

DeBows Crows

The Monthly Newsletter of DeBows UMC

January 2018

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

Rev. Lawrence "Wren" Hillis, Pastor
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Happy New Year



DeBows UMC Online

www.debowsumc.org

www.facebook.com/debowsumc

Visit often for the latest information concerning schedules, events & activities, current blog posts, alert notices, and general information about the church.

DeBows Website



DeBows Facebook



January Prayer List



Anthony Giarratano	Jamie Gray
Chris Bitondo	Chase McKinney
Edith Gutwein	Dean Sparling
Rudy Iannacone	Jon Brysceynski
Jane Mills	Janet Kittstein
Ruth Hammond	Barry Odell
Susan Turner	Jim Armstrong
Ron Calub	Betty Barrentine
Paul Bartek	Faith Tyler
Patrick Poyda	Joan Macrina
Jackie Zimmerman	The Hornak Family
The Ministries of DeBows UMC	

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

Thank You



Our Music Director, Grayce Armstrong, would like to thank all those that participated in this year's Christmas Cantata. 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 separate hymn sing event.

If you would like to participate in the choir or otherwise share your musical talents (vocal or instrumental), you may contact Grayce at music@debowsunc.org.



DeBows Pathfinders

The DeBows Pathfinders have scheduled a winter hike on Saturday, January 13th. (if the weather cooperates) They will meet at the church at 10:00am and then carpool to Double Trouble State Park in Lacey Township for the hike.



As a church, part of our mission is to serve the needs of our surrounding community. The Food Pantry is our most visible form of serving, but we also engage various community groups by allowing them to use our facilities. This allows the church to build relationships that not only help us to serve them, but to offer opportunities to share the Goods News with others. The church currently supports the following community groups:

Over Eaters Anonymous Workaholics Anonymous Boy Scout Troop #2

Speaking of the Boy Scouts, Frank Durkas of Troop #2 completed his Eagle Scout Project this past fall. It includes a new patio, refurbished picnic tables and connecting walks from the main sidewalk to both the new patio and existing pagoda patio.

Scout Troop # 2 plans to participate in our worship service on Scouting Sunday. This service is scheduled for February 11th.



Upcoming Events

January 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Happy New Year	2	3	4	5	6
7 Epiphany Sunday	8 Food Pantry	9	10	11	12	13 Hiking Event
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Food Pantry	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Every Sunday

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

Monday, January 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wednesday, January 3

Bible Study 11:30am

Friday, January 5

Band Practice 6:00pm

Sunday, January 7

Epiphany Sunday
Communion 10:00am

Monday, January 8

Food Pantry Open 6:00pm

Friday, January 12

Band Practice 6:00pm

Sunday, January 14

Strategic
Scheduling Session 12:00pm

Wednesday, January 10

Bible Study 11:30am

Friday, January 12

Band Practice 6:00pm

Wednesday, January 17

Bible Study 11:30am

Friday, January 19

Band Practice 6:00pm

Monday, January 22

Food Pantry Open 6:00pm

Wednesday, January 24

Bible Study 11:30am

Friday, January 26

Band Practice 6:00pm

Saturday, January 27

Back2Basics
Leadership Training 9-11am

Wednesday, January 31

Bible Study 11:30am



REMINDER



For the most up-to-date event and schedule information, please visit the church website calendar. It will contain any last-minute updates and/or any new information added since the newsletter was published. Also, please remember that alert notices, such as church event cancellations due to bad weather, will be posted on the church website as needed.



There are many ways people can participate in the life of the church. These are a few of them:

Community Food Pantry – this is DeBows UMC flagship outreach program. It is open the 2nd & 4th Monday each month from 6-8pm. You can also help with inventory stocking on the 2nd Monday each month at 11am. 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.

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.

Fellowship Time – this is our weekly time of informal gathering to greet each other and visitors, and to share some light refreshments. It is conducted after the 10:00am worship service. If you would like to host Fellowship Time on any given week, please see the sign-up sheet, with guidelines, outside of Fellowship Hall.

Training Opportunity

Back2Basics Leadership Training

Saturday, January 27th

9:00am-11:00am

Medford UMC

2 Hartford Road

Medford NJ, 08055

This one-day training session is for people who serve as a member of: Staff Parish Relations Committee, Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, Church Council, Lay Members and Lay Leaders. The training will cover the best practices for the important work of the committee you serve. It is also a time to share fellowship and ideas with your peers in other congregations.

Counselors Corner

by Donna Ridge

Counselor's Corner will be taking a break this month. I would like to say "Thank You" to those who told me that the articles concerning Anger in Temperament were interesting and helpful. That is what I hope these articles to be; helpful.

I hope you continue to have a Spirit-filled Christmastide and best wishes for a safe and healthy New Year.

Standing in Faith,
Donna

Winter Word Search



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

Snow	Epiphany	Mittens
Cold	Shovel	January
Coat	White	February
Ice	Blizzard	Christmas

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

Liturgical Colors

Why do the colors of the paraments keep changing on the pulpit and lectern? What do they represent? The colors symbolize the days and seasons of the Christian year, which has two cycles: the Christmas Cycle (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany) and the Easter Cycle (Lent-Easter-Pentecost). Within each cycle are a preparatory season symbolized by the color purple and a festival season symbolized by the color white. After each cycle there is an ordinary time of growth symbolized the color green. Thus, there is a sequence of seasons using purple, white, and green in that order twice each year. Red is used on Pentecost and special occasions per below:

Purple, representing both royalty and penitence, is used during Advent and Lent. Some churches use blue during Advent.

White and gold are used at Christmas and Easter to symbolize joy and festivities.

Red symbolizes the color of fire to represent the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and times when the work of the Holy Spirit is emphasized. During Holy Week it represents the blood of Christ. Red is also used for ordinations, church anniversaries and civil observances such as Memorial Day and Thanksgiving.

Green represents growth and is used during Ordinary Time (the season after Epiphany and the season after Pentecost.)

DeBows 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.

Holiday Gift Drive



"Thank You" to everyone who participated in the Trenton Children's Home Society Holiday Gift Drive. DeBows collected gifts for 20 children. They were delivered by Tom, Dena, Teresa, and Anita on December 12th and were received with much appreciation.



Tom, Anita, Teresa, and Dena delivering gifts

DeBows UMC Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is open the 2nd & 4th Monday each month from 6:00-8:00pm. 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.

Souper Bowl Sunday

Looking ahead, we will have our Souper Bowl Sunday on February 4th. Mark your calendar and plan on staying after church that day. We will have some delicious soups, as we have the last two years, and enjoy fellowship with one another. We will accept donations for the Food Pantry either in the form of canned/dried goods or financially. As always, we thank you all in advance for your continued support of the Food Pantry Ministry.

Habitat for Humanity



We have an opportunity to support Habitat for Humanity by supporting Noah Carmichael, who is a former member of Group Work Camps with our youth group and a member of Allentown UMC. Noah recently moved to North Carolina to work with Habitat for Humanity and now he has an opportunity to go on a mission trip with Habitat to El Salvador, but needs some assistance funding the trip.

If you would like to support Noah in this mission work, you may click on the following link:

<https://www.gofundme.com/rd8gu2-el-salvador-trip>

Hymn Story

"We Three Kings"

John H. Hopkins Jr. – UMH #254

Though Scripture does not tell us exactly how many wise men journeyed to worship Jesus, this hymn, which focuses on the three gifts Scripture does mention, may be the primary reason for the tradition of three wise men.

The author and composer, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), was an Episcopal Church musician and minister. Following his ordination in 1872, Hopkins served as rector of two parishes: Trinity Church in Plattsburg, New York (1872-1876) and Christ Church in Williamsport, Pennsylvania (1876-1887). Hopkins wrote the carol around 1857, based on the narrative of the journey of the magi in Matthew 2:1-12.

"We Three Kings" was first published in the author's *Carols, Hymns, and Songs* (1863). United Methodist Hymnal editor Carlton R. Young makes the following observation: "Because the wealth of USA Appalachian and other folk carols was yet to be discovered, this carol for almost a century was regarded by hymnal editors as the sole USA contribution to the repertory of English language carols."

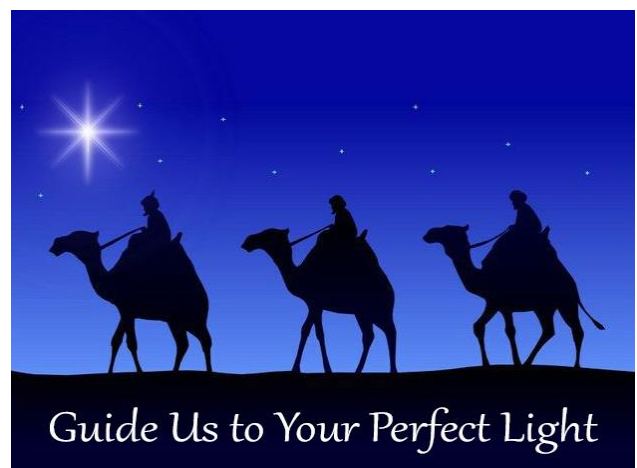
"We Three Kings" has many features associated with Christmas carols including a refrain, a narrative-ballad style, and a lilting tune in triple meter. With simple naïveté,

"We Three Kings" outlines its narrative in a manner with which children might identify. Though in triple rhythm, this is not a dancing tune like many of the more traditional carols, such as "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice." "We Three Kings" is usually performed in a more plodding three, giving the feel of the long journey of the magi.

While the actual number of wise men is not important, the imagery of the star is central to the Epiphany season and the narrative. The refrain focuses on the star and invites us to join the magi in following its light—"guide us to thy perfect light."

[Based on articles from UMC Discipleship Ministries]

Epiphany Sunday Communion January 7th



Guide Us to Your Perfect Light

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. 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". The next bulk order date will be posted soon. For any questions, Dena can be reached at 732-833-9363 or theluckyone@verizon.net.

Online Giving

You may support the ministries and programs of DeBows UMC by using our online giving option found on the church website at 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.



This feature is a permanent part of the church web site and is available all year long.

Did You Know?

- ❖ WiFi is available in the church. To connect, just follow the instructions found on the bulletin boards inside and outside Fellowship Hall.
- ❖ The GNJ Digest is the weekly email newsletter of The Greater New Jersey Conference. It is the easiest way to stay informed about 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/>

- ❖ Past issues of the DeBows UMC monthly newsletter can be downloaded and viewed from the church website under News & Media/Newsletter Archive.
- ❖ 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).

Mid-Week Bible Study

A Bible Study meets every Wednesday from 11:30am – 1:00pm. They are currently studying Proverbs. Some class members meet prior to class at 11:15am in the sanctuary for Prayer Time. Everyone is welcome to join us in this time of study and fellowship.

Sewing Classes

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.

Online Resource Links

Here are a few useful church related online resources. Just click on the respective links to visit the website.

BibleGateway Scripture passage lookup & audio
www.biblegateway.com
Greater New Jersey Conference Website
www.gnjumc.org
Official United Methodist Church Website
www.umc.org