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"THIS IS  
MY  
BELOVED  
SON ...  
LISTEN  
TO HIM."

MATTHEW 17:5, ESV

# **Worship the Lord with Us!**

## **Sunday Worship**

**Traditional Worship Service: 8:30 am**

**Sunday School for all ages: 9:40 am**

**Contemporary Worship Service: 10:45 am**

*Listen to our service online at  
[www.fumccollingswood.org](http://www.fumccollingswood.org).*

**FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is published by:**

**The First United Methodist Church**

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**Tuesday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**(Closed for lunch 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm)**

***FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is online at  
[www.fumccollingswood.org](http://www.fumccollingswood.org) and is available via  
e-mail. Send an e-mail to  
[ewindows@fumccollingswood.org](mailto:ewindows@fumccollingswood.org) to subscribe.***

# *In Windows This Month...*

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The submission deadline for the  
*April* issue of Windows is  
March 10<sup>th</sup>.

***THANK YOU FOR  
SUPPORTING WINDOWS!***



## From The Pastor's Heart



It is hard to believe that Easter is around the corner. Along with the hope of warmer days, budding trees and flowers, we can even look forward to Spring Training news as we gear up for spring. For many, the Easter and Lenten season is a time that we focus on spring and life. It's kind of ironic because we know just before Jesus' death, Jesus also promised there would be the hope of new life!

The word Lent means spring. However, for many Christians it is a time of introspection, and remembering what amazing love and example Jesus set for us back some 2000 years ago. It's also a time to prepare our own hearts and lives as part of this reflection. On the first day of Lent (Ash Wednesday,) some Christians choose to mark their foreheads with ash as a symbol of sorrow and mourning over their sin and of repentance.

Some Christians choose to give up a habit or behavior during Lent as an exercise in prayerful self-denial. This might range from something as simple as not drinking soda or coffee during Lent to a full-blown program of fasting. Some Christians commit to a special devotional activity during Lent. Some examples are, daily Scripture reading, regular prayer for a specific person or topic throughout Lent, serving others you know or doing volunteer work in our community.

The choice to observe Lent is a personal one. The whole point is to focus your heart and mind on Jesus during the journey to Easter, to draw close to Him. There's no requirement to observe it, nor should you feel guilty into participating. However, millions of Christians around the world do observe Lent each year. If you've never done so, why not give it a try? Whether you observe Lent in a small or major way, you'll be amazed at what happens when you devote part of each day reflecting on Jesus Christ and God's Word,

allowing God's love to transform you. This journey reminds me of something I read from Rick Warren recently. He was sharing about one of his favorite spiritual heroes, Dr E.V. Hill, whom has certainly been one of mine through the years, too.

Dr. E.V. Hill, pastor of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles, was a tremendous man of God and an intellectual giant. He was also a man of integrity who was not afraid to call it as he saw it. Because of the many times in his ministry he called out injustice in inner-city L.A., he faced constant death threats.

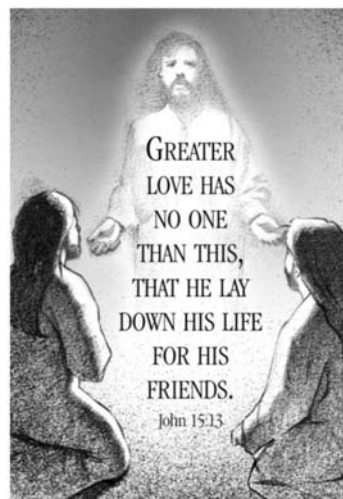
After something he said one Sunday morning, there was a threat that he was going to be bombed during the next week, and he took it very seriously. One day that week, he came home and noticed his car wasn't there. He immediately thought that either somebody had stolen it or someone was tampering with it and planting a bomb in it. He sat down on his front steps, deeply worried. About 30 minutes later, his wife, who was well aware of the threat, drove up in that very same car.

"What are you doing?" he yelled, frightened that she had taken such a risk. She said, "I got to thinking. This community needs you more than it needs me. If they were going to rig that car to be bombed, I wanted me to be in it, not you." Dr. Hill later said, "I always knew that my wife loved me. But then I finally understood what love was all about and Mrs. Hill knew that love is not something you feel. Love is not something you say. Love is something you do.

This is how we know what love is: ***"Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."***

1 John 3:16 Notice the action step in our new Scripture of the month. Love makes a choice every day to do for others what God has done for us. You don't have to wonder what it means to love. God showed us clearly what love does, and then He gave us the greatest example of love when he gave us Jesus. May we love others like Jesus, everyone and everywhere!

In His Love and Grace,  
Pastor Sam





In case of inclement weather, you can find updated service and event information at the following locations:

- ♦ Call the church at 856-858-1186.
- ♦ Visit our website at [www.fumccollingswood.org](http://www.fumccollingswood.org).
- ♦ Visit the Collingswood FUMC Facebook page.

**Daylight  
Savings Time  
begins at 2:00 AM  
on March 8<sup>th</sup>.**



**THE NEXT MEN'S BREAKFAST  
WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY,  
MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> AT 8:00 AM.**

**TREASURER HELP NEEDED** - The church welcomes all applications from members who may be called to serve in this area. This is a critically important opportunity to serve the Lord and His Church through the faithful administration of the finances of the church.

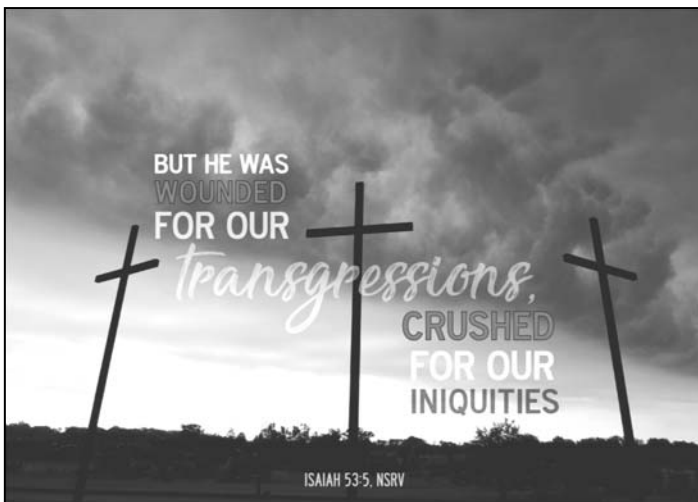
# MARCH SERMONS AND SCRIPTURES



## Fix Your Eyes on Jesus Series (On the Way to the Cross)

On the way to the cross Jesus had a purpose to touch and change lives. Jesus' purpose was not deterred by the many distractions that came His way. He kept focused, with his disciples, and transformed the people, places and spaces He entered. They were not the same after He passed through. This Lenten season, may we not be the same as we fix our eyes on Jesus. May we allow him to enter the spaces and places of our lives as He did 2000 years ago.

March 1	<i>"Follow Me"</i> <b>Communion</b>	Luke 5:27-32
March 8	<i>The Fragrance of Grace-fulness</i> <i>(The difference of knowing or knowing about Jesus.)</i>	Luke 7 :36-50
March 15	<i>Why Jesus Can't Wait</i>	Luke 13:10-17
March 22	<i>Who's the Greatest?</i>	Luke 18:15-7 Mark 9:33-37
March 29	<i>What Do You Do?</i>	Mark 1:35-39





Save the Date:

Sunday Night March 22, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Movie Night At First Church

*A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*

*The Life of Fred Rogers*



It may seem like a long time from now, but VBS is right around the corner!! July 6-10 will be here before we know it! Please pray about how God can use YOU this year as we minister to more than 100 children. Leaders and helpers are needed. Please see Pat Gunning with any questions!

**VBS NEEDS  
VOLUNTEERS!**





## **FUMC EASTER EGG HUNT**

Date: Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

Time: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Church Campus

Ages: 2 years – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
(Children hunt by age group.)

Donations of wrapped candy are needed.  
(No nuts please.) Thank you!





# EASTER 2020



## EASTER EGG HUNT: Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

11:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Ages 2 years to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade (children hunt by age group).

Please bring in your donations of candy to the church, but no nuts please!



## PALM SUNDAY: April 5<sup>th</sup>

9:40 am Sunday School

10:45 am **Combined Worship Celebration**

(Communion)

Message: *"Let's Experience It!"*

John 12:12-36



## HOLY THURSDAY: April 9<sup>th</sup>

Family Communion Night, 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

Come at your convenience during that hour to receive communion.



## GOOD FRIDAY Men's Breakfast: April 10<sup>th</sup>

6:55 a.m. The Scottish Rite Ballroom,  
315 White Horse Pike  
Collingswood, N.J.

\$20 pp - See Kathy or Gary McGaurn for your tickets.



## GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE:

12:00 – 1:30 pm

A special time of meditation from Jesus' last words from the cross with special music. Various speakers will be sharing with us. You are invited to come when you are able and leave when you must.

## GOOD FRIDAY EASTER OUTREACH:

**Deliver 10,000 meals in the surrounding area!**

Packing: Friday, 6:30 pm. at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

Delivery: Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am meet at  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.



## EASTER SUNDAY: April 12<sup>th</sup> – Easter

8:30 and 10:45 am - **Celebration Service**

Message: *"Let's Get It Right!"*

John 20:1-9

*Good Friday  
Men's Breakfast  
April 10, 2020 6:55 AM*



GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST

**Guest Speakers: Derrick Gunn and Barrett Brooks**



Derrick Gunn and Barrett Brooks are the hosts of NBC Sports Philadelphia show, Quick Slants. Both are devoted family men, as well as passionate Christians determined to spread the Gospel of Christ.

***The Scottish Rite Ballroom  
315 Whitehorse Pike  
Collingswood, NJ 08108***

**6:55AM - 8:15 AM  
Starts and Ends On Time  
Tickets \$20 - All Included**



To Purchase Tickets:

- ⇒ Go to [EventBrite.com](http://EventBrite.com) & Search "Good Friday Men's Breakfast"
- ⇒ Visit our Facebook page: "Greater South Jersey Annual Men's Good Friday Breakfast. The QR code will take you right there."
- ⇒ Contact Gary McGaurn

For questions, please e-mail [gsmensbreakfast@gmail.com](mailto:gsmensbreakfast@gmail.com)

**LIMITED SEATING EVENT**

MARCH			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<b>1</b> Seeking God's Face <b>8:30 AM</b> Traditional Worship Service <b>9:30 AM</b> A Way Forward Discussion <b>9:40 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:45 AM</b> Contemporary Worship Service <b>12:30 PM</b> A Way Forward Discussion <b>6:00 PM</b> Ryver <b>1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT</b>	<b>2</b> Church Office Closed	<b>3</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Followers Bible Study	<b>4</b> <b>6:45 PM</b> Mast <b>7:00 PM</b> A Wa Discussion
<b>8</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Traditional Worship Service <b>9:40 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:45 AM</b> Contemporary Worship Service <b>6:00 PM</b> Ryver <b>2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT</b> <b>DAYLIGHT-SAVINGS</b> <b>TIME BEGINS</b>	<b>9</b> Church Office Closed	<b>10</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Followers Bible Study	<b>11</b> <b>6:45 PM</b> Mast
<b>15</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Traditional Worship Service <b>9:40 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:45 AM</b> Contemporary Worship Service <b>6:00 PM</b> Ryver <b>3<sup>d</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT</b>	<b>16</b> Church Office Closed	<b>17</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Followers Bible Study	<b>18</b> <b>6:45 PM</b> Mast
<b>22</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Traditional Worship Service <b>9:40 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:45 AM</b> Contemporary Worship Service <b>6:00 PM</b> Ryver <b>4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT</b>	<b>23</b> Church Office Closed	<b>24</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Followers Bible Study	<b>25</b> <b>6:45 PM</b> Mast <b>7:00 PM</b> A Wa Discussion
<b>29</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Traditional Worship Service <b>9:40 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:45 AM</b> Contemporary Worship Service <b>6:00 PM</b> Ryver <b>5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT</b>	<b>30</b> Church Office Closed	<b>31</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Followers Bible Study	<div>First Un</div>

# 2020

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Men's Men ay Forward	5 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	6 Church Office Closed	7
Men's Men	12 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	13 Church Office Closed	14
Men's Men	19 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	20 Church Office Closed	21
Men's Men ay Forward	26 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	27 Church Office Closed	28

United Methodist Church, 201 Dayton Avenue, Collingswood, NJ 08108856-858-1186

www.fumccollingswood.orgFacebook: Collingswood FUMC

# Decision 2020

## A Way Forward for FUMC Collingswood

It is clear from the events following the General Conference of February 2019, including the votes taken at the 10/26/19 Greater NJ Annual Conference, that the discord within the United Methodist denomination is not settled – and perhaps has even increased. There are various proposals getting some attention for what may transpire at the 2020 General Conference as well, but there seems to be universal agreement on only one point: some type of split within the denomination is coming – and local churches will have a decision to make regarding their future affiliation.

We at FUMC Collingswood have been praying and patiently waiting for the denominational issues to become clear, and though there are still many unanswered questions, we can wait no longer. We must recognize that 2020 will be a year of decision about the future of our local church, and to make that decision as an entire church body, we must make sure that all members are informed of the issues and are best-prepared to take part in that decision when the time arrives.

To that end, below is a schedule of meeting dates that are open to all members of the church. There are multiple dates when the same information will be discussed, because not everyone is available at one specific time throughout the week. People may attend as many as they like, but all are strongly encouraged to attend at least one meeting on each discussion topic, so that everyone is informed to a reasonably consistent degree. Please mark your calendars.

**Part II – Understanding Our Options:** *What are the different paths we have to choose from? What happens if we don't make a definitive choice? When do we really have to make a decision?*

**Wednesday, February 26, 10:00 am** – Parlor

**Sunday, March 1, 9:30-10:30 am** (Sunday School Hour) &  
**12:30 pm** (following Worship)

**Wednesday, March 4, 7:00 pm** – Parlor

### **“Biblical Truths about Sexuality in a Fallen World”**

March 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-9:00 pm – Parlor

Special Speaker, Dave Wiedis from Serving Leaders Ministry, West Chester, PA

**Part III – Form Your Opinions:** Gather together to share thoughts and opinions on which direction members wish to see FUMC Collingswood go in the future.

**Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 pm – Parlor**

**Sunday, April 19, 12:30 pm – Temple (lunch provided)**

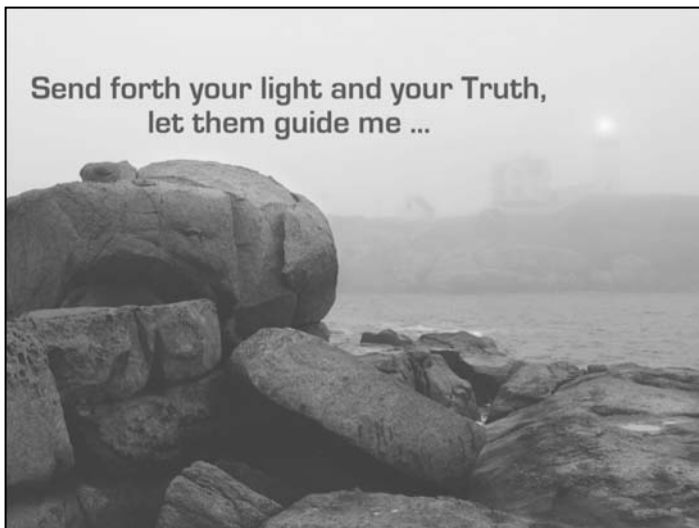
**Church Conference 2020 (tentative date):** Motion(s) will be heard and voted\* upon as to the future direction of FUMC Collingswood. (*\*A simple majority of all members present – votes in abstentia may not be considered – so please make every effort to safeguard this date.*)

**Monday May 18, 7:00 pm – Temple**

***Copies of all this information is available  
on the front desk in the church office.***

As we approach these discussions, we encourage all members to pray fervently, be informed, ask questions, and take advantage of any advance materials that will be made available so that we may receive this time as a coming together of God's people, being led by the Holy Spirit, to discern our way forward as a local church committed to glorifying God.

Please direct all inquiries, questions, etc. to Steve Schoch, Council Chair





### **Chuck and Bev Truxton, Nigeria**

We've enjoyed another year of being involved in the lives of our family in Pennsylvania while still having the opportunity of being involved in ministry in Nigeria. Chuck has continued to make trips back to Miango. Through your generosity many now have easy access to clean drinking water; the expressions of thanks and appreciation just keep coming!

But at this Christmas season we'd like to talk about a mother and her baby. Well, this baby is now 23 years old now! But when Bev first knew Rosemary, Victor was just one year old, brought to the hospital in need of surgery. One year earlier he was the baby who nearly got left in a rubbish heap out of desperation. (*See their story below.*)

During his most recent visit to Nigeria, Chuck was able to make contact with Rosemary and son Victor - who is now a student at University of Jos. Victor reminded us that many of you helped sponsor him to summer camp as a teenager! He says that was an important influence in his life; he wanted us to thank you for that. Rosemary is now attending a course in catering and hopes to open her own small road-side restaurant in Jos. We praise the Lord for his grace and blessing in the lives of this mother and her son.

We'd like to add our own word of thanks to you for your continued support both through prayer and gifts that God is using to help sustain us and also to assist those in Nigeria who need help.

### **The Scrapheap Baby - Rosemary and Victor's Story**

It was the city dump. Rosemary knew it wouldn't be a pretty place. But the smell was worse than she had imagined and there were rats everywhere. Of course there were rats; a collection of all the city's refuse would surely attract rats!

A teenage runaway who had turned to prostitution, Rosemary now found herself with a baby boy she was convinced she couldn't care for. So tossing him seemed to be the solution. Rosemary had gotten on the transit bus and headed out of the city to find a place where she thought no one would be watching. At the end of the line she got off and there it was: a place where people dumped things they didn't want. Just the right place she thought.



But she hadn't thought about the rats. Somehow Rosemary had pictured finding a soft secluded place to lay her baby down gently and cover him over with the cloth that was now wrapped around him. He would look up at her and know that she was only doing what she had to do. She would walk quietly away and everything would be OK again.

But everything was not OK. He was crying now; he needed her. And it was the rats that clinched it. One very big one moved very close and stood on his back legs sniffing the air. No, this was not the place for her son. She didn't know how they would survive, or even if they would survive. But this was not where her son's life would end. Not here, not today.

The dilapidated hotel where they were living was not a good place; Rosemary was often abused and beaten. But no one touched her baby. When Victor was just one year old he became violently ill with vomiting and abdominal pain. Some Nigerian Christian workers on an outreach to prostitutes brought them to our Evangel Hospital and that's how Rosemary and Victor came into our lives.

With treatment and surgery, Victor got better physically. But more than physical care, Rosemary experienced a love and compassion from Bev and the other hospital staff that really ministered to her needy heart. She accepted Christ as her savior and began a journey of discipleship in a nearby transition house, memorizing more than 200 scripture verses and allowing the Word of God to take root in her life.

**Saints Prison Ministry, NJ**  
**Derrick from Sing Sing CF, NY**  
**A Heartfelt Thanks**

I am writing you in regard to all the birthday cards I have received from you all throughout the years. God has placed it on my heart to reflect back to the very day we met. I was housed at Okeechobee CI and the Saints showed up to play us a game of softball. I believe the year was 2007. I was already a Christian so I fully understood the love from Jesus that all of you showed us. What I never thought about was the dedication the Saints have shown me over the years by making sure I felt loved and thought of on my birthday. No matter if I changed institutions, six times since 2007, the Saints birthday card always found me at the right address and with a smile on my face. You all have a better record than bill collectors. Ha Ha. I just wanted you all to know how much these cards have meant to me. Thank you. I have another seven years to go before my release date and carry the joy of Jesus with me every

*(Continued on page 18)*

*(Missionary Messages - Continued from page 17)*

day and will never stop praying for all of you at the Saints Prison Ministry. God is shining down on all of you at the Saints. Keep up the great work for God. “We are saved to serve.”

### **Robert C, Main Unit, FL Celebration Banquet**

On November 9th, with coaches representing our athletic teams from all over the country in attendance, the Saints Prison Ministry gathered in the gym at Easton Bible Church to celebrate God’s goodness over the past year. Having a different team represented at each table allowed guests to hear stories from the front lines and we were blessed to hear a testimony and saxophone solo from Michael, an ex-offender who credits the Saints Prison Ministry – and specifically, Dr. Omar Fisher of our NJ basketball team – for making a huge impact on his life coming out of SCI Chester. The evening culminated with Pastor Dave MacMurray challenging us from the book of Nehemiah, in keeping with the ministry’s tagline of Multiple Teams...One Ministry...One Message. The most important takeaway from that celebration? God was glorified for His provision and blessing!

### **Willie B., ADTC, NJ**

I am sending you this message to thank you for enrolling me in your Bible study program, thank you for signing me up for your Pen-Pal program, and thank you for sending me the first lesson. Thank you for helping me with learning more and getting closer to our God. But most of all, thank you for your service to God. The Bible says this service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourself, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the Gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the grace God has given you. Thanks to God for his indescribable gift (vs 2 Corinthians 9:12-15 NIV). On that note I am going to end this by saying: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, will be with us in truth and love. (vs. 2 John 3, NIV) God bless you! Please keep me in your prayers and know you will remain in mine.



# Missions Trip

## July 18-25, 2020

### Maneadero, Mexico

You are invited to join together in serving God's children in Mexico this summer! We will partner with our own youth and youth from other churches and come alongside local churches and ministries through children's ministry, prayer walking, evangelism, work projects, homeless outreach, and community events in addition to the specific focus of a location.

Our work in Baja will be centered on the 25,000 person town of Maneadero, a bustling community about 120 minutes south of San Diego.

We will be serving alongside local ministry partners in a myriad of ways from block parties, to community clean-up, work projects out at Oasis Boys Home (<http://centrooasisac.com/>), prayer on the streets, etc...whatever our local ministry partners have asked us to do.

Total cost will be approximately \$1350. If you are interested in going, please make a notation on the tear-off section of your bulletin or let Pastor Matt know.





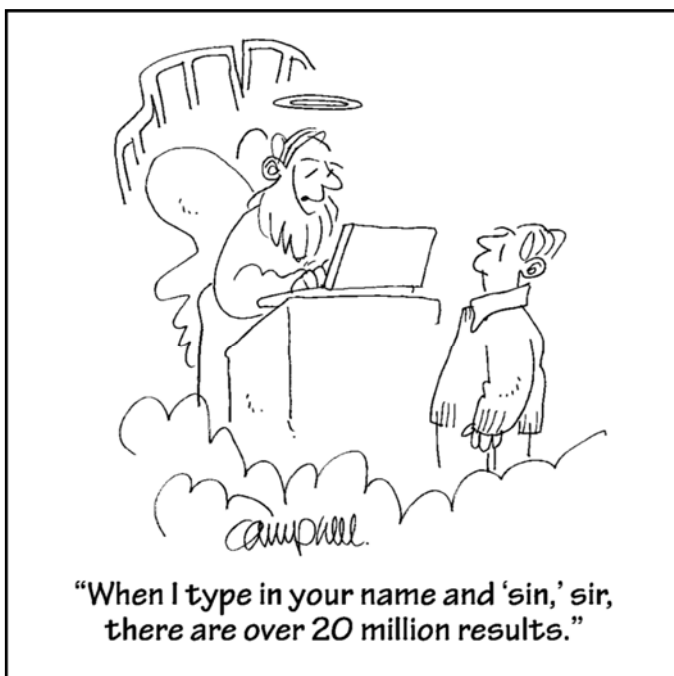
If you have not already done so,  
 please give your dates  
 (birth dates and anniversary  
 dates) to the church office  
 in writing or by e-mail:  
[maria@fumccollingswood.org](mailto:maria@fumccollingswood.org).

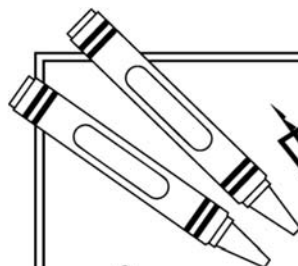
March 3	Matthew C. Schmitt	March 11	Mark Burgoon
March 6	Barbara Hamilton	March 16	Ean Meyers
March 7	Steve Schoch	March 18	Brad Mountain
March 9	Lorraine Rudderow	March 22	MaryEmily Cameron
March 10	Bob Alber Emily Davis Carol Doron	March 26	Bob Holmes Donna Pelligrini
		March 30	Christine Walker



March 30 William & Suzanne Hoover







# PUZZLE

## MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD

People of the Bible used many different instruments to worship God through music.

*Directions: Using the clues, unscramble the names of instruments found in Psalm 150. Then write the circled letters in order in the spaces below to complete verse 6.*



A type of horn \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ MURTETP

Played by King David ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ PRHA

Plucked to make sound \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ IGSNSTR

Similar to a tambourine \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ MRBELIT

A type of harp \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ ELRY

Blown through to make sound \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ EPPI

A percussion instrument \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ YBLACMS

Le\_ everyt\_ing tha\_ has \_r\_ath  
\_raise the \_ORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

Answer: trumpet, harp, strings, timbrel, lyre, pipe, cymbals; Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

# Joyful noise



Use your voice and this hand-crafted percussion instrument to make joyful noises to the Lord.

## What you need:

- Dry beans (about one Tbsp)
- Plastic Easter egg
- 2 plastic spoons
- Masking tape
- Markers and stickers

## What you do:

1. Place the beans inside the egg and snap it closed.
2. Set the egg in a spoon and cover it with the second spoon so the spoons are holding the egg.
3. Tape the spoons to the egg. Also wrap tape around the spoons from top to bottom to make a shaker handle.
4. Decorate your shaker and use it as you sing praises to God.
5. Experiment with sounds by filling other eggs with coins, rice, and so on.

# Bible Quiz

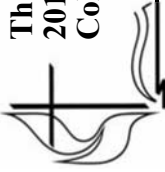
Who came to Jesus by night to ask him questions, and what famous Bible verse was part of Jesus' answer?

- A. Martha; "I am the resurrection and the life ..."
- B. Peter; "Do to others what you would have them do ..."
- C. Thomas; "I am the way and the truth and the life ..."
- D. Nicodemus; "For God so loved the world ..."

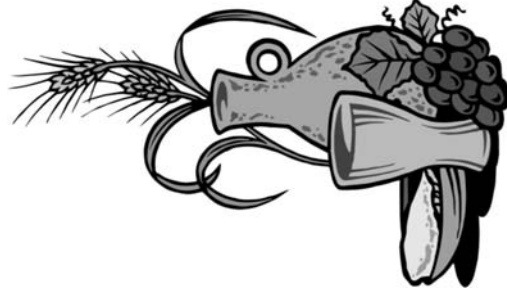
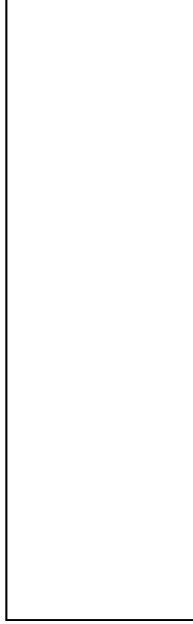


Answer: D (See John 3:1-16.)

The First United Methodist Church  
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*To see all people **WORSHIP** God, **CONNECT** with  
His people, and join His **MISSION** in this world.*