

The Messenger



June 2025

The Starfish Story

An old man was walking on the beach one morning after a storm. In the distance, he could see someone moving like a dancer.

As he came closer, he saw that it was a young woman picking up starfish and gently throwing them into the ocean. "Young lady, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?"

"The sun is up, and the tide is going out, and if I do not throw them in they will die," she said.

"But young lady, do you not realize that there are many miles of beach and thousands of starfish? You cannot possibly make a difference."

The young woman listened politely, then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea.

"It made a difference for that one."

- Adapted from the original by Loren Eiseley



Tim and I recently returned from a short getaway to Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. We had 3 days of perfect weather. We slept without an alarm, although our internal clocks still

woke us very early. We parked our car and then rode bikes everywhere we went. We ate at some good restaurants and had PB & J sandwiches on the beach, which were also really good!

Somehow, PB & J tastes so much better when your feet are in the sand. We spent most of our days on the beach. We walked several miles every single day along the coastline with the cool ocean waves splashing against our feet. This time away was everything and nothing and it was amazing. I am so thankful.

Our first day there, we quickly noticed, while walking on the beach, that there was an abundance of Starfish. They covered large areas of the beach. As we were walking, Tim would bend down to toss Starfish back into the water, as did several other people walking along the beach. I couldn't help but be reminded of the Story of the Starfish and how it would be impossible to get every single Starfish back into the ocean, but what an incredible difference it made to the ones who were returned to the water.

In our lives, we often think we cannot be of much help or that our kindness or efforts won't make a difference. Yet, this story is a stark reminder that every act of kindness, every time we live selflessly, every time we listen to one another, or we bring food to a food pantry, or give someone a ride, or take someone grocery shopping, or provide a meal for Family Promise.... yes, this list goes on infinitely, but every single time we are present to help or to love someone, it makes a world of difference to them, and especially to God.

Friends, God has created you and called you to live, serve, and love like Jesus. No matter your age, physical limitations, where you've come from or where you've been, YOU can, and do, make a difference, maybe not all at once, but to one person, one animal, and by performing one good deed at a time. So, I pray you wake up every morning and believe that you were created with value and worth and with a purpose, and what you do makes a difference. Because it does.

As we continue to witness the transformation of the Flemington UMC Fellowship Hall, we are moving closer to helping more and more people in our community and beyond. There will be more ministry and mission opportunities for each and every one of us. We may not be able to help the whole world, but for every person we touch with the love of Jesus, it may mean the world to them. You can and do make a difference and together we will change the world for many others, in Jesus' name. Believe it and be a part of it! What you do matters!

Peace, Love & Light,

Pastor Dianna

“We are God’s accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives.” Ephesians 2:10

**The 2025 Annual Conference for The United Methodists of Greater New Jersey
on May 18-20, 2025, at the Wildwood Convention Center, NJ.
Wrap-up Report**

“From Lamentation to Praise”

“Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise.” Jeremiah 17:14 NRSVue



On Sunday, May 18th, the 2025 Annual Conference opened with a powerful Celebration of Ministry.

After dinner, the Annual Conference celebrated those who faithfully served in ministry and were retiring. Additionally, those in attendance witnessed ceremonies of Commissioning and Ordination.

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi invited each newly commissioned or ordained person to consider where they will live - not the location of their parsonage or the community they serve, but rather where they will choose to live in their emotional landscape. She urged each person to boldly proclaim, “I’m going to live in joy, because I am on my way to praise.”



On Monday, May 19th, the morning started with Holy Communion on the Beach, followed by Praise and Worship, then early morning Bible study led by Bishop Moore-Koikoi.



After Bible study, Bishop Moore-Koikoi gave the State of the Church Address where she described the state of the larger United Methodist Church.

Bishop Moore-Koikoi outlined the staff restructuring that would help GNJ more fully live into the call to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.



Next, the Annual Conference members participated in the Service of Remembrance.



After lunch, the Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries organized a public witness. They led a musical procession through the display hall, singing "*We Are Marching in the Light of God.*" The committee led conference members in the reading of the Creed for Immigrants.

GNJ members debated the four constitutional amendments passed at General Conference 2020/2024 and then cast their ballots. The results of the ballots were not announced, so as not to impact the voting of other Annual Conferences. The results will be announced by the Bishop in November.

In addition to considering constitutional amendments, the Annual Conference also reviewed and approved the 2026 Budget.

On Tuesday, May 20th, the morning started with Holy Communion on the Beach, followed by Praise and Worship, then early morning Bible study.

GNJ Appointments were shared with conference attendees; afterwards legislation continued.



The conference closed with combined Worship and Holy Communion services with our sister conference, Eastern Pennsylvania.

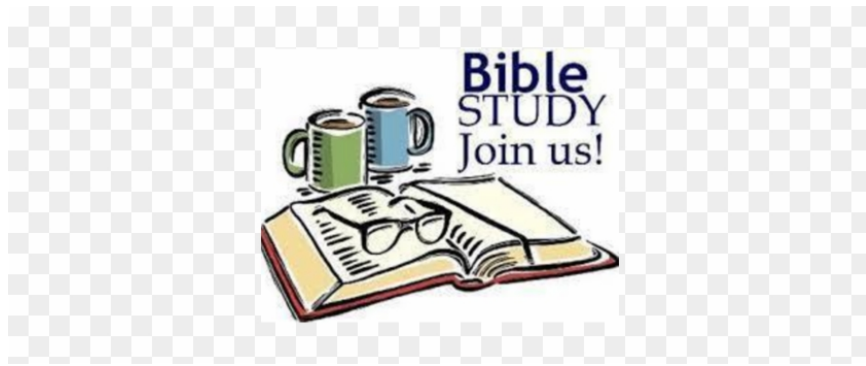
In addition to the legislation named above, GNJ also passed the following resolutions:

- Resolution for DCOMs To Receive Full Demographic Info
- GNJ Arrearage Policy
- Transparency for a Safer GNJ
- Safe Sanctuaries 2025
- Church Closures
- Pension and Health Benefits Recommendations 2025
- Additional Moving Expenses for GNJ Clergy Appointed out of State
- Resolution for Timely Dispersal of Conference Journal
- Resolution for Clergy Meetings at Annual Conference
- Resolution for a Comprehensive Nominations Report
- Bereavement Leave for All Clergy and Lay Staff
- Trustees Enabling Resolution
- Nominations & Leadership Report
- Advanced Specials
- Minimum Equitable Salary
- Parsonage Standards

Source & Photos: [United Methodists of Greater New Jersey](#) (GNJUMC)



On Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025, we will photograph the whole church immediately following Worship, and we would love your participation. We invite you to **WEAR RED** as we celebrate the Birthday of the Church and the FUMC family!



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”



Mark your calendar for a special event on Sunday, June 29th! Our own Dr. June Grutzmacher and Greg Stout will be performing at 3pm in the sanctuary. Invite your friends! You won't want to miss their amazing talent! There will be a variety of piano as well as organ pieces. Come and enjoy!

Sunday School News

Please note that Children's Sunday school will be taking a break for the summer, and The last date for meeting is Sunday, June 15th.

Choir and Bells

Choir and bell rehearsals will also take a summer break, with the last rehearsal date of June 10th.

Children/Youth Hand Bell Choir Workshop

Sunday, June 8th following the Worship Service all children & youth are invited to have an up-close and personal look at the church handbells, and be a part of this hands-on experience. You do not have to read music; you just have to love music! Hope to see you there!



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!



June 15, 2025



After another extremely successful House Tour last year with over 600 attendees, it is with great pleasure that we announce the Flemington Historic Preservation Commission is hosting another “House Tours of Historic Flemington” to highlight our Flemington community. **The event is scheduled for Saturday, June 21, 2025 from 11AM to 5PM.** Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of the event.

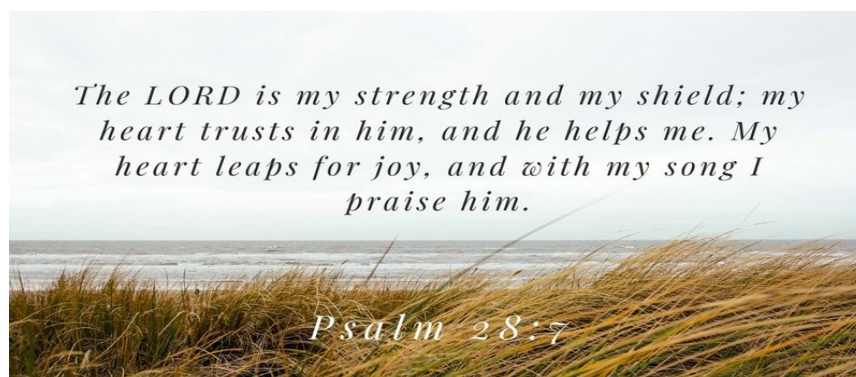
Engage our docents at each property to learn about how these iconic sites have contributed to the historic fabric of the borough and the surrounding County of Hunterdon. Visit our downtown’s array of boutiques and eateries as well as our brewery and distillery to make your stay with us more memorable. Free parking can be found in lots throughout the borough as well as along the streets of any of our neighborhoods. We will also have two free looping trolleys passing each of our showcased properties.

Note – Tickets can only be picked up on Saturday, June 21st starting at 10:30AM. Tickets cannot be purchased at the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce prior to day of the event – June 21st. Use Eventbrite to purchase tickets in advance.

Anyone who buys an advance ticket will get a free House Tour cotton tote at check-in when they pick up their ticket/guide booklet on June 21st.

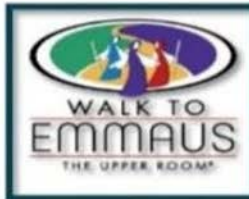
For more information, email us at dschoeb@historicflemington.com or visit our website: <https://www.flemingtonhpc.com/>

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary Barb & Bill




PEACE
be With you

JOHN 20:21



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.

The Flemington Area Food Pantry **ALWAYS** Needs our Help!

Please note the suggestions below for June.

Items may vary from month to month, depending on where they have a need.

But anything you can contribute is greatly appreciated!



Suggested Donation List

- Canned chicken
- Canned fruit in juice
- Scalloped or au gratin potato mix
- Pasta sauce (prefer in plastic)
- Muffin mix
- Ketchup
- Diapers sizes 5, or 6
- Baby wipes
- Sanitary pads
- Food Store Gift Cards

Sunday Selfies!

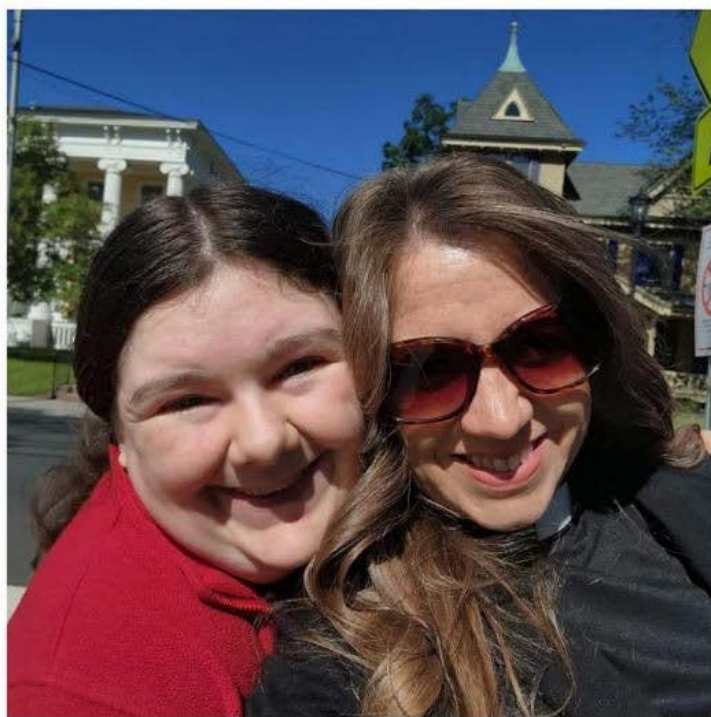
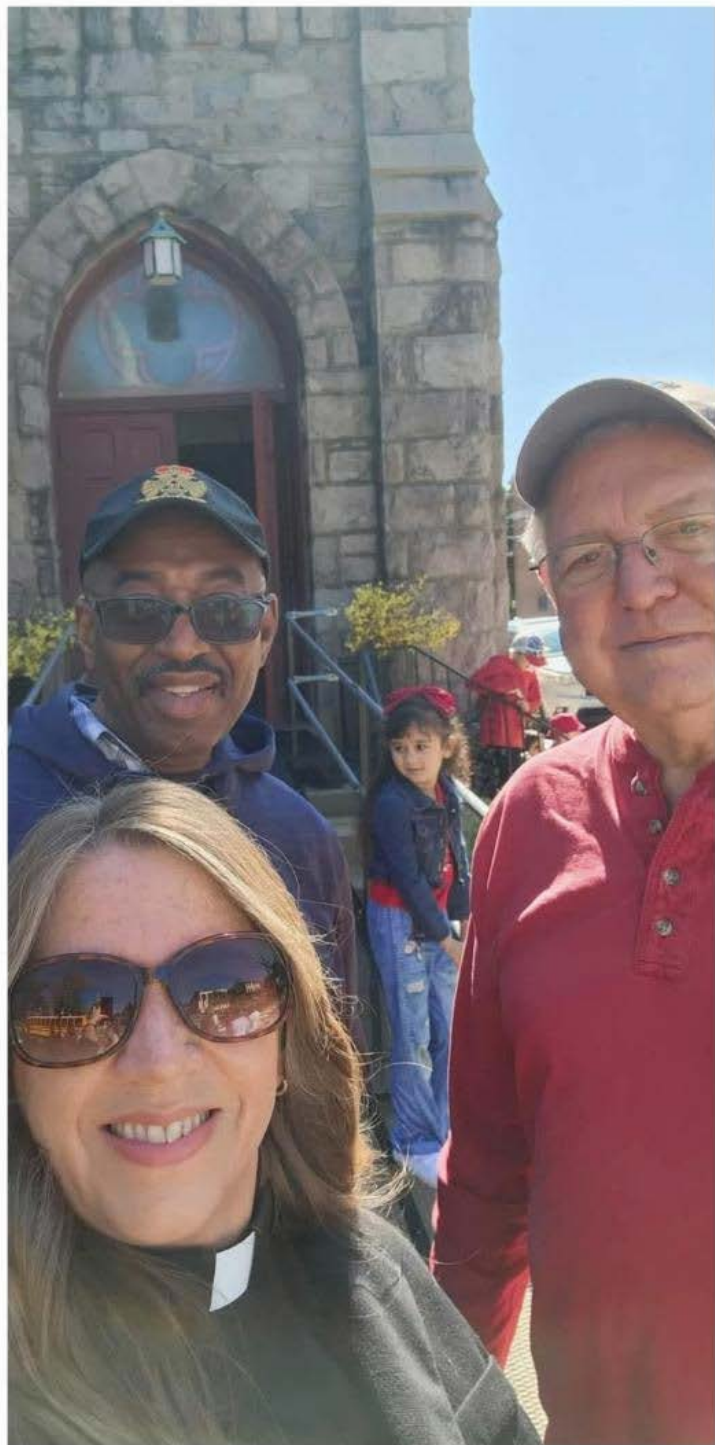








Memorial Day Photos!









~Just for Fun~

