

# DeBows Crows

The Monthly Newsletter of DeBows UMC

**December 2017**

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

Rev. Lawrence "Wren" Hillis, Pastor

[pastor@debowsumc.org](mailto:pastor@debowsumc.org) - [debowsumc.org](http://debowsumc.org) - [facebook.com/debowsumc](https://facebook.com/debowsumc)

For  
Unto us a  
**CHILD**  
is born  
Unto us a Son  
is given, and the  
Government shall be  
Upon His shoulders,  
and His Name shall be called,  
Wonderful, Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace!  
Isaiah 9:6

## December Worship



**Sunday, December 3 – 10AM**

1st Sunday of Advent - Wait  
Chrismon Tree - Communion

**Sunday, December 10 - 10AM**

2nd Sunday of Advent - Watch

**Sunday, December 17 - 10AM**

3rd Sunday of Advent - Prepare

**Sunday, December 24 -10AM**

4th Sunday of Advent - Praise  
Christmas Cantata

**Sunday, December 24 - 6:00PM**

Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
~ Proclaim ~



## Advent Bible Study

Pastor Wren will lead an Advent Bible Study focused on Matthew's account of the birth narrative. Join us for this Intergenerational study; ages 12+ and up. Four Sunday classes; December 3, 10, 17 & 24 from 8:45am-9:45am in Fellowship Hall. You just need to bring your bible.

## Christmas Cantata

Our Music Director, Grayce Armstrong has been working hard rehearsing the Christmas Cantata with members of the choir and other volunteers. This year's Cantata will provide several opportunities for the congregation to join in the singing. The Christmas Cantata will be presented during the 10:00AM worship service on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for this very special service.

Also, as we look toward 2018, if you have a favorite hymn you would like to hear during worship, please let Grayce know and she will try to place it appropriately in a future service. If there are enough requests, we may consider doing a hymn sing event.

## December Prayer List



Anthony Giarratano	Jamie Gray
Chris Bitondo	Chase McKinney
Edith Gutwein	Dean Sparling
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)
Patrick Poyda	Joan Macrina
Jackie Zimmerman	The Hornak Family
The Ministries of DeBows UMC	

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 ~



## 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. Visit often for the latest information.

**DeBows Website**



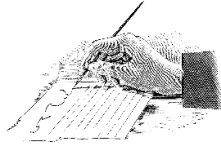
**DeBows Facebook**



## DeBows Pathfinders

Members of the DeBows Pathfinders take a break and pose for a picture during their hike at Sourland Mountain Preserve in Hillsborough Township on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Watch for information concerning their next hiking event. Picture taken by Roger Cregle.





## Pastoral Address

Dearest Saints of the Church,

I write to you this month with deep gratitude in my heart for all the ways in which you as a community have responded to our stewardship campaign. I am so thankful for your willingness to participate in our nascent SCRIP program, or choosing to buy an extra grocery card each month; or choosing to give online giving a chance; or even filling out a pledge card for 2018. While these are only the first steps on our road to fiscal health as a church, they have already borne incredibly gracious fruit and are working to help us close the gap in our budget for this year. I'm extraordinarily proud of how you have stepped up and responded this month!

We as a leadership team know that finance is a tough subject to discuss in church and I appreciate your forbearance throughout this month as we fumbled along. For many small churches, keeping the doors open has been increasingly difficult in recent years. Hopefully our efforts have led you to a deeper appreciate of all of the ways in which DeBows UMC supports this community, and all of the ways you in turn make the mission and ministries of this church possible with your time, talents, offerings, and prayers. Let's finish this year strong and develop some healthy fiscal habits for 2018 as we march into the future with The Rhythm of Commitment!

Thinking towards the coming advent season, I would also like to remind you that (due to popular request) we will be holding an Intergenerational Advent Bible Study on Sunday mornings from 8:45am to 9:45am. I am looking forward to finally seeing you all in the classroom and learning with you about how the Gospel of Matthew portrays the birth narrative. We will be meeting in the fellowship hall in order to make this group as accessible as possible to all of our friends and members. This will be a wonderful opportunity to encounter the text and each other in new and meaningful ways as we prepare for Christmas.

Finally, I would like to challenge you this advent season to consider inviting a friend to join us in worship throughout December. Now that the sports season is temporarily concluded many folks are turning their hearts and minds towards the holiday season. We have an opportunity to make an impact on those who might not normally consider stopping by for a visit. It is my hope that we can do our best to put our collective "best foot forward" throughout this wonderful season and reach out to this community in a meaningful way. I am increasingly confident that something special is occurring in our sanctuary; this congregation has something wonderful to offer Jackson and the surrounding region: a family of grace, generosity, and love.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Lawrence E. Hillis



# Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>December 2017</b>					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Food Pantry	12	13	14	15	16 Christmas Coffee House
17	18 Food Pantry	19	20	21	22	23
24 Cantata Candle- light Service	25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28	29	30
31 5th Sunday Luncheon	Wait ~ Watch ~ Prepare ~ Praise ~ Proclaim					

## Sunday, December 3

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Advent Bible Study	8:45am
Worship Service	10:00am
Fellowship Time	11:00am
Choir Practice	11:15am

## Tuesday, December 5

Trustee Meeting	7:00pm
-----------------	--------

## Wednesday, December 6

Bible Study	11:30am
-------------	---------

## Friday, December 8

Band Practice	6:00pm
---------------	--------

## Saturday, December 9

Charlie Zahm Xmas Concert at Allentown 1 <sup>st</sup> Baptist Church	1:30pm
Living Nativity at Jackson UMC	7:00pm

## Sunday, December 10

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Advent Bible Study	8:45am
Worship Service	10:00am
Fellowship Time	11:00am
Choir Practice	11:15am
Finance Meeting	11:30am

## Monday, December 11

Food Pantry Open	6:00pm
------------------	--------

## Wednesday, December 13

Bible Study	11:30am
-------------	---------

## Friday, December 15

Band Practice	6:00pm
---------------	--------

## Saturday, December 16

Christmas Coffee House	5:00pm
------------------------	--------

## Sunday, December 17

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Advent Bible Study	8:45am
Worship Service	10:00am
Fellowship Time	11:00am
Choir Practice	11:15am
Church Council Meeting	11:30am

## Monday, December 18

Food Pantry Open	6:00pm
------------------	--------

## Friday, December 22

Band Practice	6:00pm
---------------	--------

## Sunday, December 24

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Advent Bible Study	8:45am
Worship Service	10:00am
w/Christmas Cantata	11:00am
Fellowship Time	11:00am
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	6:00pm

## Monday, December 25

Merry Christmas

## Sunday, December 31

5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	11:00am
Covered Dish Luncheon	







You're Invited! DeBows UMC will host a Christmas Coffee House on Saturday, December 16th starting at 5:00pm. There will be musical performers, hot chocolate/cider, Christmas cookies, a soup/chili cookoff, and singing of Christmas carols. Everyone is welcome to take a short break from their hectic holiday schedules and come join us for some Christmas cheer.

There will be sign-up sheets at the church for those that would like to participate, bring food items, or otherwise support the Christmas Coffee House. You may contact Guy at [guysr55@gmail.com](mailto:guysr55@gmail.com) or 732-644-8091 if you have any questions or need more information.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

"Thank You" to all the ladies who have contributed prayer shawls. Some of the feedback from recipients includes: The shawls "bring comfort and peace", "It's good to know others care", and the shawls "lifts their faith". Keep up the good work as we share the love of Christ. Each shawl is presented as coming from DeBows UMC with a card that reads:

*This shawl has been in our worship service and heard the prayers and messages. It now comes to you to give you the warmth, comfort, security, peace, and hope all wrapped up in love.*

## Christmas Word Search



Find the 12 words below associated with the Christmas story found in Luke 2:1-12. Words can go up, down, diagonally, forward or backwards. All words are in a straight line.

Christ	Shepherds	Lord
Angel	Manger	Mary
Joseph	Bethlehem	Joy
Savior	Flocks	Birth

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

# Mission Activity

## 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. More detailed information about the 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.

## Bag-of-Thanks

In support of our Food Pantry, please note the available brown Bag of Thanks, along with a list of suggested food items. These items are needed to restock our shelves during this busy time of year. Filled bags can be brought to the church any time during December and can be placed on the Fellowship Hall stage. Thank you for your continued support of our Food Pantry ministry.

## Holiday Gift Drive



DeBows is once again participating in the Holiday Gift Drive in support of the Children's

Home Society of Trenton. People who selected a child from the provided list need to place the gifts in a shopping bag (unwrapped) and bring them to church by Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. They will be delivered to the Children's Home Society during the following week. Tom Hornak is coordinating this activity.

### DeBows UMC Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is open the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month from 6:00-8:00pm. Your continued 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.

For Thanksgiving, we provided 34 families with complete turkey dinners. Pictures showing distribution preparation can be seen below.



## Hymn Story

### Hark! the Herald Angels Sing Charles Wesley - UMH #240

Christmas carols as we know them were banned by the English Puritan parliament in 1627 because they were seen as a form of a "worldly festival", which they considered the celebration of Christmas to be. Therefore, there was a scarcity of Christmas hymns and carols during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. Charles Wesley's "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" was one of the few written during this period.

While Charles Wesley is responsible for the rich theology found in the hymn, the version that has become one of the most popular Christmas hymns was the result of a little, mostly unwanted on Wesley's part, help from others. When Charles Wesley first wrote this hymn for a Christmas Day service in 1739, he arranged the lines of the song differently, had slightly different lyrics, and wanted it played to slow, solemn music. A few years later, in 1753, Wesley's friend, George Whitfield, changed a few of the beginning words from Wesley's original, "Hark, how the welkin (vault of heaven) rings, Glory to the King of kings" to the now famous words, "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, Glory to the newborn King." He further cut the last two verses which few people now include in the song. The pattern was also changed from ten, four-line verses to eight-line verses with a chorus.

In 1840 Felix Mendelssohn wrote a cantata in honor of the anniversary of the invention of the Gutenberg printing press. In 1856, organist Dr. William Cummings adapted Mendelssohn's

tune to use with this hymn. This became the tune we are all familiar with today.

Even though Charles Wesley probably did not approve of the changes made by Whitfield and the new tune changes made much later, we have been blessed by the final result. The hymn "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" has become a Christmas standard and reminds us that Jesus, the "newborn King", is the "Prince of Peace", "Everlasting Lord", "Incarnate Deity", and "Emmanuel" — "God with us."

## Counselor's Corner

By Donna Ridge

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

This ends the series about how the temperament "in inclusion" acts when angry. I would like to remind us that there is no excuse for any kind of abuse. Please don't think that being of a certain temperament excuses bad behavior.

The last temperament that I'm going to discuss is the Supine. Those of you who may be familiar with the temperament may say you never heard of it. The Arm of Sarasota Christian Academy have added this temperament.

Supine's could be described as doormats. In other words, they allow people to walk all over them. They are the people who can't say no and are very personable and charming. All the while, they are keeping account of what others have done to them. In this way they internalize their anger.

They will never make "waves", because of their NEED to be accepted. They will not admit to being angry, but rather say their feeling are hurt.

Supine's also externalize their anger after a long period of time and suddenly explode, expressing their anger verbally or physically. To avoid these explosive episodes, they need to learn to admit their anger.

Physically the Supine may suffer with stomach aches, headaches, ulcers, etc. Emotionally they will withdraw and dwell on their hurt feelings. They may cry a lot. Crying is a way to release the pent-up anger. Spirituality, because they are so caught up with their "hurt feelings", they may feel that even God has forsaken them. They need to pour their hearts out to Him. He is always there to listen.

Scriptures:

*When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you;  
and when you pass through the rivers,  
they will not sweep over you.  
When you walk through the fire,  
you will not be burned;  
the flames will not set you ablaze.  
For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.*

Isaiah 43: 2,3a

*We demolish arguments and every pretension  
that sets itself up against the knowledge of  
God, and we take captive every thought to  
make it obedient to Christ.*

II Corinthians 10:5

Standing in faith,  
Donna



# Fundraising Programs

## 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. You may see Sue Hayward or Marilyn Allerton to purchase the shopping cards on any Sunday.

## 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. 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 Scrip and turn around time is much less.

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”. So, check out the order form to see the places you shop at anyway and prepare for the next bulk order date, which will be posted soon. Dena can be reached at 732-833-9363 or [theluckyone@verizon.net](mailto:theluckyone@verizon.net).

## Online Giving

As we enter into the season of Advent we invite you to support the ministries and programs of DeBows UMC by using our online giving option found on the church website at [www.debowsumc.org](http://www.debowsumc.org).

Just click on the “Online Giving” button found in the church website footer. This will permit you to donate online using the church’s secure PayPal account and your credit card. You do not need to have a personal PayPal account to participate. As always, donations to the church are tax deductible and will be reflected in your year-end giving statement from DeBows UMC.

For your reference, this is what the “Online Giving” button looks like on the church website.



While this feature is a permanent part of the church web site and is available all year long, we encourage you to participate on #GivingTuesday (November 28<sup>th</sup>) or any time during Advent.

## Did You Know?

- ★ As winter approaches, remember that alert notices such as church event cancellations due to bad weather, will be posted on the church website as needed.
- ★ Past issues of the DeBows UMC monthly newsletter can be downloaded and viewed from the church website under News & Media/Newsletter Archive.
- ★ WiFi is available in the church. To connect, just follow the instructions found on the bulletin boards inside and outside Fellowship Hall.
- ★ Christmas is more than just one day. The Twelve Days of Christmas, or Christmastide, starts on Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup> and ends on January 5<sup>th</sup>. This is followed by the Epiphany of the Lord, which is celebrated on January 6<sup>th</sup> to commemorate the visit of the Magi (wise men) to see the Christ child. Epiphany Sunday is observed on January 7, 2018.
- ★ A new church Liturgical Year begins on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the start of Advent. We are now following Year B in the Common Revised Lectionary.
- ★ 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/>
- ★ Online versions of several daily devotionals can be found on the church website by selecting “Daily Devotionals” under the Grow menu item.
- ★ 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 the Pastor).
- ★ Popular balladeer, Charlie Zalm, will be at First Baptist Church in Allentown on Saturday, December 9th at 1:30 PM. He will be performing a free Celtic Christmas Concert, along with fiddler, Tad Marks.

## Thank You

The Church Council would like to offer a heartfelt “Thank You” to both Pastor Ernie & Pastor Wren, Trustees, Ministry Committees, and church members for their faithful support and hard work during this past year. It has been a very eventful year, filled with pastoral transition and church improvement projects. As a church, we have gracefully embraced this change and have continued to strengthened the foundation on which to build the church God calls us to be. As 2017 winds down, we should all take time to reflect and be encouraged for the journey ahead.

