

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:**

- **From the Pastor's Desk**
- **January/February Worship Schedules**
- **CUMC Book Club and the Centenary United Methodist Women Update**
- **Thanksgiving Meals to Members/ Friends of CUMC**
- **Metuchen Tree Lighting**
- **The Maker's Place Diaper Drive**
- **McFoods Bank**
- **December 2020 Advent Candle Lighting**
- **Announcements**
- **Easter Flowers Order Form**

Lamplighter



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

JAN/FEB 2021

Dear Friends and Family of Centenary UMC,

I hope you had a blessed Christmas! My first Advent and Christmas at Centenary were amazing. I am grateful to 35 friends - worship assistants, virtual choir, musicians, singers, children, youth, staff, and volunteers - who created and participated in beautiful online worship experiences throughout.

During my renewal leave, my New Year began by reflecting on the year 2020 at Centenary. Including myself, many of us enjoyed a number of Centenary's meaningful traditions in creative ways, such as VBS (Virtual Bible Social), outdoor worship and Sunday School activities, and online bible studies and prayer meetings. Through your labors of love and generous giving, Centenary shared Christ's love (Celebration of Found Cans, Sandwich Bag Ministry, December Diaper Drive, Thanksgiving Meals distribution, and Christmas Cookie Delivery), and continued valued missions (Breaking the Chain, Marisa Tufaro Foundation, Fuccile Foundation and Young Vision Africa). I thank you all for making a positive impact on our community and sharing the good news of Christ with the people in our neighborhood.

Centenary has been adhering to guidance put forth by the CDC, the state of New Jersey and GNJ to determine the safest route forward for our members and friends during these challenging times. Thankfully, with the arrival of a COVID-19 vaccine, we now see "light at the end of the tunnel" and can think ahead to when we will be able to gather again. New Jersey residents can now pre-register for the vaccine by accessing <https://covidvaccine.nj.gov/> (web-site address provided for informational purposes).

As we begin the New Year, my prayer is that God will continue to bless and heal our community and nation through the love of Christ that we at Centenary share. May we all have a blessed and healthy New Year.

May you be blessed with God's strength,

Rev. Sooah Na



WORSHIP SCHEDULE **JANUARY 2021**

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Epiphany Sunday/GNJ Worship
10:15am (online Facebook & YouTube)

Preacher: Bishop John Schol

Holy Communion will be served (online service only)

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Baptism of the Lord/GNJ Worship
10:15am (online Facebook & YouTube)

Preacher: Bishop John Schol

Sunday, January 17, 2021

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany
GNJ Sermon Series: Courageous
10:15am (online Facebook & YouTube)

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Philippians 2:5-11

Sermon: "Courage to be Vulnerable"

Sunday, January 24, 2021

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany
GNJ Sermon Series: Courageous
10:15am (online Facebook & YouTube)

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Philippians 1:2-12

Sermon: "Courage to be Gracious"

Sunday, January 31, 2021

4th Sunday after the Epiphany
GNJ Sermon Series: Courageous
10:15am (online Facebook & YouTube)

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Philippians 2:1-5

Sermon: "Courage to be Last"



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday, February 7, 2021

5th Sunday after the Epiphany
GNJ Sermon Series: Courageous
10:15am (online Facebook & YouTube)
Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na
Scripture Lesson: Philippians 3:10-16
Sermon: "Courage to be First"
Holy Communion will be served (online service only)

Sunday, February 14, 2021

Transfiguration Sunday
10:15am (online Facebook & YouTube)
Guest Preacher: TBA
Scripture Lessons: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday
Time of Service will be Announced
Scripture Lesson: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, February 21, 2021

1st Sunday in Lent
Lent: The Power of Gospel
10:15am (online Facebook & YouTube)
Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na
Scripture Lessons: 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
Sermon: "Connection"

Sunday, February 28, 2021

2nd Sunday in Lent
Lent: The Power of Gospel
10:15am (online Facebook & YouTube)
Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na
Scripture Lessons: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Mark 8:31-38
Sermon: "The Meaning of Life"

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 (weather permitting under canopy.)



Books selected so far:

2020 October: Teagirl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See
November: The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris
December: Cilka's Journey by Heather Morris
2021 January: The Other Mrs. by Mary Kubica
February: Vanishing Half by Brit Benner
March: TBD
April: Anxious People by Fredrik Bactman
May: Nine Perfect Strangers by Liane Moriarty
June: TBD

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 UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

PLEDGE Letters will be mailed the first week of March. A budget for 2020 for Centenary United Methodist Women will be enclosed. This year we have sent \$50 to the Red Bird Mission, which is a mission project of the United Methodist Church in Beverly, Kentucky. We also sent a box of our hand-knitted hats and scarves to the Red Bird Mission. This pledge and the Metuchen Fair are our only fundraisers. We hope you will support our projects with your pledges.

SINCE THE METUCHEN FAIR WAS CANCELLED IN OCTOBER 2020 ~ Centenary United Methodist Women has handknit items which are available for sale if anyone is interested. Please contact Sylvia Woodfield at 732-549-9042, and we will try to arrange a time to meet at church for you to see the items.

MEANWHILE ~ It may be a long winter so...

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 for 2021. 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 in 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, 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. We also have a pretty easy pattern for a knitted hat as well as patterns for scarfs.



To our men and women in uniform, past, present, and future, God bless you. With respect, honor and gratitude for your service to our country.

CENTENARY SHARE CHRIST'S LOVE WITH THANKSGIVING MEALS



Even though Thanksgiving seems like it was a long time ago, we want to thank Centenary Men and Centenary Women for joining forces to buy and deliver 24 Thanksgiving Dinners for deserving members and friends of Centenary. The dinners were prepared by Marco's Deli, a local shop on Main Street in Metuchen. By all accounts, the meals were delicious and enjoyed by all who received them. Thanks to the following people who picked up dinners and delivered them – Lester Gesteland, Pastor Sooah Na, Ed Stern and daughter, Emma, Scott Woodfield and Sylvia Woodfield.





Pastor Sooah was invited by the Metuchen Parade Commission to attend the Tree Lighting at the Woodmont Plaza on November 29, 2020. Even though the event was virtual and shown on local Metuchen TV stations, attendees by Jonathan Busch, Mayor of Metuchen, the Metuchen Parade Commission, Brendan Flynn, Manager of Flynn & Sons Funeral Home in Metuchen, Pastor Sooah Na, representing the Metuchen-Edison Area Interfaith Clergy Association, with special guest, Santa Claus, arrived on the Metuchen Fire Engine truck, to welcome the start of the holiday season.

DECEMBER DIAPER DRIVE A HUGE SUCCESS AGAIN!

Bob Carlson (left) and Rev. Sooah Na (right) gave their seal of approval after organizing some 2500 baby diapers and wipes for delivery to The Maker's Place in Trenton on December 19, 2020. Bob serves as Chairman of Centenary's Mission Committee, while Rev. Na serves as pastor at CUMC. Rev. Michael Reed, pastor of The Maker's Place and organizer of the diaper drive, said of Centenary's efforts, "We're so grateful and amazed that you and your congregation stepped up to help babies and children, and provide a lifeline for struggling families. Thank you!"

The Makers Place is a "Hope Center" of the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey annual conference. The "December Diaper Drive's" vision is for a community where "every baby has adequate diapers; every child reaches their first birthday; every parent is connected to a network of mutual support; and every person is a maker in their own life and community." This was the second year of the diaper drive.



NOVEMBER DONATIONS TO FOOD BANK REACH ALL-TIME HIGH FOR ONE MONTH

Our food collection ministry for the Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services (MCFOODS) soared to an all-time high in November, filling nine bins and totaling 453 items.

MCFOODS picked up the food on November 25, in time for distribution to needy families for Thanksgiving. Since we resumed our food collection in early September, the number of donated items has been steadily increasing and now totals over 800 for the three-month period. MCFOODS, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2019, distributes over two million pounds of food annually to 120 community partners, including local food pantries, community organizations, and food banks, which in turn feed hungry residents all over Middlesex County. Thank you for your generosity-- the number of people facing food insecurity during the pandemic has never been greater.



The green donation bin for non-perishable food items is out in front of Centenary UMC's door every Wednesday (9 a.m. – 12 noon) and Sunday (11 a.m. – Noon) mornings.

All items collected are donated to the Middlesex County Emergency Food Network. Let's continue to make this worthy effort a success – and help make a dent in food insecurity! Just pull into Centenary's driveway (at 200 Hillside Avenue in Metuchen) and drop off an item or two (or more)! Thanks to all for your support!



SPECIAL FUND ESTABLISHED TO HELP METUCHEN**FAMILY WHO LOST HOUSE IN CHRISTMAS EVE FIRE**

On Christmas Eve about 7:45--a time I would normally be attending the Candlelight Service at Centenary--the peace and calm of this holy night was suddenly shattered in my neighborhood by fire sirens, the flashing lights of police cars, and all kinds of commotion. A house just around the corner from mine, on Park Place, Metuchen, had caught fire. Fortunately, the family who lived there--Randolph and Cielo Mojica and their four children--were not home at the time. But their house was destroyed and their two dogs perished. The Fuccile Foundation, which assists area families in times of crisis, quickly established a fund to help the Mojica Family and the community has responded generously. As a church that has served the Metuchen community for 154 years, we also want to help this family that suffered such a devastating loss on this holiest night of the year. Centenary UMC has contributed a total of \$1,020.00 to the Mojica Family Fund.

Thank you, Bob Carlson

Mission Chairman

2020 DECK THE HALLS WORSHIP SERIES AT CENTENARY UMC**Sunday, November 29, 2020, Deck the Halls with Hope**

The Manjourides Family lighted the First Advent Candle as a symbol of Christ, our Hope.

**Sunday, December 6, 2020, 2nd Deck the Halls with Peace**

The Martino Family lighted the Second Advent Candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace.



Sunday, December 13, 2020, Deck the Halls with Joy

The Woodfield Family lighted the Third Advent Candle as a symbol of Christ, our Joy.



Sunday, December 20, 2020, Deck the Halls with Love

The Ramac Family lighted the Fourth Advent Candle as a symbol of Love.



Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020

The Tierno Family lighted the Christ Candle, proclaiming that Christ is the light of the world.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2020****Given by****In Memory of**

Ellen and Bruce	uncles Alois and Ben Franko
Ruth Lolla	families of Dawalt, Lawrence, Lolla
Tom and Nancy Moyer	Loved Ones
Nancy Rapp	husband Richard E. Rapp, daughter Cheri Sue Rapp
Linda Serentino	parents Harvey and Elsie Franklin
Nicole Tierno	mother Laura Sgambati
The Vasile Family	Paul D'Alessio, Charlotte Farrell
Sylvia Woodfield	parents Edith and Stanley Sanders, son Douglas Woodfield
Mary Wu	Loved Ones

Given by**In Honor of**

Ellen and Bruce Clarke	granddaughter Anna Mary Garabedian
Dorothy and Richard Lake	Family
Tom and Nancy Moyer	Loved Ones
Nancy Rapp	Children and Grandchildren
Linda Serentino	Children, Grandchildren, Siblings and the Christ Child
Sylvia Woodfield	grandchildren Kirsten Woodfield, Emma and Jessica Stern, Amelia and Arthur Woodfield
Mary Wu	Loved Ones

Hi Centenary Friends & Family,

I want to inform all of you about how your generous contributions have been distributed for 2020 special missions. These monies were obtained from barrel offerings and individual special gifts.

Miracles Everywhere.....	\$ 500.
Breaking the Chain Through Education.....	\$ 500.
The Fuccile Foundation.....	\$ 200.
Young Vision Africa.....	\$ 200.
Red Bird Mission.....	\$ 100.
The Centenary Fund and Preachers' Aid Society.....	\$ 100.
Marisa Tufaro Foundation.....	\$ 540.
Metuchen-Edison Area Interfaith Clergy Association Hunger Walk ..	\$ 500.
Camden Neighborhood Center.....	\$ 76.34
Lenten Folders.....	\$ 771.
Middlesex County Food Bank.....	\$ 940.95
GNJAC.....	\$ 2,662.89

Monies were divided into the following missions: Hurricane relief, European refugees, Bolivian Orphans, Voices of Slavery-India, World Communion Sunday and United Methodist Student Day.

Special gifts and profits received over the years from the flower and library fund were transferred into the COVID-19 Emergency Fund in 2020.....\$6,892.78

As Methodists and especially Centenary United Methodists, everyone should be proud of the compassion and generosity that has been shown over the years. Without your donations and support, we would not have been able to donate to any of these special missions without your help.

Thank you,
Linda Serentino
Special Funds Treasurer



Thank you in a thousand ways to my Centenary Friends and Family for the Birthday Drive-By on Sunday, December 6, 2020. It was such a special time with much appreciation that all were able to attend and wish me the happiest Birthday. A special thank you to Lily Tierno, Rosie Manjourides and Stephanie Ringler for their sweet gifts. Please accept my gratitude for all your good wishes.

Blessings, Mary Ellen Heim



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.

SPECIAL NOTE

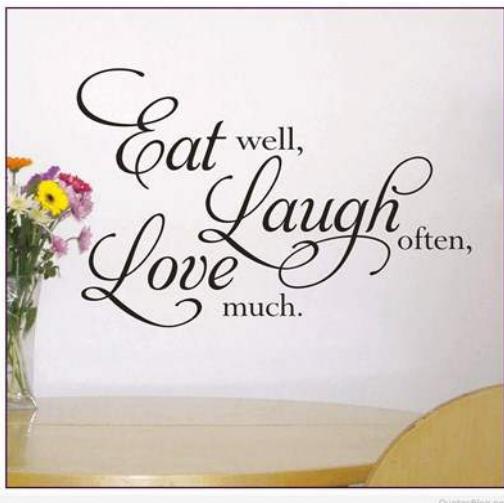
Dear CUMC Family and Friends,

COVID-19 has created many challenges and questions regarding how and where we will worship moving forward. This pandemic has isolated us from our loved ones and have caused us much pain and suffering. It's important for Christians to stand strong in their faith and be able to celebrate by seeing the beauty that the advent season brings to us all. We will not let this pandemic keep us from adorning our sanctuary to glorify the coming of our Lord this year. Therefore it has been decided to continue to adorn our altar with Easter flowers.

It has been suggested to offer two options:

1. Order the Easter flowers as you have in the past. Any money raised from these orders will be placed in our Emergency (COVID-19) Fund. This fund will provide assistance to those who have been effected financially because of the pandemic. Monies that were raised from Poinsettias and Easter flowers in the past has been transferred into this special fund, which allowed Centenary to provide assistance to one of our members.
2. For those of you who don't wish to buy Easter flowers, you may wish to donate money that will go directly into the Emergency (COVID-19) Fund instead. Contributions received for this fund have already assisted one of our congregants during this pandemic.

"WE CARE AUSTIN"



Centenary has arranged online Meal Calendar where members can sign up to deliver a meal or have a meal delivered to Austin Banks from a local restaurant. A fresh meal, personal interaction and knowing you are cared about, feeds the soul along with the belly.

We've updated the calendar for future dates. If you are interested in participating, please sign up on the Meal Train calendar with Grace Manjourides at gracepuleo@msn.com.

**EASTER FLOWERS****2021 ORDER FORM**

6" Lily 1 order = 2 plants / \$15.00 per order

6" Tulip 1 order = 2 plants / \$15.00 per order

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____ PHONE _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Lily: Number of orders _____ Amount paid _____

(check Number _____ / envelope number _____)

Tulip: Number of orders _____ Amount paid _____

(check number _____ / envelope number _____)

Payment is expected when the order is placed. Please write EASTER FLOWERS or COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUND in the memo section of your check and on the order form. Your order can be mailed to the church office at Centenary UMC, 200 Hillside Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840.

Last day to order is Friday, March 26, 2021.

The list of those who purchased Easter flowers and who they are honoring and memorializing will be posted in the online bulletin and in the next Lamplighter issue.

Thank you for your order.

Kind regards,

Linda Serentino, Flower Chairperson

732 940 2135