

DeBows Crows

The Monthly Newsletter of DeBows UMC

January 2017

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

Rev. Ernie Williams, Pastor

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Sunday

Worship & Schedule

Women's Sunday School	9:00 AM
Worship Service	10:00 AM
Sunday School	10:00 AM
Fellowship Time	11:00 AM
Choir Practice	11:15 AM

DeBows UMC Online

www.debowsumc.org

www.facebook.com/debowsumc

The church website is the place to access the latest information concerning schedules, events & activities, current blog posts, alert notices & weather related cancellations, and general information about the church. Visit often for the latest information.

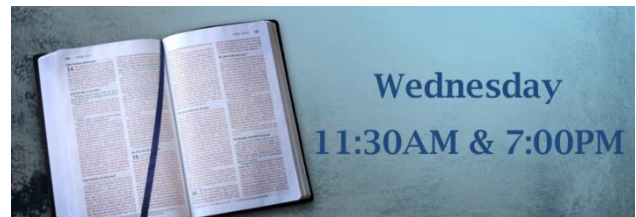
DeBows Website



DeBows Facebook



Bible Study



11:30 AM

This class will begin on Wednesday, January 4th. They will study the book of Philippians. They start at 11:30am and finish about 1:00pm. Some class members meet prior to class at 11:15am in the sanctuary for Prayer Time. Everyone is welcomed to join us.

7:00 PM

This class is selecting the next bible study and will resume soon. Watch the worship service announcements and church calendar for details.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE IN 2017

--- MATTHEW 5:16 ---



January Prayer List

Chris Bitondo	Donna Ridge
Edith Gutwein	Dean Sparling
Karen Hornak	John Manion
Rudy Iannacone	Helen Kramer
Joe Huber	Stevison Family
Rose Teepe	Dylan & Carly Irwin
Kevin Turner	Angela McPherson
Ron Calub	Allie Juliano
Guy Raymond	Martha Shewell
Christian Kok	Virginia Lane
Herb Finkenberg	Joyce & Leon Evans
Jimmy Cappadona	Jim (Guy's Friend)
Jamie Gray	Nancy Armstrong
Dottie Weeks	Betty Barrentine
Jennifer Shane	Jim Armstrong

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
- . . . support the DeBows Food Pantry Ministry

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

~ Thank You ~

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

I had the opportunity recently to enjoy a long road trip. I have always enjoyed a good long road trip (which is very different from commuting!) and we are fortunate to have a remarkable interstate system that allows for relatively quick ways to get from one point to another. We drove south to Florida. On the way down we took our time, stopping first to drop off a friend in High Point, NC. We also had the opportunity to go to Plains, GA where Erica and I attended a Sunday School Maranatha Baptist Church with the lesson taught by President Jimmy Carter. That was an absolutely delightful experience and encounter. We made our way to St Simons Island,, GA – where I particularly wanted to visit the Conference Retreat center which housed four working motels open to the public. We ended up at Kissimmee in Florida where we connected with our daughter, and even had a couple of days in Disney!

Back to road trips. During this season we think of a different road trip. It is the one taken by Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. That was not a fun trip – particularly as Mary was pregnant at the time. Then, shortly after Jesus was born, they needed to take another, hastily planned road trip. This time to escape from the threat that King Herod posed for their young child. That would have been a scary time for their little family as they became temporary immigrants in Egypt. The roadways were certainly not safe, or quick, or convenient. Traveling in those days is not something done for pleasure or as a form of recreation. In those days you traveled because it was necessary. And travel always admitted you into unknown territory.

In many ways, life is like that. Like pilgrims and pioneers, we are always standing at the edge of the unknown. No scout has gone into our un-lived future and returned to sketch for us the hurdles and hopes our life may yet hold. We must move into the future not knowing. Tomorrow is not yet unveiled and cannot be until time pulls aside the curtain and lets us see. All of us need a faith for the uncharted way.

Joseph must have been acutely aware of this uncertainty of the future – especially when he first discovered the news about Mary and the baby. As we ponder that first Christmas we know almost instinctively that to be engaged to a pregnant young woman puts Joseph among the pioneers of all time. No wonder he needed a dream to provide some assurance that he could continue this frontier journey. But he had faith for this uncharted way. That helped him obey the angelic vision.

The Christian Faith is not a solution to all the mysteries of life; but it does provide a solution in the light of which life's great mysteries are no longer seen as enemies, but as our friends and allies. This Faith is not an automatic answer to every question, but is rather a way of making the questions tolerable and meaningful and helpful. It provides the patience and courage we need to journey into uncharted territory. And this faith allows us to grow!

Christians always live in the tension between the present and the future – both being categories loaded with inordinate significance because of the Incarnation. We are a community that leans toward hope. Yet, we are urged to be patient as we wait for a glorious future to unfold. I was struck recently by a translation of one of my favorite scripture passages. It comes from Eugene Peterson's The Message (Romans 8):

All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us; any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in our waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.

As we approach a New Year, may we stand alongside Joseph in the sense of embracing the uncharted territory of an unknown future. It takes a special kind of faith to do that – a faith which does not provide all the answers, but makes our wrestling with the questions tolerable. May we gain confidence in the knowledge that we are shaped by our faith.

Shalom,



Fellowship Breakfast

On Sunday, January 1st, some men from the church will host a Fellowship Breakfast after the 10:00 AM worship service. Come usher in the New Year with some good food and fellowship with your church family. Everyone is welcome.

Coming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2017						
1 EPIPHANY SUNDAY	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 FOOD PANTRY	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 FOOD PANTRY	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	<i>Happy New Year</i>			

Epiphany Sunday, January 1

Worship Service & Sunday School	10:00am
Fellowship Breakfast	11:00am
Choir Practice	11:15am

Wednesday, January 4

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

Sunday, January 8

Women's Sunday School	9:00am
Worship Service & Sunday School	10:00am
Fellowship Time	11:00am
Choir Practice	11:15am
Finance Meeting	11:30am

Monday, January 9

Food Pantry Open	6:00pm
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Wednesday, January 11

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

Sunday, January 15

Women's Sunday School	9:00am
Worship Service & Sunday School	10:00am
Fellowship Time	11:00am
Choir Practice	11:15am

Wednesday, January 18

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

Sunday, January 22

Women's Sunday School	9:00am
Worship Service & Sunday School	10:00am
Fellowship Time	11:00am
Choir Practice	11:15am

Monday, January 23

Food Pantry Open	6:00pm
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Sunday, January 22

Women's Sunday School	9:00am
Worship Service & Sunday School	10:00am
Fellowship Time	11:00am
Choir Practice	11:15am

Wednesday, January 25

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

Saturday, January 28

Back to Basics Leadership Training	10:00am - 12:00pm
at Moorestown UMC	

Sunday, January 29

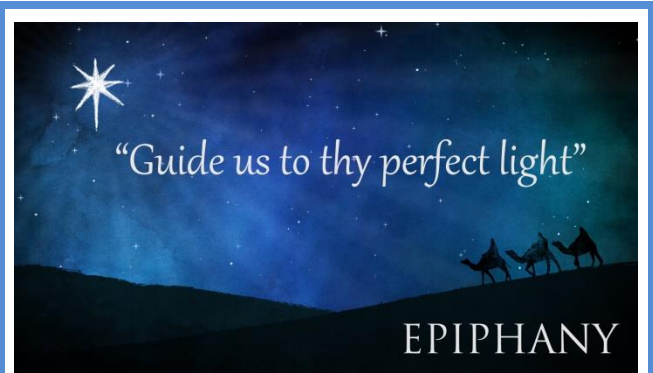
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Visit of the Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-12

- 1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem
- 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."
- 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.
- 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.
- 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:
- 6 "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"
- 7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.
- 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."
- 9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.
- 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.
- 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.
- 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Epiphany Word Search



Find the 12 words below associated with Epiphany, based on Matthew 2:1-12. Up, down, diagonally, forward or backwards. All words are in a straight line.

Magi	Bethlehem	Child
Star	Messiah	Jesus
King	Appeared	Worship
East	Mary	Gifts

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

Mission Activity

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



“Thank You” to everyone who participated in the Holiday Toy Drive, which benefited the Children's Home Society of Trenton. The church has supported this mission for many years and is always a rewarding experience. Tom Hornak and Theresa Slover are seen above delivering the collected gifts for 20 children.

Red Bird Missionary Conference

Note: We have been collecting the “Labels for Education” that are found on some food items. This has been a tremendous help to the Red Bird Mission. Due to changes in this program, collection of these labels will be stopping in early 2017. The Red Bird Mission is trying to get enough labels collected to purchase a vehicle for their school before this program ends. You will be seeing less and less

of these labels. The UPCs must have the words or symbol “Labels for Education” on them. Please bring in any of these labels that you have so we can send them in as soon as possible. You may continue to bring in any “Labels for Education” until May of 2017.

The “Box Tops for Education” is a totally different program. This program provides the Red Bird Mission with real money for the redemption of the box tops. We will continue to collect them going forward.

The *Red Bird Missionary Conference* 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 of Fellowship Hall.

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

What are you planning to do with the greeting cards you received this year? This mission supports 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.

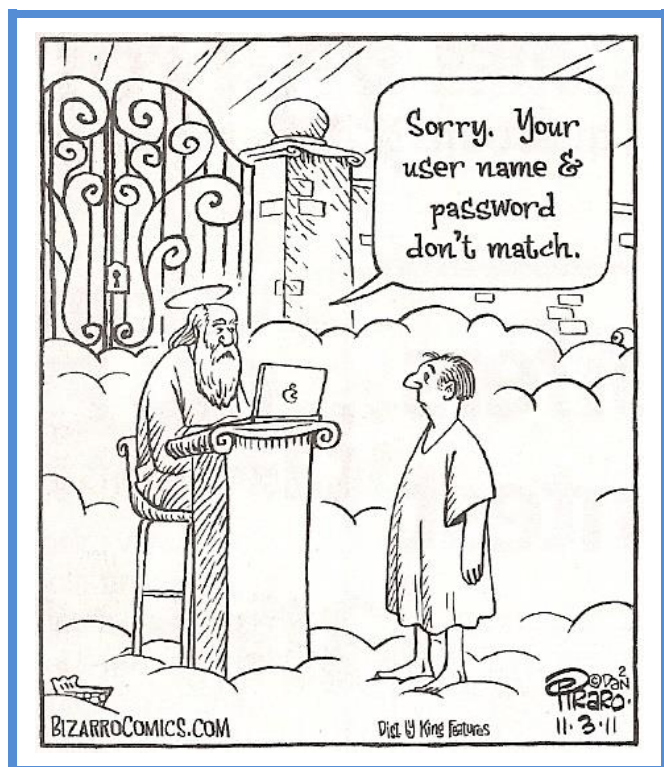
Food Pantry News



The DeBows UMC Food Pantry is open the 2nd & 4th Monday each month from 6-8pm. It serves between 100 and 120 people per month. This past Thanksgiving, 24 families were provided with complete turkey dinners.

The Food pantry is a true beacon of God's love in our community. 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.

A Little Humor



Did You Know?

- ☑ Remember that alert notices such as church event cancellations due to bad weather, will be posted on the church website as needed.
- ☑ WiFi is available in the church. To connect, just follow the instructions found on the bulletin boards inside and outside Fellowship Hall.
- ☑ 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 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.
- ☑ 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.
- ☑ The United Methodist Church, through Discipleship Ministries, is working on a new hymnal. The first of several online surveys is under way to support the development of the new hymnal, which will be a hybrid print/electronic resource for use in multiple contexts. You can be a small part of the planning process by completing an online survey "Favorite & Least Favorite Hymns" between now and Jan.9th. Now's your chance to give your opinion! You can access the online survey at:

<http://sgiz.mobi/s3/Favorite-Hymns-2016>

Hymn Story

We Three Kings

John H. Hopkins Jr. - UMH #254

Though Scripture does not tell us exactly how many wise men journeyed to worship Jesus, this hymn, which focuses on the three gifts Scripture does mention, may be the primary reason for the tradition of three wise men.

The author and composer, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), was an Episcopal Church musician and minister. Following his ordination in 1872, Hopkins served as rector of two parishes: Trinity Church in Plattsburg, New York (1872-1876) and Christ Church in Williamsport, Pennsylvania (1876-1887). Hopkins wrote the carol around 1857, based on the narrative of the journey of the magi in Matthew 2:1-12.

"We Three Kings" was first published in the author's *Carols, Hymns, and Songs* (1863). *United Methodist Hymnal* editor Carlton R. Young makes the following observation: "Because the wealth of USA Appalachian and other folk carols was yet to be discovered, this carol for almost a century was regarded by hymnal editors as the sole USA contribution to the repertory of English language carols."

"We Three Kings" has many features associated with Christmas carols including a refrain, a narrative-ballad style, and a lilting tune in triple meter. With simple naïveté, "We Three Kings" outlines its narrative in a manner with which children might identify. Though in triple rhythm, this is not a dancing tune like many of the more traditional carols, such as "Good Christian friends, rejoice." "We Three Kings" is

usually performed in a more plodding three, giving the feel of the long journey of the magi.

While the actual number of wise men is not important, the imagery of the star is central to the Epiphany season and the narrative. The refrain focuses on the star and invites us to join the magi in following its light—"guide us to thy perfect light."

[Based on an article from UMC Discipleship Ministries]

Training Opportunities

The Capital District will hold its **Back to Basics Leadership Training** on Saturday, January 28, 2017 from 10:00am - 12:00pm at First UMC in Moorestown (446 E Camden Ave, Moorestown, NJ 08057). This training is for people who serve as a member of: Staff Parish Relations Committee, Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, Administrative Board or Council Members, Lay Members and Lay Leaders. The training will cover the best practices for the important work of the committee you serve. It is also a time to share fellowship and ideas with your peers in other congregations. Watch for more details.

Also, the **Basic Lay Servant class for 2017** will most likely occur sometime between February 1st and March 31st. More details will be available by mid-January. Watch the church website for updated information. If you have questions about the Lay Servant Ministry program, you may ask Mark Hayward or Pastor Ernie.