

First United Methodist Church Newsletter

January 2024 Issue

Deadline for February Issue — January 16, 2024

*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'
But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."
(Matthew 5:43-44).*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



I absolutely love the play and the film, *Les Misérables*, with Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, and Anne Hathaway. For those who have not seen it, in any of the various versions of it, it is a story about a man by the name of Jean Valjean who is imprisoned for nineteen years for stealing a loaf of bread in order to save his sister's son who was starving to death.

After nineteen long years he is released from imprisonment and hard labor only to be rejected by the world. You see, he has no legal papers as they were taken away

from him when he was imprisoned, and that tells society that he is an ex-convict. He's forever branded a low-life thief by everyone except a priest who gives him shelter and food.

But desperate times call for desperate measures and Valjean finds himself stealing precious silver items like plates and silverware from the very church that showed him hospitality. When he is caught and returned to the priest, rather than accusing Valjean and demanding justice, the priest says he gave Valjean the items, hands him a couple more items and tells him to utilize the silver to make himself honest again. He also tells Valjean that he has saved his soul for God.

Needless to say, Valjean goes on to heed the priest's advice and he also heeds the call placed on him by God. His life was forever changed and he learns to love, even those who seek to destroy him. He is a changed man, changed by one person's loving actions, who is now changing the lives of those around him. *Les Misérables* is the Gospel told in a way that brings to life the teachings and message of Christ.

We too are called to live a life of love, a life that touches the lives of others in away that shows them the love of God. The God of Valjean is the same God that is calling us. The God of Valjean is the same God that visits the imprisoned, heals the sick, accepts the rejected, and never gives up hope on the "hopeless." The God of Valjean is the God of unconditional love.

As you move forward into this new year, make 2024 the year in which you experience God like Valjean did. Make it the year for irrevocable change that brings about hope, healing, and wholeness. Just as the line goes in the musical, it is true for us as well: "To love another person is to see the face of God." If you want to see God in your life this year, then love someone unconditionally! Make that your resolution.

With Love in Christ,

Pastor Todd



Hypnosis for Health

Next Gathering, Tuesday, January 2, 2024

at 6:00 pm

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"!

Please meet in the Media Center.

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



Sunday School

Our Sunday School moves into the New Year with our first lesson at 9:00 a.m. on January 7, 2024, as we ask God to give us a new start. Then we put on sheriff badges and jump again into the Bible to begin 8 weeks of “Wild West Faith.”

So, “cowboys and cowgirls,” bring...

- **A friend**
- **Your offering**
- **A kid-friendly donation to the Weekend Bag Program**

And maybe...

- **A cowboy hat, boots, bandana, etc.**

...and join the “posse” with Miss Bernadette, Miss Linda, and me in the Sunday School room.

Let’s go West!

**Evelyn Cornwell
Sunday School
Superintendent and Teacher**



Potluck Dinners

Potluck dinners are going to continue!
It is a new and wonderful ministry.

The dinners will be on the 2nd and 4th
Wednesdays of the month at 6:00 p.m. I
pray that more people attend and bring
friends. You don't have to attend every
one, but these are a lot of fun and it is
nice to have the fellowship.

*January's dinners:
January 10th and January 24th.*

Please call or text if you have ideas or questions.
973-222-0487

Linda



Treasures of Hope

Open every Saturday from 9-2
(weather permitting)
Donations are welcomed.

I want to thank everyone who donated and helped
at Treasures. We had a very terrific year. Keep
bringing us your unwanted items.

Questions? Please call or text me, 973-222-0487.

Happy New Year!
Linda

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Counters

Please speak with Shirley Spooner or Kathleen Meredith if you
are interested in participating as a Counter of donations after
services on Sundays. Two counters perform the task at the same
time. Frequency will be determined by how many volunteers
participate.

Training will be provided.



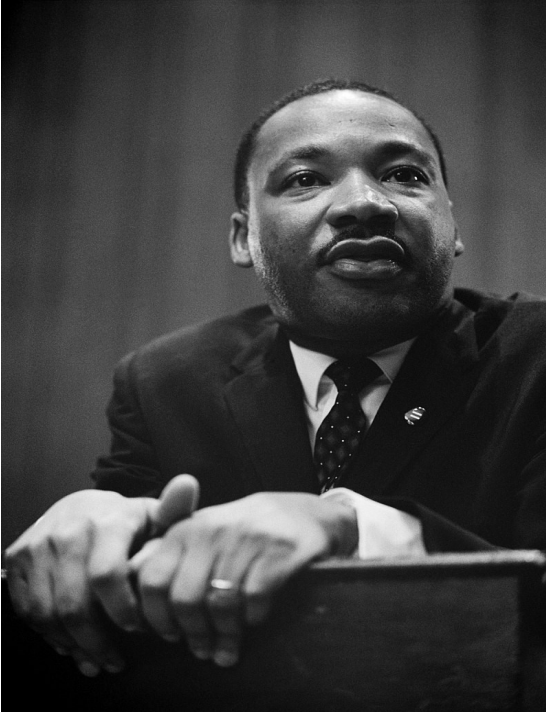
ABC Book Club

**Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.,
via Zoom**

The book for January is “Lessons in Chemistry”
by Bonnie Ganos.

With Zoom we are able to be connected with members in Massachusetts, West Virginia, and New Jersey! We would love to have you join us as well. If you need the Zoom link, please don't hesitate to contact the church office at 973-383-4450 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day — January 15, 2024



Martin Luther King, Jr. was the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement, which protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. His day of recognition is on the 3rd Monday of January each year. This year it falls on his birthday.

Removal of the Greens

We need volunteers to come out on Saturday, January 13th from 1 to 3 p.m. to help take down and store all of the Advent/Christmas decorations.

Many hands are needed!

Please, please, please help!!!

Thank you in advance.

Manna House

On a cold Tuesday morning just days before Christmas, we served over 40 men and women a hot lunch of homemade (from scratch) chicken breast nuggets and mac and cheese, with a freshly cut fruit salad, garden salad, dessert, juice, and freshly brewed hot coffee donated by Starbucks. We had prepared enough food for the guests to come back for seconds.

Some guests volunteered a monetary donation to Manna House in gratitude, as they were able, the "widow's mite." Others called a cheery "Thank you" or "Merry Christmas" into the kitchen, or accepted their meal with a quiet "Thank you," a nod, or a smile.

With volunteers from Newton Rotary joining us, our crew continues to grow in number. As we work and humbly serve, once a month, perhaps "the least of these" or "angels unaware," we ourselves are blessed with a productive morning of fun and fellowship.

Evelyn Cornwell

Manna House Board Member and Volunteer



*Manna House
serves a meal
to those in need,
Monday - Friday,
11:30-12:30 p.m.
at the
Newton Presbyterian
Church*

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
	1 Happy New Year! Church office closed	2 10-1 Life w/Joy HH 6 Cub Scouts (HH) 6 Hypnosis for Health (Med Ctr)	3 10-3 LWJ (HH)
7 Worship! 9 Joy Fellowship Sunday School 10:30 Sanctuary Service	8 10 Chaor Yoga (HH) 11:30 LWJ Yoga (HH)	9 10-1 LWJ (HH)	10 10-3 LWJ (HH) 6 Potluck Dinner
14 Worship! 9 Joy Fellowship Sunday School 10:30 Sanctuary Service	15 MLK Birthday 10 Chaor Yoga (HH) 11:30 LWJ Yoga (HH)	16 10-1 Life w/Joy HH 6 Cub Scouts (HH)	17 10-3 LWJ (HH) 6:30 Leadership Team Meeting
21 Worship! 9 Joy Fellowship Sunday School 10:30 Sanctuary Service	22 10 Chaor Yoga (HH) 11:30 LWJ Yoga (HH)	23 10-1 Life w/Joy HH	24 10-3 LWJ (HH) 6 Potluck Dinner
28 Worship! 9 Joy Fellowship Sunday School 10:30 Sanctuary Service	29 10 Chaor Yoga (HH) 11:30 LWJ Yoga (HH)	30 10-1 Life w/Joy HH 6 Cub Scouts (HH)	31 10-3 LWJ (HH)

January 2024

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
(HH)	4 10-1 Life w/Joy HH	5	6 9-2 Treasures of Hope	
(HH) Dinner	11 10-1 Life w/Joy HH	12	13 9-2 Treasures of Hope 1-3 Removal of the Greens	
(HH) Partnership Meeting	18 10-1 Life w/Joy HH	19	20 9-2 Treasures of Hope	
(HH) Dinner	25 10-1 Life w/Joy HH	26	27 9-2 Treasures of Hope	
(HH)				

Appreciation Corner

Tom Spooner has been fixing lights, bathroom toilets, soap dispensers, and toilet paper holders to name a few.

He has spent his Saturday doing these and more. Cleaning up the recycling area and cardboard boxes (boy, was that a mess!).

Thank you so very much. I appreciate everything you do. Now can you come to my house? Just kidding (maybe).

— Blessings, Linda

I would like to lift up all those who came out on December 2nd to decorate the sanctuary so beautifully for the Advent/Christmas season. Todd Lattig, Bernadette Lattig, Lorien Lattig, Evie Cornwell, Betsy Crum — and those who schlepped everything down from upstairs — Allison Stapel and Linda Plimpton (and I'm sure Mario was there as well!). And thanks to Jay Morrison for setting up the creche outside with its starlit rays shining down on the baby Jesus. All the help was much appreciated and resulted in a lovely (and lovingly) decorated church. May God bless you all with a wonderful new year!

— Kathleen Meredith

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 (973-383-4450) to make someone's day a little brighter.



Memorials, Special Gifts, and Requests



MEMORIALS AND SPECIAL GIFTS

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.

Memorial gifts received since the December newsletter:

In Memory of:
Terry Iliff

Lois McCue

Donor(s):
Carolyn McCreesh
Mary Jo and Russell Miserendino
Donn and Juliet Scott
Randall and Carol Sprague
Gary and Marilyn Mitchell

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.





- 1/1 Dan Fortini, Michael Galinski**
1/2 Devon Doyle
1/3 James Hart
1/5 Steve Russell
1/7 Lindsey Gorab, Kelsey Snellen
1/9 Brett Dudzic
1/10 Craig Albert, Michael Doyle, James Whitby
1/11 Kevin Churchill
1/12 Emiddio Bozzone, Jessie Goytil, Mark Hontz, Katherine Schneider
1/14 Jacqueline Kovach
1/15 Heather Bischoff
1/18 Abbey Current, Lawrence Pittenger IV
1/22 Shirley Spooner
1/23 Christina Grosso
1/24 Beatrice Titus
1/27 Amelia DeWire, Scott Ulmer, Kristopher Vogt
1/28 Andrew Iliff, Matthew Leusink, Matthew Russell, Shane Russell
1/29 Karen Mitchell, Catie Siipola
1/31 Brian Babcock

Is your birth date incorrect or missing? Let us know (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!

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>





*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
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
Family of 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
Family of Lois McCue
Anne McNally
Family of Al Mearns
Siblings of Kathleen
Meredith
Bruce Messina & family
Joe Miller
Bill Miller
Carole Monesmith
Morris family
Jay Morrison
Family of Joyce Post
Paul Rafalco
Henry and Barbara 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
Jeanette Zangerle

*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.***



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

Attorneys at Law

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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***

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## **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

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### **MINISTRY TEAM**

Pastor

Rev. Todd R. Lattig

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Dr. H. Alden Welch

Lay Servants

Kathleen Meredith, Mark Hontz

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

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