

The Messenger



May 2025

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” John 19:21

We have journeyed through the 40 days of Lent, the mountaintops and valleys of Holy Week, and Easter morning and the empty tomb. Now what? What comes after Easter in our understanding of the faith journey that we have chosen to take?

In John 20:19-31, we read of the fear and lack of hope that consumed the thinking of the disciples after the crucifixion and the experience at the empty tomb.

Then Jesus came. He came and stood among them saying, “I’m here just like I said I would be. Put aside your fear. Replace it with my peace.”

And then Jesus breathed his divine breath upon them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit and get ready to be sent out into the world, just as I have been sent, I send you.”

However, in the next chapter in the Gospel of John, we find the disciples going back to work, doing what they knew how to do best, and doing what they did before meeting Jesus.

They went fishing. They went back to the familiar routine of everyday living as if the previous three years with Jesus were just a fading memory.

Sometimes we are advised, after experiencing a traumatic event as the disciples had had, “to get busy, go back to work, you’ll get over it.”

Maybe the disciples began to think, “This Jesus movement was a good thing while it lasted, but all good things must come to an end. So, let us just go back to work and forget all this Kingdom talk and especially this resurrection idea. The story is ended.”

Then early one morning the risen Christ finds these disciples-turned-back-to-fishermen and says to them, “It’s not over. It is just getting started. Do you love me? Then get out of those boats and feed my sheep. Go find my people and teach them the things I have taught you. Go and be my church.”

It is not easy to start over. Maybe we would never start over without the pushing, pulling and prodding of the risen Christ. Peter and the others were quite content to go back to the routine and familiar; to a life that was safer than following Jesus.

However, for the disciples and for us the story is not finished, so Jesus comes to us and says once again, “Follow me.”

Hopefully, we will not be like the disciples who decided the story was over and went sorrowfully back to their fishing, to the way they were before Jesus.

It is a temptation to let down spiritually after Easter when the events and the excitement are over. We are drawn back into the routine and commonplace repetition of our jobs and responsibilities.

Sometimes, even unintentionally, we tend to put Easter carefully back on the shelf as a holiday until next year.

So what is next for those who believe in Easter? I believe that Easter is present tense. It is about following Jesus now. It is about living as if God is victorious, unstoppable, triumphant, now.

As “Easter” people, we must believe that God will get God’s way in the end, no matter what. If Jesus’ death on the cross has been defeated by the empty tomb at Easter, what other victories is God working on? How is God working in your life and in mine to give us victory over temptation and sin? Where does God show up in our daily walk?

If we allow it, Easter can move us quickly from the affirmation, “He is risen,” to an assignment, “Go into your family, community and the world and do something about it.” By carrying out that assignment, Easter continues within the lives of each one for the rest of our life and beyond.

God is not finished with God’s story or us. The story is alive. So what is next? The rest of the story.

Peace, Love & Light,

Pastor Dianna



Join us for an exciting upcoming event on May 4, 2025!!

What is it?

Many faiths in Flemington are coming together for a fellowship luncheon and then will all go out in the community to do several service projects. This is an opportunity to meet people of other faiths and celebrate one of the things we have in common, which is service to others.

All ages welcome!

When is it?

- **Sunday, May 4, 2025 at the Flemington Jewish Community Center (FJCC)**
- **5 Sergeantsville Road, Flemington**
- **Time: 12:30pm to @3:15pm**
- **12:30 - 1:15pm will be a provided lunch with time to meet others**
- **Please sign up for a service project via this [Signup Genius Link](#).**

Faith communities participating:

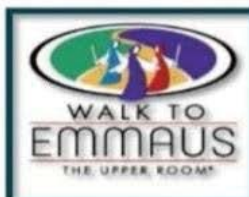
Calvary Episcopalian, Flemington Baptist, Flemington Jewish Community Center, Flemington Presbyterian, Flemington United Methodist, Grace United Church of Christ & St. Paul's Lutheran.

Schedule:

- **12:30pm:** Meet in FJCC lobby and then we will move into sanctuary for the event kick-off
- **12:45-1:15:** Move into Social Hall for a time to learn about each other's communities. ShopRite will provide bagels, cream cheese, apples, cookies and water.
- **At 1:15pm** everyone will break into different service project groups and go spread the love!
- **Some service projects** are on-site and others are off-site.
- **Service projects** will last about 1-2 hours give or take (1:15 - @3:15pm). Note: off-site project volunteers can leave once their project is completed, no need to come back to FJCC.

Current Service Projects include: Making *Linus Felt Tie-off blankets for those in need, *PB&J sandwiches for Food Pantry, *feminine hygiene kits with Dignity Grows, *baked goods for first responders and *info packets for Hunterdon Helpline. Also, going to *Hunterdon Care Center to help run a Carnival Activity (will start at 2:30), *Cleanup activities at the Good News Home for Women, *Raritan Headwaters River Clean-up, and *Kids coloring pictures/letters for refugee kids.

[Sign up now for a service project via this Signup Genius Link.](#)



SKYLANDS UPDATE

FALL 2025 WALKS

Sacred Heart Retreat Center Newton

7pm Thursday thru 6pm Sunday

OCTOBER 16-19: Men's Walk

OCTOBER 23-26: Women's Walk

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

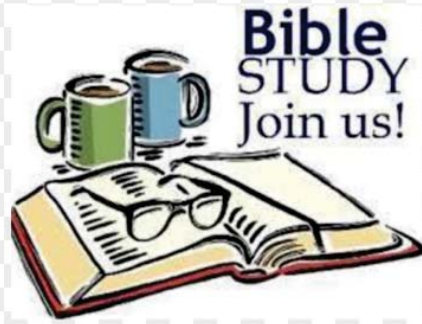
Men's Walk: September 25th

Women's Walk: October 2nd

The [Walk to Emmaus](#) is a spiritual retreat and renewal program that originated from The Upper Room, a ministry of The United Methodist Church. Participants embark on a three-day immersive experience designed to inspire and strengthen the faith of participants. It happens through a combination of worship, small-group discussions and reflections on a series of talks, guided by a team of both clergy and laity volunteers who have previously completed the Walk.

The Walk to Emmaus is not an exclusive club. Instead, it seeks to create a supportive community of believers who can support and encourage one another on their spiritual journeys. However, the primary mission of the Walk is to strengthen the local church.

If interested in attending the Skyland's Walk to Emmaus, please contact Pastor Dianna.



Tuesday Lunch Bible Study

* 12 pm – Lunch BYOL (“Bring Your Own Lunch”)

* 1 pm – Bible Study

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

Join as we study the Book of “GENESIS”

*To live in the light of the
resurrection –
that is what Easter
means.*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



<https://flemingtonfoodpantry.org/>

The Flemington Area Food Pantry ALWAYS Needs Our Help!!!

Suggested Donation List

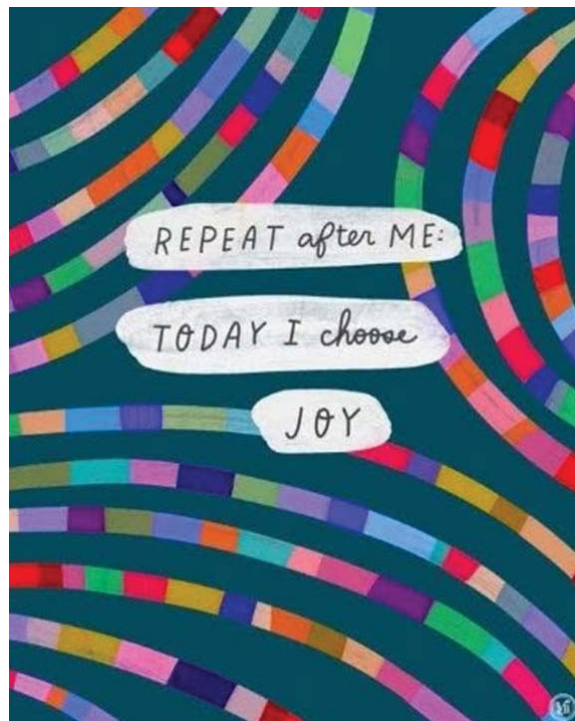
- ♣ Creamy peanut butter ♣ Canned fruit (prefer in juice)
- ♣ Cold cereal ♣ Chicken noodle soup (condensed)
- ♣ Progresso/chunky style soup ♣ Diapers size 4 or 5
- ♣ Food Store Gift Cards

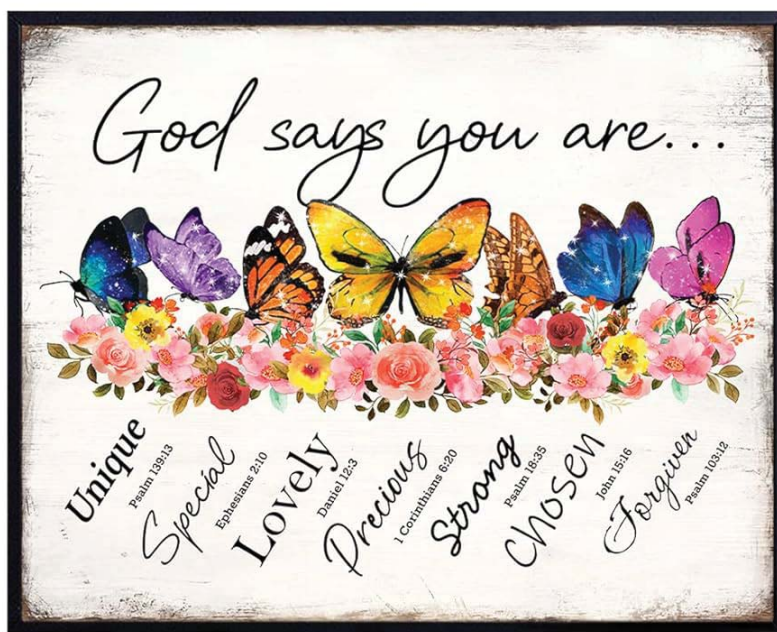
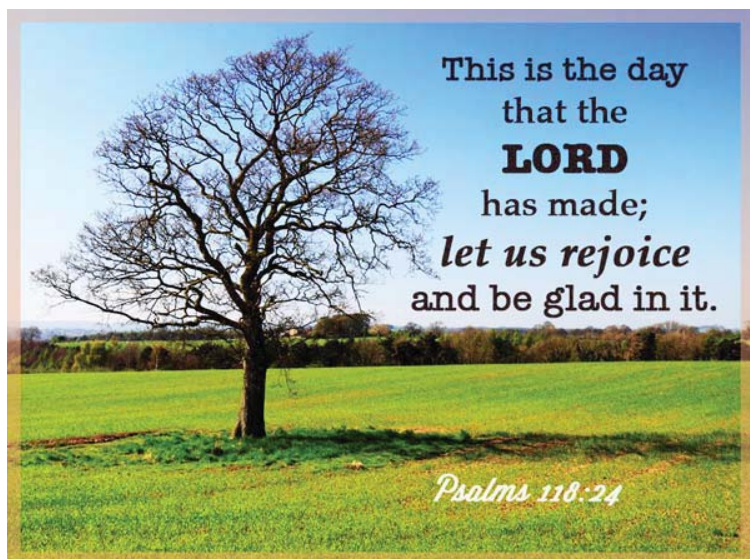


Saturday, May 11th



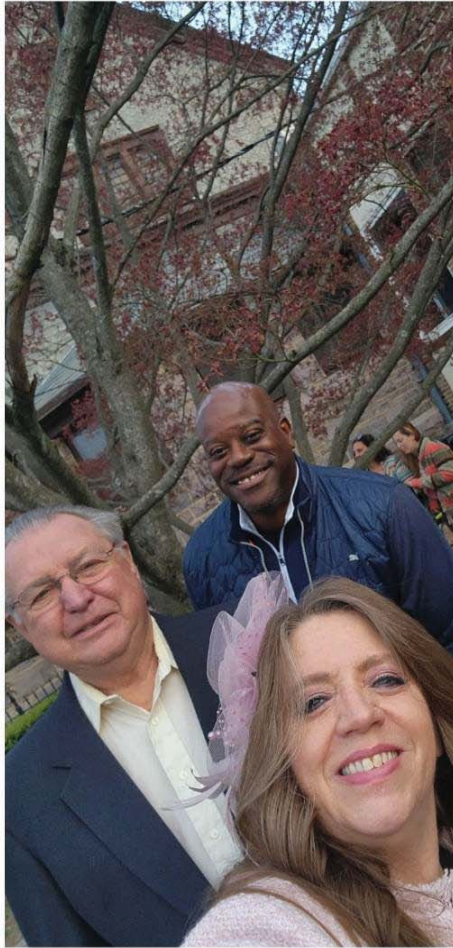
Construction of Fellowship Hall
has begun in earnest! It is exciting to see the changes
that are happening every day!
Please be mindful to be careful of the construction areas
for your safety!

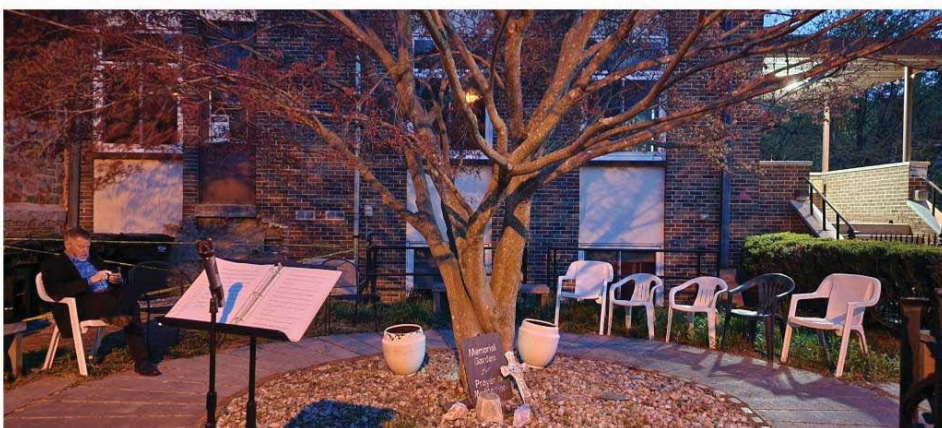




SUNDAY SELFIES







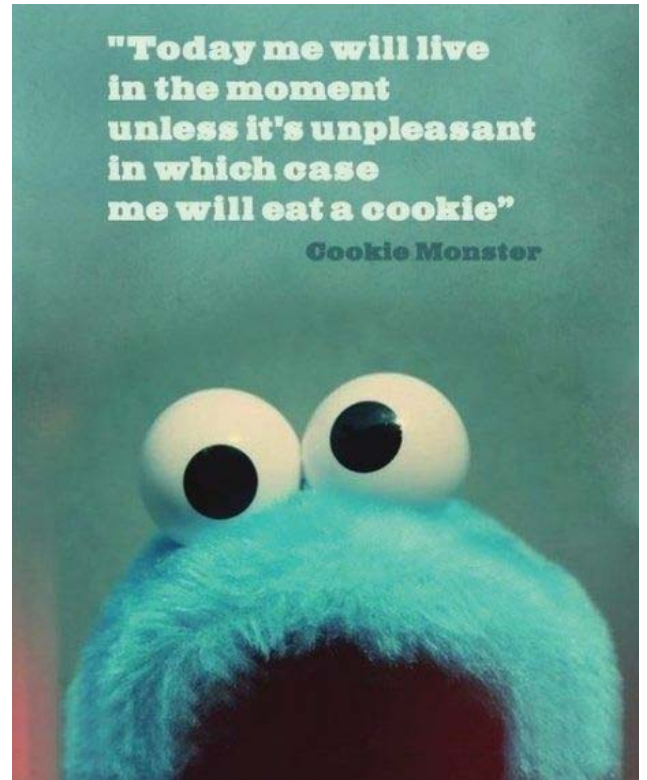
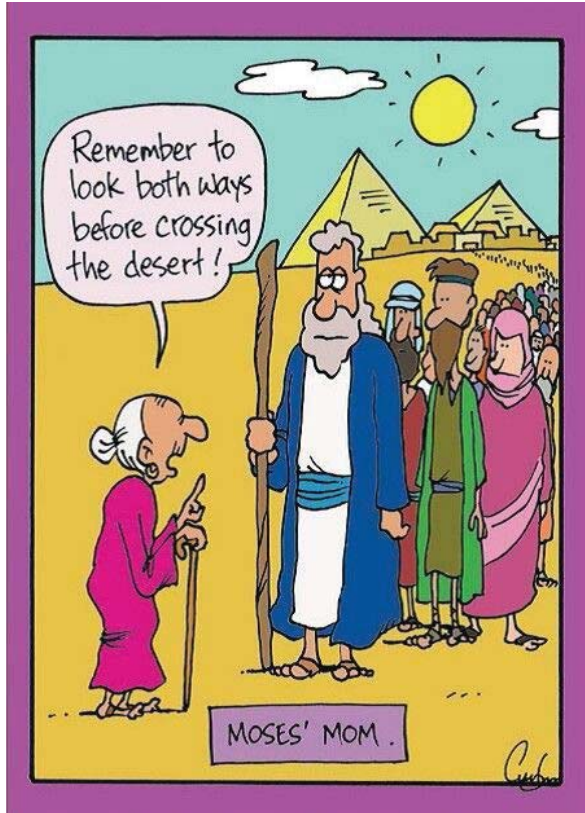
Easter Sunday Selfies







~Just for Fun~



"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."

CHARLES M. SCHULZ

