

# DeBows Crows

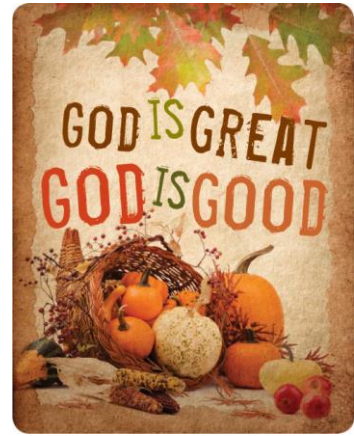
The Monthly Newsletter of DeBows UMC

## November 2016

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

Rev. Ernie Williams, Pastor

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



### Sunday Schedule

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

Please note that the Children's Sunday School has been repositioned to happen during the 10:45am worship service.

### Fall Bible Study's

#### Wednesday from 11:30am-1:00pm

Pastor Ernie leads this study, which explores various Parables. 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 is a 7 week study and will run through Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome and can come to any or all of the study sessions. Each week is a stand-alone study about a different "I AM" saying of Jesus. There is a brief DVD video to support each session, followed by discussion questions.

**An Advent Bible Study is being selected and will be announced soon. Watch the bulletin announcements, sign-up table, and church calendar for details.**



## November Prayer List

Chris Bitondo	John DeMarco
Edith Gutwein	Dean Sparling
Karen Hornak	John Manion
Rudy & Jean Iannacone	Helen Kramer
Joe Huber	Chase McKinney
Rose Teepe	Dylan & Carly Irwin
Kevin Turner	Angela McPherson
Ron Calub	Allie Juliano
Guy Raymond	Dave Pierceall
Christian Kok	Virginia Lane
Herb Finkenberg	Joyce & Leon Evans
Jimmy Cappadona	Jim (Guy's Friend)
Steve Raymond	2016 Election Process

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 ~



## Music Ministry

Our Music Director, Grayce Armstrong wants to remind you there will continue to be opportunities to share your musical talent throughout the year. If you wish to 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 happen on Wednesday nights. See church calendar for details. Grayce can be reached at [music@debowsumc.org](mailto:music@debowsumc.org).

## Sanctuary Improvement

As many of you know, the church conducted a Sanctuary Improvement Funding Campaign during the month of October. The work for the Sanctuary Improvement Project will begin on Saturday, October 29. The project will include painting the walls, cleaning the paraments, installing a large screen HDTV, installing some new wall hangings, and making the chancel area more presentable in general. The goal is to make our worship space as functional and inspiring as possible.

## Church Conference

DeBows UMC had its annual Church Conference on October 22 at St. Marks UMC in Hamilton Square, NJ. It was presided over by Rev. Marion Jackson. All required church business reports were presented in a conference booklet and were approved during the conference. Copies of the conference booklet can be found on the table outside of Fellowship Hall.

## A Letter From Pastor Ernie

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter to the congregation it is after our annual Church Conference has met. It was concluded without incident. There is always a lot of work preparing for it – regrettably, much of it is what we might call “busy” work. However, there continues to be value for us as a congregation reflecting together on the work we have done during the previous year. In the compiling of reports and in the assembling of information (both statistical and financial) we gain insight into who we are as a church – and we get to measure change from year to year.

This fall season we have ventured into new territory in regard to worship. We decided to have two services. Now that 8 weeks have passed, there is already an emerging pattern that will focus our attention. Of course, we will need to formally evaluate these services in due course. But already there are some emerging trends that encourage reflection.

From my perspective, there was an unexpectedly large group of people who have elected to attend the early, abbreviated service. The format of that service is slightly different, and we have also made the music at that service somewhat less traditional. We still need to find out precisely why people choose to attend that service. Is the choice based on time alone? Is it the shorter version of the regular service? Is it the change in the music?

One of our hopes was that an additional service would provide our regular members, and the community at large, an additional option for worship. Church growth specialists are always telling us that an expanded menu of choices is an enhancement to any church program. At this early stage, we can say that even though there has been

a marginal increase in worship attendance, we have not seen a noticeable increase in visitors. Further, none of our large number of “inactive” members seem to have found any benefit in this change to our worship schedule. There was some hope that they might have responded better to the “convenience” our additional service offers.

We also need to acknowledge some deficits that accrue as a result of the change. The two services are almost evenly divided with slight more people attending the later service. The result of this is that each of the morning services is suddenly much smaller. Unrelenting optimists may suggest that we now have a lot more room to grow in each service. But the other inescapable reality is that each service is diminished by being “halved” in the process. This impacts the atmosphere (ambiance) as well as causing our singing to be less robust. Another factor has been the suggestion, on the part of some, that the Fellowship time has received less support.

These are my preliminary reflections. We will make time for a more thorough evaluation in a couple of months. This will allow all of us to have a voice in shaping the course we take into the future.

As we continue our journey I offer you these powerful words from the Apostle Paul to his apprentice, Timothy: *“Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting, and training character, so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do everything that is good.”* 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Let us pray that God will continue to equip us (who belong to God) to do everything that is good.

Shalom,



## #GivingTuesday

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

November 29, 2016

### WHAT IS #GIVINGTUESDAY?

(From the official [www.givingtuesday.org](http://www.givingtuesday.org) web site)

*#GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving (in the U.S.) and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. This is when charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give.*

As we enter into the season of Advent we invite you to support the ministries and programs of DeBows UMC. Our church's ability to fulfil its mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ and sharing God's love with others is directly impacted by the generosity of our members and friends, and their willingness to emulate Christ's love for others.

While many organizations are promoting #GivingTuesday, including the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, the most effective way to participate and directly help DeBows UMC reach its full potential is by visiting the church website at [www.debowsumc.org](http://www.debowsumc.org) and clicking

on the "Online Giving" button found in the church website footer. This will permit you to donate online using the church's secure PayPal account. As always, donations to the church are tax deductible and will be reflected in your year-end giving statement from DeBows UMC.

For your reference, this is what the "Online Giving" button looks like on the website.



While this feature is a permanent part of the church web site and is available all year long, we encourage you to participate on #GivingTuesday (November 29) or any time during Advent.

Together, as a church, we can make a difference in our community. Thank you, and may God bless you and your family during Thanksgiving and the upcoming Advent season.

## Giving Thanks ~ Psalm 100

- <sup>1</sup> Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.*
- <sup>2</sup> Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.*
- <sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*
- <sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.*
- <sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

## Upcoming Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>November 2016</b>						
		1	2	3	4	5
6 DST Ends 2am	7	8 Election Day	9	10	11	12 Doxology Worship Workshop
13	14 Food Pantry	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Give Thanks	25	26
27 1st Sunday of Advent	28 Food Pantry	29 #Giving Tuesday	30	Sunday Worship 9:30 & 10:45am Wednesday Bible Study 11:30am & 7:00pm		

### Wednesday, November 2

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

### Saturday, November 5

Sewing Circle	11:30am
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### Sunday, November 6 at 2:00am DST Ends – Clock Back 1 Hour

### Sunday, November 6

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

### Tuesday, November 8 – Election Day

### Wednesday, November 9

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

### Saturday, November 12

Doxology Worship Workshop at Calvary Korean UMC in East Brunswick	8:30am - 3:00pm
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### Sunday, November 13

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

### Monday, November 14

Food Pantry Open	6:00pm
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### Wednesday, November 16

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

### Sunday, November 20

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

### Wednesday, November 23

Singer Support Studio	5:00pm
Green Hymnal Jam	6:00pm

### Thursday, November 24 - Thanksgiving

### Sunday, November 27

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

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

### Monday, November 28

Food Pantry Open	6:00pm
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#### #GivingTuesday, November 29

### Wednesday, November 30

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



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.

**Gertrude Hawk Candy - 10/23 - 11/20**

We will once again offer Gertrude Hawk Candy as a fundraiser. The sale brochures are available on the table outside of Fellowship Hall. Final orders must be received by Sunday, November 20. Please contact 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.

**#Giving Tuesday**

See separate article in this newsletter.

**Thank You**

“Thank You” to everyone who contributed to the Sanctuary Improvement Funding Campaign during the month of October. Your faithfulness in this and other fundraising efforts during the course of the year has been instrumental in supporting the ministries of DeBows UMC.

**Thanksgiving Word Search**



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

- |                 |                  |                 |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Pilgrims</b> | <b>Praise</b>    | <b>Family</b>   |
| <b>Grateful</b> | <b>Turkey</b>    | <b>Prayer</b>   |
| <b>Holiday</b>  | <b>Pumpkin</b>   | <b>Harvest</b>  |
| <b>Worship</b>  | <b>Blessings</b> | <b>Thankful</b> |

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



By Donna Ridge

In case some of you are not aware, I have a ministry blog on the church website named Parents Once Again. The purpose of the Parents Once Again ministry is to connect with other grandparents raising their grandchildren and to offer encouragement and support where needed. Going forward, I will be alternating articles on this subject and Counseling Corner in this newsletter.

Concerning the Parents Once Again ministry, I will sometimes reference the book "Grandparents as Parents - A Survival Guide for Raising a Second Family" by Sylvie de Toledo and Deborah Edler Brown, and I will be sharing my own experiences in this area.

I am helping my son to raise my ten year old grandson. They have lived with me for seven years. My son works long hours six days a week and my grandson is a special needs child. He has mild autism and ADD without hyperactivity. He is a loving, caring boy, but he has abandonment issues. Next time I will elaborate on this subject, but for now I just wanted to raise awareness about this ministry. If you are a grandparent or grandparents raising a grandchild (children), please feel free to email me at [seeyamom8@gmail.com](mailto:seeyamom8@gmail.com).

You may access the Parents Once Again blog from the church website main menu bar: Serve/Parents Once Again Blog.

Standing in Faith,  
~ Donna Ridge

## DeBows UMC Online

[www.debousumc.org](http://www.debousumc.org)

or

[www.facebook.com/debousumc](https://www.facebook.com/debousumc)

### Smart phone QR Codes



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 individual 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

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

## 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 Advent and Christmas, we will need to collect more Prayer Shawls to distribute. They can be dropped off at the church office. More details and instructions may be found on the church website: [Serve/Prayer Shawl Ministry](#).

## Holiday Toy Drive for Children's Home Society of Trenton



DeBows will once again participate in the Holiday Toy Drive in support of the Children's Home Society of Trenton. A list a children, with suggested gift items and ages, should be available by the first Sunday in November. We will be delivering the gifts between December 5-16th. This is always a very rewarding outreach activity. Tom Hornak is coordinating this activity.

### DeBows UMC Community Food Pantry

This is DeBows UMC flagship outreach program. It is open the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month from 6-8pm. You can also help with inventory stocking on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.





## Church Humor



## Looking Ahead . . .

### Advent & Christmas

Just as you are recovering from the family festivities of Thanksgiving, we turn our attention to Advent, which starts on the Sunday after Thanksgiving – November 27. We will place the Chrismon Tree in the Sanctuary on this Sunday.

There will be an Advent Bible Study available and Grayce is arranging rehearsals for the Christmas Cantata, which is scheduled to be performed during the 10:45am worship service on Sunday, December 18.

There will be only one worship service on Christmas Eve (6:30pm) & Christmas Day (10:00am), which is on a Sunday this year. There will be no informal worship services during Advent & Christmas.

Other specific activities or events may be scheduled between now and then, so please watch the weekly bulletin announcements and church calendar for the most up to date information.

## Did You Know?

- ☑ Past issues of the DeBows UMC monthly newsletter can be downloaded and viewed from the church website under News & Media/Newsletter Archive.
- ☑ Bulletins for the Sunday worship services 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.
- ☑ 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.
- ☑ 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.
- ☑ DeBows UMC GPS Information  
509 Monmouth Road, Jackson, NJ 08527  
Latitude: 40.1657445  
Longitude: -74.4159201
- ☑ Often we associate the Pilgrims with the tradition of Thanksgiving in America, but Thanksgiving as we know it today did not start until much later in America's history, and it took a woman and two U. S. Presidents to create this uniquely American holiday. You can read a more detailed article on the church website, about how the Thanksgiving holiday came to be and why it is particularly appropriate we should take this time to thank God, from whom all blessings flow.

## 2016 Ministry Action Plan



The 2016 DeBows UMC Ministry Action Plan (MAP) has been completed. It was presented at our annual Church Conference conducted on October 22, along with our other church business reports. The MAP PDF document will be made available to the congregation via email and/or online in the near future.

### A Word of Thanks

As a community of faith, DeBows UMC has been very active this past year and has embraced the winds of change, evidenced in part by the creation of the MAP. The Church Council would like to say "Thank You" to everyone who participated in this journey: Pastor Ernie, Church Council members, Pastoral Transition Team members, members of the congregation who participated in the Town Hall & Survey process, and everyone for supporting the changes already made and offering words of encouragement for the journey ahead.

## Online Resource Links

Bible Gateway  
Scripture passage lookup & audio

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

United Methodist Handbook

[www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/unitedmethodist/handbook](http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/unitedmethodist/handbook)

Greater New Jersey Conference Website

[www.gnjumc.org](http://www.gnjumc.org)

Official United Methodist Church Website

[www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)

Chuck Knows Church  
Short videos about church objects, symbols and terms

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

UMC Lectionary Calendar

[www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship/lectionary-calendar](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship/lectionary-calendar)

Bible Words Pronunciation Guide  
Phonetic pronunciation and an audio so you can see and hear what the word or name sounds like

[www.netministries.org/resources/resource-pronunciation-guide#d](http://www.netministries.org/resources/resource-pronunciation-guide#d)

