

DeBows Crows

The Monthly Newsletter of DeBows UMC

September 2017

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

Rev. Lawrence "Wren" Hillis, Pastor

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Laity Leadership
Academy

Saturday, September 9

Food Pantry Open
Monday, September
11 & 25

Church Conference
Reports Due
Friday, September 29



In August, our informal, last Sunday of the month Worship Service began with our Bluegrass Band leading the congregation in singing several gospel songs. The band has made a few appearances over the summer and is planning to participate in our worship on a periodic basis going forward. They will share time with our choir, which will resume after Labor Day. Music Director, Grayce Armstrong, is working hard to coordinate all the musical gifts we have in our church family and to accommodate everyone's availability to practice and rehearse. Our musicians and singers put in a lot of time to help provide an inspiring worship experience. Monitor the church website calendar for the most current information concerning practice/rehearsal times. You may contact Grayce at music@debowsunc.org if you have any questions or would like to participate in our music ministry.

DeBows UMC Online



www.debowsunc.org

www.facebook.com/debowsunc

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. The church calendar can be viewed on the church website by clicking on CALENDAR in the main menu. Visit often for the latest information. And do not forget to visit the church Facebook page. You can scan the below QR codes with your smartphone to quickly access DeBows Online.

DeBows Website



DeBows Facebook





September Prayer List

Anthony Giarratano	Jamie Gray
Chris Bitondo	Chase McKinney
Edith Gutwein	Dean Sparling
Jim Cromer	Diane Prusarczyk
Rudy Iannacone	Cindy Ziegler
Pam Boucher	Janet Kittstein
Ruth Hammond	Barry Odell
Susan Turner	Jim Armstrong
Ron Calub	Betty Barrentine
Paul Bartek	Hong (Sparling Friend)
Jennifer Hopkins	All those . . .
. . . were impacted by the flooding from Hurricane Harvey in Texas and everyone that supports the DeBows Food Pantry Ministry.	

NOTE: Please help keep the prayer list current. Inform Pastor Wren when a name should be added or removed from the Prayer List.

~ Thank You ~



THE GNJ DIGEST
The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

The GNJ Digest is the weekly, email newsletter of The Greater New Jersey Conference. It is the easiest way to stay up-to-date on important announcements, upcoming events, messages from Bishop Schol, and conference news. To sign up to receive the GNJ Digest, just go to the below link and provide your email address.

<https://www.gnjumc.org/the-gnj-digest/newsletter-signup/>

Pastoral Transition Status

The Church Town Hall held on Sunday, August 6th went well, with lots of ideas being discussed. We are considering making the Town Hall a quarterly event to help ensure we maintain effective communications among the church membership.

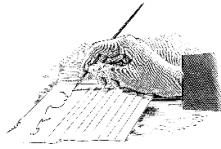
August was filled with committee meetings, as will September, as we prepare the reports and needed paperwork for the upcoming Church Conference on Saturday, October 28th.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee will also be preparing the quarterly assessment report for the Pastoral Transition process. This is due at the end of September.

Eagle Scout Project

You may have recently noticed the new patio behind the church. The patio and the connector walks to it and the existing pergola are the results of an Eagle Scout project. Frank Durkas, from Boy Scout Troop #2, which the church sponsors, completed this project earlier in August. The patio is the 3rd Eagle Scout project completed at the church. The other two were the pergola and the playground area.





Pastoral Address

Dearest Saints of the Church,

What a month! Throughout these past weeks we have been talking about a theme I might simply summarize with the nonexistent word, “enough-ness.” As we have read through the stories and teachings of Jesus recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, we have continually been confronted by a series of interrelated questions: who do we say that Jesus is; what is the Kingdom of Heaven; and are we brave enough to lay-down our pride and self-sufficiency in order to follow this mysterious messiah to destinations unknown.

In our own communities, every day we are confronted with a similar fear – whether explicit or subconscious – that tomorrow we will not have enough to live on, or to support our families, or to realize our long-term dreams. While I do not yet have children of my own, I can resonate with those who worry about the future. Just last week my wife and I were on the phone with our financial planner: reviewing our cash flow, net worth, and debt management plan. When confronted afresh with the sheer size of ‘the student loan mountain’ that we have to scale our natural reaction was, as you might imagine, terror. Immediately Kate started adjusting the budget and cutting our spending in various areas; looking frantically for any extra dime that we might squirrel away towards an added principle payment, or to stash into emergency savings, or to bulk up our pension plan. And all that was good; she was right to do

so, and certainly we (I) could stand to cut back a little bit (a lot) on eating out.

Yet that night, as we spoke and prayed together, I realized that in the long sweep of our strategy for tackling life, we are exactly where we had planned to be. We have remained on track with our financial plans, and we have accomplished every life goal that God has called to. We had deferred various expenses, and defrayed what costs we could, all with the intent to set ourselves up for a successful and faithful future. As we let our perspective widen, recalling the past and reviewing the future, our fear began to recede and our confidence grew. We were reminded that God has provided throughout the past and even now in the present, and our hearts and minds began to settle on the promise that God will continue to do so in the future. For the time being, there is no need for fear because we have enough, and we can continue to trust that tomorrow there will be enough.

Friends, the question of enough-ness arises when we have earned and saved, but never make it to generosity of spirit. Consequently, the increasingly pertinent question for the Church today – whether we are discussing money, power, rights, voice, or any other configuration of values – is whether our conduct demonstrates to everyone who sees us, that our perspective is trained unerringly on Christ and the coming Kingdom. Where it is, I am convinced that we will see people living into the gospel promises of holistic restoration, alternative ways of being in the world, and a pervasive confidence that in the Kingdom, there will always be enough.

Shalom in the Christ,
Rev. Lawrence E. Hillis

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 2017						
3 Outreach Meeting 11:30am	4 Labor Day	5	6 Worship Meeting 7pm	7	8	9 Lay Leadership Academy
10 Finance Meeting 11:30am	11 Food Pantry 6pm	12	13	14	15	16
17 Church Council 11:30am	18	19	20	21	22 Fall Begins	23
24 SPRC Meeting 11:30am	25 Food Pantry 6pm	26	27	28	29	30
SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10AM						

Every Sunday Morning	
Women's Sunday School	9:00 - 9:45 AM
Worship Service	10:00 AM
Fellowship Time	11:00 AM
Music Practice	11:15 – 12:15

Sunday, September 3

Communion	10:00am
Outreach Meeting	11:30am

Wednesday, September 6

Worship Meeting	7:00pm
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Saturday, September 9

Laity Leadership Academy in Neptune	7:45am
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Sunday, September 10

Finance Meeting	11:30am
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Monday, September 11

Food Pantry Open	6:00pm
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Sunday, September 17

Church Council Meeting	11:30am
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Sunday September 24

SPRC Meeting	11:30am
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Thursday, September 22

Autumnal Equinox – 1st Day of Fall

Monday, September 25

Food Pantry Open	6:00pm
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Friday, September 29

Church Conference Reports are due

DeBows UMC Church Conference

Saturday, October 28, 2017

The Greater New Jersey Church Conferences will once again be held *regionally* this year. This means that the Capital, Raritan Valley and Northern Shore districts will all meet, in a staggered schedule, on October 28th in East Brunswick (Calvary Korean Church and Aldersgate...which are next door to each other). The featured speaker is Tony Campolo and all churches will have the opportunity to hear him speak. Each church will have about 45 minutes to conduct the business of their church conference with a presiding elder.

All members of the DeBows congregation are welcome and encouraged to attend the church conference. Please tell Pastor Wren if you intend to go so he can provide an accurate headcount to Conference for planning purposes.

Thank You – to Steve & Joy Santillo for hosting the annual church picnic on Sunday, 8/27. It was well attended with plenty of good food and fellowship. A good time was had by all.



Events & Opportunities

Every Wednesday – 11:30am - 1:00pm

The Wednesday Bible Study class will start on Wednesday, September 13th. The class meets 11:30am – 1:00pm. They will start with a study of the book of Colossians. Prior to the class at 11:15am, there will be prayer time in the Sanctuary for those interested.

Sunday, September 24

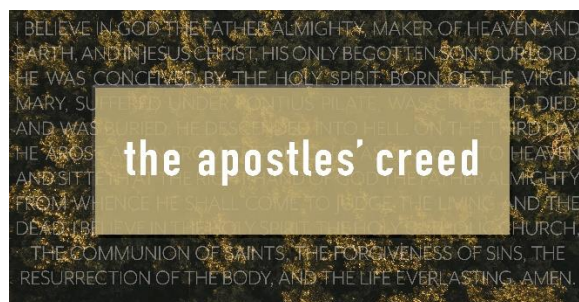
OUTREACH - If you can sew a straight line, you can make a chemo hat for patients undergoing chemotherapy. These hats will hopefully make them look and feel more comfortable and keep them warm with the winter months coming soon. If you wish to help with this project, Anita Chichester, 848-373-9340, will be available, with samples and instructions, during the fellowship time on September 24th. You can work at home at your own pace. If you have any questions, give Anita a call.

GNJ Conference Training Events

Laity Leadership Academy – One-day training workshop on September 9th at the Conference Resource Center in Neptune, NJ. DeBows will be sending several people to this multi-topic training event.

SENT Conference- The Great Commission calls us to go, make disciples, baptize and teach. Learn from a storyteller, changemaker, organizer and theologian on how to be SENT into this world. November 11th at Aldersgate UMC in East Brunswick, NJ. Watch for more information concerning this one-day conference.

Apostles' Creed Word Search



Find the 12 words below associated with The Apostles' Creed. Words can be up, down, diagonally, forward or backwards, and are in a straight line.

Believe	God	Father
Forgiveness	Jesus	Christ
Communion	Lord	Crucified
Resurrection	Holy	Spirit

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

Box Tops for Education



This is a report from the recent mission trip. The Red Bird Conference is in southeastern Kentucky. This area has been struggling with systemic poverty for more than a century. This was a “volunteers’ work camp” trip, attended by 141 volunteers from mostly New Jersey, some New Yorkers and a few Philadelphians. We helped repair 10 homes for people in the area. If my memory is correct, we were told that there is 40% poverty and 10% unemployment in this area. On a tour of the school, it was pointed out that the red lockers the students use were paid for through the “BoxTop” labels collection program. It was good to see how those little labels we collect do so much good; let’s keep it up. This was a tremendous experience which I will gladly do again if I have the stamina and energy and I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

You can view pictures from the Red Bird mission trip on the church website at:

<http://debowsunc.org/red-bird-mission/>

A collection jar and a list of products that carry these box tops are available on the table outside of Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for your support.

~ Anita Chichester

Grocery 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 shopping cards on any Sunday.

DeBows UMC



The Food Pantry is open the 2nd & 4th Monday each month from 6:00-8:00pm. It serves between 100 and 120 people per month and that number is increasing. Your faithful financial support and donation of food items is greatly appreciated.

The DeBows Food Pantry is a tangible and meaningful way we share God’s love with 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



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.

Counselor's Corner

By Donna Ridge

NOTE: This is part 3 of a 6-part series discussing how a person's temperament interacts with the emotion of anger.

This month we will look at the Melancholy in Inclusion concerning anger. Remember "inclusion" means the need to have satisfactory relationships. It also includes a person's intellectual energies. Again, it is based on articles by Phyllis J Arno, PhD.

Melancholies tend to internalize anger. They will "stew" in their anger, oftentimes, thinking of ways to get back. They don't try to downplay their anger. They admit that they are angry to themselves.

Melancholies often play head games and can be very cruel as well as abusive. They can carry a grudge for something they misconstrued that a person said or did. In reality, this may not be true and they will go years without forgiving.

They tend to focus on the negatives that happened to them and they have low self-esteem.

Due to their internalizing their anger, they are affected physically, emotionally, and spiritually. They may suffer from headaches, stomach issues, back pain, or moodiness. They may blame God for everything negative that has ever happened to them. Sometimes they may feel abandoned by Him. There is no room in their hearts for love or forgiveness, because of their anger. They need to look to Jesus as an example of love and forgiveness.

Remember, this is a drop in the bucket when considering the temperament. There is so much to take into consideration, i.e. environment, birth order, personality etc.

No doubt, the Melancholy needs to change with the help of the Holy Spirit to renew their mind through the scriptures.

Scripture Verse:

Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in anywise do evil. For evildoers shall be shut off; but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. Psalm 37:8-9.

See you next month, when I will discuss the Phlegmatic temperament.

Standing in faith,
Donna

Fall Fundraiser



Once again, the church will conduct a Yankee Candle fundraiser. It will start on Sunday, September 3rd. Brochures and order forms will be available on the tables outside of Fellowship hall at that time. Orders are due back no later than Sunday, September 24th. The church will realize 40% of the total sales. Items ordered should be available for pickup by the end of October. Please contact Sue Hayward for more information.

Did You Know?

- ❖ The UMC Interpreter Magazine will cease publication at the end of 2017. You may find the complete announcement discussing this decision at <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/interpreter-to-cease-publication-at-years-end>. You may continue to get the latest UMC news at UMC.ORG and/or GNJUMC.ORG.
- ❖ Past issues of the DeBows UMC monthly newsletter can be downloaded and/or viewed from the church website main menu under NEWS & MEDIA/Newsletter Archive.
- ❖ You can contact the church office at 732-928-4475 and leave a voicemail for Pastor Wren if needed. You can also reach out to the Pastor via email by using the church website Contact page or directly at pastor@debowsumc.org.

- ❖ Online versions of several daily devotionals can be found on the church website by selecting "Daily Devotionals" under the Grow menu item.
- ❖ Sewing classes take place from 10:00am - noon every Saturday. This is for beginner sewers who wish to learn to master their sewing machines. If you have any questions, please call Barbara (732-446-5639) or Anita (848-373-9304). A sign-up sheet is on the table outside of Fellowship Hall.
- ❖ You can contact DeBows UMC by clicking on CONTACT US/Send Us Email from the main menu on the church website. There you can fill-in a form to send email to the Pastor, Music Director, Website Admin, Newsletter Editor, or submit a Prayer Request (goes to Pastor).
- ❖ DeBows UMC celebrated a baptism and welcomed 3 new members in August. Guy Dorian Sr. was baptized and he was welcomed as a member of our church family, along with his wife, Marnie, and daughter, Kirste.

Church Humor

