABC Book Club Zoom 7 Choir rehearsal	22	23 9-2 Treasures
With Joy HH	28 10-3 Life With Joy 7 Choir rehearsal	29	30 9-2 Treasures

Join our video series

From Jesus to Christ

Join us four Sundays beginning on October 8th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
for a community meal, a one-hour episode, and open discussion.

October 8, 2023: "Jesus' Many Faces"

How well do the archaeological clues historians are uncovering match up with the story Christians have long told each other about the life of Jesus?

Recommended pre-reading: Maps and a Chronology of Early Christianity and the Jesus Movement (available in the narthex on Sunday, September 24)

Spaghetti supper provided (vegan options available)

— bring a dessert to share.

October 15, 2023: "A Portrait of Jesus' World"

Discover the travels and teachings of the Apostle Paul and the earliest days of the Jesus Movement within and beyond Judaism. How will it become a new religion? Recommended pre-reading: One of Paul's epistles (bibles available in the sanctuary)

Potluck dinner — bring a dish to share.

October 22, 2023: "The Story of the Storytellers"

The first gospel was written almost 40 years after Jesus' death. How were they influenced by their writers, time, and place? Recommended pre-reading: One of the Gospels (bibles available in the sanctuary).

Potluck dinner — bring a dish to share.

November 5, 2023: "The First Christians"

The clash of customs and cultures among early Christians yielded a Jesus of different interpretation. How can the church become one and overtake an empire? Recommended pre-reading: The Story of Perpetua the Martyr (available at the Sunday, October 15 viewing).

Chili and hot dog supper provided (vegan options available)

— bring a dessert to share.

The Weekend Bag Program!

Juvenile Food In sufficiency is, sadly, an ever-present problem for children and youth in our area. Please consider donations of easily prepared food items that can be included in the bags sent home with them every weekend.

These items can include: canned soups/ chili, pasta and sauce, macaroni and cheese, juice boxes, peanut butter, cereal, powdered or shelf stable milk, and crackers, just to name a few.



Donations of hygienic items are always welcome:



toilet paper (individually wrapped), tissues, shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, brushes/combs, feminine hygiene products, etc.

Please place your items in the barrel inside the front entrance of the church.

Thank you to Analiza Jacinto who is our liaison for this much-needed mission.

Welcome!

We are very happy to welcome **Life with Joy Inc.** to our church.

Life with Joy Inc. is a non-profit living and learning charity that provides residential housing, productive activities, and classes for adults with Autism. All people have the right to control their own destinies and to live as independently as possible with their own friends, surrounded and inspired by nature, beauty, and art.

This organization wants to empower people with disabilities, especially Autism, not just warehouse them. This gives them a place and a sense of home and community, allows them to develop skills at their own pace, helps them feel safe and productive, and gives them enough space, tools, and support to create successful lives.

We are very happy to welcome this group to Holland Hall three days a week where they will be offering various learning activities to members of their program.

Support Your Church

Giving has never been easier! We now offer online giving. Our church could really use your help right now. Please help us maintain our ministries.

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=1377216>

<https://paypal.me/newtonumc>





- 9/2 **Barbara Smith**
9/3 **Bryan Campana, Carole Monesmith**
9/5 **Steven Stoner**
9/6 **Theresa Edwards**
9/7 **Lee Whitby**
9/8 **Jeffrey Churchill**
9/9 **Linda Catalano, Wendy Vogt**
9/10 **Jenny Stone**
9/13 **Ethel Musser**
9/14 **Christopher Babcock, Skylar Briggs**
9/15 **Janice Correll, Kaylee Goytil**
9/16 **Audrey Schneider**
9/17 **Stephen Goytil, Alma Sofia Hart, Samantha Snellen**
9/18 **William Vogt**
9/19 **Evelyn Cornwell, Philip Monesmith, RJ Porter Jr.**
9/20 **Jennifer Phlegar**
9/22 **Jake Snellen, Annabelle Stewart, Heidi Weber**
9/23 **Elizabeth Morgan, Amy Padgett, Dylan Rich, Sherry Snover**
9/25 **Diane Bozzone, Alex Current, DJ Meisinger Jr.**
9/26 **Michael Ragsdale**
9/27 **David Patterson**
9/30 **Neil Vander Groef**

Is your birth date missing or incorrect? Call 973-383-4450.

PULL TAB COLLECTION

Thank you to all who have been faithfully saving the pull tabs from aluminum cans and bringing the tabs to church. Tabs can be from soda cans, soup cans, pet food cans, or any other source of pull tabs.

There is a container in the Narthex in which to put the tabs. The tabs are then taken to the Shriners' Hospital for Children in Philadelphia where they are recycled. The money earned from the recycling is used to help fund the care given to children at the hospital. Please see Barbara Repp if you have questions.

Thank you for all of your support!

Appreciation Corner

Evelyn Cornwell has been a very busy person this summer. Instead of resting or vacationing, she has come to the rescue in heading worship service while Kathleen was recovering from hospital and Pastor Todd was on vacation. She did a fantastic job leading us.

She has also been a weekly supporter with the potluck dinners. Plus taking turns serving as host for coffee hour after church. She is also our Manna House liaison and helps out there for lunch.

I was in a pinch one Saturday at Treasures and at the last minute she came to my rescue! Thank you so very much.

Evie, you are such a wonderful, wonderful servant of God, always with a beautiful smile and cheerful heart. God bless you!

— Linda Plimpton

Appreciation Corner is an ongoing space in our monthly newsletter for people to share their appreciation of the actions of others. Please contact the church office at newtonumc07860@gmail.com or by phone to make someone's day a little brighter.



*In Need of
Prayer...*

The Albert Family
Lynn Anderson
Rebekah Beavers
Alexander, Vivienne, Max
and Sophie Beavers
Sam Bennett
Kate Bertelli-Wilinski
Lori Bischoff
Diane Bozzone
Jean Brendler
Richard Brizendine
Elsie Burdge
Jennifer Buyer+family
Bob Cambell
Nelson Ceslis
(Philippines)
Peg Coats
Family of Bill Coe
Larry Conover
Ted Cosgrove
Samantha Daniel
(Shirley's daughter)
DiGeronimo Family
The Edwards Family
Gail Ewin and family
Neil Faber
Family of Lynne Falk
Laura Frasier
Muriel Gallo
Linda Gallo
Ron & Laurie Gallo
Rose Garten
Diane Gelone

The Halterman family
Family of Daria Hamm
Anne Handy
Jane & Peter Hartmann
Jaclyn Holmberg
The Hontz Family
Albert Huff
John & Terry Iliff
Theresa Iliff
Jacinto family
Jackson family
Rhonda and Bob Kays
Edward Kuhn
The Lattig family
Laura Lewis
Kay Lid
Jean Maher
Peter Mahler
Lois McCue
Anne McNally
Family of Al Mearns
Kathleen Meredith
Siblings of Kathleen
Meredith
Bruce Messina & family
Joe Miller
Bill Miller
Carole Monesmith
Morris family
Jay Morrison
Family of Joyce Post
Paul Rafalco
Henry Repp

Willard Repp
Cindy Rich
Cousins of Cindy Rich
David Rich
Family of Elizabeth Roe
Scabet Family
Family of Claus Seebeck
Tina Simon
Mary Kate Sinclair
Spooner family
Allison Stapel
Merle Tanis
Sawyer Vaughan
Carol Wallenburg
Stephanie Walter
Jodi Wilson
John Wilson

*Members and friends at
Bristol Glen*

*The members of our
military and their
families.*

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



U.S. PAYMENT SERVICES LLC

ATM Sales and Service / Merchant Services

THOMAS SPOONER

**25 Weldon Road
Bldg. A Unit 106 & 107
Lk. Hopatcong, NJ 07849
973-663-0086 Fax
973-452-4131 Cell**

E-mail: spooner@uspayment.net



Sussex County's Premier Senior Living Community
Where all are free to choose Abundant Life!



CALL FOR A TOUR TODAY 973.300.5788

Mark J. Hontz, Esq.



973-383-3233

mhontz@hsplawnj.com

www.hollanderstrelzik.com

•Elder Law

- Wills •Trusts • Estates
- Powers of Attorney
- Health Care Directives
- Estate Planning
- Medicaid
- Estate Administration
- Guardianships



**Hollander, Strelzik, Pasculli, Hinkes,
Vandenberg, Hontz & Olenick, L.L.C.**

Attorneys at Law
40 Park Place, Newton, New Jersey
On the Green
P.O. Box 99, Newton, New Jersey 07860

*Mr. Hontz is a member of the
National Academy of Elder Law
Attorneys*



Smith-McCracken Funeral Home

Wood Funeral Home
Owned and Operated by Smith-McCracken

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

~~~~~

## **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**

N.J. Lic. No. 3640

## **First United Methodist Church**

111 Ryerson Avenue Newton, NJ 07860

Phone: (973) 383-4450

[www.newtonumc.com](http://www.newtonumc.com)    [newtonumc07860@gmail.com](mailto:newtonumc07860@gmail.com)

[www.youtube.com/NewtonUMChurch](http://www.youtube.com/NewtonUMChurch)

[www.facebook.com/newton.umc](http://www.facebook.com/newton.umc)

[www.twitter.com/UMCNewtonNJ](http://www.twitter.com/UMCNewtonNJ)

### **MINISTRY TEAM**

Pastor

Rev. Todd R. Lattig

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Dr. H. Alden Welch

Lay Servants

Kathleen Meredith, Mark Hontz,

Neil VanderGroef

Director of Music/Organist

Henry Repp

Music Coordinator-JOY Service

Christie Spriggs

Office Administrator

Kathleen Meredith

***The newsletter is produced 11 times per year.  
Deadlines are the third Tuesday of the month.  
It is available via e-mail, on the church's website,  
and in hard copy.***

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE STAMP  
HERE

---