

**CENTENARY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:**

- **From the Pastor's Desk**
- **Nov/Dec Worship Schedules**
- **CUMC Book Club Update**
- **The Centenary United Methodist Women Updates**
- **Sandwich-Making Thursdays Mission**
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Lamplighter

November

DECEMBER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

NOV/DEC 2022

Dear Centenary Family and Friends,

October was "Pastor Appreciation Month," and you selected Sunday, October 23rd to express your gratitude to your pastor. I was deeply touched by the cards, words of encouragement, and thoughtful gifts from Centenary's congregation. So, let me take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to you - Centenary. I appreciate you! I am so proud of you. I love you!

Looking back on this year, I praise God's grace for how Centenary's young disciples are growing in love, and new faith is blooming and bearing fruit through out various ministries: uplifting worship, inspiring music, a vibrant Sunday School and a strong VBS program. Our in-person average worship attendance has increased by 35% this year, and Centenary baptized four babies and received five new members, including two confirmands - Sonia and Sarah Kanchi.

Our monthly "Sandwich Thursday" has continued despite the challenges of COVID and rising prices for food and supplies. Thank you for your generosity and continuing support for this much-needed mission.

We also initiated another much-needed ministry - the congregational care team. The chair of the congregational care team, Peggy Martino and its members have checked in on shut-ins and seniors regularly through phone calls, visitations, cards, and delivering "care" packages.

There are no words to express my gratitude enough to our congregation, church lay leaders, and staff as we continue to bear these beautiful fruits together as one body of Christ. Thank you for your faith, generosity, and labors of love as God blesses and touches many through you.

Now that we are in November- the month that invites us to count our blessings- we will explore the true meaning of blessings and learn how to be agents of God's blessing in our world through the GNJ sermon series, "Releasing God's Blessings." During the Advent season, we will prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus and how he has made possible what once seemed impossible – hope, peace, joy, and love! So come and join our worship and upcoming events! Let God bless you, and fill your heart with great joy and wonder, during these seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Thanking God for you,
Your pastor, Sooah



WORSHIP SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 2022

Sunday, November 6, 2022

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints Sunday

Daylight Saving Time Ends

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: 2 Corinthians 9:1-5

Sermon: GNJ Sermon Series: Releasing God's Blessings

Week 1: A Legacy of Blessings: "I know Who I Am"

Holy Communion will be served

Sunday, November 13, 2022

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: 2 Corinthians 9:6-10

Sermon: GNJ Sermon Series: Releasing God's Blessings

Week 2: Blessed People Bless Others

Sunday, November 20, 2022

Christ the King Sunday

Stewardship Sunday

Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: 2 Corinthians 9:11-15

Sermon: GNJ Sermon Series: Releasing God's Blessings

Week 3: Overflowing Blessings

Tuesday, November 22, 2022

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service (MEAICA)

7:30pm

First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen

270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen 08840

Thursday, November 24, 2022

Centenary's UMW/UMM Thanksgiving Meal Delivery

Deliverers meet at Centenary at 10:30am

Sunday, November 27, 2022

1st Sunday of Advent—Lighting of Hope Candle

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5

Sermon: GNJ Sermon Series: Impossible

Week 1: Peace Made Possible



WORSHIP SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2022

Sunday, December 4, 2022

2nd Sunday of Advent—Lighting of Peace Candle Christmas Music Sunday

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

Sermon: GNJ Sermon Series: Impossible
Week 2: Hope Made Possible

Holy Communion will be served

Sunday, December 11, 2022

3rd Sunday of Advent—Lighting of Joy Candle

Children's Christmas Presentation Sunday

Gingerbread Bash

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

Sermon: GNJ Sermon Series: Impossible
Week 3: Joy Made Possible

Sunday, December 18, 2022

4th Sunday of Advent—Lighting of Love Candle

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon: GNJ Sermon Series: Impossible
Week 4: Love Made Possible

Saturday, December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service

Lighting of Christ Candle

7:00pm

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Sermon: The Impossible Made Possible

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Christmas Sunday (Outdoor Service)

Light Breakfast & Hot Cocoa will be served

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 2:13-23

Sermon: God Found in Possible Places

Sunday, January 1, 2023

New Year's Sunday Service

11:00am

Holy Communion will be served

CENTENARY UMC BOOK CLUB WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

All who are interested in reading books are cordially invited to join the **CUMC Book Club**. Meetings are held monthly (the SECOND FRIDAY of every month) from September through June at 12:00 noon at the Metuchen Diner.



October 2022-Before She Disappeared-Lisa Gardner
 November-Mrs Lincoln's Sisters-Jennifer Chaverini
 December-Winter Street-Elgin Hilderbrand
 January 2023-The Tenant-Katrina Engberg
 February-The Henna Artist-Alia Josh
 March-The Midnight Library-Matt Haig
 April-Suburban Dicks-Fabian Nicieza
 May-Blind Tiger-Sandra Brown
 June-Time and Again-Jack Finley

Other suggestions: Lions of Fifth Avenue-Fiona Davis
 Guest List-Lucy Foley
 Many Daughters of Afongmoy-James Ford

The Club is always looking for new members. Whether you read slow or fast, or just want to join us for lunch and hear about the books, please come and join us! You may contact Ruth Lechelt (rslech@aol.com) or Nancy Rapp (nrapp190@comcast.net) if you are interested. All are welcome to bring their suggestions for books to read as we continue to schedule our meetings for the upcoming months.

CELEBRATION OF FOUND CANS

LET'S REPLENISH!

Centenary continues its collection of non-perishable food items twice weekly to help “Replenish” (formerly the Middlesex County Food Network) make a dent in food insecurity! Food collection at Centenary takes place on Wednesdays and Sundays from 9:30 a.m. – noon. The collection bin is located at Centenary’s front door; just drop off an item or two (or more)!



Centenary – “The Friendly Church On the Hill” – is located at 200 Hillside Avenue in Metuchen. All are welcome!

CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

SINCE THE METUCHEN FAIR HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR OCTOBER 2022~ Our sidewalk sale was held in front of the church at 200 Hillside Avenue, Metuchen on Saturday, October 15, 2022 from 9:00am—3:00pm. Centenary United Methodist Women has handknit items which are available for sale if anyone is interested. We have a lot of new knitted and crocheted items for sale thanks to Hazel Hampden, Gladys Lehman, Nancy Rapp and Linda Woodfield-Stern. Rev. Sooah Na blessed the animals from 2:00 to 3:00pm. This is our only fundraiser so we will need your support. Please contact Sylvia Woodfield at 908-410-3241, and she will try to arrange a time to meet at the church for you to see the new items. Thanks to Ali, Scott, Arthur and Amelia Woodfield for setting up; Arlene Gray, Janice Clinton, and Linda Woodfield-Stern for helping with the selling; and the Woodfield family and Bob Carlson for packing up.



Starting Sunday, November 6th, we will have a table of our knitted items set up in the narthex. Check them out as they are beautiful and reasonable.

ATTENTION – NEEDLEWORKERS – I still have a supply of very good needlepoint yarns (Paternayan) and some plain canvas for needlepoint work. If you are interested in these things, please contact Sylvia Woodfield (c: 908-410-3241). I also have some yarn and some patterns if anyone is interested in them. It is not too soon to be thinking of a project for the Metuchen Fair. If you have a good idea for a project which you think will sell at the Metuchen Fair, please let Sylvia Woodfield know.



If you need help with a knitting or other needlework project, let me know. I don't crochet, but I knit, do cross stitch and needlepoint. It is not too early to be thinking of the fair – it is the first Saturday of October, and it will be here before we turn around. I have a pattern for a knitted dish towel which has a top with a button so that you can button the towel to your kitchen cabinet or stove door handle. If you would like to try this pattern, please let me know and I will give you the pattern. I have made one already and working on a second one. It is pretty easy to do.

Thanks to those faithful knitters and crocheters who supplied us with wonderful items for us to sell.

CENTENARY'S SANDWICH MINISTRY CONTINUES ITS MISSION

In September, Centenary marked its first anniversary of its Sandwich-Making Night ministry, which meets at the church on the second Thursday of each month from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m.

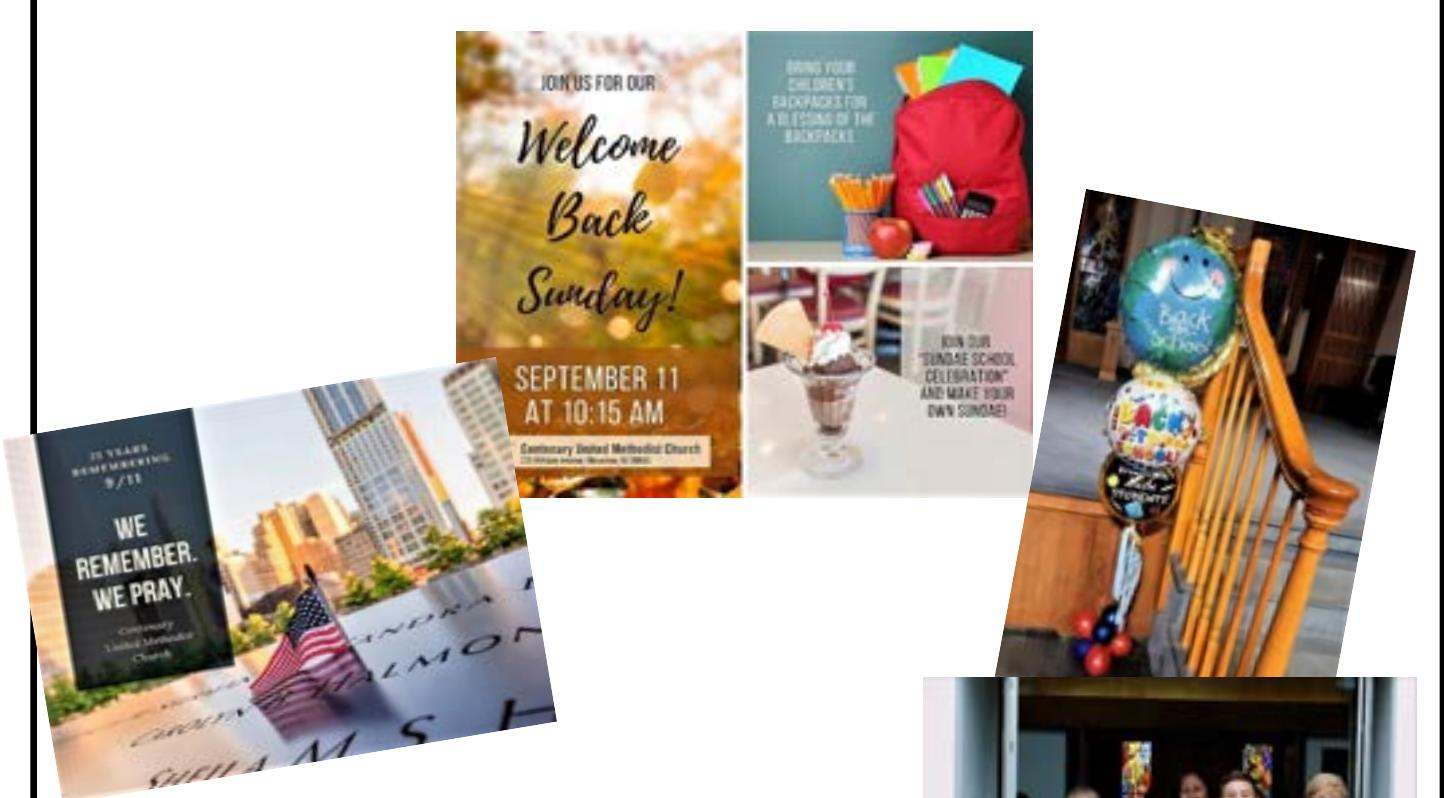
During the program's first full year of operation, volunteers prepared more than 2600 sandwiches that were distributed to feeding programs in Elizabeth, Plainfield, and Rahway through New Dover United Methodist Church's Sandwich Bag Mission. Wesley United Methodist Church of South Plainfield also participates in this collaborative mission project to feed the hungry.

As we begin the second year of this ministry, we are looking for new ways to fund the program which has become increasingly expensive as food prices rise due to the soaring inflation rate. The cost of each Sandwich-Making Night is now approximately \$150 for the bread (20 loaves), ham, cheese, turkey and other lunch meats, peanut butter and jelly, sandwich bags, and miscellaneous items that must be purchased each month. This adds up to \$1800 annually, making it the costliest of all of our mission projects.

In addition to making the sandwiches, a number of our volunteers have generously donated money to stretch our limited budget. If you would be willing to sponsor a Sandwich-Making Night -- either in full (\$150) or in part -- during the coming year, please let me know. Many thanks to all of the volunteers and donors who have made this new ministry possible.

Bob Carlson, Missions Chairman (rjcarls75@gmail.com)





Rev. Mike Graef, who served as director of the youth program in the 1980s, visited Centenary with his wife Missy, and offered the benediction to close the "Welcome Back Sunday" service.

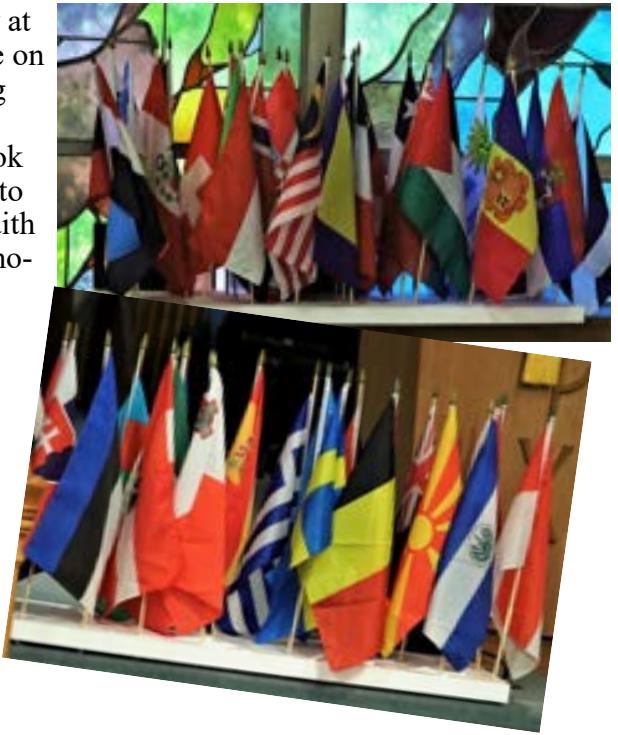


Pastor Sooah blessing the Sunday School children for the start of a new school year.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY AT CENTENARY

Flags of countries throughout the world adorned the sanctuary at Centenary at its “World Communion Sunday” worship service on October 2nd. Miss Nicole opened Children’s Time by greeting Centenary’s kids with a hearty “Ciao amici” (“hello friends”). Miss Nicole also told the children “God did not make us to look the same; God made us unique. We are all unique and special to God.” Reverend Sooah Na’s sermon was titled “Take Your Faith Home,” and reflected on the morning’s scripture lesson, 1 Timothy 1:1-14. “This is a time for us to remind ourselves that it is important to pass on our faith to our children,” Pastor Sooah said.



SPECIAL GUESTS AT SUNDAY SERVICE

Centenary was blessed to have Rev. Jongtae Jun and his wife, Heeja Park, at its worship service on Sunday, October 9, 2022. They are the parents of YK Jun, Centenary's interim Music Director and in-laws of Rev. Sooah Na.



Pastor Sooah is joined by her in-laws in singing “How Great Thou Art” in both Korean and English.



Rev. Jongtae Jun offered the Benediction during service.

CENTENARY KIDS ENJOY HARVEST CELEBRATION

The Centenary kids enjoyed their annual Harvest Celebration, which included a party with crafts, games, and a variety of snacks, followed by a trip to the pumpkin patch! Orianna won the candy corn contest, and Lily came in second. The total number of candy corns in the Mason jar was 316, which led to a discussion about remembering the Bible verse John 3:16. Everyone enjoyed the fall-themed events, before heading over to St. Luke's Church in Metuchen, for pumpkin picking. Thanks to Miss Nicole and Miss Grace for the wonderful program to celebrate the fall season!



CELEBRATING BREAKING THE CHAIN THROUGH EDUCATION

On Sunday, October 23rd, Centenary welcomed back Evan Robbins, Executive Director of Breaking the Chain Through Education, the charitable organization dedicated to the eradication of childhood slavery in Ghana. Evan founded the organization in 2006, along with his students at Metuchen High School where he teaches, and Centenary has been a supporter for nearly a decade. Evan provided updates to the church on the organization's efforts in Ghana. Centenary's barrel offering in October was designated to this mission.



RETURN OF CENTENARY'S CHOIR!

Centenary welcomed the return of its choir, which was put on hiatus due to the pandemic. Leading the choir is YK Jun, interim Director of Music Ministry. Choir members are Ellen Clarke, Virginia Giordano, Carla Giordano, Sarah Kanchi, Grace Manjourides, Joel Ramac and Pastor Sooah.

If you are interested in joining the Centenary Choir, please contact YK at 862-246-3456 or email ykmusicministry@gmail.com.

The Choir performed “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” during Offertory Hymn on Sunday, October 23rd.



The support group, Grief Share, began their fall sessions from 7:00-9:00 pm at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church on Old Post Road in Edison. You are encouraged to join on any week. The sessions are self-contained. You can register online at griefshare.org/groups/ or at a meeting in person. Please feel free to contact Ruth Lechelt at 908-227-6670 for additional details.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER?

This year's Hunger Walk, is set for 2 PM Sunday, November 6th, starting and finishing at Centenary United Methodist Church, 200 Hillside Avenue in Metuchen. This is the annual event to replenish our shared fund for neighbors in need.

In the past we have earmarked 30 percent of our pledges to an interfaith global nonprofit fighting hunger. Before we begin the walk, representatives of the Metuchen-Edison Area Interfaith Clergy Association (MEAICA) will have a moment to talk about what our worshipping community is doing in terms of outreach and social justice. A prayer should follow.

Rev. Chuck Coblenz
President of MEAICA

On All Saints Day November 6th, Centenary remembers and honors those who have passed away on the first Sunday in November. We have a tradition, ring a bell of remembrance and call the names of those lost in the previous year as a way of honoring the impact their lives have had on us. Honored were Austin Banks, Matthew Ferry, Michael Purdon, and Steven Szajko. Additional names will be mentioned in our next Lamplighter issue.



DECORATE A STAR FOR CHARITY!

STARS FOR CHARITY is a volunteer group of artists who use their skills and individual styles to transform a five-inch wooden star into fine art. The stars are then auctioned on Ebay. Any remaining stars are sold at a live auction. All of the proceeds go to an agreed-on charity.

STARS FOR CHARITY was founded by William Bunting, an artist and member of New Dover United Methodist Church. He and his wife, Donna, are active volunteers in New Dover's Sandwich Bag Ministry ("Bread Breakers"). Last year, the group raised nearly \$2,000, which was donated to two New Jersey food-based nonprofits: the Sandwich Bag Ministry and Community Food Bank of Hillside, which supplies food pantries throughout New Jersey.

If you would like to decorate a star for this year's auction, or for more information, please contact Bob Carlson on rjcarls75@gmail.com. You can create more than one star if you wish. The deadline for turning in finished stars is November 17th.

Bob Carlson, Mission Committee Chair

CELEBRATION OF A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

A Birthday Drive-by will be held on Saturday, November 19th at 12:00 pm for our long-time member, Lew Hause.

Centenary members and friends will gather to wish Lew a "Happy Birthday" with a "drive-by" on his special day. Centenary's pastor, Rev. Sooah Na, will offer a birthday prayer for Lew on his 98th Birthday.

God bless you, Lew!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER?

Sunday, November 27, 2022	1st Sunday of Advent—Lighting of Hope Candle Start of December Diaper Drive for the Maker's Place
Sunday, December 4, 2022	2nd Sunday of Advent Lighting—Lighting of Peace Candle Holy Communion will be served Christmas Music Sunday
Sunday, December 11, 2022	3rd Sunday of Advent Lighting—Lighting of Joy Candle Children's Christmas Sunday Family Gingerbread Bash
 A colorful graphic for a "Gingerbread BASH". The word "Gingerbread" is written in a large, yellow, bubbly font, and "BASH" is in a smaller, pink, dashed font. Below the text is a small illustration of a gingerbread house with a chimney, surrounded by candy canes and a snowflake.	
Sunday, December 18, 2022	4th Sunday of Advent Lighting—Lighting of Love Candle End of Diaper Drive and Delivery to the Maker's Place Christmas Cookies Delivery to seniors/shut-ins
Saturday, December 24, 2022	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00pm Lighting of Christ Candle
Sunday, December 25, 2022	Christmas Sunday Worship (Outdoor Service) Light Breakfast /Hot Cocoa following service
Sunday, January 1, 2023	New Year's Sunday Worship at 11:00am Holy Communion will be served



POINSETTIAS 2022 ORDER FORM

PLEASE PRINT YOUR INFORMATION

6.5 " Poinsettia 1 order = 2 plants per order, \$18.00

NAME/Phone number _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Number of orders _____ Amount paid _____ Check number _____ Envelope number _____

Payment is expected when the order is placed. Please write POINSETTIAS in the Memo section of your check. Your order can be mailed to the church office at Centenary UMC, 200 Hillside Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840 or placed in the offering plate during Sunday Worship Service.

LAST DAY TO ORDER IS DECEMBER 18, 2022.

Ali Woodfield, Flower Chairperson

Phone number 732-692-3289

Join us indoors or livestreaming
every Sunday Worship Service
at 10:15AM



www.facebook.com/centenaryUMCMetuchen/live
YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/centenaryworship>



If you have a request for prayer, or a joy you would like to lift up, please send your requests to:
prayercentenaryumc@gmail.com

The requests will be passed along to Pastor Sooah. Please keep us updated on your requests.

Thank you everyone for sharing your time, talents, and treasures to support our ministry by serving through our church and our community. May we prayerfully offer our resources to spread God's abundant love, seeking first not our own comfort, but the work of God's kingdom on earth.



Remember in your prayers:

Tom Moyer; Carolee Szajko; State of Florida and Puerto Rico; Patricia Thompson; family of Matthew Ferry (former teacher of Lily Tierno); Pvt. Brian Reppert (serving overseas and family friend of Ruth Lechelt); Miriam Dingle; family of Roslyn McCombs; Sylvia Woodfield; family of Frank Pike (cousin of Ellen Clarke); Poonam Chauhan (sister-in-law of Mala Roberts); Cathy Savoia; Anne Beattie; Rosie Ciccone (sister-in-law of Beverly Bell); Arthur Manjourides (father of Paul Manjourides); Monika Korte; Nancy Buday (friend of Ellen Clarke); Linda Stonage (sister of Bruce Clarke); Terri Sgambati (aunt of Nicole Tierno); Lori Loza; Reshma Rahi; Debra Martin (daughter of Mary Ellen Heim); Fran Koppell (friend of Bruce & Ellen Clarke); Melanie Spanko (daughter of Janet Spanko); Lee Lehman; Lester Heim, Jr.; Howie Reenberg (friend of Tom Moyer); Laura Vasile (daughter of Rita Vasile); Portia Lashley; Mary Ellen Heim; Samantha (neighbor of Nicole Tierno); Monika Van Houten; People of Uvalde and Ukraine.