



# Chatham United Methodist Church

## CIRCUIT RIDER

[www.chathamumc.com](http://www.chathamumc.com)

MARCH 2015

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### *In this issue...*

- ◆ Holy Week Schedule, p. 4
- ◆ Trustees Update, p. 5
- ◆ Concert Info, p. 11
- ◆ Family Promise, p. 12
- ◆ Feinstein Challenge, p. 13
- ◆ Taizé Brothers at CUMC, p. 15

### *Regular Features:*

<b>Pastor's Pen</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Lectionary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Youth and Kids</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Church Council</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>UMW</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Music</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Community News</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Nursery School &amp; Mothers Morning Out</b>	<b>10</b>



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](http://www.ChathamUMC.com) to view or listen to any of CUMC's Sunday services.



## Wednesdays in Lent 2015

Each Wednesday in March, Chatham UMC will be offering some warm food and spiritual nourishment in observation of Lent. Friends and the general public are all welcome to participate as fully as they wish in any or all of the following events each week:

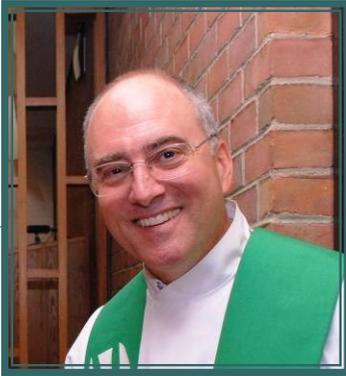
**6:00-6:30pm** **Soup and Bread** (*Rodda Hall*)

**6:30-6:55pm** **Activities**

- ◆ Clean-up (*Kitchen*)  
and/or
- ◆ Learn about Taizé through DVDs and Videos from Taizé (*Asbury Room*)  
and/or
- ◆ Rehearse with the musicians for Taizé Prayer (*Sanctuary*)

**7:00-7:45pm** **Taizé Prayer**, worship and singing  
(*Sanctuary*)

**8:00-9:00pm** **Small Group Discussion** on the book / DVD:  
*Listen: Praying in a Noisy World* (*Wesley Room*)



## The Pastor's Pen

Rev. Jeff Markay

revjmarkay@earthlink.net

*"Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace."*

Matthew 6:6 (from The Message)

Lent 2015

Dear Friends,

The Lenten Season always begins with the lectionary text on Ash Wednesday from Matthew 6:1-6. Jesus gives us some guiding values and encouragement in the spiritual life. He encourages us to not care as much about what we look like, what people think of us, or say about us. He encourages us to go into our room, close the door, and seek God in secret, trusting that God will bless us in that secret place. Jesus is reminding us that our primary relationship is with God. When we intentionally focus on our primary relationship, then all of our secondary relationships, (everyone and everything else!) fall into place. When our connection with God's love is strong, then love flows to us, in us and through us.

Chatham UMC is offering many opportunities to grow in our experiences of prayer. The book [Listen: Praying in a Noisy World](#) by Rueben Job is for sale in the church office. Small groups will be meeting to discuss the book and DVD as well as explore different ways of praying. Every Wednesday at 7PM we'll be offering a Taizé Prayer in the sanctuary. This is an ancient way of prayer, inspired by the early Christians, and practiced by millions of Christians from very many denominations throughout the world today. Sunday morning worship will offer various opportunities to pray through song, written word, Centering Prayer and silence. But this is not enough. Jesus teaches the disciples and us to seek God when we are all alone, trusting that this may be when we are our truest selves. We are our most true selves, when we are silent, and THIS is the part of us that God loves and delights in the most...our truest and most authentic selves.

May God bless us as a congregation and as disciples, as we grow deeper in our understanding and practice of the mystery of prayer. I wish you a Holy Lent.

Peace,

*Jeff Markay*

### Greetings:

At the January Church Council meeting, we began a conversation over the Trustees' proposed sanctuary renovations and the related capital campaign that's being formulated. There are concerns over asking for extra funds from congregants when we're still falling short on our operating expenses. At the same time, there is a feeling that the run-down physical condition of our sanctuary calls for an investment; this may be the first impression visitors and potential new members have of our church and we want it to reflect our vibrant and inviting community. While these are not necessarily contradictory views, we do need a constructive dialogue to arrive at the best possible approach for this moment. This is a question rooted in our financial reality, but intertwined with our vision for CUMC's future, and it's a conversation too sweeping and involved to adequately engage in the course of a regular Church Council meeting.

So at this month's meeting, we set a date for a separate meeting to have this discussion. At that time, we'll also need to vote on whether or not to approve a fundraising effort led by the Trustees. We've decided **on Saturday, March 7, at 1:00 p.m.** While only members of Church Council may vote on the eventual proposal, please note that Church Council meetings—including this one—are open and all are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion.



## *Lectionary for March*

### **March 1: Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31 (*UMH 752*); Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

### **March 8: Third Sunday in Lent**

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19 (*UMH 750*); 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

### **March 15: Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (*UMH 830*); Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

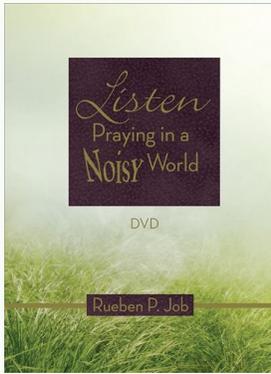
### **March 22: Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 (*UMH 785*); Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

### **March 29: Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday**

*Liturgy of the Palms:* Mark 11:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (*UMH 839*)

*Liturgy of the Passion:* Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16 (*UMH 764*); Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)



## *Listen—Praying in a Noisy World*

We live in a world of noise. Everywhere we go, we hear sounds that compete for our minds and hearts. Listening to God requires a deliberate choice to shut out the chaos around us and focus our thoughts.

During Lent, small groups will be working with *Listen—Praying in a Noisy World*, by Rueben P. Job, a 40-day experience created to offer help to those new to prayer, those with a daily prayer routine, and those whose lives seem too busy to pray. With a focus on listening prayer and prayer as a two-way conversation, the book and DVD assist individuals and groups in building and deepening a personal prayer practice and spiritual discernment.

As we learn to listen, we find a new depth and fulfillment in our relationship with God and a new experience of God as guide and companion in our lives. The daily prayer pattern includes an invitation, silence, Bible reading, a story, guided time for reflecting and listening, and practical help for developing six specific prayer practices.

To see a video clip for the first session go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnllVklJ864>

To participate in one of the following groups, please call the church office or sign up on the board across from Pastor Jeff's office.

- ◆ **Sundays at 10:10am** in Room 6 with Janice Szarko
- ◆ **Mondays at 12:00pm** in the Wesley Room with Sue Maher
- ◆ **Wednesdays at 8:00pm** in the Wesley Room with Micah Coleman Campbell
- ◆ **Thursdays at 8:00pm** in the Wesley Room with Meg Belding

## LENT AND HOLY WEEK AT CUMC

Our church hopes to encourage all who worship here with a renewed desire to experience a holy Lent. Whether it is practiced through daily devotions, joining a Lenten small group, participating in a Wednesday Taizé prayer service, prioritizing weekly worship at 9am or 11am, or by praying daily for the needs of the church and the world, we trust that these practices make glad the heart of God. Lent will culminate with worship opportunities during Holy Week. We hope you and your friends can come.

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



**Palm Sunday**      March 29 - 9am, 11am

**Maundy Thursday**      April 2 - 7:30pm

**Good Friday**      April 3 - 7:30pm

**Easter Worship**      April 5 - 9am, 11am



# TRUSTEES UPDATE

## NOTES FROM THE TRUSTEES

Our church is blessed with an extraordinarily beautiful church building and worship space. Our Trustees are charged with maintaining and enhancing our building to best serve our members and attract new members to grow and revitalize our church. The Trustees work very hard to carry out our charge. We want communication between the congregation and Trustees to be open. This article is the first of a series planned to broaden member/trustee communication.

Following is a summary highlighting a few of the Trustees' ongoing projects:

1. **Roof Repair** Necessary reroofing of the flat u-shaped roof around the sanctuary and repairing the roof over the lower flat-roofed section of the church started in January. The work has been suspended due to the weather and will resume as soon as weather permits.
2. **Family Room** The former Bride's Room off the narthex is being renovated into a Family Room so that, if they wish, parents with small children may have a comfortable place to be together for all or part of the service while still participating in the service. There will be a 40-inch TV to monitor the service, a baby-changing table, a sofa and some chairs, and toys for the children. The door will have glass panels in keeping with the "safe sanctuary" requirements. Work remaining to be done includes installation of a wall heating/fan unit. Target for completion is the first of April.
3. **Sanctuary Refurbishment** It has been many years since we have spent any money at all on capital improvements and some parts of the sanctuary have fallen into disrepair. Advances in lighting and church design are available to improve and allow more flexibility in worship experience. The Trustees have spent quite a lot of time considering what should be done at this time. We have been consulting with a church architect and carpet design experts. A generous family has offered a substantial gift toward new carpet, and we have set up a congregation/trustee committee to look into additional funding. You will hear more about the project in the coming months. The architect will join us between services on March 15 to give everyone an opportunity to ask questions and see drawings.

If you have questions for us, the current Trustees are Anne Fullarton (Chair), Tom Fountain (Vice Chair), Eleanor Hartley (Secretary), Tom Belding, Claudia Couch, Tom Harrison, Dave Meyer, Nick Sfiris, and Rich Tomasello.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 15**

**10:00 AM**

**RODDA HALL**

You are encouraged to come to a  
**presentation on the  
proposed  
Sanctuary Refurbishment.**

Hear the reasoning behind the  
proposed changes,  
see the architect's drawings,  
have your questions answered.



## United Methodist Women

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church has declared that “In every local church there shall be an organized unit of United Methodist Women”  
(*The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2012, 256.5*)

### Purpose of United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women is a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

### UMW Officers 2015

<b>Co-Presidents</b>	Hilary Stannard & Diane Van Patten
<b>Vice President</b>	John Hadamuscin
<b>Secretary</b>	Karen Berry
<b>Treasurer</b>	Helen Bryant
<b>Program Chair</b>	Audrey Nunes
<b>Abigail Circle</b>	Helen Bryant
<b>Elizabeth Circle</b>	Corkie Ziegler
<b>Rebecca Circle</b>	Dot Dunn
<b>Sarah Circle</b>	Nan Canfield
<b>Spring Rummage Sale</b>	Kate Davis & Sheri Omelczuk

All women in the church are invited to participate in UMW either within a circle or as a general member. For more information on UMW please talk with an officer or any member.

Let us all pray for God’s will for our UMW as we move forward into a new year.



## News from around the CUMC Circles

### Abigail Circle

Meets at 7:30pm the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at church.

**Contact:** Helen Bryant,  
**Next Mtg:** Tue. Feb. 10  
Program: Film/video “A Place at the Table”  
Location TBD

### Elizabeth Circle

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

**Contact:** Corkie Ziegler

### Rebecca Circle

Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday evening of every month in member homes.

**Contact:** Dot Dunn,

**Next Mtg:**

- **Mar. 3 at 7:30pm** at Dona’s. Program: Trivia game
- **Apr. 7 at 7:30pm**, Asbury Rm. Program: Whalen’s North Dakota

### Sarah Circle

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

**Contact:** Nan Canfield,  
**Next Mtg:** Tue, **Mar. 3**, meet at **9:00am** to car-pool to Fellowship Village.  
Hostess: Bert Whalen,  
Program: Pastor Tim Gahles, Chaplain at Fellowship Village.

# Dessert Tasting Gathering

**Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00pm**

**Rodda Hall**

**All women in the church are invited to attend**

Please bring a dessert to share.

Beverages will be provided.

Let's take time to socialize, meet new people, and taste various desserts

followed by

**Lenten Program led by Pastor Sharon Yarger**

Please sign up on the bulletin board across from Pastor Jeff's office.

If you need a ride please let us know.

UMW Co-Presidents: Hilary Stannard & Diane Van Patten

Vice President: John Hadamuscin

Program Chair: Audrey Nunes



## What Is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministers are laypeople—Christian men and women—trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in their lives. These issues may include grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation due to a job change or the need to downsize, military deployment, or children leaving the nest, etc. Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life and share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

**On Sunday, March 1,** Stephen Ministers will be available, in the Asbury Room, to answer your questions regarding all aspects of the Stephen Ministry Program. Please join us between services (at approximately 10:00am), to view a DVD focusing on this care-giving ministry, followed by time to answer your individual questions.



## Church Council Update February 16 Meeting

*Check here each month for an update on what the Church Council is talking about.*

### Spiritual Vitality for a Healthy Church:

Our church will become a more vital congregation as we are able to speak freely with each other about where in the church, our lives, and the world the Holy Spirit is at work.

Additionally, vital congregations meet in small groups to explore their faith together and work together in small group ministries to strengthen their connections to each other and the outside world. All members of the Council are encouraged to join a Lenten Study Group to grow in our understanding of prayer. The more we pray the more doors open to the Holy Spirit and this will bring peace and a source of love to our church.

**Rally Day:** The Council has decided that going forward the date for Rally day will officially be the first Sunday after Labor Day. Programming for Rally Day 2015 is in place.

**Music Report:** Peter has Easter Services planned and is working with all of our musicians to prepare for Palm Sunday, Maundy Sunday, and Easter Sunday services.

The Canticle of Life Concert plans are moving forward. Sponsorships are available for \$60 and your committee will be highlighted in the program. The end of the music season will be

on June 14, and will be celebrated with a Music and Arts Appreciation Sunday.

**Trustees:** see Trustees Update on p. 5

**Nominating Committee:** Both the Chair (Shawn Tomasello) and the Vice Chair (Mark Srygley) of the Staff Parish Relations Committee are no longer able to serve in these positions. Steve Davis was nominated by the committee and the Council unanimously elected him to serve as the new Chair of SPRC. This leaves his current position as Chair of Membership open.

**Lenten Wednesdays:** In preparation for the April 16 visit from Brother Emile, Brother John, and one other from the Taize Community, we will begin practicing Taize prayer on Wednesdays during Lent.

The Wednesday evenings will begin at 6:00pm with a simple supper of hot soup and bread in Rodda Hall, followed by options to either view informational dvd's about Taize in the Asbury room, practice Taize music in the sanctuary, or help clean up in the kitchen. The Taize prayer service will begin at 7:00pm and last about 45 min. Volunteer soup cooks should contact Karen Berry.

In April, the evening will begin at 7:00pm with a conversation with the Brothers and then a prayer service in the Sanctuary which should conclude around 9pm. More details to follow as plans develop.



## An Invitation from Bishop John Schol

When there is a disaster in the world United Methodists often are the first to help and the last to leave. Why? Because we believe God's love heals and transforms lives. We were so con-

victed by this love that 75 years ago in Atlantic City, UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, was born. On **March 15 at 10:00am**, our denomination will gather in Atlantic City to celebrate and give thanks for God's healing and transforming love through UMCOR. A worship service will be held at the Asbury United Methodist Church followed by a reception. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to [www.gnjumc.org/umcor](http://www.gnjumc.org/umcor).

If you are unable to attend the celebration but would like to support UMCOR, we invite you to participate in **One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday** on **March 8** at CUMC. Gifts received will lay the foundation of UMCOR work by covering the costs of doing business.

# News for Youth & Kids

youthchatumc@optonline.net \* 973.908.4474



## “Kids Can” Change the World!



Hey Sunday School Kids—your change can change the world!

Each time we receive a letter from Benjamin I am struck by how he is changing and growing. In his most recent email (*in case you're wondering, he gets to use the computers at school*) he mentions a desire to study Aeronautical Engineering in college. Wow! Such a dream would have been unimaginable 6 years ago when we started this journey together and even a high school education looked problematic. Benjamin recently wrote:

“I would like to thank you again for the help and love that you continue to show through your effort which I always see everyday when I am able to **study well without problems**. Together with the family, from our

hearts, we ask God’s Blessings to be upon you all the time... May God’s peace continue to be with you.” (*for the full letter, go to Benjamin’s bulletin board near the kitchen.*)

Our “Kids Can” is getting rather heavy! (*But I think it can still hold more.*) So far we have raised \$165.16 to help Benjamin. Our goal is to raise enough to cover one term (\$860) so keep digging in the couch cushions or asking neighbors and relatives for some loose change!



### God's Love in Action

The wheels are beginning to turn for another exciting summer

**Vacation Bible Camp**  
**June 24—June 30**

Kids will explore how to put their faith into action and we hope you will too!

*With God's help, I can make a difference in someone's life.*

*What do I need to do today to make it happen?*



## taizé in nyc

Saturday, April 18

Young people (high school to 35 years old) from all the Christian denominations are meeting at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City for a day organized in the pattern of the Taizé community. In addition to the day’s three worship services, pilgrims will have the opportunity to participate in Bible study meetings, group reflection and community service projects in the surrounding neighborhood of Morningside Heights.

Interested? Contact Karen for more info.



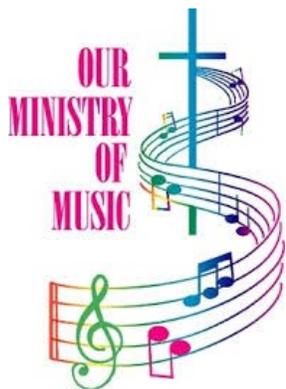
### Youth Opportunities

- Mar. 1 - Taizé Pilgrimage Group Mtg
- Mar. 8 - Youth Music Sunday
- Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25 - Taizé Prayer Services

#### Looking ahead:

- Apr. 5 - Organize Easter Egg Hunt
- Apr. 16 - Taizé Brothers at CUMC!
- Apr. 18 - Taizé Event in NYC for High School youth
- Jun. 24 to 30—VBC!

# Music Notes



The Winter and Spring are a busy time for music at Chatham UMC! We are preparing for Easter and singing and performing many things for Lent! Here are a couple of the special things going on:

- ◆ Sunday, March 8th will be a special Youth Music Sunday: in the 9:00 a.m. service the Youth Choir will sing and the Youth Ringers will ring; and the kid's bell choir will play their own songs! The Covenant Choir will visit the 11:00 a.m. service for this Sunday!
- ◆ Holy Week will also feature our musicians: for our Maundy Thursday service the choir will sing and the Good Friday service will feature soloists including flute from Karen Berry and a vocal solo from Barbara Babbitt.
- ◆ On Easter Sunday at both 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services, the Covenant Choir and our organist Yang-Hee Song, will be joined by CUMC's Youth Singers and professional section leaders. The Youth Ringers will also play special music. The Chatham Brass will join in on fanfares and hymns. And at the end of the services, the congregation will be invited to sing Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*! If you would like to be part of the choir for Easter services please contact me at [petepiano@mac.com](mailto:petepiano@mac.com)!
- ◆ Following Easter Sunday in late April, there will also be another Sunday morning opportunity for guests to sing with the choir: no robes, an easy-to-learn anthem, and a splendid time had by all!
- ◆ Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10 is also an opportunity for males of the church (both old and young) to sing in honor of mothers. Prior to May 10, two Sunday rehearsals will take place between services for those able to sing for the 9:00 a.m. service on Mother's Day. Come and sing on Mother's Day!
- ◆ Sunday, June 14 will be the last Sunday of the program year in which CUMC holds two Sunday services and the Covenant Choir, Wesley Ringers, Youth Musicians and Praise Band meet on a regular basis until the fall (the summer schedule of one service begins the following week). And that Sunday will be Music and Arts Appreciation Sunday! The Sunday in which the congregation gets to thank all of our musicians for their hard work and contributions throughout the year. The church's music groups will sing and play special pieces.

The 11:00 a.m. service always welcomes soloists, duos, and small groups of all kinds. If you have a gift in playing an instrument or singing please contact me at [petepiano@mac.com](mailto:petepiano@mac.com)!



Peter

Peter Hill: [petepiano@mac.com](mailto:petepiano@mac.com),

530-574-7539



***COMING FULL CIRCLE!***

***Canticles for Life  
AIDS Benefit Concert  
Saturday, April 18 at 4:00pm***

**“..Whatsoever you did for one of the least of these  
brothers of mine, you did for me.”**

**Matthew 25:40**

This is the ministry of the ***Canticles for Life AIDS Benefit Concerts***. In 1997 the very first *Canticles* concert was presented at the Chatham United Methodist Church. The congregation is very pleased that the *Canticles for Life* concerts will return to CUMC with a performance on Saturday, April 18th at 4:00 p.m. Presented by Triad Arts Ensemble in partnership with CUMC, this music ministry directly benefits three New Jersey organizations that support those impacted by HIV/AIDS and in memory of those lost to the disease. The concerts also raise awareness, dispel ignorance, and help to shine God’s love through the compassion, talents, and financial gifts of those attending and performing.

*Canticles* Chairperson, Ginny Johnston of Maplewood, will conduct the 30-voice **Triad Vocal Ensemble**, featuring a mix of styles including accessible anthems, Gospel, and an inspiring setting of *Make Me An Instrument* by New Jersey composer and past CUMC Music Director, Mark Miller. The concerts will also feature **The Dan Crisci Jazz Trio** performing standards and Dan’s original compositions. Rounding out the program will be the electrifying vocalists, **Kirsten Egan and Nina Elias**, sharing a variety of Broadway and cabaret selections. In the church sanctuary, panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display and a new Memorial Panel will be dedicated during a time of prayer and reflection. A reception will follow the concert in Rodda Hall.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$12 for students and seniors, \$25 for a contributor ticket and \$60 for a Program Sponsor (which includes 2 tickets and a one-line message in the program). Tickets can be purchased online at [www.CanticlesforLife.org](http://www.CanticlesforLife.org), in person through the church, by mailing the completed flyer/order form, or at the door the day of the concert. Pick up a flyer/order form from the church office or visit the Canticles web site for further information.

The *Canticles* concerts benefit these charities that care for the quality of life for persons living with HIV/AIDS and the remembrance of lives lost: **New Jersey AIDS Services** based in Morristown, the **NAMES Project of Northern NJ** supporting the AIDS Memorial Quilt, and the **AIDS Resource Foundation for Children** in Newark. Over \$115,000 has been raised for the New Jersey AIDS charities. The ***Canticles for Life AIDS Benefit Concerts*** have been held almost annually since 1997 and have featured dozens of pieces by New Jersey composers.



### CUMC Family Promise Update—by *Claudia Shaw*

Our 2015 hospitality ministry to our families will begin in April when we welcome our first group of guests for a week's stay at our church. In gearing up for their visit, a few CUMC volunteers attended the training session held each month for volunteers in Morris County.

The focus of the day's discussion was to help us better understand the mindset and feelings of our guests, as well as to share experiences and best practices. One exercise that was particularly thought provoking had us review our basic living skills to identify the socioeconomic group where our skills were most aligned.

It was not a surprise to learn that I had mostly middle class skills. For example, I know how to do on-line checking, I know how to help my children with their homework, and if I need additional information, I know how to call the school; I know how to sign my children up for recreational sports.

It was, however, eye opening to realize that there is a whole group of skills that I do not have – I don't know how to maneuver through poverty. For example, I wouldn't know how to file for unemployment or food stamps; I don't know how to get along without a car in the suburbs; I don't know all the places where I can get a free meal, or the location of free medical clinics; I don't know which judges in my community are lenient, which ones are crooked, and which ones are fair. Of course, I'm confident that I could learn these things. But what would it be like if I had to learn them all at once – to learn a whole different way of life?

Thinking about the context in which our guests are skilled and I am ignorant inspires my admiration for what they take on by embracing the goal of self-sufficiency, which is required by the Family Promise Program. They exemplify what Jesus taught about the poor being blessed, and the humble being exalted. It is an honor to serve them.

Please consider helping out during the upcoming host week – April 19 through April 26. There are many volunteer opportunities – some involve interacting with the guests, others do not. There will be a sign-up closer to that time, and meanwhile please call with any questions to Claudia Shaw.

**Volunteers Needed April 19—26**

# FEINSTEIN TIME AGAIN!!

## MARCH & APRIL

### YOUR EFFORTS AND SUPPORT MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!



**CUMAC**  
Feeding People & Changing Lives

This year it has become ever more critical for CUMAC to have a successful food and monetary collection through the Feinsein Challenge. They currently are feeding **over 4,000 people a month**, up significantly from last year. Not only will they need every dollar "earned" through large food collections, but this is their opportunity to stock up for the many difficult months ahead.

Currently unemployment rates are hovering at almost 7% in NJ. For those who can find a job, they're working fewer hours or getting paid less than they were a few years ago. Factor in the rising cost of living and cuts in government aid, and making ends meet becomes difficult. And with more cuts coming to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), things will get tougher.

Chatham United Methodist Church has always supported CUMAC's efforts with the Feinsein Challenge during the months of March and April. Every dollar and pound of food collected during those months will count toward philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinsein's challenge grant program. His goal has been to use the Challenge as a way to raise awareness of hunger in communities by dividing \$1 million among hunger agencies who collect the largest amounts of food by weight.

In **2014** Chatham Methodist Church provided **1,047 pounds** toward the nearly 278,324 pounds of food CUMAC received through contributions from churches and individuals. (Our contribution in **2013 was 1,630 pounds.**) Additionally, CUMAC raised \$187,762 which helped helped them to keep up with part of the summer's high demand during the lean "giving" months. This contributed to CUMAC being awarded the second largest grant in NJ from the Feinsein Foundation

Please continue your support by leaving your.....

**HEAVY** food donations in our church stairwell

**MONETARY** donations in the Church Office....

**canned goods: soups, vegetables,  
fruits, tuna,  
pasta sauces**

**bottled water & juices**

**bags of rice, sugar, beans, flour**



## Mother's Morning Out

Mother's Morning Out can't wait for spring! The Activities Room has been full of shamrocks and leprechauns. We are really looking forward to the snow melting on the playground so we can be outside in the sunshine. The teachers will be attending an annual preschool workshop entitled "Bringing Respect Back to Schools: Powerful Classroom Management" on March 11 with lots of area preschools.

The program consists of free play, outside play, snack, story time, circle time, music/movement, and simple crafts. Children must be 18 months old by September 1, 2015 to enroll. We have been registering lots of children for the Fall, if you would like to enroll your child at MMO please feel free to reach out to me!



We are showing off our great program to families who would like to come and see what we are all about. If anyone would like to take a tour, I am happy to provide you with one and answer any questions you may have.

Amy Crandall  
Director, MMO, [anbc@optonline.net](mailto:anbc@optonline.net)

## Nursery School

It has been great playing outside with pails and shovels, building snowmen and making snow angels but I think we are ready for a change in the weather.

March is always a busy month as we welcome spring. We always look forward to picture Day which will be held on March 10. This is always a popular fundraiser for our school.

School will be closed on March 11 so the teachers can attend a workshop with other nursery school teachers in the area. The topic will be "Bringing Respect Back to Schools: Powerful Classroom Management".

To provide parents with a children's activity that morning, the CUMNS Board

is offering a free concert by professional children's entertainers, "**Presley and Melody**". The concert will be presented from 10:00-10:45 in Rodda Hall. All preschoolers (accompanied by an adult) are encouraged to attend. Other local preschoolers and parents are also welcome. No reservations necessary. Please come!

The Three and Four Year old classes will be busy working on shapes this month with various projects and games. Both will end the month with welcoming spring and will start to decorate the classrooms with signs of spring.

The 4's Spring Enrichment Class has begun. It is an 8 week series that meets on Friday morning. The classes include readiness activities in writing, letters, numbers,

woodland and rainforest habitats, Earth Day, and a Field Day.



The Kindergarten Enrichment classes will be busy this month with counting activities, number recognition, high frequency words, more word families and celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday. More "mini books" will be going home for the children to read to their families and they will continue to practice writing skills at the writing centers. They are also making some Arctic animals and learning fun facts about them.

Enjoy the First signs of spring!!!



# COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## An Evening with the Brothers of Taizé

All are welcome! Bring your friends.

It is a rare occasion for any Brothers of Taizé to be in the US, even rarer for them to be on the East Coast, and an act of God's grace that they will be spending a few hours at the United Methodist Church in Chatham, NJ! We hope you can come and bring your friends to spend time with these humble, wise, fun, intelligent, and spirit-filled followers of Jesus.

**Thursday, April 16**

**7PM** Conversation, refreshments, and sharing with Brother Emile and Brother John about the life, ministry and spirituality of the ecumenical Community of Taizé, France. (Rodda Hall)

**8PM** A Taizé Prayer Experience in the Sanctuary.



CUMC's Taizé pilgrims are grateful to all who have filled envelopes and joined our Wall of Support.

We have enjoyed hearing stories of the numbers you chose and what they mean to you. And whether your number is 1 or 100, or anything in between, it is awesome knowing that each envelope represents someone praying for us.

*There is still time to join our Wall of Support. If you haven't been able to pick up an envelope at church, you can send a donation to the church office (checks payable to CUMC with "Taize" in the memo line) and we will be happy to send you a prayer card.*



**WINTER WEATHER** making it difficult to get to church on Sunday? Use your phone to connect with our 9:00 worship service.

- ◆ About 5 minutes before the service starts, push the **SPEAKER** button to get a dial tone. 
- ◆ Dial toll-free **1-877-594-8353**.
- ◆ After a welcome by Infinite Conferencing, enter the CUMC code **36238371#**.
- ◆ Tell the person at the Church that you just connected.
- ◆ Once the service starts, put phone on **MUTE**.
- ◆ To disconnect at any time, hang up the phone.



## 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.

## Upcoming UMW Events

- Rummage Sale: Thursday, May 7
- Salad Luncheon: Wednesday, May 20

**The Circuit Rider**

**Chatham United Methodist Church**

**460 Main Street**

**Chatham, NJ 07928**

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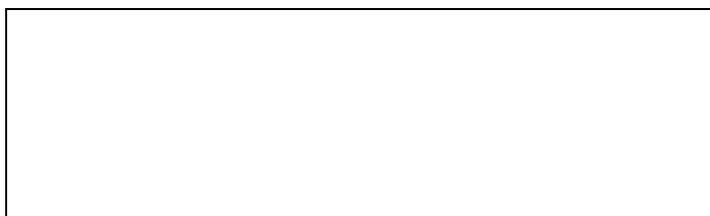
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**The CUMC Ministry Team**

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**

**March 1:** Stephen Ministry Presentation

**March 2:** Common Meeting Night

**March 4, 11, 18, 25:** Soup Supper, Taizé Prayer

**March 8:** Centering Prayer

**March 15:** UMW Dessert Gathering

**March 19:** Lunch Bunch

**April 2:** Maundy Thursday Service

**April 3:** Good Friday Service

**April 5:** Easter Services at 9am and 11am

**April 16:** Taizé Brothers at CUMC

**April 18:** Taizé Retreat in NYC

**April 18:** Canticles of Life Concert at CUMC

**April 22:** Interfaith Abraham Lunch

**May 7:** Rummage Sale

**June 24-30:** Vacation Bible Camp

**~ 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 **April Circuit Rider** deadline for submissions is

**Monday, March 9.** Please send all articles and announcements to the church office:

**chatumc@optonline.net.**