

DeBows Crows

The Monthly Newsletter of DeBows UMC

October 2016

509 Monmouth Road - Jackson, NJ 08527 - 732-928-4475

Rev. Ernie Williams, Pastor

pastor@debowsumc.org - debowsumc.org - [facebook.com/debowsumc](https://www.facebook.com/debowsumc)



Autumn Blessings

Sunday Schedule

Women's Sunday School	8:30 - 9:15am
Worship Service #1	9:30 - 10:15am
Sunday School	9:30 - 10:15am
Fellowship Time	10:15 - 10:45am
Worship Service #2	10:45 - 11:45am
Choir Practice	12:15 - 1:15pm

October Prayer List

Chris Bitondo	Lott Family
Edith Gutwein	Dean Sparling
Karen Hornak	John Manion
Rudy & Jean Iannacone	Helen Kramer
Hannah Ziti	Chase McKinney
Rose Teepe	Pat Duncan
Kevin Turner	Smith Family
Ron Calub	Allie Juliano
Guy Raymond	Dave Pierceall
Christian Kok	Virginia Lane
Herb Finkenberg	

IN MEMORIAM



Elizabeth "Betty" Lott

Betty Lott, long time member of DeBows UMC, passed away earlier in September. She was living with her daughter in Harrisonburg, VA. She was 94 years old.

There will be a memorial service for Betty at DeBows UMC on Saturday, October 15th at 11:00am. Pastor Betty Gibbons will conduct the service.

All those that . . .

- . . . are homeless or hungry
- . . . are "un" or "under" employed
- . . . are dealing with domestic violence
- . . . are struggling with personal illness while caring for family
- . . . are affected by natural disasters
- . . . are affected by war or terrorism
- . . . are in prison & those that work with them
- . . . DeBows Food Pantry Ministry

NOTE: Please inform the Pastor when a name should be added or removed from the Prayer List.

~ Thank You ~

Fall Bible Study's

Wednesday from 11:30am-1:00pm

Pastor Ernie leads this study on **"The Parables"**. These will be selected parables beginning with the *"Parable of the Sower."* Ernie will provide a "course outline" to assist those in the group. There is a prayer time available at 11:15am in the Sanctuary prior to the study specifically to pray for our church and its ministries. Everyone is welcome to join the study at any time.

Wednesday from 7:00-8:15pm

The God We Can Know:

Exploring the "I AM" Sayings of Jesus

This class will last for 7 weeks. Everyone is welcome and can come to any or all of the class sessions. Each week is a study about a different "I AM" saying of Jesus. There is a brief DVD video to support each session. Below is the study schedule:

Wed	Session Content
9/28	Introduction to "I am" – Knowing God
10/5	I am the Bread of Life – Knowing God's Satisfaction
10/12	I am the Light of the World – Knowing God's Guidance
10/19	I am the Good Shepherd – Knowing God's Care
10/26	I am the True Vine – Knowing God's Power
11/2	I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life – Knowing God's Way
11/9	I am the Resurrection and the Life – Knowing God's Possibilities

Annual Church Conference

The 2016 church conference for DeBows UMC is scheduled for **Saturday, October 22**. The conference will be conducted at St. Mark UMC, Hamilton Square, 465 Paxson Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08690. All church members are invited to attend.

10:00 - 11:30am	Worship & Plenary Session
11:45am – 12:30pm	Church Conference for DeBows UMC

Sewing Class

Barbara Wesolovski is leading a basic sewing class on Saturday's from 11:00am – 12:30pm. The class will meet through November 5th, at which time they will stop for the holidays. They will start again in the New Year. NOTE: this class will not meet on Saturday, October 15.

Music Ministry

Our Music Director, Grayce Armstrong, thanks everyone who shared their musical talents during the summer and wants to remind you there will continue to be opportunities throughout the year. If you wish in participate in the choir and/or the upcoming Christmas Cantata, please contact Grayce. The choir practices at 12:15pm each Sunday. Practice for solos and praise songs happens on Wednesday nights. See church calendar for details. Grayce can be reached at music@debowsumc.org.



Dear Friends,

Those of you who attend worship regularly will know of my interest in numbers – not so much the numbers reflecting our income as a congregation, or even our budget. They seldom get mentioned in sermons. Not that I am at all averse to making reference to this – and some recent sermons will attest to that fact.

I am referring to other numbers – statistics about our society, and the way in which these measure change in our habits and practices as a society. As a newcomer to this society and culture, I am intrigued by some of the directions in which we have grown and some of the ways in which we have changed. When I came to this country 30 years ago it was clear that the church was a cornerstone of American life. That, of course, has been true for centuries. But I could sense that 30 years ago – even in New England!! But there has been a great deal of change on this “church front” in the past 30 years!

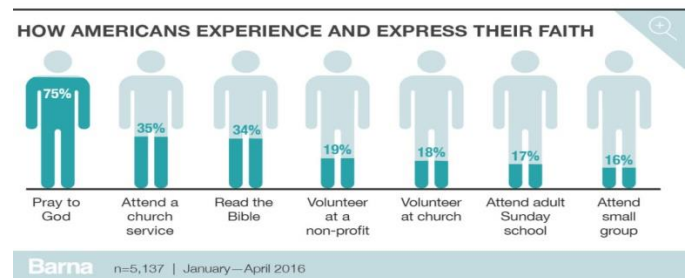
One of the reports I receive regularly comes from the Barna Group. In reading one recently, I noticed that they reaffirmed one consistent feature of the American scene: most Americans identify as Christian. Let me quote some of these statistics from a recent report:

Debates continue to rage over whether the United States is a “Christian” nation. Some believe the Constitution gives special treatment or preference to Christianity, but others make their claims based on sheer numbers—and they have a point: Most

people in this country identify as Christian. Almost three-quarters of Americans (73%) say they are a Christian, while only one-fifth (20%) claim no faith at all (that includes atheists and agnostics). A fraction (6%) identify with faiths like Islam, Buddhism, Judaism or Hinduism, and 1 percent are unsure. Not only do most Americans identify as Christian, but a similar percentage (73%) also agree that religious faith is very important in their life (52% strongly agree + 21% somewhat agree).

Before we get too smug about the 73% who say they are Christian, we need to look more closely at that number. Barna considers a person who attends worship *once a month*, and says their *faith is important* in their life, to be a “practicing Christian.” When this is applied, a more accurate picture of Christian faith emerges, with only 31% falling into this classification.

Let me offer one more useful metric. I do it by way of a graphic from the Barna report. It speak for itself:




These may seem like cold statistics, but they remind us of the challenges we face as a small congregation trying to reach out to some of the “dormant” or “dechurched” persons formerly affiliated with DeBows, as well as the community at large. Some of the recent changes we have made are as much for “others” as they are for “us.” And will require

our patience in the process. Amid the challenges there is some Good News. Of all the people who attend church, 46% attend churches with fewer than 100 members.

In the face of all this, we need to heed the scriptures which sets out our course for us: *"Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness."* (1 Tim 6:11). A good word in any season.

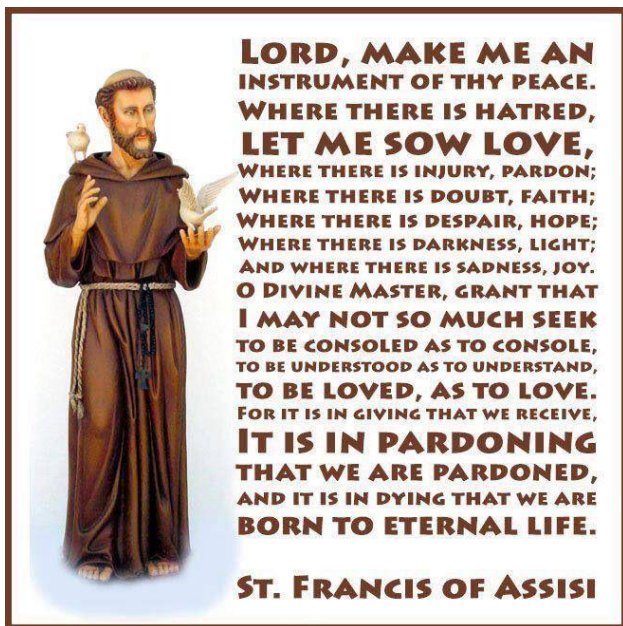
[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL BARNIA REPORT](#)

Shalom,



Remembering St. Francis

The official Feast Day for Saint Francis of Assisi in the Catholic Church is October 4th. We often remember his deep reverence for all of God's creation (reflected in his hymn "All Creatures of Our God and King"), his love of animals, and the below prayer attributed to him.



Training Opportunities

Saturday, November 12

Doxology: A Worship Conference

This training conference will present workshops for contemporary worship teams, traditional worship planners, preachers, multimedia teams, volunteers, small churches, and musicians. Everyone who serves in worship ministry will benefit from this experience.

This event will be conducted at Calvary Korean UMC, 572 Ryders Ln, East Brunswick, NJ 08816. The church will cover the cost of this training event if 4 or more people attend. Please let Pastor Ernie know if you are interested in attending so he can process the group registration.

8:30 - 9:00am	Gathering
9:00 - 10:00am	Worship
10:15 - 11:30am	Morning Workshop
11:30am - 12:30pm	Lunch Provided
12:45 - 2:00pm	Afternoon Workshop
2:15 - 3:00pm	Closing Session

You can view the detailed agenda and workshop descriptions on the church website: [Grow/Training Opportunities](#).

Wednesday, December 9

Year-end Statistical Reports Training

Pastors, finance committees, stewardship teams, treasurers, financial secretaries, and auditing committees are encouraged to attend. Conference Treasurer John Cardillo and his team will discuss and clarify important issues regarding year-end reporting.

2:00-4:00pm or 7:00-9:00pm
Aldersgate UMC, 568 Ryders Ln
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2016						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Praise Service
9	10 Food Pantry	11	12	13	14	15 Betty Lott Memorial Service
16	17 Church Council	18	19	20	21	22 Church Conference
23	24 Food Pantry	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Sunday Worship at 9:30 & 10:45am Wednesday Bible Study 11:30am & 7:00pm				

Saturday, October 1

Sewing Class 11:00am

Sunday, October 2 –

World Communion Sunday

Women's Sunday School 8:30am
Worship Service 9:30am
Sunday School 9:30am
Fellowship Time 10:15am
Worship Service 10:45am
SPRC Meeting 11:45am
Choir Practice 12:15pm

Wednesday, October 5

Bible Study 11:30am
Singer Support Studio 5:00pm
Green Hymnal Jam 6:00pm
Bible Study 7:00pm

Saturday, October 8

Sewing Circle 11:30am
Praise Worship Service 6:30pm

Sunday, October 9

Women's Sunday School 8:30am
Worship Service 9:30am
Sunday School 9:30am
Fellowship Time 10:15am
Worship Service 10:45am
Choir Practice 12:15pm

Monday, October 10

Food Pantry Open 6:00pm

Wednesday, October 12

Bible Study 11:30am
Singer Support Studio 5:00pm
Green Hymnal Jam 6:00pm
Bible Study 7:00pm

Saturday, October 15

Memorial Service for Betty Lott 11:00am

Sunday, October 16

Women's Sunday School 8:30am
Worship Service 9:30am
Sunday School 9:30am
Fellowship Time 10:15am
Worship Service 10:45am
Choir Practice 12:15pm

Monday, October 17

Church Council Meeting 7:00pm

Wednesday, October 19

Bible Study 11:30am
Singer Support Studio 5:00pm
Green Hymnal Jam 6:00pm
Bible Study 7:00pm

Saturday, October 22

Church Conference at St. Marks 10:00am
Sewing Class 11:00am

Sunday, October 23

Women's Sunday School 8:30am
Worship Service 9:30am
Sunday School 9:30am
Fellowship Time 10:15am
Worship Service 10:45am
Choir Practice 12:15pm

Monday, October 24

Food Pantry Open 6:00pm

Wednesday, October 26

Bible Study	11:30am
Singer Support Studio	5:00pm
Green Hymnal Jam	6:00pm
Bible Study	7:00pm

Saturday, October 29

Work day in Sanctuary	9:00am
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Sunday, October 30 –

Reformation Sunday

Women's Sunday School	8:30am
Worship Service	9:30am
Sunday School	9:30am
Fellowship Time	10:15am
Worship Service	10:45am
Choir Practice	12:15pm

Monday, October 31

Reformation Day
Halloween

Fall Fundraisers



DeBows will be conducting the fundraisers described below. All proceeds will be used to support the ministries of the church. Thank you for your continued support.

Yankee Candle - 9/11 - 10/2

The catalog and order forms will be available outside of Fellowship Hall. There are Fall and Christmas items in the catalog. **Final orders must be received by Sunday, October 2.** See Sue Hayward for more information.

Gertrude Hawk Candy - 10/30 - 11/20

We will once again offer Gertrude Hawk Candy as a fundraiser. See Sue Hayward for order forms. Final orders must be received by Sunday, November 20. See Sue Hayward for more information.

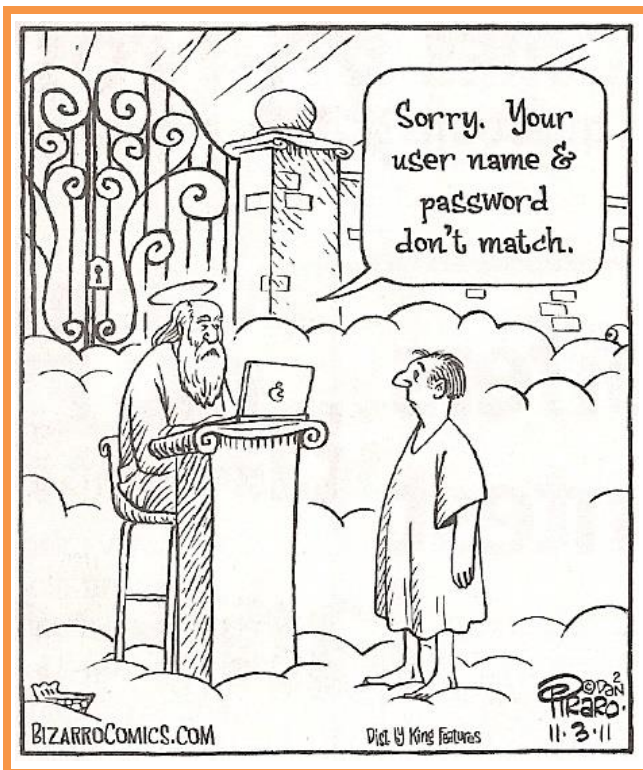
Rada Knives - 11/13 - 12/4

Catalogs and order forms will be on the table outside the Fellowship Hall. Do your Christmas shopping early. These knives make wonderful gifts. Please give orders to Anita before and no later than December 4.

Funding Campaign for Sanctuary Improvement

During the month of October DeBows UMC will be accepting donations to fund our Sanctuary improvement project. This will include installing a large screen HDTV, painting and new wall hangings. More details will be forthcoming.

Church Humor



DeBows UMC Online

www.debowsumc.org

or

www.facebook.com/debowsumc

Smart phone QR Codes

DeBows Website



DeBows Facebook



The church website is the place to access the latest information concerning schedules, events and activities, as well as current blog posts and general information about the church. You can leave comments for blog posts or send emails to church staff via the "Contact Us/Send Us Email" page.

Alert notices and weather related cancellations will also be displayed on the website as needed. Visit often for the latest information. Also, don't forget to check out the church Facebook page!



WiFi is available in the church. To connect, just follow the instructions found on the bulletin boards inside and outside Fellowship Hall.

Autumn Word Search



Find the 12 words below associated with Autumn. Up, down, diagonally, forward or backwards. All words are in a straight line.

Pumpkins	Leaves	Fall
Halloween	Harvest	Hayride
November	Cider	Football
October	Apples	Rake

H	A	R	V	E	S	T	F	W
B	E	N	M	C	S	R	A	L
H	K	E	F	F	E	C	L	T
J	A	E	O	B	Y	I	L	N
J	R	K	O	L	P	D	E	O
T	P	T	T	A	Z	E	A	V
R	C	K	B	D	W	R	V	E
O	P	T	A	O	N	A	E	M
A	P	P	L	E	S	G	S	B
D	B	L	L	K	Q	U	J	E
H	A	Y	R	I	D	E	N	R
H	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	S

Counseling Corner by Donna Ridge

"A bruised reed he will not break and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out" Isaiah 42:3 (NIV)

I often use this scripture, as it is one of my favorites and shows the heart of God. In the past, I facilitated a class called "Healing of Damaged Emotions. The text I used was a book by David Seamands of the same name. A strange thing happened to me when I was starting the class.

My grandson was nineteen years old and he wanted to find his father. I promised him when he was six that I would help him when he was ready. So after trying to find him on People Search, I got the bright idea to go on MySpace and Facebook. To my surprise I got an email from a woman saying that she thought that I was her aunt. My biological father lives in Michigan. He has three other children that I met once. My brother Mike's daughter contacted me. She said that she remembered my one and only visit to Michigan.

She was excited that she found me again. It was very touching that she remembered since it had been twenty-eight years since my visit and she was very young at the time. Around the same time I also reconnected with some of my cousins on my mother's side. It was as if we never lost touch and was good to reminisce.

Why am I talking about this? The reason, obviously, was God was healing a part of my emotions once again. Though I was facilitating the class, He had work to do in me.

Isaiah 28: "precept upon precept, precept upon precept, lines upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little" (KJV).

I have had emotional healing over the years, but I have not arrived. Thank God His Spirit is always at work in us to bring us to the place He wants us to be.

The ladies in the class will tell that it was uncomfortable at times to face unpleasant memories that have damaged us in some way, either relationally, spiritually, or physically. Our God is a gentle loving God who was there at the time of our distress and continues on the path with us always and always causes us to triumph.

Today you may be dealing with some emotional wound, divorce, loss of a loved one, loss of a job, being alienated from someone you care about, dealing with a rebellious child, the list can go on and on. Whatever it is we all know to take it to prayer and I tell my counselees to put a word on it from the Word. Whenever Satan rears his ugly head to tell you a lie, we can follow the example of our precious Savior and say "It is written" and I believe it.

~ Donna Ridge

Bible verse for reflection . . .

*The grass withers, the
flower fades, but the word
of our God stands forever.*

Isaiah 40:8

Mission Activities

Labels For Education and Box Tops

To support the *Red Bird Missionary Conference*, which is located in Southeastern Kentucky and is the most comprehensive mission effort of the United Methodist Church in the United States. They will be able to use these labels/box tops to purchase needed items for the school they run (pre-school to high school). A collection jar and a list of products that carry these labels/box tops are available on the table outside the Fellowship Hall.

Recyclable Greeting Cards for St. Jude's Ranch For Children

To support St. Jude's entrepreneurial teen-run job training program, which teaches teen's critical employment skills so they are prepared to be productive, wage-earning citizens in the community when they leave St. Jude. *Only the front of the card is used*, so any donated cards must not have writing on the back of the front picture. Please note: they do not accept Hallmark, Disney or American Greeting Cards. There is a collection box outside of Fellowship Hall.

DeBows UMC Prayer Shawl Ministry

As we approach the holiday season, we will need to collect Prayer Shawls to distribute. More details and instructions may be found on the church website: [Serve/Prayer Shawl Ministry](#).

Hymn Story

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Luther, circa 1527-1529 - UMH #110

On October 31st, much of America will celebrate Halloween. Consumer spending for this holiday is second only to Christmas. But for Protestants worldwide October 31st has a far greater meaning. On this date in 1517, Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk who increasingly found himself at odds with many of the teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church, posted his 95 Theses (complaints) on the door of the Cathedral of Wittenberg in Germany. This effectively launched the Protestant Reformation. In our church calendar, October 31st is known as Reformation Day and the Sunday before or on this date is known as Reformation Sunday.

Luther became known in particular for three things: the doctrine of salvation by faith alone, the belief that Scripture was the central source of religious authority and should be translated into the people's language (which he did), and the birth of congregational singing. Luther had strong convictions about the use and power of sacred music. He once wrote, "I would allow no man to preach or teach God's people without a proper knowledge of the use and power of sacred song."

It was in circa 1527-1529 that Martin Luther wrote "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God", which has often been called "The Battle Hymn of the Reformation". Written while Luther was effectively in exile (decreed by Pope Leo X), the words are a paraphrase of Psalm 46 and reflect Luther's deep misgivings about the Roman Papacy.

Did You Know?

- ☑ Bulletins for the Sunday service are available on a stand in the hallway leading to the side door of the sanctuary. Bulletins for children can also be found there along with busy bags for kids.
- ☑ Past issues of the DeBows UMC monthly newsletter can be downloaded and viewed from the church website under News & Media/Newsletter Archive.
- ☑ You can contact the church office at 732-928-4475 in the event of a pastoral care situation that might need Pastor Ernie's attention. Voicemail is available.
- ☑ Guy Raymond will lead a Praise Worship Service on Saturday, October 8 at 6:30 PM. Come experience an uplifting message and music.
- ☑ You can submit questions, feedback or suggestions by visiting the "Contact Us" page on the church website. Select the desired recipient from the pull down list and compose/send the email.
- ☑ You can make online donations using the DeBows UMC online giving option. All donations directly support the ministries of the church and are reflected in your tax deductible, year-end giving statement. Just click on the link that looks like this in the footer of the church website.

Online Giving
Easy
Secure
Appreciated



There are many ways people can participate in the life of the church. These are a few of them:

Community Food Pantry – this is DeBows flagship outreach program. It is open the 2nd & 4th Monday each month from 6-8pm. You can also help with inventory stocking on the 2nd Monday each month at 11am. If you would like to volunteer time to support this ministry, please see the sign-up sheet outside of Fellowship Hall. You may contact Deb Cregle for more information.

Fellowship Time – this is our weekly time of informal gathering to greet each other and visitors, and to share some light refreshments. It is conducted between the 9:30am & 10:45am Sunday worship services. If you would like to host Fellowship Time on any given week, please see the sign-up sheet, with guidelines, outside of Fellowship Hall.

Lay Reader or Usher – if you are interested in participating in the worship services as either a Lay Reader or Usher, please speak with Pastor Ernie or Guy Raymond.

Committee Member – if not already serving in this capacity, but you would like to serve on a particular church committee, please speak with Pastor Ernie or Guy Raymond.