

“Summer afternoon—summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.” ~ Henry James

“Let us dance in the sun, wearing wild flowers in our hair...” — Susan Polis Schutz

Dear Summer,

I love you. I know we only have a few short weeks left and you will be leaving but I have enjoyed our time together and wish you could stay.

You have given me times at the lake, flowers in the garden, evening strolls, endless dinners on the grill, picnics with friends and family, trips down the shore, scattered flip flops everywhere, bonfires, sticky s'mores, and so much more. You have mended my broken heart more than once through the years with gifts of sunshine and ice cream, the sun on my face and flowers in my hair. Each year, you come back again to help me create beautiful memories. Thank you.

xoxo,

Dianna

P.S. You're my favorite, but don't tell the other seasons.

If my letter to Summer didn't reveal my secret, I love summer and I have a hard time accepting that Fall will be here before we know it. On the hottest day of the Summer, I always close my eyes and tell myself to remember this moment and this day and how hot it is and on those brisk fall days and the cold winter days, I think back to that moment of warmth as a way of reminding myself that Summer will be back again one day. I honestly never want it to end.

As I look back at past summers, I see a trail of beautiful and bittersweet memories. There have been summers that overflowed with joy and summers filled with deep sadness and pain. The common thread is that every summer was unique and created its own story and memories.

Just as every natural summer has its own story and memories, so does every spiritual summer. Throughout our lives, we will each walk through the spiritual seasons many times. Autumn is a time of change. Winter is a time of perseverance. Spring is a time of rebirth and new life. And Summer is a time for bearing fruit and embracing the abundant life that surrounds us.

The key to embracing our spiritual summer, no matter what time of year it is, in the natural, is to remember to seize the joy of the season. This is a time to feel the heavenly warmth on our face and enjoy the beauty.

Summer is a season known for cultivating and bearing good fruit. Oh goodness, there is just nothing like a sweet, sun-ripened, summer strawberry. It is like a taste of heaven on earth! Our spiritual fruit of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control must also be cultivated and ripened so it can taste even sweeter than the best summer strawberry. There is one sure way to do this, and that is to remember who our spiritual gardener is and to remain in him always. Jesus said:

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5 NIV)

I know that Autumn is coming, but let's never forget to celebrate our summers, both the natural and the spiritual, and embrace every memory being created, because God's hand is in each one. I hope your summer has created beautiful stories and memories for you and you can thank God for the gift of summer, ice cream cones, backyard barbecues and sun-drenched memories.

"A fallen leaf is nothing more than a summer's wave goodbye." ~ Unknown

Peace,

Pastor Dianna

The Messenger



September 2025

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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**”





For those of you that don't know, the Flemington United Methodist Church had an intern this summer, from June 22, 2025 – August 10, 2025. That was me, Alex Eckert.

I was blessed with this opportunity to work at The Flemington United Methodist Church for 8 weeks, thanks to a program called "Cultivate" from the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

I came to Flemington to discern God's call on my life and gain a better understanding of the type of ministry God was calling me to.

After about four weeks, I really started to feel like God was telling me I was in the right place. Pastor Dianna and I met with several people in ministry in various church and ministry positions within the United Methodist Church, but I started to understand that being a Licensed Local Pastor was what God was leading me to.

Without this internship this summer, I don't know how long that would have taken me to understand, but thanks to everyone in your church and community, I now get to start down a path, hand and hand, with God.

Since leaving Flemington, I have met with several other pastors to understand what exactly my next steps are, and I look forward to getting my GED this fall and continuing my walk with God and sharing God's love with everyone.

Sincerely,

Alex

Construction of Fellowship Hall continues to move forward!

And Praise God, the new sound system has been installed!

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!

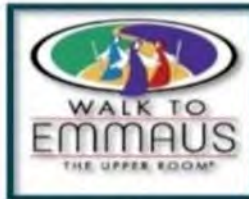


Sunday School News

Please note that Children's Sunday school
will be resuming on Sunday, September 14th!

Choir and Bells

Choir and bell rehearsals will also take a summer
break, and will also resume in the fall. Be sure to
watch the calendar/newsletter for the return date!



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.



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

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

Please note the suggestions for September on the back table.

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

But anything you can contribute is greatly appreciated!



****Become a Member of The Flemington UMC****

At FUMC we believe that being part of a church community provides a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth, fellowship, and service. We strive to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere where everyone feels at home and all are encouraged to get involved and connect with others. We believe that all who enter our space are part of our church community yet we invite everyone to join the church as official members and we'd love for you to consider making the Flemington UMC your official church home. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about membership, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Dianna @ diannastone7514@gmail.com.



Save the date Sunday, September 14th after church for our annual church picnic and Sunday School Rally Day!

Please bring folding chairs if you have them, and a side salad or dessert to share.

We'll supply tables, burgers and dogs, cole slaw, beverages and Italian ices.

There will be games!

Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church, with when you can help - set up, clean up, and the food item you plan to bring.

In the event of rain, the picnic will be rescheduled to Sunday September 21st.

We look forward to seeing you!

Ministry with Members
The Sunday School

Sunday Selfies





Smile



Say Cheese






Jesus loves you

This is the
DAY
the
LORD has made
Let us
REJOICE
and be
GLAD in it
Psalm 118:24

THE PEACE I
GIVE IS A GIFT
THE WORLD
CANNOT GIVE.

JOHN 14:27

I will bless the
LORD at all times:
his praise shall
continually be in
my mouth.

Psalm 34:1



Just for Fun!

