

# DeBows Crows

The Monthly Newsletter of DeBows UMC

**October 2017**

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

Rev. Lawrence "Wren" Hillis, Pastor  
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Food Pantry Open  
**Monday, October 9 & 23**

Church Conference  
**Saturday, October 28**

Covered Dish Luncheon  
**Sunday, October 29**

## DeBows UMC Online



[www.debowsumc.org](http://www.debowsumc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/debowsumc](https://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. 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



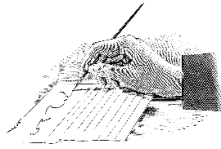
## October Prayer List

Anthony Giarratano	Jamie Gray
Chris Bitondo	Chase McKinney
Edith Gutwein	Dean Sparling
Joann Young	Diane Prusarczyk
Rudy Iannacone	Jon Brysceynski
Pam Boucher	Janet Kittstein
Ruth Hammond	Barry Odell
Susan Turner	Jim Armstrong
Ron Calub	Betty Barrentine
Paul Bartek	Hong (Sparling Friend)
Carol Ehlers	Joan Macrina
Kara	Jennifer Hopkins
The Spivey Family	The Hornak Family

All those that were impacted by the recent series of hurricanes and the earthquake in Mexico.

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 ~



## Pastoral Address

Dearest Saints of the Church,

All throughout the summer, I had been dreaming of cooler weather, eying the thermostat and thinking, “It’s okay to set the AC to 65, right?” Now that the season has finally changed though, I find myself writing to you while bundled up in a heavy coat. It baffles me that something which is contextual and essentially relative – how we perceive the same mid 60s temperature as either bone-cold or balmy – can have a very real impact on our sense of wellbeing. (Have you ever met someone with “seasonal affective disorder?”) As the leaves turn and begin to fall, I am drawn towards meditations on change and the anticipation of colder times. Still, I will head out into the yard sometime today to mow, in a vain attempt to reclaim the summer even as a fresh wash of desultory leaves drifts down to cover over the wake of my passing.

September is an interesting time in the cycle of the Methodist church. As pastoral transitions settle down across New Jersey, church leaders begin to compile yearly reports and our paperwork for the annual Church Conference. It is a time to reflect on where we have been as a community, and what we have done throughout the year. Ultimately, and this is the most difficult part, September is a time to examine what elements of our communal life together of which we must let go. Which programs and projects must be allowed to lose their verdancy and fall – like the leaves outside

my window – to make room for new life, new vitality, and new verdancy come the Spring.

So we encounter a hard truth about ministry: we are not capable of doing everything well and at all times. Nor are we called to, and so each year we must make a selection. Similarly frustrating, the exciting ministries which have worked in the past are not always equipped to succeed in the present, let alone the future. Programs which have blossomed yesteryear often turn out to be annuals instead of perennials. So, each year we are forced to go back to the Great Gardener and ask for fresh seed, a new cutting, perhaps even a grafting if we prefer to wax theological. (Rom. 11) Autumn is a time when we are called on to continually look ahead to the new ways and places that God is moving in our families, in our church, and in our community.

A similar inspiration has threaded its way through our weekly ruminations on the Scriptures. Throughout the past month, we have returned our attention to the parables as the lectionary carries us through the Gospel of Matthew, touching down here and there on Jesus’ more esoteric sayings. While most of us who have grown up in the Church have a solid understanding of the traditional interpretation of these stories, I am convicted that we must struggle with these tales from a different trajectory. To evoke yet again the wisdom of biblical scholar C. H. Dodd:

*“At its simplest, the parable is a metaphor or simile drawn from nature or common life, arresting the hearer by its vividness or strangeness, and leaving the mind in sufficient doubt about its precise application to tease it into active thought.”*


Friends, what happens to the spiritual power of a parable when we have grown so comfortable in the “same old, same old” story that it no longer “arrests the hearer by its vividness or strangeness?” What are we to do when we have become so sure of Jesus’ words that they do not “leave the mind in sufficient doubt as to its precise application?” What is at stake when our minds are no longer “teased into active thought?” Perhaps we lose a certain openness to the fresh promises which God has waiting for us.

The spiritual life is one which must be lived seasonally, permeated by all of the cycles of nature. Faithful life does not inure us from change; we still wax and wane between joy and depression, brightness and darkness, warmth and cold, generosity and self-centeredness, faith and doubt, hope and despair. The notion that we might be able to pause our spiritual cycle in the perfection of warm summer days is pleasant, but an ultimately vain dream. For as we all know: life moves inexorably onwards. Summer fades. Fall arrives. Winter looms. My prayer for this season is that we will find the strength of heart and spirit to keep our eyes fixed on the promises of resurrection heralded by Spring.

Shalom in the Christ,  
Rev. Lawrence E. Hillis



## Events & Opportunities



mark your calendar!

### Every Wednesday – 11:30am - 1:00pm

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study meets on Wednesdays from 11:30am – 1:00pm. They are currently studying the book of Colossians. Prior to the class at 11:15am, there will be prayer time in the Sanctuary for those interested.

### Every Tuesday Night – 5:30 PM

**Choir Practice** – The choir will practice every Tuesday night at 5:30pm. Check the church calendar online for schedule exceptions.

### Every Friday Night – 6:00 PM

**Band Practice** – The band will practice every Friday night at 6:00pm. Check the church calendar online for schedule exceptions.

### Sunday, October 29


**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Covered Dish Luncheon** - This is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in October and per our custom we will enjoy a covered dish luncheon in Fellowship Hall after the worship service. Please join us for lots of good food and fellowship.

### Saturday, November 11

#### **SENT Conference – One Day Workshop**

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 11<sup>th</sup> at Aldersgate UMC in East Brunswick, NJ. Watch for more information concerning this one-day conference.

## Upcoming Events

October 2017						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 World Communion Sunday	2	3 Trustee Meeting	4	5	6	7 DeBows Goes Hiking
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 Church Conference
29 5th Sunday Covered Dish	30	31 	Sunday Worship 10 AM			

**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, October 1**  
Communion 10:00am
- Tuesday, October 3**  
Trustee Meeting 7:00pm
- Saturday, October 7**  
Hike at Monmouth Battlefield State Park 2:00pm
- Monday, October 9**  
Food Pantry Open 6:00pm
- Monday, October 23**  
Food Pantry Open 6:00pm
- Saturday, October 28**  
Church Conference 1:45pm
- Sunday, October 29**  
Reformation Sunday  
5th Sunday Covered Dish Luncheon

## DeBows UMC Church Conference

**Saturday, October 28, 2017**  
**Calvary Korean UMC**  
**572 Ryders Lane**  
**East Brunswick, NJ 08816**  
**1:45 - 4:45 PM**

- 1:45 - 2:00 PM**  
**Gathering & Refreshments**
- 2:00 - 2:45 PM**  
**DeBows Church Conference**
- 3:00 - 4:45 PM**  
**Worship & Plenary Session**  
**with Tony Campolo**

The Greater New Jersey Church Conferences are regional and the Capital, Raritan Valley and Northern Shore districts will all meet on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> in East Brunswick at Calvary Korean Church, which is next door to Aldersgate UMC. The featured speaker is Tony Campolo and all churches will have the opportunity to hear him speak. Each church will conduct the business of their individual church conference with a presiding elder.

All members of the DeBows congregation are welcome and encouraged to attend the church conference. Please use the posted sign-up sheet to let Pastor Wren know if you intend to go so he can provide an accurate headcount to Conference for planning purposes.

# Autumn Word Search



Find the 12 words below associated with the season of Autumn. Words can be up, down, diagonally, forward or backwards, and are in a straight line.

<b>Fall</b>	<b>Leaves</b>	<b>Color</b>
<b>Apples</b>	<b>Mums</b>	<b>Cider</b>
<b>Pumpkins</b>	<b>Rake</b>	<b>School</b>
<b>Hayride</b>	<b>Halloween</b>	<b>Sweater</b>

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

## Did You Know?

- ❖ 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/>
- ❖ 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).
- ❖ On October 31st, much of America will celebrate Halloween. Consumer spending for this holiday is second only to Christmas. But for Protestants worldwide, October 31st has a far greater meaning. On this date in 1517, Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk who increasingly found himself at odds with many of the teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church, posted his 95 Theses (complaints) on the door of the Cathedral of Wittenberg in Germany. This effectively launched the Protestant Reformation. In our church calendar, October 31st is known as Reformation Day and the Sunday before or on this date is known as Reformation Sunday.

## Hands-On Mission Work

### Box Tops for Education for Red Bird Mission

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 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 box tops are available on the table outside of Fellowship Hall.

### Recyclable Greeting Cards for St. Jude's

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.

### UMCOR Hygiene Kits

With so many disasters happening in such a short time, UMCOR has a great need for Hygiene Kits. Can you imagine losing your home and everything you possess and not being able to brush your teeth or wash the dirt off your face. That's what so many going through these disasters are going through now. A box for

completed kits and instructions on how to make them is outside of Fellowship Hall. The *quicker we can get them sent off, the faster the people can be helped*. Let's fill that box! If you cannot make a kit, but wish to donate, make your check payable to the church with UMCOR/kits in the memo spot. Detailed information about UMCOR hygiene kits can be found online at <http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies/Relief-Supply-Kits/hygiene>.

### Chemo Hats

Frequently, patients undergoing chemotherapy lose their hair. With winter coming on and in an effort to make these patients comfortable, we will be making chemo hats. Anyone who has a serger or a zigzag sewing machine can make these hats. They are not difficult to make. For more information and instructions, you can talk to Anita at 848-373-9304. Finished hats can be placed in the box outside of Fellowship Hall.

### DeBows UMC



The Food Pantry is open the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month from 6:00-8:00pm. It serves between 100 and 130 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.

# Current Fundraising Opportunities

## 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.

## Fall Rada Knives Fundraiser



New catalogs are on the table outside of Fellowship Hall. Please take one and give to your relatives, friends and neighbors. These are great knives and quite inexpensive. Once you have used them you will want more. Deadline for orders is Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup>. Delivery is within two weeks. See Anita Chichester for more information.

●●● New ●●●

## Scrip Gift Card Program

**What is Scrip Fundraising?** It is very much like our existing Grocery Card program, but with a much wider selection of retailers and categories. You purchase gift cards at face value to do your everyday shopping (or to give as gifts) and the church will realize a percentage of the total amount.

The complete list of retailers can be seen on the order forms located on the church sign-up table. The church places periodic bulk orders with the Great Lake Scrip Center. All order forms and checks should be given to Dena Kaiser for processing. All checks should be made out to "DeBows UMC". Gift cards will be available for pick up 2-3 weeks from the time they are ordered.

There is a wide range of retailer categories available, including Gas Stations, Restaurants, Apparel, Home Improvement, Online Shopping, Movies, and more. Please note that Shoprite and Stop & Shop grocery cards should continue to be bought directly from Sue Hayward. For these grocery cards, we realize a higher percentage rebate than with Scrips and turn around time is much less.

DeBows will be placing its first bulk order on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please give all completed forms and checks to Dena by that date. So, check out the order form to see the places you shop at anyway or would buy a gift card for someone for the upcoming holiday season. Dena can be reached at 732-833-9363 or [theluckyone@verizon.net](mailto:theluckyone@verizon.net) Thank you for your support.

# Counselor's Corner

By Donna Ridge

**NOTE: This is part 4 of a 6-part series discussing how a person's temperament interacts with the emotion of anger.**

Just a reminder as we continue the series on anger in Temperament, "inclusion" means the desire to maintain surface relationships and social relationships.

This month we will discuss the Phlegmatic temperament. Previously, we have looked at the Choleric and Melancholy temperament in relationship to anger. Unlike the previous temperaments, the Phlegmatic does not show a lot of anger. If they are angry, they tend to minimize or ignore it because they simply don't want to deal with it.

When a Phlegmatic feel pressured into doing something, they do not want to do, he/she will not budge. To deal with the situation, they will most likely use their humor and wit to deflect the demands of others. Everyday life drains them. They just want to deal with what they must on any given day and don't have energy to waste on anger. As with the other temperaments, they are affected physically, emotionally, and spirituality. --- Physically, they will try to have others handle a situation or try to come to a peaceful agreement. They tend to sit and eat rather than use their energy, which leads to heart problem, high blood pressure, etc. --- Emotionally, they are not easily ruffled, because they don't express emotion as a rule. --- Spirituality, the Phlegmatic would rather rest than spend time praying or studying the Scriptures.

Phlegmatics do not experience stress caused by anger since they don't even deal with it. If they do experience stress they will deal with it by sleeping or eating in excess.

Scriptures for this month:

*The Lord will give strength unto His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.*

PSALM 29:11

*The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore, my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song I will praise Him.*

PSALM 28:7

Standing in faith,  
Donna



As we begin the Fall season, our worship services have started to take on a certain rhythm and the music ministry has adapted accordingly. The choir will sing on the first & third Sunday of each month during the Offertory. The band will lead the congregation in singing during the casual worship service on the fourth Sunday of each month. The Introit and other Sundays will be covered by Grayce, soloists, and members of the band per their availability.

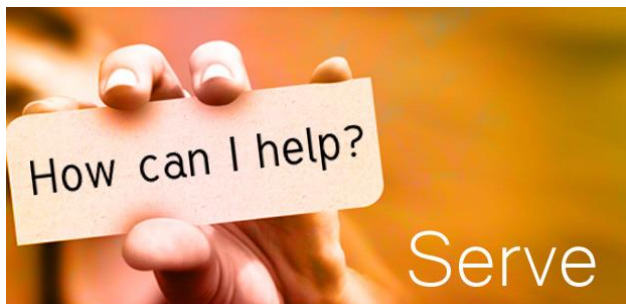
The choir will practice on Tuesday nights at 5:30 PM and the band will practice on Friday nights at 6:00 PM. There will also be time after each worship service at 11:15 AM for anyone that would like to rehearse with Grayce. Grayce will be announcing plans for the Christmas Cantata soon for those that may be interested in participating. You may contact Grayce at [music@debowsumc.org](mailto:music@debowsumc.org) if you have any questions or would like to participate in our music ministry.



## Pastoral Transition Status

September was another busy month, which not only concluded a summer full of activity, but also the first 3 months of the transition process with Pastor Wren. Per the process, the SPRC submitted the first quarterly transition check-in evaluation report to Conference.

Also, committee chairs and their respective committees were busy preparing all the various reports needed for the upcoming Church Conference on October 28<sup>th</sup>. They were all completed and submitted by the September 29<sup>th</sup> deadline. Thank you to everyone for their due diligence in completing this very important annual administrative process.



**Fellowship Time** – this is our weekly time of informal gathering to greet each other and visitors. During this time, we share conversation and light refreshments. It is conducted immediately after the Sunday morning worship service. If you would like to host Fellowship Time on any given week, please see the sign-up sheet outside of Fellowship Hall.

**Lay Reader or Usher** – if you are interested in participating in the worship service as either a Lay Reader or Usher, please speak with Pastor Wren or Guy Raymond.

●●● New ●●●

## New Small Group Activity

~ DeBows Walkabouts ~



Our resident trail-guides, Wayne and Peggy Ervin, will kick-start our new hiking small group by taking us on an adventure in Monmouth Battlefield State Park. Come join us as we enjoy the early fall weather and the changing season!

The date is Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> for our first hike as a church. People interested in this activity should meet at the church at 2:00pm, and from there we will carpool over to Monmouth Battlefield State Park. Restrooms are available in the visitor's center. The actual hike will start about 3:00pm and will be about 3 miles in length. Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> after church will be the rain date.

This will be an active group and future events will be scheduled. Events will include a variety of nature walks and hikes that are open to family members of all ages.

So, find a comfortable pair of walking shoes and join us as we explore God's creation and gets some exercise. Be ready to experience nature and don't forget to bring your camera and a bottle of water.

## A Few Words About Saint Francis of Assisi



St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) is one of Christendom's most beloved historical figures. Born Giovanni Bernardone, he became an Italian monk at the age of 25, leaving behind the life of a well-to-do soldier and began to live a humble life dedicated to imitating the selfless life of Christ. He is best remembered as a gentle and compassionate man who was a lover of nature and someone who saw the hand of God in all creation, and he urged people to respond with expressions of praise and alleluia.

St. Francis would often be found praying wherever there were trees, fields, open sky, and his friends the animals. He also loved music and encouraged singing in his monastery, writing more than 60 hymns for just that purpose. One of his most enduring hymns is "All Creatures of Our God and King", echoing his deep reverence for all of God's creation.

In the Catholic Church there is an official Feast Day for Saint Francis on October 4th. This is why churches quite often conduct Pet Blessings early in October; to honor St. Francis' love of animals.

## Looking Ahead to November

Below are some upcoming special days/events scheduled in November. Visit the church website for the latest details as more information becomes available.

**October 29 – November 19**

**Gertrude Hawk Candy Fundraiser**

**Sunday, November 5**

**Daylight Savings Times Ends at 2:00 AM  
All Saints Sunday**

**Saturday, November 11**

**SENT – One Day Conference**

**Sunday, November 12**

**SPRC Meeting at 11:30 AM**

**Monday, November 13**

**Food Pantry Open**

**Sunday, November 19**

**Community Thanksgiving Service  
Exact time & place TBD**

**Thursday, November 23**

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

**Monday, November 27**

**Food Pantry Open**

**Tuesday, November 29**

**#GivingTuesday**

**Watch for more details next month**

