



LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

The whole family is invited to attend our Lenten Soup Suppers, Wednesday evenings beginning March 8th through April 5th. We start the evening at 6pm with a meal of homemade soup, salad, and bread. We also provide a kids meal for the children who attend. After the meal we share in a time of learning until 8pm.

The program this year is based the book, "John: The Gospel of Light and Life," by Rev. Adam Hamilton. The Gospel of John includes some of the most loved verses in all the Bible: "And the Word became flesh...," "For God so loved the world...," "You who are without sin cast the first stone...," "I am the resurrection and the life...," "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." The writing is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that his readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they "may have life in his name."

Bring your family, your children, a friend or come by yourself, all are welcome. We hope to see you there! For more information about the Lenten Soup Suppers Contact Carol Toby at flymeaway34@yahoo.com or 973-534-0180.

Our topics and teachers are:

- March 8: The Word Made Flesh
Donna Anderle and Gloria Anderle
- March 15: The Miraculous Signs of Jesus
Kim Germain
- March 22: The "I Am" Sayings of Jesus
Melissa and Michelle Preister
- March 29: The Farewell Discourse and The Arrest,
Trial and Crucifixion of The King
John Dewart and Joe Sikora
- April 5: Eternal Life
Jessica Dingman



ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Friends,

In worship on Sunday, February 19th it was announced that effective July 1st I will be appointed as the Director of Leadership Development of The Greater NJ Annual Conference of the UMC, located in Neptune, NJ. As Director of Leadership Development I will be helping clergy and laity to develop strategies to grow vital congregations. My last day in worship will be June 11th, the day of the church picnic and Sunday School Celebration.

The United Methodist Church assigns their pastors through an appointment process, where the Bishop pairs the gifts of pastors and gifts of churches for ministry. On February 17th, the District Superintendent, Rev. Steven G. Bechtold brought the news about the pastoral change to the Staff Parish Relations Committee. The committee discussed with the District Superintendent the strengths and growing edges of the congregation, and the necessary leadership skills for a successful pastorate. The Bishop will be appointing a new pastor to the church in the coming weeks. The new pastor's ministry at Succasunna UMC will officially begin on July 1st. Please be in prayer during this time of discernment and transition.

This spring the Staff Parish Relations Committee will establish a transitional team. It will be comprised of leaders of the church that will help the congregation and the new pastor make a smooth transition, and continue to foster the ministry of Succasunna UMC. There is much that needs to be accomplished between now and the end of June. I know there will be many questions; myself, the members of the Staff Parish Relations Committee and the District Superintendent will be available as we journey through this time.

Ted and I will miss you all. Your love of God and mission to the community has been inspiring. Being a part of Succasunna UMC has made us better Christians and me a better pastor. In this time of transition, know that Ted and I are praying for you and for the ministry of the church.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Juel Nelson

EVANGELISM WORKSHOP

March 25, 2017, 8:30 am - 3 pm at Bethany Wayne UMC

Paul Nixon, author of "Weird Church" will be the keynote speaker at OUTBOUND, A Day on Evangelism. This conference focusing on making disciples is being sponsored by the Northern Regional Team and will feature workshops by prominent evangelists using innovative new ways to reach into the community. Registration forms are available at church and there is no cost. The topics include:

- * Social Media as a Tool for Evangelization.
- * Developing a Fresh Expression of Church - *Inspiring and equipping leaders/churches with a vision for evangelism.*
- * Flipping Church - *Adopt the spirit of innovation and find out how successful church planters are turning conventional wisdom upside down*
- * Turnaround Evangelism.
- * Conducting a Church Communication Audit.
- * Video for Evangelism.
- * Promising Ministry Models - *What will the thriving church look like in 2030?*
- * The Hard Questions: Doing Theology Online.
- * Church Culture that Fosters Fresh Expressions - *Learn practical applications for your church and identify principles to be put into practice to cultivate the ground for fresh expressions to flourish.*
- * Do This One Thing and Millennials Will Flock to Your Church.

EDUCATION UPDATE

In an effort to provide the highest quality Christian education, SUMC Sunday School uses the FaithWeaver NOW™ curriculum. FaithWeaver NOW was developed with the understanding of the cognitive, social, mental, emotional, physical, and more importantly, spiritual development of students at every age level. FaithWeaver NOW makes Bible learning fun by using a variety of active experiences to help students learn in the ways they learn best, which can make a huge contribution to a child’s Christian growth. It also helps children of all ages “weave faith into life” by applying the Bible to their lives every week. All FaithWeaver NOW resources—for infants through adults—explore the same Bible passage each week, making it easier for families to grow in faith together. FaithWeaver NOW is a great way to connect with today's families.



And He said “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ~Matthew 4:19

Thank you Holly Mastrian for the wonderful bulletin boards you create for the Sunday School. We enjoy them!



Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall completed by 1st and 2nd Grade.

EDUCATION UPDATE (continued)

EGG HUNT

Our egg hunt will be held rain or shine on Palm Sunday, April 9 at 12:30pm. Candy donations and small toys e.g. unused small party favor toys, that would fit inside the plastic eggs for the egg hunt are appreciated. They can be placed in the box located in the entrance to the education wing no later than March 26.



The United Methodist Church
of Greater New Jersey

A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Dear Congregants,

Police officers in Delanco had their badges blessed by the congregation of Dobbins UMC because our first responders, much like our churches, are a vital link to our communities. A homeless child in Atlantic City has warm socks because the Leesburg and Delmont United Methodist Churches in Cape Atlantic hold an annual Sock Rock to provide thousands of pairs of socks to the homeless each year. Native American youth from our congregations were transformed by visiting reservations in North Dakota to deepen their faith and understanding of their heritage. A young person in Camden is learning how to be an auto mechanic for Subaru at Respond Inc, a United Methodist social services agency which was birthed from Haddonfield United Methodist Church 50 years ago.

These ministries are just a tiny fraction of the ministry in Greater New Jersey that is being supported by your shared ministry giving. United Methodists are blessed to have the work of Church and Society through the conference and denomination to provide resources for ministries that align with our social beliefs.

Thank you and the congregation of Succasunna UMC for contributing 100% of your shared ministry funds in 2016. Your service and your gifts help make sure that United Methodists are on the front lines of the ministry that is needed in today's world through the work of Church and Society, one of the many agencies that are supported by our shared ministry funds.

United Methodists are making a difference through the ministry of Christ as a result of your commitment to shared ministries. Thank you.

In Christ,

John Schol, Bishop The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

THANK YOU

The Groh family would like to sincerely thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and cards following Peggy's mom, Mary Miller's, passing .

THANK YOU FROM HEAD

START

Dear Parishioners,
On Behalf of the staff and the families served by Morris County Head Start, thank you very much for caring for the children we serve. As in previous years, your generous donations of hats and mittens is greatly appreciated and desperately needed.

Our mission at Head Start is to promote child development and school readiness for prenatal through preschool-age children from low-income families, providing comprehensive services to empower diverse families and strengthen communities. We value your support in serving the area's most vulnerable children and families.

Sincerely yours,
Adela Hernandez
Family & Community Partnerships
Manager

Thank You Succasunna United Methodist Church



With the generous gift of your time, you helped CUMAC to once again meet the needs of the families and individuals we serve daily.



The food bags you packed have already made it into the hands of very grateful clients. Every household item that was readied is now able to be used by disaster victims or purchased at affordable prices by low-income families who would normally do without. Your time and patience in helping with inventory makes it easier for us to continue to serve those who are in need.

Thank you for the great work!



/cumacfeedspeople



/cumacfeeds

www.cumac.org

On Oct 29 Succasunna UMC packaged more than 10,000 meals for the organization Stop Hunger Now. The meals from October were shipped from their NY warehouse and went to their in-country partner Catholic Relief Services in Burkina Faso, Africa. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is a leader in innovative, humanitarian programming that helps people live to their full potential, with dignity and in a peaceful society. The most vulnerable populations in Burkina Faso will receive these Stop Hunger Now meals. The meals go directly to organizations supporting people living with HIV, orphans, the elderly, widows, the disabled and young women forced into marriage. These individuals desperately need assistance before they can learn to provide for themselves.



THANK YOU



January 30, 2017

Dear Pastor Juel and Congregation,

On behalf of the Township of Roxbury Social Services Department, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to Succasunna United Methodist Church for inviting me to speak to the congregation on Sunday. It was an honor to share my experience with everyone. Your monetary donation is greatly appreciated.

Your ongoing support and the spirit of giving and care you have shown has always been a significant element in our ability to reach our ultimate goal, that being to assist those less fortunate families in Roxbury.

“Thank You and God Bless”

Sincerely,
Janet Wald, Director
Roxbury Social Services

January 17, 2017

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous contributions in the amount of \$1650 and \$83.50 in response to our end of the year appeal. We are tremendously grateful you chose to give part of your Christmas Eve collection to help feed those in need. Your gift will help us to serve so many of our clients through the cold winter months.

Many thanks,
Stephanie Ames
Development Director



UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

SPAGHETTI DINNER

SUMC youth fellowship is holding its annual spaghetti dinner on Saturday, March 25. Proceeds from this dinner will benefit the Christian Outreach Project. Donations are very much appreciated!

Make your reservations now; seating is limited. Tables are filled on a first come, first served basis. Seating times are 5pm and 6:15pm and prices are \$10/adult and \$5/child (3-10 years old). Meals are also available for take-out between 4:30 and 5pm and gluten free options are available.

For reservations, contact: Lori Hollis at holliscrew@optonline.net or 973-598-1988 and provide the following information:

- ⇒ Name, address, phone number and email.
- ⇒ Number of adults/children and which seating is preferred.
- ⇒ Total number of meals ordered, the cost and whether any are gluten free.

Checks can be dropped off at the office between 9am and 1pm, Tuesday through Friday.

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)

Our AED has arrived!!! It is installed in the upper hallway near the classrooms. Walk down the stairs from Fellowship hall toward the sanctuary and you will find the defibrillator on the wall next to the choir room.

We currently have fifteen congregants who are AED certified.



SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

BUILDING BETTER WOMEN

Join us on Friday, March 8th for Movie Night to see "The Shack". Location to be announced. Questions? Contact Tami Haupt at 973-598-5499 or sumcbbw@gmail.com.



TABS (TUESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY)

Would you like to know the Bible better? Whether you're brand new to the Bible or know it inside and out, you're welcome to join us! Bring your Bible and a little something to share for our potluck lunch. We provide beverages, a lively study and discussion of the scriptures. Bring a friend!

We meet twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesdays (March 14 and 28) at 12 noon till about 2pm in Wesley room A. We're studying the flow of the Old Testament history by focusing on the stories of some of its leading people.

SUNDAY ADULT SMALL GROUP

Spreading the Word

Come join us for coffee and cake at 10am Sunday morning and learn how to strengthen your faith, regain your faith in difficult times, and learn to live in a world of trials and temptations. Life should be simple and filled with love. We have a wonderful group and everyone is welcome.

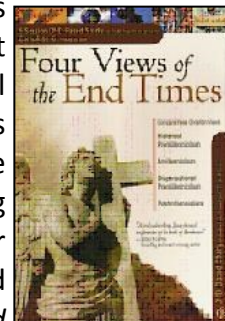
PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The ministry meets every Monday from 7 to 9pm. New knitters or crocheters are always welcome—yarn, needles and hooks are provided. If interested in joining the ministry, have any questions or would like to have a shawl for someone in need, please call Melanie Newton at 973-396-7885 .

MEN'S STUDY

Join us for our current study entitled *Four Views of the End Times* on Saturday mornings at 7:30am.

For nearly 2000 years, Christians have wondered when will Christ return again. In this study, we'll explore what the Bible actually says about the end times that lead to the return of Jesus Christ. The differing ideas that divide believers into four major points-of-view are examined in this *Four Views of the End Times* DVD-based Small Group Study.



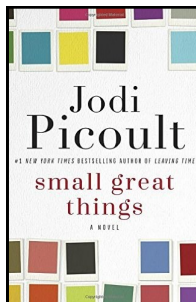
This new six-week study shows four different Revelation time lines and tackles Dispensational Premillennialism, Postmillennialism, Historic Premillennialism, and Amillennialism. For each view, the study includes a definition, supporting Scriptures, a time line of the view's popularity, and a sampling of Christian leaders supporting that view. Common questions and answers are handled as part of each session, so you don't need to be the expert.

For more information contact Lee Pitea at 862-223-7101 or pitea.1@osu.edu.

FAMILY BREAKFAST

Join us at on Saturday, March 11 at 8am for a delicious hot breakfast and hear a presentation by our own Bob DeDolce, an EMT speaking on the very important topic of heart health.

BOOK CLUB



The next book club meeting will be held on Friday, March 24 to discuss *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult a book that tackles race, privilege, prejudice, justice, and compassion. We'll meet at Mary Beth Tencza's house at 7pm.

MISSIONS UPDATE

EASTER BASKETS

Please consider filling an Easter Basket with small toys and items for a local boy or girl in need. If you would like to participate, beginning March 12 please pick up a pail containing a sheet with suggested items in the narthex on your way out. Please return them by April 2 when we will have them blessed by Pastor Juel in worship.



CUMAC

Our next trip to CUMAC will be April 8. Please let Linda Diffley know at lddrag@optonline.net if you would like to serve. We leave the church parking lot about 9:15 and return by 2pm.



THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is open year round for purchases on Wednesdays from 9:30am to 1:30pm and is open to receive your donations on Tuesdays from 9-11am. We particularly welcome seasonal items and clothing like coats, sweaters and boots. Your donations can make a difference in the community!



There will be special evening donation drop-off hours on Thursday, March 9 from 6:30—8pm.

FOOD PANTRY

There are envelopes in the pews for gift cards or donations to purchase gift cards for the Roxbury Food Pantry. During March we are collecting microwaveable meals (e.g. mac & cheese, spaghetti) for the food pantry. A container is located inside the entrance to the church school building to collect all donations.

TRUSTEE UPDATE

Ever wonder who takes care of all of the repairs and maintenance for the church and parsonage? Well, it's the Trustees! During the year, if something needs repairing, a call is placed to Roger Hendrickson (our fearless leader) and he makes sure that it gets taken care of. Come to the church on any given day and you'll probably see Ron Case or Gary Sweeney repairing a light switch, window or toilet. Now repairs are only part of what the Trustees do, we are also responsible for capital improvements. Painting the facilities, purchasing a new shed, reconfiguring the educational wing to create more classrooms, repairing the parsonage decks and repairing the entryway to the Sanctuary are only a few of the renovations that the Trustees have undertaken in the past. As we look to the future, we know that we will have many more projects that will keep us busy. Our job is to take care of our properties and make sure that our Church is as welcoming physically as it is spiritually. We are blessed with a great group of people who work diligently to keep our Church and parsonage beautiful. If you have any repairs that need to be undertaken, please contact any of the Trustees and we will look into the problem and take care of getting it fixed.



FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thank you for giving. We have an active congregation and your commitment and offerings support all the programs and ministries here at SUMC. We have a balanced budget for 2017 of \$247,000 estimated in expenses. These expenses include staffing, programming, and operating costs for all the many activities that happen throughout the year in the life of this church. We did have a tough January as snow plowing and higher utility bills set us back about \$3,000. We expect to be back on track with your continued support through giving and fund raisers. Your financial commitment to your church goes a long way toward empowering our congregation to "Love. Serve. Grow." Your generosity is changing lives.



Jocelyn Hughes, Finance Chair

SHOPRITE AND SUSSEX MARKET GIFT CARDS



Gift cards are sold by Bruce Hopper in Fellowship Hall between services. For each ShopRite gift card purchased the church receives a 5% donation.

Also avail-able are Sussex Market (formerly

known as Sussex Meatpacking) food cards. SUMC receives a 10% donation from the purchase of these cards. We thank you for your support of this program.



MATCHING GIFTS

A matching gift, also known as a matching fund or matching donation is a charitable gift made toward a nonprofit organization by a matching donor (e.g. an employer) provided an original donor (e.g. an employee) first makes a gift toward that organization.

Many companies offer matching gift programs to encourage employees to contribute to charitable organizations. Some provide matching funds to support employee volunteer hours. Most of these programs match contributions dollar

Maximize your impact



with a matching gift!

for dollar, and some will even double or triple the amount of your gift! Find out if your company matches donations. By enrolling in a matching gift program you could double or even triple your gift to SUMC.

Church Staff

Rev. Juel Nelson, Pastor
Audrey Schultz, Director of Music
Angie Stierch, Praise Band Leader
Debbie Watson, Admin Assistant
Alfredo Concepcion, Sexton

Church Information

Office Hours: 9am—1pm
Tuesday—Friday
Phone: 973.584.7349
Email: office@sumcnj.org

Sunday Schedule

9am Contemporary Worship
10am Church School
11am Traditional Worship

OUR MISSION

Succasunna United Methodist Church is a caring fellowship called to love and serve according to Jesus' example, welcome all people, worship God and grow as Christian disciples.

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 BASIC—Kitchen 9:30—11am Youth Choir Practice 12pm UMYF—Kitchen 1-3pm	6 Office Closed NA (Closed) Meeting 6:30- 9pm FH Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm Scouts 7-9:30pm	7 Thrift Shop Donations 9am—11am	8 Thrift Shop 9:30-1:30pm Lenten Soup Supper 6pm Trustee Mtg 7:30pm	9 Thrift Shop Donation Drop-Off 6:30-8pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	10 Scouts—FH/Wesley/ Aldersgate/Epworth 7-9pm	11 Men's Study 7:30am Family Breakfast 8am
12 BASIC—Kitchen 9:30—11am Youth Choir Practice 12pm	13 NA (Closed) Meeting 6:30- 9pm FH Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	14 Thrift Shop Donations 9am—11am TABS 12 Noon Scouts 7:30 FH	15 Thrift Shop 9:30-1:30pm Lenten Soup Supper 6pm	16 Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	17	18 Men's Study 7:30am
19 Youth Choir Practice 12pm NA FH/Epworth 1-5pm BASIC Aldersgate 4:30—6:30pm	20 NA (Closed) Meeting 6:30- 9pm FH Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	21 Thrift Shop Donations 9am—11am CCM Mtg 7pm Aldersgate Scouts 7:30 FH & Wesley	22 Thrift Shop 9:30-1:30pm Lenten Soup Supper 6pm	23 Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	24 Spaghetti Dinner set up 5:30—7pm Book Club Mtg Tencza Residence 7pm	25 Men's Study 7:30am Spaghetti Dinner 3:30—8pm Outbound—Wayne UMC 8:30—3pm
26 Youth Choir Practice 12pm NA Lunch 1:30-4:30pm FH	27 Office Closed NA (Closed) Meeting 6:30- 9pm FH Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	28 Thrift Shop Donations 9am—11am TABS 12 Noon Scouts 7:30 FH	29 Thrift Shop 9:30-1:30pm Lenten Soup Supper 6pm	30 Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	31 BASIC—FH 7pm	