

## Celebrating the Ministry of the Zook Family

Over the past eighteen years Shawn and Nicole and their family have made an impact on the First UMC family that cannot easily be quantified or measured. Even if we were able to add up all the hours they have invested in peoples' lives, or the number of songs they have led as we have worshipped as a congregation, or the conversations, lessons, and events they have engaged in during their time in Collingswood, we would only be scratching the surface of what God has done through them and their ministry here.

On June 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am, we will have the opportunity in a combined worship service to hear from Shawn as he opens the Word for us one more time, to celebrate how God has used them here, and to bless them and send them off to the next ministry that God has for them. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) would also like to invite you a luncheon following the service to celebrate the Zook family and say goodbye as their time at FUMC comes to an end. Watch your email and bulletins from more information on how you can help make that celebration possible.

In addition, the SPRC would like to extend the opportunity for you to give toward a love-gift that will be given to the Zooks. Gifts (non-tax-deductible) can be made by sending a check to the church office with "Zook Love Gift" in the memo line or by giving online through [fumccollingswood.org/giving](http://fumccollingswood.org/giving) and selecting the "Zook Love Gift" designation option. Whether or not you are able to give through the church or on your own, we encourage you to take time to write a note or email of appreciation for the ways the Zook family has touched your life and helped shape you into the person God is forming you to be.

Notes of appreciation can be sent to the Zooks by

Email: [shawnzook641@gmail.com](mailto:shawnzook641@gmail.com)

Or Mail: 641 Stokes Ave,  
Collingswood, NJ 08108

## Update on The Way Forward

As many of you know, in early 2020 a proposal was announced that would make a way for an amicable separation of the United Methodist Church along theological lines. This proposal had been negotiated by representatives from groups across the theological spectrum and sought to put an end to decades of disagreement. As a result of this announcement, First UMC began to engage in conversations about what kind of church we will be and what the way forward might look like for us.

And then Covid-19 hit and the world went into lockdown. The General Conference that was scheduled to meet in May 2020 and would have voted on this protocol was rightly postponed until August 2021, and then again until 2022. Most recently it was announced that General Conference will not meet until 2024. In light of the further delay, the Global Methodist Church (GMC) has announced that it will launch on May 1, 2022. Among those forming the GMC are those on the theologically conservative side who had been working reform and renewal with the UMC such as The Confessing Movement, Good News, and the Wesleyan Covenant Association.

Without the General Conference vote on the protocol, the path forward is less clear for congregations. Because of this, the FUMC Church Council has decided that it is time for us to reengage the conversation about who we will be as a church and what our future looks like. Steve Schoch, who played a key role in the early conversations that were held, has been appointed by our Church Council to work with Pastor Scott and other elected church leaders to facilitate this conversation. The goal of these conversations will be to reach a point where our future direction is clear so that our leaders can lead us with clarity and integrity into the next season of congregational life and ministry together.

More information will be available as plans and opportunities are scheduled. Please keep our church leaders in your prayers.

## From the Trustees

There are several projects that have been completed recently and several others that are on the horizon.

- The new nurseries have been constructed within the Great Room.
- The two main boilers were repaired.
- The leaky sink in the men's room was replaced, and a small hot water heater was installed to serve the restrooms.
- A kitchenette will be installed in the Great Room to increase functionality.
- The God's Special Children classroom is getting a new coat of paint.

## Update on the Preschool

The Collingswood Early Childhood Center, which meets in the education wing, is in the process of installing the playground behind the garage of the Stokes Avenue parsonage.

It was so great to see many of the families who have a connection to the preschool bring children to our church Easter Egg Hunt. Hosting the preschool is a great opportunity to serve and show love to families within the neighborhood where we've been planted.

## From the Finance Committee

The Finance Team is going through a season of transition. Mr. Bob Gordon (head counter), Mrs. Barbara Hamilton (financial secretary), and Mrs. Margie Hughes (treasurer) have given many hours and much energy to steward the financial resources that have been given to God through our church. As a congregation, we are so grateful for the way they have served God and our church in this key area.

Mr. Ted Robb will serve in an interim role as treasurer and Mrs. Jennifer Schwehm will be taking on the role of financial secretary. We are still looking for people to join the counters and for someone to lead and coordinate the counting team.

[www.fumccollingswood.org](http://www.fumccollingswood.org)  
[office@fumccollingswood.org](mailto:office@fumccollingswood.org) • 856-858-1186

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries bolded

### May

- 4 - RuthAnne Detwiler
- 6 - Phil Boswell  
Josiah Rambo
- 7 - **Jim & Jane Doyle**
- 10 - Joan Stecher
- 11 - Ken Underwood
- 12 - Ken Steward  
Ethan Zook
- 14 - Nathan Schwehm  
Eric Wertz
- 15 - **Dave & Marjie Hammond**
- 20 - Tina Hemphill  
Rosalie MacGlaughlin
- 21 - Marjie Hammond  
Dana Schoch
- 22 - Megan DeFoney
- 24 - Kathy Boswell  
Connie Cline
- 29 - **Shawn & Nicole Zook**

### June

- 1 - Jeremy Wallace
- 2 - **Phil & Kathy Boswell**
- 3 - **Scott & Meg Rambo**
- 4 - **Stan & Pat Sheaffer**
- 5 - Maxwell Schoch  
Samuel Schoch
- 13 - Dawn Molloy
- 15 - Shirl Latch
- 19 - Linda Schoch
- 21 - **Mike & Dawn Molloy**
- 24 - Aryanna Zook
- 26 - Miles Tribulus
- 28 - Prin Pappas  
Brian Steward  
**Tom & Carolyn Thompson**
- 29 - Jason Meyers
- 30 - Nathanael Meyers

\*If your birthday or anniversary isn't listed here, the church doesn't have it. Email it to [office@fumccollingswood.org](mailto:office@fumccollingswood.org) to be included.



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

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*Vacation Bible School*  
*"Summer Camp Days"*  
*"Heroes of the Bible"*

Our VBS Summer Camp Days will be held at 9:30-11:30am on the following dates:

- Thursday, June 30th
- Wednesday, July 13th
- Wednesday, July 27th
- Thursday, August 4th
- Thursday, August 25th

Calling all kids! We want you to join us for VBS! Come each day for stories, games, crafts, prizes, and a snack.

For any questions, please call Pat Gunning at 856-858-1186

*Sunday Schedule for Summer*

This summer, July 3<sup>rd</sup> - September 4<sup>th</sup>, we will shift our Sunday morning to a combined schedule. This will allow our congregation to learn, grow, and worship together in a different way than we do throughout the school year. It will also give our regular Sunday School teachers a break and our pastors a chance to rotate through and teach in our different classes.

If you are interested in teaching one of the Adult Sunday School lessons, please reach out to Pastor Scott.

- 9:00am - Sunday School*  
*Kids, Youth, Young Adults, GSC, Adult Study, & Adult Discussion*
- 10:00am - Combined Worship & Kids Church*  
*Hymns, Worship Songs, Creeds, Prayers, a Sermon. Communion will continue to be served on the first Sunday of each month. Kids will leave for Kids Church before the sermon.*

*A Letter from Pastor Scott*

Even more than when I first arrived at FUMC last summer, I have a sense that God wants to do something new within and through our congregation. I cannot say that I know all of what that is going to look like or what it will mean for us, but I can say that I'm excited about it. There is nothing like knowing you are being faithful to what God is asking you to do and see Him working in your midst.

That is not to say that following Jesus is easy or free from pain or challenge. There are difficulties we are facing as a congregation and there will be challenges in the days ahead of us. Despite those realities, I know God will continue to lead us if we humble ourselves, listen for Jesus's voice, and join the Holy Spirit where He is working. I believe that there are many reasons to be optimistic about the future of our church; I look out each week and see people who are worshipping at FUMC for the first time or who I'm meeting for the first time since my appointment began.

God has done great things in and through FUMC in the past, the faith of our people and our beautiful building are a testament to that, and no amount of optimism about God's work in the future negates or undoes what God has done in the past. What God is doing will be built on the foundation that has already been laid. We don't have to lay a new foundation, we need to build upon the legacy that was given to us by people like Rev. Dr. Frank Stanger, Rev. Philip and Mrs. Dot Worth, Rev. Jack Hamilton, and Rev. Dick Esher, among countless others. These men and women have built this church on Christ, the Chief Cornerstone, and we "like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house."

Let's believe that there are good days ahead for FUMC and join God where He is working.

*Announcing Our New Assistant Pastor, Jeremy Andrade*

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) has the privilege and pleasure of announcing that Jeremy Andrade has been hired to be our new Assistant Pastor.

We are so excited to have Jeremy, and his wife Rebecca, join the pastoral staff and play a role in shepherding our congregation here in Collingswood. As Assistant Pastor, Jeremy will direct the discipleship and spiritual growth of our youth and young adults while also serving alongside Pastor Scott in preaching, pastoral care, and outreach.

As you have the opportunity to get to know Jeremy, you will find him to be someone who loves God wholeheartedly and is able to thoughtfully and articulately share his faith with others. Jeremy has a passion to disciple people of all ages and to help them develop a biblical worldview that stands up to a

shifting culture. Jeremy and Rebecca's love for the Lord is evident in the way they interact with people and love on them.

Jeremy has a degree in Philosophy & Religion from Rowan University, has served on mission in Mexico and Colombia, and most recently served as Youth Pastor at Trinity UMC in Mullica Hill, NJ. Jeremy's first official day will be July 1, 2022, but don't be surprised if you see him around FUMC before that. Jeremy and Rebecca are also anticipating the birth of their first child in mid-August.

We hope you will join the SPRC in welcoming our new assistant pastor Jeremy Andrade and his wife Rebecca to FUMC. We are working on creating opportunities for the congregation to get to know the Andrades in smaller group settings over the summer and fall like we did for the Rambos last summer. Keep an eye out for details on how to be involved in a gathering!