

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.*

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is published by:

The First United Methodist Church

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Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

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

***FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is online at
www.fumccollingswood.org and is available via
e-mail. Send an e-mail to
ewindows@fumccollingswood.org to subscribe.***

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The submission deadline for the
April issue of Windows is
March 10th.

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



From The Pastor's Heart



I was reading this week and was reminded of the underground subway system in London called the Tube. There is a phrase that is often said there to guide the people and to keep them safe. It's "mind the gap." It's a caution to everyone who dares to cross the yellow line towards the tracks. It primarily acts as a warning to

all bystanders of the gap between them and where the train sits. Small to some and large to others, the gap could be a simple step of continued travel or a shocking short plummet to your end. Ultimately this phrase over the crackling underground speakers makes you think of where you are, where the train is, and the gaping hole between the two.

We need to "mind the gap." What a great reminder spiritually as well. As we approach Lent, a time that reminds us of our brokenness, we need to have a single focus that can bring us closer to living out God's purpose in my life.

We pray for ourselves, our world, our church and our families, "Lord your will be done in me." I think that's what Paul had in mind when he wrote to the church out of his heart. *...But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.* (Philippians 3:13,14)

Lenten season begins on March 6. Everyone has their spin on what it means. **Lent** is a time of soul-searching and repentance in preparation for the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection on Good Friday and Easter. In the Western Church, Lent consists of the 40 days before Easter, not counting Sundays. The first day of Lent is Wednesday. The day before Lent begins has become a day

of feasting and revelry before the solemn fasting of Lent. Mardi Gras is French for *Fat Tuesday*, because it was the last day for feasting before the Lenten fast. Obviously, the sensuality and excess of Mardi Gras has no place in the life of a Christian and Mardi Gras is in no sense a Christian holiday.

Lent is simply a time of seeking God with all our hearts and self-denial. Self-denial means willing to give something up so we might be able to find deeper serenity or clarity. Some folks begin with outward stuff in self-denial. But Jesus is not concerned with chocolate and few other small offerings – he’s concerned with what’s going on in our hearts. Once again, I think of some words from Apostle Paul to the church again this time in Rome. *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.* ² *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.* (Roman 12:1-2)

Several years ago I read something that challenged me with good questions to consider as we examine our hearts

1. When I wake up on Resurrection Sunday morning, how will I be different?

2. Is there something in my life—a habit, a grudge, a fear, a prejudice, an addiction, an emotional barrier, a form of excess—that keeps me from loving God with my heart, soul, mind, and strength and loving my neighbor as myself? How might I address that over the next 40 days?

May this Lenten season bring fresh blessing and joy as we seek our Lord.

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
- ◆ Visit the Collingswood FUMC Facebook page

**Daylight
Savings Time
begins at 2:00 AM
on March 10th.**



THE NEXT MEN'S BREAKFAST

will be held on Saturday, March 23rd at 8:00 am.

Our speaker, Don Overton is the Pastor of Liberti Church Mainline in Rosemont, PA. He has most recently served as Pastor of North Springs Church in Colorado Springs, CO. Don and his wife Tamara have 4 children and have recently moved to Wayne, PA. Don loves discipleship and sharing Jesus with everyone. He is a strong communicator who will bring God's story alive. Don is originally from Kansas City, MO and is a Chiefs fan.

MARCH SERMONS AND SCRIPTURES



- March 3 *"Trusting God in Everything"* Proverbs 3:5-6
 Communion
- March 10 *"Let's Get Going"* John 5:1-15
 (Healing at the Pool)
- March 17 *"Faith Brought together Making a Difference"* Mark 2:1-12
 (Jesus heals the Paralytic)

Following Jesus Matters - Join us as we discover together through the many great "I Am" statements of Jesus on the way to the cross; that we have a God that wants to be real in our lives, and has a greater purpose than we can ever imagine!

- March 24 *Following Jesus Matters*
- March 31 *Following Jesus Matters*
 Praise and Worship and Testimony - Fifth Sunday

Seeking God's Face Week ***March 3 – March 10***

We are putting aside this week for a special time of prayer, meditation and fasting to God so we might know God's mind intimately, know His will for our lives and our church, and for the future. We'll seek Him through...

- Daily prayer – challenging each to devote 30 minutes a day to prayer for God's will.
- Wednesday evening prayer – meet in the sanctuary from 6:00 - 7:00 pm to pray (Holy Wednesday.)
- Friday and Saturday - for 24 hours of prayer (sign up in the church office.)

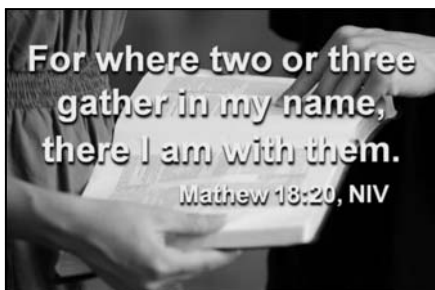


WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE (WNL)

Something for Everyone!

Bring the whole family for an amazing, home-cooked dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by gatherings for all ages! Reserve your spot for dinner by signing up on the tear off. Kids will gather each week at 6:40 for exciting activities and relevant Bible lessons, led by our wonderful children's team. Then teenagers (6th grade up) and adults gather at 6:50 for their own experience, involving prayer, Bible study, training, and hands-on serving. Don't miss this opportunity to grow as a church and as individuals - making disciples who make disciples!

- 3/6 - Holy Wednesday /
"First Night" Prayer
Service
- 3/13 - Teaching on John 4 and
9 – power of testimony
- 3/20 - Training: writing out and
sharing our testimonies
- 3/27 - Serving in our
community



GOOD NEWS, EVERYONE!

Now donating to the food pantry is even easier. We put a donation button on St. Paul's Church's website. This way, if you're not a fan of writing checks, you can simply donate quickly online by PayPal or credit card. Scroll about halfway down the homepage until you find the button, click, select "Food pantry," input your information, and press send. You'll get an instant receipt for your donation by email. We want to thank everyone for all the support you've already provided and hopefully this makes things a bit easier. Thanks!

<http://www.stpaulscollingswood.com>





GAME NIGHT

GAME NIGHT – held the 2nd Saturday of every month from 6:00 to 9:00 pm in Stokes Dining Room. Feel free to bring your favorite game or come and learn a new one! Also, bring your favorite snack to share. Hope to see you there. Any questions, please See Emily Davis or Susan Gibbins-Davis.



VBS—It may seem like a long time from now, but VBS is right around the corner!! June 24-28 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!



FUMC EASTER EGG HUNT

Date: Saturday, April 13th

Time: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Church Campus

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

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



Good Friday Men's Breakfast *April 19, 2019*

Guest Speaker: Rob Maadi



A multi-media personality, bestselling author of “**Birds of Pray**” and dynamic speaker, Rob Maaddi has covered the NFL and Philadelphia sports full-time for The Associated Press since 2000. Rob is a sports talk-show host at 97.5 Rob has appeared locally on NBC Sports Philadelphia and FOX 29 Good Day Philadelphia and nationally on CNN, ESPN, MSNBC, Sirius XM, FOX News and numerous other radio and television stations across the United States and Canada.

The Scottish Rite Ballroom
315 Whitehorse Pike
Collingswood, NJ

6:55AM - 8:15 AM \$ 20.00/pp



For tickets:
Contact Gary or Kathy McGaum
Or Facebook: Greater South
Jersey Annual Men's Good
Friday Breakfast; click on the
Eventbrite link

<div>MARCH</div>			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
3 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Ryver	4 Church Office Closed 12:00 PM TSA Event	5 10:00 AM Followers Bible Study	6 6:00 PM WNL 6:45 PM Mast 7:00 PM The Experience ASH WED
10 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Ryver 1st SUNDAY IN LENT DAYLIGHT-SAVINGS TIME BEGINS	11 Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Discipleship Meeting 7:00 PM Missions- Evangelism	12 10:00 AM Followers Bible Study	13 6:00 PM WNL 6:45 PM Mast 7:00 PM The Experience
17 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Ryver 2nd SUNDAY IN LENT ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18 Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Finance Meeting	19 10:00 AM Followers Bible Study	20 6:00 PM WNL 6:45 PM Mast 7:00 PM The Experience
24 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Ryver 3rd SUNDAY IN LENT	25 Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting	26 10:00 AM Followers Bible Study	27 6:00 PM WNL 6:45 PM Mast 7:00 PM The Experience
31 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Ryver 4th SUNDAY IN LENT			

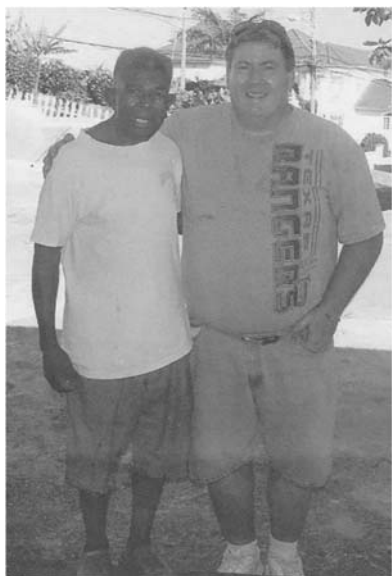
2019			
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2
Dinner Men's Men WNL WEDNESDAY	7 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	8	9 6:00 PM Game Night
Dinner Men's Men WNL	14 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	15	16
Dinner Men's Men WNL	21 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	22	23 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
Dinner Men's Men WNL	28 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	29 7:00 PM Grace Cafe	30

MISSIONARY MESSAGES

We mourn the passing of Menzie Oban, founder of Teamwork Associates of Jamaica, who influenced so many FUMC members as they worked alongside him. Here is a paragraph from Barbara Alber in Texas:



Menzie Oban 1928 - 2018



Menzie Oban founded the ministry Teamwork Associates in 1973. Our home church in New Jersey partnered with Menzie in helping to establish and grow the outreach and conference center in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Bob enjoyed a close relationship with Menzie, who made it a point to visit with the many teams Bob brought there over the years. Notice that Menzie is standing on a step and is STILL shorter than Bob! But he was a mighty warrior

for the Lord. When Bob heard of his passing he prayed about whether he should try to attend the memorial services which were scheduled for January 25-26, 2019. God immediately answered that prayer as several of our partners in New Jersey contacted Bob to offer help in covering his travel expenses. Thank you for allowing Bob to be a part of this important moment in the lives of our Teamwork family.

She continued with this prayer request:

Please pray!

Bob relies on custom-made compression hose to help

manage the swelling in his damaged right leg. After about six months the stocking loses its ability to stay in place and ends up bunching up behind his knee, causing a tourniquet-like effect. The cost for these is over \$4,000 year and has thankfully been covered by our insurance company until now.

The claim has been under review for the past two months. Please pray that we can somehow extend the viability of the existing stockings so that Bob's leg will be healthy enough to handle the busy schedule he has planned. Please also pray that the insurance company will resolve this matter quickly and that new stockings will be ordered soon. Thank you very much!

David and Andrea Brunner, Idaho

Thank you for your prayers and giving on our behalf so we can reach out to an area that is very caught-up in the religion of Mormonism (LDS). It is a privilege to know that we are able to share with people who need to hear the gospel. The true gospel from the Word of God, the Bible, is so needed for so many here in this area of Utah and Idaho. Many in our area (within three hours of Salt Lake City) have never heard the gospel. That Jesus died on the cross for our sins is not a doctrine of importance to them. They need to hear the true gospel. Thank you for your part in our ministry.

Thank you for your prayers and gifts in our behalf. We have been seeing the Lord work and helping us grow as a church. We are not pushing out the walls, but we are seeing more pews filled. Thank you. We see that you are praying.

We know that this letter needed to get out to you, but we had some important repairs that came up quickly. Our van window on the driver's side was not working and was stuck about half way down. It appeared to be the switch, but then we were told it was the motor. After about two weeks, that window was fixed by a friend in the area of Blackfoot, ID. Then we had a light switch in our house go out. It got fixed after a friend and cousin both said it had to be a three-way switch. A battery for a computer has now arrived and our computer is doing well with it in place.

With these things being on the mend now, we are thankful for the time to let you know how great it is that you all are praying that we can serve the Lord. Our van is used to bring children to Bible Club. Our home is used for ministry, studying, rest, and our place to quietly seek the Lord for help and strength. The computer is our place for study as well as communication, and a ministry tool for typing notes, sermons, teaching, etc. Thank you for your prayers so we can effectively minister.



Wings of Prayer

Getting Quiet in the Loudness

A deep breath... That's usually the way I begin each time of prayer. I take a large breath in through my nostrils, and slowly exhale out of my mouth. There. I am ready to pray now. Ok, God, let's see what's on my list of things I need to talk to you about today. Gee, it's chilly in here. Let me go bump up the heat a bit...there, that's better. I settle back into my spot. Another deep breath... in... and... out. *"Dear Heavenly Father, I come before you today to...."* (Oh no, I forgot to add tomatoes to the shopping list... let me just text my son at the store... Wait, no. I'm praying right now, the tomatoes can wait. *"I come before you today..."* (phone vibrates.) Was that a text? I should probably check that. It might be important. (Looks at phone, it's not important.) Ok, let's start again. *"Dear Heavenly Father..."*

Does this sound familiar to you? I know I experience these kinds of interruptions regularly when I settle down to pray. The inner mind and the outer world never seem to shut off. Intrusive thoughts come from every direction, and the world starts to clamor for attention. When you try to get quiet with the Lord, everything else gets louder. It's not your imagination. We are battling forces that do not want us getting closer to God. *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."* Ephesians 6:12.

In C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*, we find Screwtape talking about an atheist, one of his projects that he had been working on for twenty years. This man was sitting quietly in a museum and seriously beginning to ponder the reality of God. Screwtape explains to his assistant Wormwood that using logical argument on the man would have eventually led him to the truth about God. *He says, "But I was not such a fool. I struck instantly at the part of the man which I had best under my control and suggested that it was*

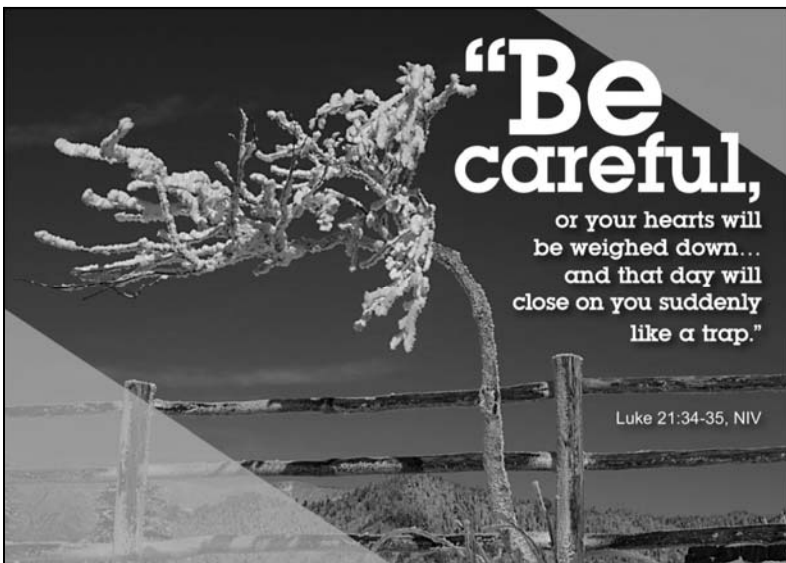
just about time he had lunch.” He distracted him. With something as simple as hunger. He will use the most everyday, mundane things to keep you from focusing your eyes and heart toward God.

Prayer is one of the most powerful ways we have to get closer to God, so it makes sense that Old Screwtape will use anything he can to keep us from having that intimate connection. Just being aware of this fact can help. Recognize where the distractions are coming from and be intentional about releasing them. Give the intrusive thoughts to God and make an effort to minimize the worldly distractions. *“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”* 2 Corinthians 10:5

Now, take a deep breath, and start again....

As you pray, please remember the needs of the following:
Betty Alber, Elizabeth Hollows, Barbara Brown, Marion Shallcross, Nathan Underwood, Barbara Edelman, Carolyn Alexander, Bea Williams, Jantzen Aurig, Audrey Diehl, Arnie Arnold, Cheryl Averell, David Shropshire, Holly Gibbons

Marion Wertz





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.

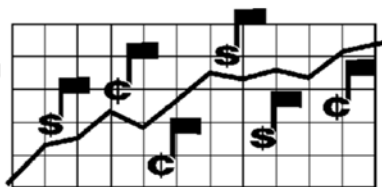
March 3	Matthew C. Schmitt	March 11	Mark Burgoon
March 5	Harold Shallcross	March 14	Cheryl Averell
March 6	Barbara Hamilton	March 16	Ean Meyers
March 7	Steve Schoch	March 18	Brad Mountain
March 9	Lorraine Rudderow	March 22	MaryEmily Cameron
March 10	Bob Alber Emily Davis Carol Doron	March 26	Bob Holmes Donna Pelligrini
		March 30	Christine Walker



March 30 William & Suzanne Hoover



Financial Notes



CHURCH FINANCES & STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Last year: We praise God and thank all of you who responded with a special donation at the end of 2018, which resulted in eliminating the expected shortfall and allows us to begin the year on solid financial ground! Total offerings for 2018 were \$405,000 (not including designated Missions giving), which covered our actual expenses, but fell significantly short of last years' budget of \$464,000. All work areas and leaders did a great job last year to eliminate unnecessary spending, which – combined with the December gifts – resulted in a good end to the year.

This year: As was reported in December, Council approved a reduced budget for 2019 of \$434,000 – which is really what we expect to spend this year to maintain our current level of ministry. Simply put, this means that donations must increase by 7% this year. It is still early in the year, but thus far in 2019, the offerings through January have fallen short of expenses by \$7,000, and the Finance Committee will continue to meet monthly to keep a close eye on how we are doing.

What can you do? First and foremost, include the church's financial health in your regular prayers. Next, if you have not yet made the commitment to stretch your giving for the coming year, take that step as soon as you are able, and take advantage of the full year ahead to make the goal easier to reach – a small increase given consistently over time is often more achievable than responding to a larger end-of-year appeal. Finally, if you have not yet done so, consider enrolling in the electronic giving program, which can help build up consistency in how we as disciples carry out our stewardship commitments.

We want to hear from you! Going forward, you can expect regular updates such as this on a variety of Stewardship topics, but we also want to hear what you think about these issues as well. Direct your questions to Gary McGaurn (Finance Chair), Steve Schoch (Council Chair) or any of the Pastors (or jot down a note on the tear-off sheet) – and we'll be sure to connect you with the best folks who can answer your questions and receive your ideas.



PUZZLE

Decode The days

At this time of year, God's creation "springs" to life.

Directions: After reading Genesis 1:1-2:3, write the correct Creation day number under each picture. Then add up each day's total and write it on the correct blank below.

Day 1 (light) ____ **Day 2** (waters) ____ **Day 3** (land and plants) ____ **Day 4** (heavenly bodies) ____

Day 5 (birds and water animals) ____ **Day 6** (land animals and people) ____ **Day 7** (God rested) ____

Answers: Day 1 = 3, Day 2 = 3, Day 3 = 10, Day 4 = 6, Day 5 = 10, Day 6 = 15, Day 7 = 2

DAYS OF CREATION

Play this game to remember when God made each of his masterpieces.



What you need:

- Paper
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Markers or crayons
- Dice
- Bibles (open to Genesis 1:1-2:3 for reference)

What you do:

1. To make game boards, draw a grid with four rows and seven columns, totaling 28 squares.
2. Across the top row, write DAY 1 in the first square and continue through DAY 7.
3. Take turns rolling one die, or all players can roll at once. For the number rolled, draw something God created on that day (in the correct column).
4. When you fill an entire row, draw a smiley face in the DAY 7 square. The first player with two smileys wins.

Bible Quiz

In John 9, Jesus' disciples ask whether a certain man or his parents sinned, causing his disability. Jesus says, "Neither. ... [It was] so that God's works might be revealed in him." What was this man's disability?

- A. Deafness
- B. Lameness
- C. Blindness
- D. Epilepsy



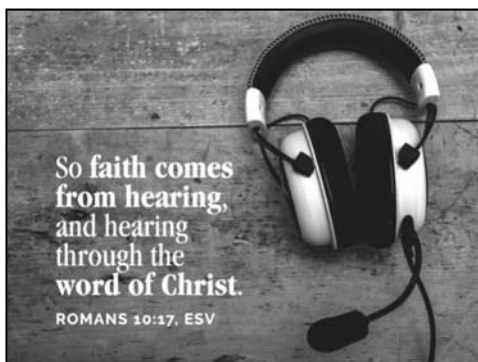
TO GOD YOU SHALL RETURN

The traditional Ash Wednesday words "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" might seem depressing. But in our often death-denying culture, some might find it refreshing to hear the frank statement that we can do nothing to save ourselves, physically or spiritually — that, no matter how we try to avoid sin, we can't untangle ourselves from self-interest. How liberating, then, to know we don't have to! God loves us as we are and sent Jesus to break sin's power over us.

Answer: C (See John 9:1-7.)

Opportunities for Serving in 2019

We are always looking for volunteers to expand our Technical Ministries team (including the laptop team.) Each Sunday, we are responsible for the lights and sound for our services, recording and editing the service for streaming from our website and for running the projection system in the Sanctuary. We serve the Lord by enabling His message to be seen and heard by others. You don't need any experience - just a willingness to learn. If you are interested in helping us out, you may contact Phil Boswell (e-mail: pdboswell@verizon.net) or you are also welcome to drop by the sound booth or control room and talk to any of our operators.



We are also looking for new faces for our Nursery teams. Each week we staff the nurseries at both the 8:30 and 10:45 am services. No experience is necessary, just a love of children. Please contact Kathy Boswell (kclown1@verizon.net) if you are interested in helping in this vital ministry.

Can YOU Help?



LAPTOP MINISTRY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

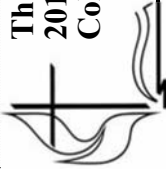


Do you enjoy learning new things? Do you like working with computers or would you like to learn to work with a computer? Would you like to be part of the praise team but don't sing or play an instrument? You might be the right person to join the laptop ministry. There is a need for more people to work with the laptop ministry. The laptop ministry assists Pastor Sam as well as the praise team in providing a positive worship experience for the congregation.

**THEY ARE
TO DO GOOD,
TO BE RICH
IN GOOD WORKS,
TO BE GENEROUS
AND READY
TO SHARE.**

1 TIMOTHY 6:18, ESV

The First United Methodist Church
201 Dayton Avenue
Collingswood, NJ 08108



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*To see all people **WORSHIP** God, **CONNECT** with His people,
and join His **MISSION** in this world.*