

GETTING READY FOR
CHRISTMAS



Chatham United Methodist Church

CIRCUIT RIDER



www.chathamumc.com

DECEMBER 2014

973-635-7740 ~ chatumc@optonline.net

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Gifts that Give Twice:



Photo from Christmas 2013

Alternative Gifts Fair

The Chatham United Methodist Church is hosting the annual **Alternative Gifts Fair** on **Sunday, December 7, 2014**. The fair offers the opportunity for gift shoppers to learn about and support organizations doing charitable work locally and globally, while giving gifts that bring greater meaning to the giver and the recipient.

A great variety of merchandise will be offered: **Ugandan jewelry, baskets, and totes; Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate; beautiful handmade knitwear; a variety of beautiful gifts from UMCOR's partner, SERRV and a variety of doves and enamels from Taize.** You can also choose honor cards for your gift recipients from organizations such as Heifer International, Family

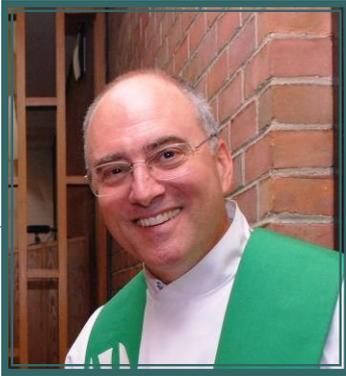
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Thanks to a fabulous AV crew, all of our Sunday services are recorded and posted on our website and Facebook page.

Please visit www.ChathamUMC.com to view or listen to any of CUMC's Sunday services.





The Pastor's Pen

Rev. Jeff Markay

revjmarkay@earthlink.net

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us...” John 1:14

“It is not about becoming spiritual beings nearly as much as about becoming simple human beings. The biblical revelation is saying that we are already spiritual beings, but we just don't know it yet. The Bible tries to let you in on the secret, by revealing God in the ordinary, and in the seemingly tragic. That's why so much of the text seems so mundane, practical, specific and, frankly, unspiritual!

We have created a terrible kind of dualism between the spiritual and the so-called non-spiritual. This dualism precisely is what Jesus came to reveal as a lie. The principle of Incarnation proclaims that matter and spirit have never been separate. Jesus came to tell us that these two seemingly different worlds are and always have been one. We just couldn't see it until God put them together in his one body (see Ephesians 2:11-20).”

Richard Rohr, [*Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality*](#), p.17

Dear Friends,

It is so important for Christians to have community in which we can delve into the mystery and ramifications of the Incarnation of God in Jesus Christ. It is beyond us, and yet what glimpse we are given, can change everything.

In the next few weeks, our culture will tell us that we don't have enough decorations, gifts, parties, activities, food, drink and distractions. I hope to enjoy some of all of these things, but not at the expense of missing the meaning of Advent, and the reminder of God's desire to be with us in Jesus. I hope that we can spend the Sundays in Advent worshiping God together. I hope that we can be involved in Advent Small Groups that will discuss our faith, our questions, and the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. I also hope that we can worship God together on that holy night we know as Christmas Eve.

Throughout the Northeast, fewer and fewer people have been coming out to the late Christmas Eve services. Some have family visiting from out of town, some are traveling, some don't like to drive late at night, and some are grateful for services earlier in the evening. Over the past year, the Covenant Choir, the Bell Choir, the Chatham UMC Church Council, the Worship Committee and the staff were asked to pray about a new worship schedule on Christmas Eve. Over the past few months, our discernment became clear. Chatham UMC will offer a 5PM Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service, when we will tell the story of the Nativity, sing Christmas Carols, hear a message, say prayers and sing Silent Night to candle-light. Our other service will be the 8PM Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols, when scriptures will be read, interspersed with sacred music and Christmas Carols, culminating in Silent Night by candle-light.

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Both services will be sacred and holy in their own way. I hope you can come to one or both of services so that together we might gaze into the mystery of the Incarnation, and discover again God's deep desire to be in loving relationship with the whole world.

Emmanuel,

Jeff Markay

Advent Gathering at the Parsonage

Sunday, December 14, 2014 4:00-6:00pm
48 Elmwood Ave in Chatham



Dear Friends in the Chatham UMC,

Julie, Matthew, Elizabeth and I would like to invite you to the parsonage for a time of fellowship, refreshments, conversation, singing, and prayer. We hope you will bring an Hors d'oeuvre to share. We'll have some hot apple cider on the stove, punch on the table, a fire in the fireplace, and the Christmas décor up. We'll enjoy some good food, informal conversation, and each other's company. At about 5:30 we'll light some Advent Candles, have some brief Advent devotions, and sing some songs around the piano. We'll be finished about 6pm which will give everyone time to finish homework, get ready for Monday, and get to bed. We hope you can come.

Peace,

Jeff Markay, (Julie Yarborough, Matthew and Elizabeth)



Lectioary for December

December 7: Second Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (*UMH 806*); 2 Peter 3:8-15a;
Mark 1:1-8

December 14: Third Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 (*UMH 847*); 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 21: Fourth Sunday in Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55 (*UMH 199*); Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

December 24: Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96 (*UMH 815*); Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

December 25: Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98 (*UMH 818*); Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14

December 28: First Sunday after Christmas Day

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148 (*UMH 861*); Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

December 31: Watch Night

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8 (*UMH 743*); Revelation 21:1-6a; Matthew 25:31-46

One of the tried and true ways that people grow and deepen in their faith, is to be a part of a small group of seekers and believers. During the first three weeks of December small groups will meet here at CUMC to discuss the booklet:

Walking the Road to Bethlehem: Your Journey to Christmas

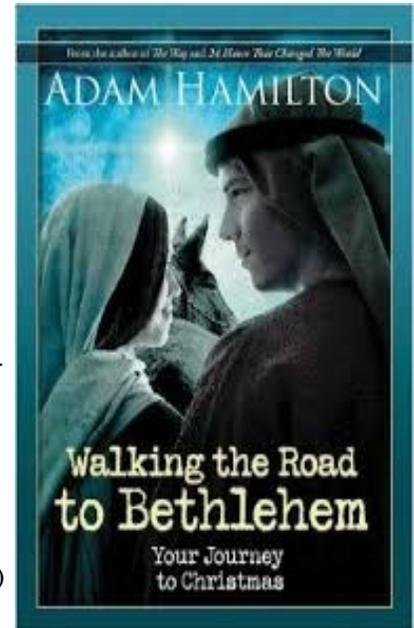
by Rev. Adam Hamilton

This book has thoughtful scripture, reflections, and prayers for each day of Advent and will be a springboard into discussions with our small groups.

If you would like to participate in one of the following groups, please contact the church office.

Day	Time	Facilitator
Sundays	10:10-10:50am	Janice Szarko (starts 11/ 30)
Mondays	12:00-1:00pm	Melda Pike, Sue Maher
Wednesdays	8:00-9:00pm	Micah Coleman Campbell
Thursdays	7:00-8:00pm	Meg Belding

The above groups will meet in the Wesley Room. (Other groups may form and meet in people's homes.) Books can be purchased at the group or in the office for \$10.



o Holy Night

Christmas Eve Services

Same Traditions, New Times

Wednesday, December 24, 2014

5:00pm Family Service

This service is geared toward children and families. Come join us as we tell the story

of the night Christ was born, sing beloved Christmas carols, and light candles to the familiar strains of Silent Night. All people, young and old, friends and guests, are welcome.

8:00pm Service of Lessons and Carols

Come and hear the Hebrew Scriptures that tell of the long awaited Messiah, as well as the New Testament lessons that proclaim his birth in Jesus Christ. We will sing beloved Christmas carols, culminating with Silent Night by candlelight. The Covenant Choir will lead us in special music during worship. All are welcome.





Stephen Ministers Care

*“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.”*

Matthew 11:28

Blue Christmas: A Service of Comfort & Hope

Saturday, December 6, 4:00 pm

A Blue Christmas service is a time to acknowledge the “blue” feelings that surround Christmas for some of us, a time to remember the reason for those feelings and a time to offer those feelings to God. This service offers a haven for people who desire a special touch from God during the holidays, and promises to be a time of quiet meditation and worship, candle-lighting, contemplative readings, singing, and prayer.

We invite you to join us this Christmas season for a time of comfort and rest. Our Blue Christmas Service will be followed by light refreshments and shared fellowship. Our prayer is that you will find peace and comfort in knowing that you are not alone.



The Giving Tree

The CUMC Junior Youth would like to thank the church for being so generous for our annual **Christmas Giving Tree** for the children at CUMAC. This year we gave wonderful gifts for over 25 children ages 9 months to 17 years old. We also sponsored six additional children in Patterson whose grandmother asked for our help. It could not have been accomplished without you!

The church responded with gifts, and donations which enabled us to give lovely items such as remote control cars, clothes, winter boots, shoes, popular dolls, toys, footballs, sports equipment, perfume, cologne, Spider-man, Barbie dolls, Bubble Guppies, Disney characters, and much more. These loving gifts will enable 31 children to enjoy the gifts of Christmas – as we enjoyed the gift of giving Christmas! Thinking of others is what makes this congregation so special!

**Thank you and Bless you,
Junior Youth and Dave & Becky Meyer**



What Are You Doing New Year's Eve?

We invite you to begin your evening with us in a **“Watch Night” communion service** at **7:30pm** in the sanctuary on **Wednesday, December 31**. This service is anchored in history and will offer time for looking back at the accomplishments and failures of the past year and forward to the promise and hope of the new year.

Church & Society



(Continued from page 1)

...Alternative Gifts Fair



Promise, American Diabetes Association, and A Future with Hope.

Come learn about some of the **new organizations that will benefit from our support:**

American Diabetes Association, whose mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

A Future with Hope gets people back home by providing case managers, professional construction supervisors, and thousands of volunteers to work together to repair, rebuild, and renew. This

is a mission of the United Methodist Church Greater New Jersey Conference of UMCOR.

The Alternative Gifts Fair will be held **December 7, 2014 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.**

There will be refreshments available. We look forward to seeing you there!

Volunteers needed please!

December 7, 2014 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

The Alternative Gifts Fair is more than a way to raise funds for organizations doing good work—more fundamentally, it is an opportunity for us to promote the **true spirit of Christmas** above the commercial din of the season. The nature of the gifts offered encourages us to re-imagine giving gifts that bring greater meaning to both the giver and the recipient.



Please consider volunteering for an hour to make the experience an enjoyable Christmas tradition and give something of yourself in the spirit of the season. We need **bakers, cashiers, checkers** and **greeters**. Then do some Christmas shopping while you are there!!



Please email Bonnie Srygley at cumcalternategifts@gmail.com to sign up or ask questions.

The **Church and Society** Work area would like to thank the members of our committee and the people who attended the **Peace Islands Institute Gathering** on Sunday, November 9. The Turkish couple who presented a short video on the function of the PII was very informative and we had an interesting discussion about our different points of view of our religious beliefs and practices. The food served was delicious Turkish meatballs, cheese rolls, and stuffed grape leaves.

Please stay tuned for a date in March for the 2nd Abraham Luncheon and interfaith dialogue open to all the churches in Chatham.

And while you're shopping this Christmas...

An Easy Way to Support Chatham UMC

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Chatham United Methodist Church every time you shop, at no cost to you. To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device, search for "Chatham United Methodist Church," and select it as your charitable organization. Then,



every time you shop at Amazon, start at smile.amazon.com (*you can add a bookmark to make it even easier*). You'll find the same prices, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price of eligible products to Chatham UMC. It can really add up and that can make us all smile!

MUSIC NOTES

Thank you to all of our musicians, congregation, and friends of Chatham UMC for a great start to our fall program season and music at the church! I hope that you have had a chance to participate in services with the Covenant Choir, Youth Choir and Bells, Kenaniah, our praise band, the Wesley Ringers, soloists, and small groups! Our music groups are welcoming and inclusive and all members of the congregation are invited to join. It's been a privilege and a pleasure getting to know every musician here at church and I'm looking forward to the Advent & Christmas season!

Our **Children's Christmas Musical** will take place on Sunday, **December 14** at 10:00am between our two services. That same morning the **Youth Choir and Bells** will sing and ring in the 9:00am service.

On Sunday, **December 21**, the **Covenant Choir will sing special Christmas music** at both the 9:00 and 11:00am services.

On **Christmas Eve**, Wed., **December 24** at our **5:00pm** family-friendly service, the church's **Youth and Children** will sing and ring for a festive and enthusiastic service of music and scripture! In the evening's **8:00pm** service the **Covenant Choir** will lead the music for a service in the style of lessons and carols.

Join Chatham UMC for a continuing season of music for the spirit and soul!

Peter Hill



If you would like to know more about the music program at CUMC, contact Peter Hill:

petepiano@mac.com

*On Saturday, December 6 at 1:00pm in the afternoon in the church sanctuary the **Rutgers Scarlet Knight Jazz Trombones** will perform a free concert. Music will include holiday favorites as well as classic music for brass. A splendid time to be had by all! Everyone in the church and the Chatham community is invited to celebrate the holiday season!*

News for Youth & Kids

youthchatumc@optonline.net * 973.908.4474



“Kids Can” Change the World!

Hey Sunday School Kids—

We can change the world by bringing in all the coins we can find and collecting it in our “Kids Can”. The change will help our friend Benjamin in Africa go to school so he can change his life. Exciting stuff!



Youth Night Out!

Grab a festive hat and your mittens and join us on Sunday, Dec. 21 when we'll load up the Bible Bus and drive around town caroling and spreading Christmas Cheer. We'll gather at 4:00pm in the youth lounge and be back in time for some hot chocolate. Let Karen know you're coming (email above) so we have plenty of transportation for everyone! Friends/family welcome.



December Sunday School Schedule

Dec 7 - Sunday School classes as usual for the elementary (PreK-5th grade), youth classes will work the Alternative Gift Fair

Dec 14 - Children's Christmas Pageant in Rodda Hall, no classes

Dec 21 - Regular Classes

Dec 28 - No classes — just come to worship at 10am. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Youth Opportunities

Dec. 7 - Alternative Gifts Fair:
Volunteers needed for RISE, Taize, and other

Dec. 7 - Decorate Youth Lounge & Christmas movie

Dec. 14 - Advent Gathering at Pastor Jeff's

Dec. 20 - RISE Sticky Bun Prep

Dec. 21 - RISE Sticky Bun Distribution

Dec. 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dec. 28 - No Fellowship

Looking ahead:

Jan. 4 - Regular Fellowship

Jan. 19 - MLK Day Service Opportunities



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

We are looking for 3 more people who would be willing to help out in this low-level commitment, high-level joy opportunity to meet the needs of our young families. “Children’s Church” takes place during sermon at the 9am worship service each Sunday and includes a reading of the day’s scripture from a children’s Bible, a brief discussion or activity, and prayer time. All materials are provided.

Sign up today across from Pastor Jeff’s office or email Karen: youthchatumc@optonline.net.



MISSIONS COMMITTEE NEWS



Homeless Solutions, Morristown, NJ:

This year CUMC has named Morristown-based Homeless Solutions as the local recipient to our Christmas Giving. This organization's motto is "A Hand Up, Not A Hand Out." Founded in 1983, and originally named Morris Shelter, Inc., this worthy organization provided beds and hot meals to men in the Manse of the Presbyterian Church in Morristown. (*for more info see November Circuit Rider*)

Recently Homeless Solutions added Furnishing Solutions, located at 2060 Route 10 West, in Morris Plains. There you may drop off gently used furnishings, home décor, clothing and accessories. They provide free pick up if you call 973-998-0322 or go to www.furnishingsolutions.org.

In addition to monetary donations, Homeless Solutions has a wish list of the following items which may be donated at the White Gifts Epiphany Service in January.

- * cold breakfast cereal, * antibacterial soap, * toilet paper,
- * facial tissues, * paper towels, * twin sheets and blankets

Over the past five years, CUMC has donated over \$5,000 to this worthy organization. Here's how those dollars have helped: \$12 provides a "Welcome Basket" of toiletries & shower shoes for a new guest at the shelter. \$30 provides milk for children at the shelter for one week \$50 provides new bedding for a shelter guest \$80 fills the tank of an HIS van which provides shelter guests transportation to and from childcare and work \$130 provides shelter for a family for one night

We praise God that we have been able to make a significant contribution to their mission and the people they serve.

Christmas Donations 2014

The CUMC Missions Committee has selected the following organizations to receive this year's Christmas Donations:

- * **Local— Homeless Solutions** (*details above*)
- * **National— A Future With Hope: UMC Committee for Sandy Relief**

Superstorm Sandy disrupted or discontinued thousands of jobs and impacted tens of thousands of people's lives. A storm this size calls for many partners working together to bring relief and recovery. The United Methodist Church, in the Greater New Jersey Conference and across the United States, collaborates with other relief agency partners to *rebuild a future with hope*.

- * **Global— Doctors Without Borders**

Doctors Without Borders provides medical care to people in nearly 70 countries worldwide, saving lives threatened by violence, neglect, or catastrophe. As a humanitarian organization, it treats people in crisis regardless of race, religion, or political affiliation.

- ⇒ \$7.50 can purchase treatment for seven young children suffering from malaria
- ⇒ \$15.00 can purchase a month of clean water for eight refugee families
- ⇒ \$30.00 can purchase a month of therapeutic food to treat a severely malnourished child
- ⇒ \$60.00 can purchase supplies to make 15 emergency wound dressings in a conflict or disaster

Please mark your selection(s) and send this page with your check for the appropriate amount to the church office no later than December 15, 2014.

Thank you for your continued generous support of our church ministry.



Welcome New Members



Lay Leader Loren Taylor, SuJung Shin, Arthur Nunes, Audrey Nunes, Seungsoo Kim, Sooah Na, Mandy Choi with son, Nate, Rev. Jeff Markay

On Sunday, November 16, six friends of CUMC stood before the congregation at the 9:00 worship service and pledged to support the church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, becoming full members of the Chatham United Methodist Church. The new members were supported by Fellowship Friends and officially welcomed by our Co-Lay Leaders who gave them the symbolic gift of church directories! Following worship, the CUMC community welcomed and celebrated these newest members with a wonderful cake in Rodda Hall.

For more on our newest members, see page 11



Next Common Meeting Night— Monday, December 1 at 7:00pm

Join us as we gather for some visioning, devotions, and sharing followed by committee time (Christian Ed./Spiritual Form., Worship, Church & Society, Missions). If you aren't involved but would like to be, come meet the various groups at work.



Seungsoo Kim

Seungsoo was born and raised in South Korea and came to the U.S. in January 2014. He is in the Master of Divinity program at Drew University and is particularly interested in his studies of the New Testament and early Christianity. Seungsoo was interested in experiencing an American church and acquaintances recommended CUMC. He appreciates the hospitality he has received from Pastor Jeff and the members.

Arthur and Audrey Nunes

Arthur and Audrey both grew up in the island of Jamaica WI and migrated to the US in 1979. They have three children and six grandchildren. Arthur worked at Wells Fargo, Commercial Lending Dept., and NY Times Federal Credit Union and Audrey worked at Bellcore/Telcordia Technologies and Verizon Wireless. They are both retired now, enjoying hobbies: reading, travel, soccer, cooking, and grandchildren! Arthur

and Audrey are grateful for the pastoral leadership and enjoy the music program and fellowship at CUMC. Their interests include reading Scripture, Men's Fellowship, and helping out.



Sooah Na

Sooah was born in South Korea. She has a father, mother, a younger brother. Her father is a Korean Methodist Pastor, so she believed in Jesus early on and grew up enjoying church music since. She especially likes to sing and play piano. With her Korean church she went on mission trips to China. In July 2012, she came to the United States to learn English feeling that it would be important expand her future mission work. While studying in Georgia she realized God wanted her to study theology so she applied to Drew University where she has been a student since August of this year.. In the first worship at

Chatham UMC, Sooah felt God's presence and peace and Rev. Jeff's preaching about forgiveness touched her heart a lot.

Mandy Choi

Mandy lives in Summit with her husband KC, son Nate (5) and daughter Sammy (almost 3). She is the grants manager at the United Methodist Women national office in New York City. She grew up in Windsor, NY and was a member of the local United Methodist Church there. The things she likes most about the Chatham United Methodist Church are the great sermons, the wonderful music, and a very welcoming congregation, who have a high tolerance for noisy children during the service.



SuJung Shin

SuJung Shin, grew up in South Korea (although she was born in the US!). She graduated from Drew University Ph D program in 2013. Her dissertation was entitled "Who Am I, O Lord YHWH, and What is My House?: A Bakhtinian Reading of David in Exile and in Return in the Deuteronomistic History." She is an Instructor in Hebrew Bible at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. SuJung lives in Chatham and enjoys yoga and cooking. She is grateful CUMC provides her a "spiritual home" where she experiences the "Living Spirit".



Faith Community Health Partnerships

Health is a good that we wish for ourselves, our families, and our communities. We are aware that achieving and maintaining health requires that we pay attention to our nutrition, exercise, and a host of other things. But what may come as a surprise to many is that the services of healthcare providers contribute only about 10% of the factors that support our health. The remaining 90% of health factors originate in our community including participation in a religious community.

Atlantic Health understands that faith communities, together with the religious beliefs and spiritual practices that inspire and direct their energies, are a powerful force for health and healing both inside and outside of our hospitals. For this reason Atlantic Health seeks to join with faith communities in partnerships that will unite and enhance the healing powers of faith and medical science.

From ancient times until the present, people from all walks of life have believed that there are important connections between faith, spirituality, and health. This connection is expressed not only in the stories of healing found in scriptures, but also modern research studies that associate health outcomes such as longevity, lower stress levels, improved blood pressure control, and improved mental health with participation in religious communities and engaging in a variety of spiritual practices.

Partnership Benefits

Faith Community Health Partnerships (FCHP) joins with faith communities to both continue and enhance the historic faith-health connection so that our communities may live healthier and more fulfilled lives. If your faith community becomes a partner, Atlantic Health will work with your community to provide the following:

- ◆ Hospital visitation assistance
- ◆ A hospital chaplain/navigator that will provide spiritual care in collaboration with your faith leader and help you and your family to navigate through the complexities of healthcare while in the hospital and develop an aftercare plan that keeps you connected to spiritual and community resources that will support your recovery.
- ◆ Joint partnership with Atlantic Health System's Community Health Initiatives that will assist your faith community with developing health inspiring programs tailored to address your community's most pressing health concerns. Because we recognize faith as a significant factor in health and healing, we will work with your community to integrate your spiritual values into the programs designed for your community.

*The Rev. Gary Myers, United Methodist Clergy, Therapist, Professor, and Staff at Morristown Hospital, will be our **guest preacher on Sunday, January 25, 2015 at the 9am and 11am worship services.** He will speak in the Asbury Room between services about ways that the Chatham UMC can partner with the Morristown Hospital as we care for the spiritual, physical and relational healing and well being of our Chatham UMC members before, during and after time spent in the hospital.*

- ◆ **New Vitality** develops programs to support health living for seniors
- ◆ **Healthy Communities** develops programs to overcome health disparities in communities
- ◆ **Atlantic Healthy Schools** develop brings community resources together to develop programs to help our schools improve the health of our children
- ◆ **Healing Arts Program** employs the arts, such as painting, music, dance, drama to bring healing to the whole person.



submitted by Claudia Shaw, Family Promise Ministry



Food Stamp Crisis in New Jersey hurts our families

When our families come out of shelter to permanent housing, food stamps are typically key to their strategy for maintaining financial self-sufficiency. The **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), aka Food Stamps**, is funded nationally, but administered at the state and county levels. The financial crisis exposed woeful inadequacies in the administration of the program in NJ, where a 42% surge in applicants swamped the system. NJ now ranks close to the bottom of all states in processing applications timely. Lack of focus at the state level, along with outdated technology and understaffing at the county level, delay benefits to qualifying families by months. Many applications are lost altogether. One out of 10 people in NJ receive food stamps, but many more qualify, either waiting for stalled benefits, or overlooked by lackluster outreach. The crisis is exacerbated by the 2014 Farm Bill's \$8.6 B reduction in SNAP funding, (over 10 years), reducing benefits by \$36 per month for a family of four.

Steps are being taken to address the problem, but it will take time. As a result, many of our families leaving shelter simply do not have enough food. Food banks are open, but as we know, they don't have enough food either, and are often already figured into the families' plans for making ends meet. The reality is that "supplemental nutrition" is in fact "basic nutrition" for many.

Family Promise continues to nurture and support families long after they move into permanent housing. To address the food stamp crisis in the immediate, they have entered into partnership with **Jolin Food Box**, an outreach program of **Jolin Foods** that provides nutritious meals for our families at wholesale prices. Jolin is a long-standing supplier of quality frozen, grocery and refrigerated foods to grocery stores. The products in their "food boxes" contain a balanced variety of breakfast, lunch and dinner items, prepackaged in Jolin's temperature controlled warehouse, including meats, seafood, vegetables, potatoes, and desserts.

Supporters are helping Family Promise with donations to purchase boxes, which provide anywhere from 13 to 37 meals at a cost of \$.76 to \$1.47 per meal. Church and Society has contributed \$100 from our family promise ministry funds for immediate purchase of food boxes. A grateful mom recently wrote of her conflicted feelings of joy and sadness as her little boy cheered his first Jolin meal: "It's like Christmas!"

Christmas season is indeed upon us. At the **Alternative Gift Fair on December 7** the CUMC Family Promise Ministry will be "selling" food boxes to give our congregation and visitors at the Fair the opportunity to help out in this crisis. By donating these meals at wholesale prices, we enable our families to achieve their goal of financial self-sufficiency while maintaining quality of life, without compromising their children's nutrition and wellbeing.

The Alternative Gifts Fair will be held in Rodda hall on December 7, 2014 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Refreshments will be available.

Mother's Morning Out



The Mother's Morning Out is enjoying fall fun at school. We have been spending lots of time on our playground and exploring our classroom. We are celebrating turkeys and more turkeys in our art projects. December is a short month for us, we will be thinking about evergreen trees and winter animals. Our circle time will be filled with instruments and the bells are one of our favorites! The mission of MMO is to provide a warm and caring environment for toddlers, age 18 months to 3 years. Through varied and positive experiences, our goal at MMO is to help children grow.

Mother's Morning Out is a state licensed childcare facility. We follow guidelines set by the New Jersey Department of Health and Human services, including a certified teacher as director. The program consists of free play, outside play, snack, story time, circle time, music/movement, and simple crafts. Our registration for the 2015-2016 school year will start in January. If you know of anyone interested in our program, please check the CUMC website for registration materials. As always, I am more than happy to give a tour of our classroom or answer any questions.

Amy Crandall, Director, MMO
anbc@optonline.net

Nursery School

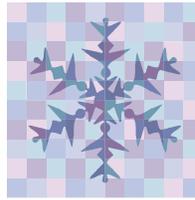
Priority Registration for 2015-2016 will begin in December for alumni families and MMO families. Open Registration will begin on January 1. If you would like registration forms or more information about our program, please call our Registrar, Christine Fagan at 973-507-9703. Tours are available by calling Director, Carol Bardon at 973-635-5261. If you are interested in the Kindergarten Enrichment Program for next year, please call Katie Bealer at 973-635-6538.

The Three Year Olds and Fours will be working on Christmas projects this month. The classrooms are filled with art work that

sparkles with the joy of the season. The children enjoy learning to sing traditional holiday songs. As the weather turns cold we look forward to playing in the snow in our playground.

Fours Enrichment will meet on three more Fridays before our holiday break. Classes will be "Rocks", "Stars and Planets", and "Measure, Mix and Pour". Friday enrichment was filled with so many special activities and the children could not wait to see what the next class would bring.

Kindergarten Enrichment which is open to current kindergarteners and reinforces



the kindergarten curriculum by working on upper and lower case letters and number recognition, rhyming words, patterns, art activities, and writing activities. The teachers look forward to additional growth in the New Year.

Christmas is a very special time for children filled with magic and wonder. We try to be as low-key as possible during the month of December to provide the children with a haven from the hustle and bustle of the season.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Sunday, Dec. 28, 2014

**One worship service
only at 10:00 am**

CARE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

To share God's love with all our church family, volunteers are needed to prepare meals, deliver meals, and provide rides to doctor's appointments. Please call Marie Watt at (973) 635-7326 if you can help.



If you need a ride or meals, please call the church office at (973) 635-7740 or Marie.

*In Loving
Memory*



Harold "Bill" Kerr
October 24, 2014
A longtime CUMC member

I would like to personally thank you for ALL that you did to support us in the Annual Coat Drive this year. We collected thousands of coats, and have given almost 2,000 coats away in the Market Street Mission Coat Giveaway, and this coming Saturday, we will give out more at the Jersey Shore Rescue Mission Coat Giveaway.

Again, please express to all at your church a **BIG THANKS** for all the coats and support you have given to us through the years!!

Debbie Hammond
Market Street Mission



News from around the CUMC Circles

Abigail Circle

Meets at 7:30pm the 2nd Tuesday of every month at church.

Contact: Helen Bryant, 973-377-4586 or email bryantpine@aol.com

Next Mtg: Potluck Christmas Party, Tue. **Dec. 9 at 6:00pm** at Helen's home.

Elizabeth Circle

Meets irregularly/ occasionally, usually at night (*most of the group works during the day*) and often with spouses.

Contact: Corkie Ziegler, 973-635-9667 or email cork-iez@yahoo.com

Rebecca Circle

Meets the 1st Tuesday evening of every month in member homes.

Contact: Dot Dunn, 973-635-7599 or email dbdunn45@gmail.com

Next Mtg:
• **Dec. 9 (second Tue!) at 7:30pm** in Priscilla's home.

Sarah Circle

Meets at 9:30am on the 1st Tuesday of every month at the church.

Contact: Carol Millar, 973-822-3586, email jockoma@verizon.net, or Nan Canfield, shipyard@verizon.net

Next Mtg: Christmas Party, Tue., **Dec. 2, at 9:30am**

umw Advent Luncheon

Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 11:30am in the Asbury Room. All are invited, lunch provided. Bring cans or cash donations.

The Circuit Rider

Chatham United Methodist Church

460 Main Street

Chatham, NJ 07928

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The CUMC Ministry Team

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Jeff Markay

Youth & Children's Ministry: Karen Berry

Seminary Intern: Micah Coleman Campbell

Music Ministry: Peter Hill

Organist: Yang-Hee Song

Secretary: Heather Stober

Interim Communications Admin.: Sue Palatini

Sexton: Donald Underhill

Finance & Office Manager: JoAnn Graziano

Lay Leaders: Loren Taylor & Peggy Melvin

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Robert D. Simpson

Mark Your Calendars

December 6: Rutgers Scarlet Knights Jazz Trombones

December 6: Blue Christmas Service

December 7: Alternative Gifts Fair

December 10: UMW Advent Luncheon

December 14: Children's Christmas Pageant

December 14: Advent Gathering at Pastor Jeff's

December 24: Christmas Eve Services 5:00pm, 8:00pm

December 25: Christmas Day—office closed

December 28: One Worship Service @ 10:00am

December 31: Watch Night Service @ 7:30pm

~ OUR MISSION ~

To Celebrate the Good News by

Empowering all to follow Christ,

Equipping all to do what is just,

Encouraging all to show loving kindness,

Energizing all to walk humbly with God.

The **January Circuit Rider** deadline for submissions is **Monday, December 8**. Please send all articles and announcements to the church office: chatumc@optonline.net.