

DeBows Crows

The Monthly Newsletter of DeBows UMC

May 2017

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

Rev. Ernie Williams, Pastor

pastor@debowsumc.org - debowsumc.org - facebook.com/debowsumc

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 4

Pasta Dinner

Saturday, May 6

Mother's Day

Sunday, May 14

Memorial Day

Monday, May 29

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. Also, WiFi is available inside the church building.

DeBows Website



DeBows Facebook



On Thursday, May 4, United Methodists join people of all faiths to pray for our community and our nation during the National Day of Prayer. In Jackson, this day is observed with a community prayer service. This service is scheduled for 7:00pm at the Jackson Municipal Building (main room), located at West Veterans Hwy & Don Connor Blvd. Pastor Ernie will participate in this service and encourages members of DeBows UMC to attend.

A little history . . . In 1775 the Continental Congress allocated a time for prayer in forming a new nation. Over the years, there have been calls for a day of prayer, including from President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. On April 17, 1952, President Harry Truman signed a bill proclaiming the National Day of Prayer into law in the United States. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, designating the first Thursday of May each year as the National Day of Prayer.

NEW PASTOR APPOINTED TO DeBows UMC

In April, the church received the news that Pastor Ernie will be appointed to Lumberton UMC and that Rev. Lawrence “Wren” Hillis will be appointed to DeBows UMC. These changes will take place on July 1, 2017. The DeBows UMC Pastoral Transition Team will be working closely with Pastor Ernie and Pastor Wren over the next couple of months to ensure a smooth and effective transition.



Pastor Wren

Rev. Wren Hillis is a United Methodist clergyperson and aspiring religious scholar deeply interested in the transformative power of faith through collective encounter. Originally from the foothills of the Adirondacks in upstate New York’s fertile crescent, Wren has a heart for the land and the complex relationships that our communities have with local economics, labor and food. Trained extensively in the Wesleyan theological tradition at Houghton College and Drew Theological School, Wren draws on his gifts as a musician and artist to cultivate inspiring worship experiences and creative opportunities for Christian Education. Wren lives in Hopewell, NJ with his wife Rev. Kate Hillis, who is also a clergyperson within the GNJ Annual Conference, and their Australian cattle dog, Simba.



Anthony Giarratano	Rylie McKinney
Chris Bitondo	Chase McKinney
Edith Gutwein	Dean Sparling
Karen Hornak	John Manion
Rudy Iannacone	Helen Kramer
Pam Boucher	Janet Kittstein
Mark Jenson (Baby)	Dylan & Carly Irwin
Kevin Turner	Angela McPherson
Ron Calub	Jack McMullen
Lynn Giordano	Jim Armstrong
Betty Barrentine	Jim Cromer
Daniecki Family	Joyce & Leon Evans
Jimmy Cappadona	Kara
Jamie Gray	Family of Bert Pitcher
Laurel Underwood	Barry Odell
Billie Gattis	Pam Mumbulo
George Chin	Pastoral Transition

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 have returned from a brief post-Easter break in Williamsburg, VA. Always an interesting place to be, surrounded by the sheer vitality of the area. But we all know that the region is itself drenched in history. For me the focus is always a lot more on those who made the journey – global adventurers in search of a new world. Certainly we must pause to honor their courage – undaunted as they were by the vast ocean that needed crossing. And what of those who decided to remain on these shores – leaving behind who knows what!! At Jamestown their travail and perseverance are carefully documented. It has become a veritable shrine. The reflective among us are surely humbled by their feat!

But I also understand life is all about perspective. In our Lenten study (*Wind in the Wilderness* by DJ Del Rosario) the final chapter starts off with the author painting a word picture of a man perched near the top of an 80 foot sequoia tree in downtown Seattle. The locals call this the Seattle Christmas tree which has been carefully nurtured since the 70's. When finally he was coaxed out of the tree, everyone was up in arms for different reasons: many were saddened by damage done to the historic tree; some were concerned about tax dollars spent getting him to come down; others wanted justice (there should be consequences). Interestingly, no one seemed concerned about the man's well-being. How we see things in any single moment shapes our response.

In all times of change, (whether in personal struggles with health or familial concerns, or election outcomes, or the change

of a pastor) we can ALL benefit from reviewing not merely the "facts" on the ground, but also our own personal attitude to these events. As many of you have heard me say before, we must all redouble our efforts to listen carefully to others – especially to those who think differently from ourselves. An attitude of "openness" to the other can truly transform what we see and hear, and how we relate to the other.

The author of our Lenten Study was clearly troubled about the community response or, lack of it, to the man in the tree! He wondered about whether people cared more for the tree than for the man. Then he goes on to make this statement:

But in the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus, Christians are challenged to reexamine our priorities and shape them toward justice, first and foremost for vulnerable humans in our midst.

This is excellent advice in all seasons.

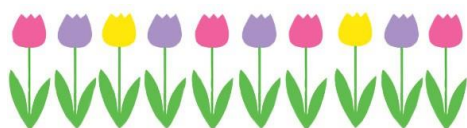
As the time of transition approaches for DeBows, let us develop a good, open perspective. We can help each other celebrate what we have managed to accomplish together during the past almost two years. We can also cultivate an openness to a new pastor, who will work with this congregation bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm as he partners with all of you in ministry. Such a perspective will surely result in a blessing for all of us!

Shalom,



UPCOMING EVENTS

2017 MAY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 National Day of Prayer	5	6 Pasta Dinner
7	8 Food Pantry	9	10	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16 Trustee Meeting	17	18	19	20
21	22 Food Pantry	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31			



Wednesday, May 3

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

Thursday, May 4

National Day of Prayer
Community Prayer Service
7:00pm at Jackson Municipal Building (main room)



Saturday, May 6

Pasta Dinner 5-7pm

Sunday, May 7

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

Monday, May 8

Food Pantry Open 6:00pm

Wednesday, May 10

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

Sunday, May 14 – Mother's Day

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

Tuesday, May 16

Trustee Meeting 7:00pm

Wednesday, May 17

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

Sunday, May 21

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

Monday, May 22

Food Pantry Open 6:00pm

Wednesday, May 24

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

Sunday, May 28

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

Monday, May 29 – Memorial Day

Wednesday, May 31

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

Saturday, June 3 – Church Flea Market

MARK YOUR CALENDAR EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, May 6 – **Community Pasta Dinner** at DeBows. Proceeds will support the ministries of DeBows UMC. Please contact Joy Santillo concerning ways you can volunteer to support this event.

Thursday, May 18 - AARP will conduct a **Driving Safety Program** at Meridian Health Village, located at 27 South Cooks Bridge Road in Jackson, on May 18th from 9:00am to 3:30pm. Cost is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Completing this newly improved course is a great way to refresh your driving skills and could even make you eligible for a discount on your auto insurance. It's a simple way to stay safe and save money. To register call 800-350-7025 or go online at customerservice@aarpdriversafety.org.

May 2017

"RADA KNIVES FUNDRAISER" Catalogs are available on the table outside of Fellowship Hall. These are great knives at great prices. Please give you order to Anita *before and no later than June 4th.* Thank you for your support."

Saturday, June 3 – **Flea Market** at DeBows from 8:00am to 2:00pm. Proceeds will support the ministries of DeBows UMC. Volunteers are needed to manage the church flea market table and food concession. A meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 5/21 after Fellowship Time to plan for this event. Please contact Sue Hayward for more information.

MEMORIAL DAY WORD SEARCH



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

Remembrance	Honor	Parade
Prayers	Flags	Poppy
Sacrifice	Fallen	Freedom
Service	Soldiers	Veteran

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

ONGOING MISSION ACTIVITY



Red Bird Missionary Conference

"LAST CALL" for "LABELS FOR EDUCATION"

This program will be ending this summer. Please bring in any "LABELS FOR EDUCATION" labels you may have **by the end of May**. We need to send whatever we have collected to Red Bird Mission so they may process them before the deadline. Thanks for your faithful support of this mission effort.

We will continue to collect the **"Box Tops for Education"** labels, which is a totally different program from "Labels for Education". This program provides the Red Bird Mission with real money for the redemption of the box tops.

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.

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. Your faithful financial support and donation of food items is greatly appreciated.

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.



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.

COUNSELING CORNER

BY DONNA RIDGE

The Dictionary defines trust as: the firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something.

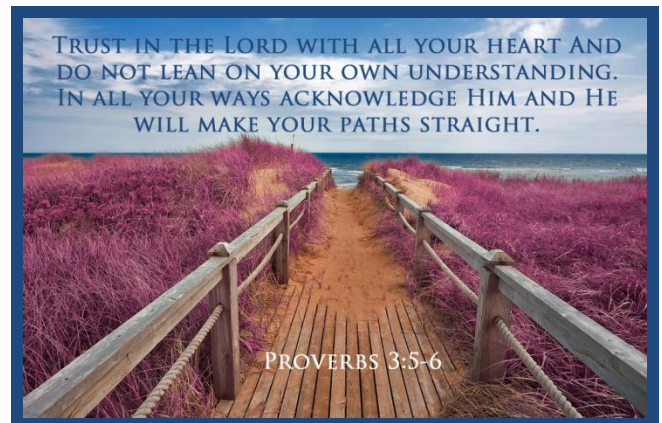
Proverbs 3:5-6 --- Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.

In Genesis 40, we find a story about Joseph, who in jail through no fault of his own. As we know Joseph was an interpreter of dreams. The Bible does not tell us how long Joseph was in prison when he told the baker and the cupbearer the meaning of their dreams. We do know that it was two years before the cupbearer told Pharaoh about Joseph. In those two years, Joseph trusted the Lord and still went about his work with integrity as he waited. He trusted God and in His timing Joseph was released from jail and his dream about his brothers bowing down to him came to pass years later.

There are so many other men and women in the Bible who put their trust in the Lord and He delivered them. We can still trust Him today. Sometimes it may seem as though the road is long and hard, but in the end He keeps His promises.

Abraham, Moses, and David are just a few lives we can look at. Whatever your situation you can be assured God has a plan. The answer may seem delayed or not what we would choose, but keep the faith in the One who is ever faithful.

BIBLE VERSE FOR REFLECTION



SEWING CLASSES TO START AGAIN



We will be starting Sewing Classes again on Saturdays, 10am to noon. This is for beginner sewers who wish to learn to master their sewing machines. This is open to everyone. An initial meeting will be held after worship on May 21 to determine how to proceed. If you have any questions, please call Barbara ([732-446-5639](tel:732-446-5639)) or Anita ([848-373-9304](tel:848-373-9304)). A sign-up sheet is on the table outside of Fellowship Hall.

A MOTHER'S LOVE

BY HELEN STEINER RICE

*A Mother's love is something
that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion
and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish
and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it
or take that love away . . .
It is patient and forgiving
when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters
even though the heart is breaking . . .
It believes beyond believing
when the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty
of the rarest, brightest gems . . .
It is far beyond defining,
it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret
like the mysteries of creation . . .
A many splendored miracle
man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence
of God's tender guiding hand.*



GROCERY STORE SHOPPING CARDS



Every week during Fellowship Time, you have the opportunity to purchase grocery store shopping cards for either Shoprite or Stop & Shop. This is a convenient way to pay for the food you buy at the grocery store and support the ministries of DeBows UMC at the same time. The church makes 5% of all shopping cards sold. This has proven to be an easy and effective fundraising program over the years and the church thanks you for your continued support. You may see Sue Hayward or Marilyn Allerton to purchase the gift cards on any Sunday.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ☒ 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 also reach out to the Pastor via email by using the church website Contact page.
- ☒ Large print hymnals are available for those that need them during worship. Just ask an usher.
- ☒ Past issues of the DeBows UMC monthly newsletter can be downloaded and viewed from the church website under News & Media/Newsletter Archive. Your feedback and/or input for the newsletter is always welcomed and appreciated.