

**SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:**

- **From the Pastor's Desk**
- **May/June Worship Schedules**
- **CUMC Book Club**
- **The Centenary United Methodist Women**
- **Middlesex County Food Bank's New Name: "Replenish"**
- **Sandwich Thursdays Mission**
- **2022 Holy Week Services**
- **CUMC Confirmation Classes**
- **2022 VBS Updates**
- **Reception of New Members**
- **Farewell to our Music Ministry Director**
- **Reopening Guidelines Update**

Lamplighter



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

MAY/JUNE 2022

Dear Centenary friends and families,

May and June are among the busiest and most meaningful months for many families. These months signal the end of the school year, with families spending time together to celebrate graduations of young and old, and to honor all mothers and fathers on Mother's Day and Father's Day.

As a family of God, Centenary also has many upcoming celebrations in May and June. On Mother's Day (May 8th) and Father's Day (June 19th), we will celebrate and recognize all mothers and fathers with a special blessing prayer. Significantly, the barrel offering on Mother's Day will be designated to support struggling moms through the Maker's Place, a nonprofit diaper bank in Trenton. Our confirmands recently completed their last confirmation class and look forward to being confirmed on June 5th. We will also recognize and honor our graduates on that Sunday. Save the dates for all these special events!

Next month, we will be celebrating the ministry of Donavon Soumas who has served as Centenary's Director of Music Ministry for the past seven years and will be leaving us at the end of June. On behalf of Centenary, I appreciate his faith, leadership, and music during his years at Centenary. Since the beginning of this year, Donavon has been working hard with other church musicians to put together an upcoming outdoor concert, the "Spring Healing Concert," on May 22nd (following the outdoor Sunday worship). Our Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) plans to set aside Sunday, June 26th, to honor Donavon. I hope you will come out to celebrate his gifts and ministry on both Sundays, May 22nd, and June 26th.

With Donavon's transition, we are looking for a new Director of Music Ministry. Our SPRC will be interviewing for the position, and eventually hiring our new director, and we appreciate your prayers for the entire process and for our next music director.

Thank you for your prayerful support of confirmands, graduates, Donavon, and our next Director of Music Ministry. May God continue to do good work through each of us as we continue to transform our space into a place of hope - "the Friendly Church on the Hill" -- and strive to communicate a sense of God's warmth and generosity to the community. Many Blessings.

Your Pastor, Sooah



WORSHIP SCHEDULE MAY 2022

Sunday, May 1, 2022

3rd Sunday of Easter

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Acts 9:10-20

Sermon: "The Prayer of Ananias"

Holy Communion will be served

Sunday, May 8, 2022

Good Shepherd Sunday & Mother's Day

4th Sunday of Easter

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lessons: Psalm 23; John 10:22-30

Sermon: "What Voice Do You Hear?"

Sunday, May 15, 2022

5th Sunday of Easter

10:15am

Guest Preacher: Rev. SunHo Na (Pastor Sooah's father)

Scripture Lesson: Ephesians 4:22-24

Sermon: "The New Self!"

Sunday, May 22, 2022

"Spring Healing Concert" following Sunday Service

6th Sunday of Easter

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: John 14:23-29

Sermon: "Do Not Let Your Hearts be Troubled"

Sunday, May 29, 2022

Ascension Sunday

7th Sunday of Easter

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Acts 1:1-11

Sermon: "Why Are You Standing Here?"



WORSHIP SCHEDULE JUNE 2022

Sunday, June 5, 2022

**Confirmation & Graduate Sunday
Pentecost Sunday**
10:15am
Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na
Scripture Lesson: Acts 2:1-21
Sermon: "Confirmation Testimony"
Holy Communion will be served

Sunday, June 12, 2022

**Trinity Sunday
1st Sunday after Pentecost**
10:15am
Guest Preacher: TBA
Scripture Lessons: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; John 16:12-15
Sermon: TBA

Sunday, June 19, 2022

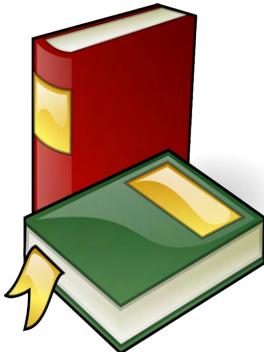
**Father's Day
2nd Sunday after Pentecost**
10:15am
Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na
Scripture Lesson: 1 Kings 19:1-15a
Sermon: "Things to Remember When Hard Times Hit"

Sunday, June 26, 2022

3rd Sunday after Pentecost
10:15am
Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na
Scripture Lesson: Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Sermon: "Be Fruitful!"

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.



2021 October: The Searchers by Tanya French
November: Call Your Daughter Home by Deborah Spera
December: The Book of Lost Friends
2022 January: The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah
February: The Leavers by Lisa Ko
March: Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd
April: The Dutch House by Anne Patchett
May: The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Michele Richardson
June: Deacon King Kong by James McBride
Summer Reading: The Exiles by Christina Baker

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.

CENTENARY'S 'CELEBRATION OF FOUND CANS' CONTINUES IN 2022!

Centenary continues its non-perishable food collection (the “Celebration of Found Cans”) in 2022, on Wednesdays (9:00 – 12 noon) and Sundays (9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.). Let’s fill the bins to help the Middlesex County Food Network (Replenish) make a dent in food insecurity! Just pull into Centenary’s driveway, locate the bin near the front door, and drop off an item or two (or more)!

Thanks to all for your support!



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



MIDDLESEX COUNTY FOOD BANK HAS A NEW NAME: REPLENISH

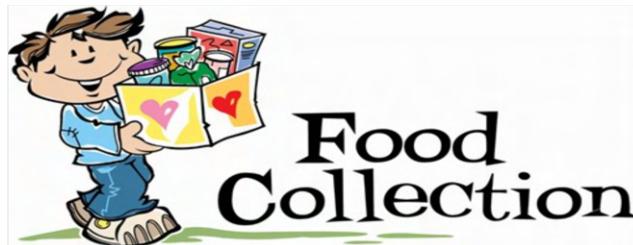
The Middlesex County Food Bank, formerly known by the acronym MCFOODS, has changed its name to REPLENISH: Nourishing Neighbors. REPLENISH is Middlesex County's hunger eradication program, meeting basic needs within the county by supporting over 150 partner agencies.

As part of its mission outreach program, Centenary UMC has been supporting the food bank with monthly food donations for many years.

Those attending the worship service this Sunday will notice six new green collection bins, bearing the REPLENISH name, in the narthex.

Centenary's donations for the last two months totaled 115 items in February and 167 items in March. The most needed items include canned meats, macaroni & cheese, vegetables, dry beans (red, black, and pinto), fruits, stew, cereal, rice, pasta, granola bars, diapers and wipes, paper products, soap and shampoo, and toothpaste. Canned and packaged goods only, low sodium and low sugar options preferred. No glass items, please.

Bob Carlson, Missions Committee



CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

PLEDGE Letters will be mailed soon. A budget for 2022 for Centenary United Methodist Women will be enclosed. During the pandemic, the Women paid for the cleaning of the sanctuary carpet.

METUCHEN FAIR: Hopefully we will be able to have the Metuchen Fair downtown in October 2022. If not, we will have a sidewalk sale like we did in 2021. We made over \$300 from the sidewalk sale last year.



HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES were honored as follows:

2021	High School — Jessica Ramac, Carla Giordano
	College — Joshua Ramac, Donavon Soumas
2020	High School — Joshua Bhujbal, Jessica Stern
	College — Roselyn Giordano, Emma Stern

Each graduate received a gift of \$100 from the Centenary UMW.

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 (732-549-9042). 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 (732-549-9042) 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 long time member, Monika Van Houten recently moved to Maryland. Centenary UMC wishes her well.

May God continue to bless her in her new home and new life journey.

CENTENARY'S SANDWICH MINISTRY CONTINUES ITS MISSION

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick...

“They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

Matthew 14:14,16

Centenary's "sandwich team" returned to action last week, preparing approximately 200 sandwiches for New Dover UMC's "Sandwich Ministry." These sandwiches were then delivered to New Dover UMC for distribution to those in need, through St. Joseph's Food Distribution in Elizabeth. Centenary provided a variety of sandwiches, including peanut butter and jelly, turkey and cheese, and ham and cheese, to the effort.

All are welcome to participate in this mission effort. If you'd like to join the "sandwich team" (which meets once a month, on a Thursday evening, for 60-90 minutes), just contact the Church Office at 732-548-7622 for more information. Our next Sandwich Thursday will be May 12, 2022.

We thank all volunteers and donors who continue to participate and support our sandwich-making ministry! If you are interested in supporting and joining in this mission of Jesus, please get in touch with our mission committee chair, Bob Carlson or Pastor Sooah.

Centenary – “The Friendly Church On the Hill”







2022 EASTER FLOWERS

Given by

Bob Carlson

Bruce and Ellen Clarke

Bob and Donna Dingle

Mary Ellen Heim

Ruth Lolla

Tom and Nancy Moyer

Nancy Rapp

Linda Serentino

Sylvia Woodfield

In Honor of

grandchildren Carter, Caroline, Rachel, Robert

our Children and Granddaughter

our Family and Friends

the Risen Christ and Loved Ones

families of Lolla, Lawrence, Ball

Loved Ones

Children and Grandchildren

Children, Granddaughters, Siblings; Jesus, our Lord and Savior

grandchildren Kirsten Woodfield, Emma and Jessica Stern,
Amelia and Arthur Woodfield

Given by

Bob Carlson

Bruce and Ellen Clarke

Mary Ellen Heim

Dorothy Lake

Ruth Lechelt

Ruth Lolla

Joan Mattia

Tom and Nancy Moyer

Sooah Na

Nancy Rapp

Cathy Savoia

Linda Serentino

Carolee Szajko

Sylvia Woodfield

In Memory of

Ellen and John Carlson; Ann Carlson Bergholt; Rev. Cynthia Carlson

Loved Ones

Les Heim, Sr.

Richard C. Lake

Rudy and Jackson Lechelt

Doris Dawalt

David and Peg Hamblin

Loved Ones

JongHwan Na (grandfather); Eul Noh

husband Richard; daughter Cheri

Michael Savoia

Harvey and Elsie Franklin; those who fought for the Ukrainians

Loved Ones

parents Edith and Stanley Sanders; son Douglas Woodfield

CONFIRMATION CLASSES HELD



Confirmation classes were held at Centenary UMC of Metuchen, after Sunday Service, together with confirmands from New Dover United Methodist Church of Edison and Trinity United Methodist Church of South Amboy. The three UMC churches are on a rotating Sundays schedule, with classes being held twice a month.

Centenary will hold its Confirmation Sunday on June 5, 2022, with our confirmands Sonia and Sarah Kanchi.





2022 VBS will be held during August 3, 4, 5, a three-day event, at Centenary UMC, 200 Hillside Avenue, Metuchen. Additional details will be announced at a later date.

We are looking for volunteers for 2022 VBS. If you are interested, please contact Miss Nicole, our VBS coordinator, at nikkigo24@hotmail.com.



RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS



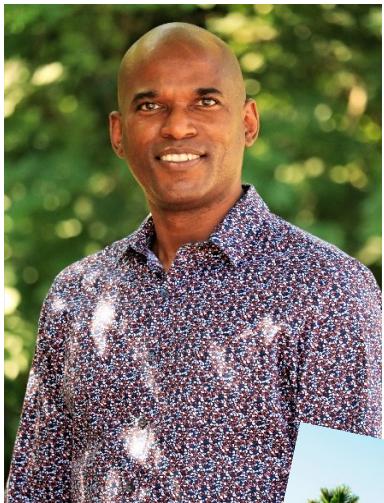
During April 2022, Pastor Sooah Na welcomed new members, Mala, Victoria & Se and their children, Sophia and Nickolas to Centenary UMC.



FAREWELL TO OUR MUSIC MINISTRY DIRECTOR, DR. DONAVON SOUMAS

Centenary bids farewell to our Music Ministry Director, Dr. Donavon Soumas. After seven years as our Music Director, Donavon will be starting a new life adventure in Las Vegas. He will be sorely missed by all at Centenary. His gifts of music, leadership and faith have blessed us over the years.

We are setting aside Sunday, June 26, 2022, to honor him and say our goodbyes during our fellowship hour following church service. Since he is relocating across the country, we thought gift cards would be a good way to say “thank you.” If you care to participate, you can give your gift cards to any of the SPRC members. Notes of appreciation can also be sent to the church at 200 Hillside Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840 marked SPRC.



Donavon is a founding partner of RealizeDiversity, LLC. He is an educational leader with 20+ years' experience in private K-12 education, building a career of teaching and learning through performing arts and musical programming. Donavon holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Pedagogy, a Master of Arts in Education and Human Development and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership. His leadership expertise serves to encourage and promote both student and employee learning through self-reflection and organizational support. His doctoral research explored the benefits of employee-organization relationships via organizational support.



In addition, Donavon has put together an outdoor concert, the “*Spring Healing Concert*” for Sunday, May 22, 2022 on the front lawn of Centenary UMC. Many people who have contributed their musical talents, during our indoor and outdoor Sunday Services during the pandemic, will be featured. Let us all support him at this event as we celebrate his gift of music!

REOPENING GUIDELINES UPDATE

The Church Council met to examine and discuss our current reopening plan and guidelines. We have updated the reopening plan by implementing the following measures to facilitate an environment in which people are safe and comfortable worshipping together so that we can strive for a greater connection with God and each other.

- 1. If the COVID-19 community level reported by the Center for Disease Control (CDC)* in Middlesex County is low, masks will be optional. However, If the community level is medium or high, you will be expected to wear masks.** Those who are more comfortable wearing masks are invited to continue to do so. We will inform you of the community level in Middlesex County each week via Centenary's email blast on Friday and will also post signs on the front door of the Church. Extra masks will be provided for those who need them.
- 2. We request that those exhibiting cold and/or flu-like symptoms, or who have had a positive Covid-19 test or have had exposure to someone with Covid-19, forgo in-person services and attend our online services.**

Centenary's reopening plan is a "living" document. Our Church Council monitors the latest science-based information and best practices related to Covid-19 from the CDC.

***What is the COVID-19 community level?**

The COVID-19 community level is determined by the higher of the new admissions and inpatient beds occupied metrics, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days. CDC recommends use of COVID-19 Community Levels to determine the impact of COVID-19 on communities and take action.



The support group, GriefShare, began its program on Tuesday evenings, 7:00-9:00 pm, session ends July 19, 2022. The group will be meeting in person at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church led by Pastor Jim Kromholz. You are encouraged to join on any week. Sessions are self-contained.

St. Paul's address is 445 Old Post Road, Edison, NJ 08817. It is located close to Edison High School, next to Elk's Lodge and Shop Rite.

All are welcome. You can register online at griefshare.org/groups/ or at a meeting in person. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Ruth at 908-227-6670.

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

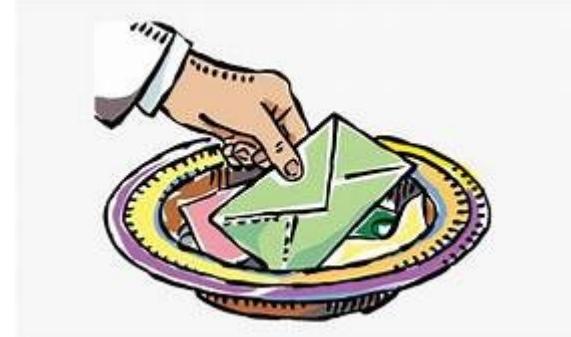


www.facebook.com/centenaryUMCMetuchen/live/
YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/centenaryworship>



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:

Families of Austin Banks, Martin Downes (father-in-law of Darla Downes), Susan Nordhausen, Lt. William Lebo (brother-in-law of Anne Beattie, Susan Nordhausen, Stephen Szajiko; Don Weissinger (brother-in-law of Bob Carlson); Erik Flood (friend of the Dingle Family); Arthur Manjourides (father of Paul Manjourides); Monika Korte; People of Ukraine; Nancy Buday (friend of Ellen Clarke); Patricia Thompson; Linda Stonage (sister of Bruce Clarke); Clyde Soumas (brother of Donavon Soumas); Terri Sgambati (aunt of Nicole Tierno); Lori Loza; Reshma Rahi; Debra Martin (daughter of Mary Ellen Heim); Fran Koppell (friend of Bruce & Ellen Clarke); Roger Mullenhard (brother-in-law of Linda Serentino); Stephanie Ringler; 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; Sylvia Woodfield; John Wooding; Samantha (neighbor of Nicole Tierno); Monika Van Houten

