

The Messenger



October 2025

Friends, for this month's Newsletter Article, I share a message from Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez, for I have no better words to share:

In the past week, I have received many requests for statements about the pressing issues confronting our nation and world. Your desire for clarity, courage, and leadership is not lost on me. And yet, I hesitated.

We are living in a time when opinions, no matter how well-intentioned, often deepen division rather than build understanding. I feared that adding mine might only amplify the noise and contribute to the chaos so many are already struggling to navigate.

Still, I must confess that your requests have not left me. They have stirred my spirit, interrupted my sleep, and led me into deep prayer. Night after night, I wrestled with what to say, how to say it, and whether saying anything at all would truly serve the Body of Christ.

Then, in the stillness of last night, I heard the gentle prompting of the Holy Spirit: "Don't share your opinions. Tell them about Jesus."

And so, I write to you today, not to comment on headlines or controversies, but to speak from a place of humility and deep conviction about the One who shapes my life, my leadership, and my hope.

I offer this reflection trusting that it may bring clarity about where I stand as a disciple and leader regarding what's unfolding in our nation, encouragement and hope where there is weariness, and a faithful challenge to all of us who seek to follow Christ in this season.

LET ME BE CLEAR

By Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez

As a follower of Christ and a servant leader in the church, I center my life on the teachings, ministry, and example of Jesus of Nazareth. His life is not optional in my faith experience, it is the blueprint for how I seek to live with purpose, integrity, and love.

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” — John 14:6

In the United Methodist tradition, we affirm without hesitation that Jesus is the living center of our faith. Fully divine, fully human, his life and teachings reveal the heart of God and invite us into a way of living marked by grace, empathy, justice, and compassion.

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us... full of grace and truth.” — John 1:14

Jesus is God with us. He entered our world in full solidarity with humanity, not from a distance, but up close. He showed us a path we could not find on our own. Embracing His love brings healing, wholeness, and restored relationship with God, with others, and with ourselves.

“They shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” — Matthew 1:23

“Come to me, all you that are weary... and I will give you rest.” — Matthew 11:28

Jesus is embodied grace. His compassion, courage, and radical welcome, especially toward those pushed to the margins, are our compass for ministry and community.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me... he has sent me to proclaim release to the captives... to let the oppressed go free.” — Luke 4:18

“Let the little children come to me... for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” — Matthew 19:14

Jesus taught us to love without limits. Not just those we prefer, but also those who oppose us. No exceptions. No favoritism. No excuses.

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” — Matthew 5:44

“Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” — John 13:34

Jesus called us to peace, not violence. To reconciliation, not division. To a shared life rooted in grace and mutual respect and desire to see all people thrive.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” — Matthew 5:9

“Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.” — Matthew 26:52

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full”. — John 10:10

Jesus showed that faith is not just belief, it’s embodied action. Led by the Spirit, living His teachings, and loving as He loved is how we respond faithfully to the gift of God’s grace.

“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I tell you?” — Luke 6:46

“Let your light shine before others... so they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” — Matthew 5:16

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” - Matthew 25:40

Jesus modeled servant leadership. Grounded in humility, not ego; in service, not control; in truth, not manipulation. His leadership was never about dominance; it was always about dignity.

“Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” — Mark 9:35

“I came not to be served but to serve.” — Matthew 20:28

Therefore, in a time when many are propagating toxic ideologies wrapped in empty “faith” rhetoric, let me be clear: I will not participate in any form of Christianity that ignores or distort the biblical Jesus.

I will not follow a gospel that erases and negates Jesus’s compassion and concern for the most vulnerable, and dismisses His call for us to embody that same concern.

I refuse to be part of a Jesus-less Christianity.

Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, is the source of my faith and hope.

“In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.” — John 1:4

In Christ,

Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez
The United Methodist Church
Serving the Susquehanna & Upper New York Area

May we all find peace and assurance in these words.

Peace, Love and Light,

Pastor Dianna



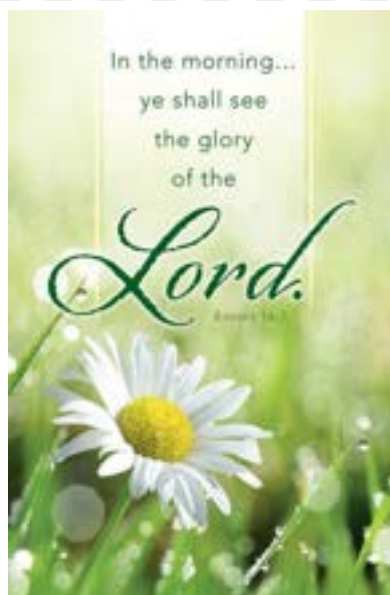
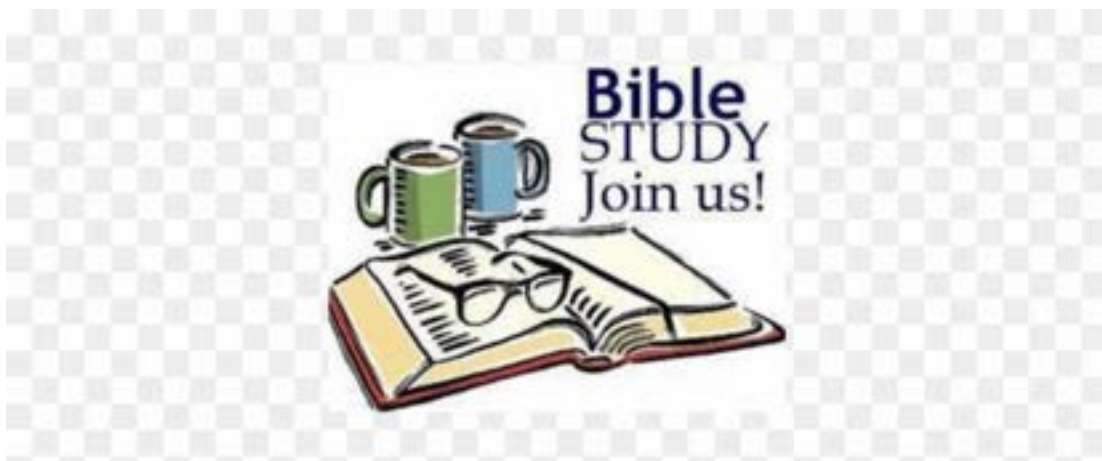


Tuesday Lunch Bible Study

* 12 pm - Lunch BYOL ("Bring Your Own Lunch")

* 1 pm - Bible Study

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!



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

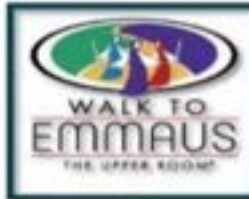
Please note that Children's Sunday school

Has resumed and welcomes all children!

Choir and Bells

Choir and Bell rehearsals have resumed, and are now meeting on Wednesdays. Bells will meet from 4:30-5:30pm, and Choir will rehearse from 5:45 - 7:00pm.

Come and sing and ring to the Lord!



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!



August Statistics

1,816 Visits * 135 Deliveries * 54 New Families

The Empty Bowl

The big day is coming on October 10th - order your tickets now!

Empty Bowl tickets available now – Contact the Pantry at 908-788-5568 for Information on pre-ordering your favorite soup!



It's the most wonderful time of the year! We are busy preparing for our 28th annual fundraiser -

The Empty Bowl. This beloved community tradition returns on **Friday, October 10, from 11:00 am – 2:30 pm.**

Once again, we'll offer drive-up service at the Pantry with our merry band of volunteers greeting, directing, and serving you. We'll offer our annual pottery sale in the Walmart parking lot so feel free to do some holiday shopping before or after you pick up your meal.

We're so grateful to everyone who makes this event a success, especially **Jenny**

Slotterback who is the captain of our ship. Jenny and the Empty Bowl team spend months behind the scenes – connecting with partners about sponsorships, coordinating with local restaurants on their soup offerings, organizing sandwich prep with ShopRite, gathering donated bowls and pottery, arranging food contributions, and keeping our volunteers informed and engaged.

We are deeply grateful to the talented **potters** who provide not only a unique bowl with every order, but also beautiful pieces for our pottery sale—an effort that brings in thousands of dollars each year. Our **sponsors** are the backbone of this fundraiser; without their support, the event would be far less successful. We extend heartfelt thanks to both our new and returning sponsors for their generosity.

And while we thank our **volunteers** often, the gratitude never gets old—because they are so awesome.

This dedicated crew helps Jenny organize the event, pick up donations, stuff bags, serve food, sell tickets, manage the pottery sale, warmly greet our guests, and keep everything running smoothly (and safely!). Their commitment is truly outstanding.

Thanks to all of you, we sell about **650 tickets** each year!

ORDER NOW (before your favorite soup sells out)
What soups are on the menu??

- Basil Bandwagon - Lemon chickpea with Orzo (V,GF)
- Chive and Thyme - Cajun Potato with Andouille Sausage (GF)
 - Cilantro Garden - Tomato Rasam (V,GF)
- Kitchen of Hunterdon Medical Center - Potato Leek (GF)
 - Matt's Red Rooster - Rustic Wild Mushroom (GF)
- Metropolitan Seafood - New England Clam Chowder
- Nourish to Heal - Apple Butternut Squash (V,GF)
 - Salad Basket - Tuscan Bean (V,GF)
 - Viva Mexico - Arroz con Pollo (GF)



Join us for an

Interfaith Vigil for Peace

October 19, 2025

4:00pm

Flemington Baptist Church

170 Main Street

Flemington

Sponsored by St. Thomas Episcopal Church – Pittstown





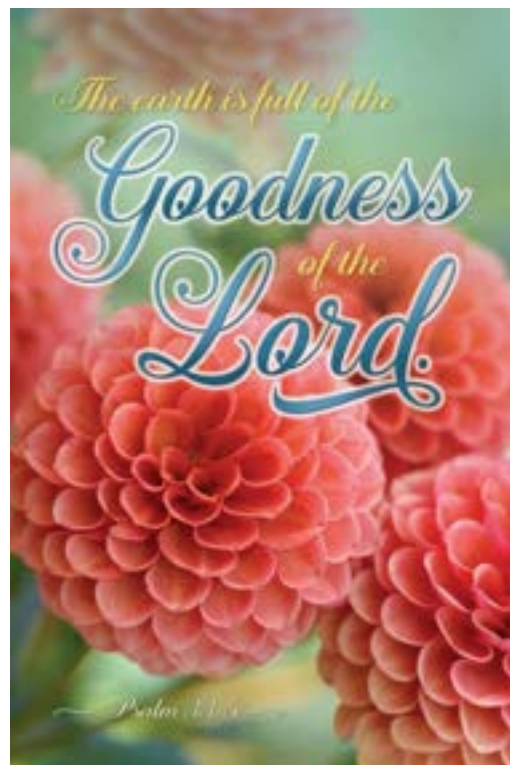
Mark Your Calendars!

Dr. June Grutzmacher will be
performing in our Sanctuary

Sunday, October 26th at 3:00pm

Invite your friends to come and experience beautiful
music from such a talented pianist!

When you turn
your worries into
worship,
God will turn your
battles into
blessings.





****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.

SUNDAY SELFIES







FOOD, FELLOWSHIP
AND
FUN!



FRIENDSHIP





Just for Fun!

