

DeBows Crows

The Monthly Newsletter of DeBows UMC

March 2017

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

Rev. Ernie Williams, Pastor

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The
Season
of
Lent



Ash 
Wednesday

March 1, 2017
Services at
11:00am & 7:00pm

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY **WEDNESDAY** **11:30AM & 7:00PM**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1st. There will be a brief Ash Wednesday Service at 11:00am & 7:00pm on this day, each followed by the first week of our Lenten Bible Study. Please join us for one of these services, even if you do not intend to participate in the Lenten study. Both classes will study the book "Wind in the Wilderness" by DJ del Rosario. Both classes will continue the study for the next 6 Wednesday's at 11:30am & 7:00pm, finishing on April 12th.

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](https://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





MARCH PRAYER LIST

Anthony & Ann Giarratano	Glenn & Elsie Graham
Chris Bitondo	Pat Duncan
Edith Gutwein	Dean Sparling
Karen Hornak	John Manion
Rudy Iannacone	Helen Kramer
Pam Boucher	Janet Kittstein
Rose Teepe	Dylan & Carly Irwin
Kevin Turner	Angela McPherson
Ron Calub	Michelle Chasse
Lynn Giordano	Jim Armstrong
Betty Barrentine	Virginia Lane
Herb Finkenberg	Joyce & Leon Evans
Jimmy Cappadona	Jim (Guy's Friend)
Jamie Gray	Nancy 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 ~

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Welcome to the Family of God

Emma Leah

On Sunday, January 29, 2017, the church celebrated the baptism of Emma Leah Suarez. Emma is the daughter of Robert and Dana Suarez. Dana is the granddaughter of Marilyn Allerton.



Officially, March 17th has been set aside to honor St. Patrick, the 5th century patron saint of Ireland, due to his considerable efforts in establishing the Christian faith in that country. One story says he used the three leaf shamrock to help explain the concept of the Holy Trinity.

For the most part, St. Patrick's Day has become a secular holiday embellished with stories about leprechauns, green beer, rainbows, and pots of gold. Those of Irish decent everywhere celebrate their heritage. Many people of non-Irish decent become Irish for a day and join in the festivities, which often include wearing something green that day.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

Lent is a very special season in the life of the church – a time to slow down – a time to evaluate priorities. Christians have always observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the church to prepare for Easter by a season of penitence, fasting, and prayer. Lent is a season of forty days (excluding Sundays). This became a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for baptism into the body of Christ. It was also the time when persons who committed serious sins, and had been separated from the community of faith, were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the church. The whole congregation is thus reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our baptismal faith.

An unmistakable feature of our lives today is that everyone is "busy" – we deal with overloads of one kind or another daily. The "terror of time" (or lack of it) creates stress in all of us. I was reminded recently of a pioneering space scientist from the 1960's who was deeply involved in the race to put an astronaut on the moon. On his desk he had four trays on his desk in place of the usual "in" and "out" – they were labeled: "Frantic," "Urgent," "Pressing," and "Overdue".

Lent is a time to slow down. Lent is often caricatured in our culture as a time to "give up" something – usually something inane. But Lent is less about "giving up" things, and much more

about being intentional about preparing to receive the gift of God's grace extended to us in the Easter mystery. Let us never forget that essence of Lent is found in its destination – Easter! So Lent is a time to focus on our own growing through repentance, a time to develop and deepen fellowship, a time for more intentional prayer. Our Wednesday morning and evening Study Groups will help us in this regard; all of this as preparation for Easter.

Toward the end of the Lenten season, as we come to Holy Week, we will have an opportunity to combine with one of our neighboring churches, the Emley's Hill UMC. We will join them on Holy Thursday (April 13th) in their building to participate in their worship, and they will join us at DeBows as we celebrate our Good Friday service (April 14th). Let us pray for a strengthening of the bonds of fellowship and mutual support that will flow out of this sharing, and look for God's blessing in this endeavor.


Shalom,

Amie



Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 12th at 2:00 AM. Set your clocks ahead 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday the 11th. Don't be late for Church ☺

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 2017						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Ash Wednesday	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Food Pantry	14	15	16	17 	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Food Pantry	28	29	30	31	

Wednesday, March 1

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

Sunday, March 5

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

Wednesday, March 8

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

Sunday, March 12

DST Begins	2:00am
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, March 13

Food Pantry Open	6:00pm
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Wednesday, March 15

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

Friday, March 17 - Saint Patrick's Day

Sunday, March 19

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

Wednesday, March 22

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

Sunday, March 26

Women's Sunday School	9:00am
One Great Hour of Sharing	
Worship Service & Sunday School	10:00am
Fellowship Time	11:00am
Choir Practice	11:15am

Monday, March 27

Food Pantry Open	6:00pm
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HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

4/9	Palm Sunday	10:00am
4/13	Maundy Thursday (At Emley's Hill UMC)	7:00pm
4/14	Good Friday	7:00pm
4/14	Easter	10:00am



UMCOR SUNDAY

(Formerly One Great Hour of Sharing)

Sunday, March 26, 2017

On Sunday, March 26th we will have a special collection in support of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR is a ministry of The United Methodist Church through the General Board of Global Ministries with a goal to assist the most vulnerable persons affected by crisis or chronic need. UMCOR's work reaches people in more than 80 countries, including the United States and provides humanitarian relief for disasters, health, war, sustainable agriculture, food security, relief supplies, and more.

The monies collected on UMCOR Sunday will help cover the administrative cost of providing the above services and is their only source of funding for this purpose. **This permits UMCOR to spend 100 percent of designated donations on the projects our donors specify.** When UMCOR donors give their time, money, and supplies, they join UMCOR as the hands and feet of Christ.

Thank you for your support of this highly effective ministry. Also, if you are interested, the following link will take you to an article explaining why and how One Great Hour of Sharing was renamed to UMCOR Sunday:

www.umcor.org/umcor/resources/news-stories/2016/may/umcorsunday

LENTEN WORD SEARCH



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

Ashes	Prayer	Jesus
Lent	Sacrifice	Forty
Prepare	Repentance	Fasting
Cross	Confession	Passion

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

ONGOING MISSION ACTIVITY



Red Bird Missionary Conference

Collection of 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 stop in May 2017.

Collection of the “**Box Tops for Education**”, which 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

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.

DeBows UMC Food Pantry

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.

Matthew 25:35

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.

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.

BIBLE VERSE FOR REFLECTION

AND WHAT DOES
THE LORD
REQUIRE OF YOU?

TO ACT JUSTLY
TO LOVE MERCY
TO WALK HUMBLY

WITH YOUR GOD.

MICAH 6:8



Our Music Director, Grayce Armstrong, will begin preparing for the Easter Cantata very soon. Please let Grayce know if you are interested in participating in this very special musical presentation. She would also be interested in hearing from you if you wish to share your musical talent (vocal or instrumental) during the music ministry portion of our services throughout the year. She can be reached at music@debowsumc.org. The entire choir practices at 11:15am each Sunday and solo pieces are practiced on Wednesday nights.

STEWARDSHIP AS WORSHIP

During Lent we often hear or think about the concept of “giving up” something. We tend to think less about “giving of ourselves”; as in Time, Talent, and Treasure.

There are many ways to support the life of the church: volunteering your time, utilizing your God given talents, or giving monetarily. Regardless of the form of the offering, it can be thought of as a form of worship. Many of you have recently received a pledge card and/or letter. We thank you for your faithful response.

While most of the above addresses the week-to-week, month-to-month, and year-to-year participation in the life of the church, another, often overlooked and potentially very impactful form of giving is in the area of estate planning.

You can access links to more information about Estate Planning from the church website menu: Worship\Stewardship as Worship.

A LITTLE LENTEN 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.
- ☑ 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.
- ☑ Large print hymnals are available for those that need them. Just ask an usher.
- ☑ 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.
- ☑ **New website feature** – when you hover the mouse over any bible verse reference in the website text, a box will pop-up showing the entire text of the verse.
- ☑ Driving to DeBows UMC? The DeBows UMC GPS coordinates are:
Latitude: 40.1657445
Longitude: -74.4159201
- ☑ 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 access the Upper Room and other daily devotionals online by visiting **debowsumc.org** and selecting "Daily Devotionals" under the Grow menu item.
- ☑ DeBows UMC sponsors Jackson Boy Scout Troop #2. They have completed two Eagle Scout projects at the church. They have also collected food for our Food Pantry and participated in church clean up days. The troop meets every Tuesday night in Fellowship Hall. We celebrated Scout Sunday on February 12th with leaders and members of Troop #2 present.

ONLINE RESOURCE LINKS

There is a wealth of church related resources and information online. Below are a few links you may want to visit.

BibleGateway Scripture passage lookup & audio
www.biblegateway.com
United Methodist Handbook
www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/unitedmethodist/handbook
Greater New Jersey Conference Website
www.gnjumc.org
Official United Methodist Church Website
www.umc.org
Chuck Knows Church Short videos about church objects, symbols and terms
www.chuckknowschurch.com