

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
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Lamplighter



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

SEPT/OCT 2022

Grace and Peace to you – Centenary's friends and families!

It's hard to believe that the summer months are ending! As we are called back to our various communities at work, school, and church, I pray that you and your family are safe and healthy.

During July and August, Centenary's Sandwich Making Ministry continued despite the challenges of covid and rising prices for food and supplies. We thank all volunteers and donors from our congregation who help this much-needed mission, which serves marginalized populations in Elizabeth, Plainfield, and Rahway. A special thank you to Devin Tierno and his 11 year-old little league team for its donation to the Sandwich Making Ministry!

Centenary's annual Vacation Bible School was held August 3-5. Our theme was "Jerusalem Market Place" and we all learned how to trust Jesus as our Risen King! Including children, youth, volunteers, and parents, we had a total of 73 participants during the three nights of this fun event! I thank Nicole Tierno for her dedicated leadership, and all our volunteers for their labor of love for this beautiful community outreach program that will have a lifelong impact on children and participants.

On the first Sunday of August, Centenary welcomed my husband, YoungKwang Jun, as interim music director. We are recruiting choir members to resume our choir ministry after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. If you love to sing, please do not hesitate to reach out to YK! Everyone is welcome to join the choir and praise the Lord!

We will begin the new year of our worship life with our annual "Welcome Back Sunday" on September 11th at 10:15 a.m., and you and your family are invited to this very special Sunday! Please remind your children to bring their backpacks for the "blessing of backpacks" and "Sundae School Celebration" – where your children can make their own sundaes. After the worship service, we will have fellowship time.

If you've received this letter, you belong here at Centenary - the Friendly Church On the Hill! I can't wait to see everyone on "Welcome Back Sunday!"

Many Blessings,
Your Pastor, Sooah



WORSHIP SCHEDULE
SEPTEMBER 2022

Sunday, September 4, 2022

13th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30am (last day of summer service hours)

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Jeremiah 18:1-11

Sermon: God, the Potter

Holy Communion will be served

Sunday, September 11, 2022

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome Back Sunday/Outdoor Fellowship

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Luke 15:1-10

Sermon: Does God Love Me?

Sunday, September 18, 2022

15th Sunday after Pentecost

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Sermon: There is a Balm in Gilead!

Sunday, September 25, 2022

16th Sunday after Pentecost

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Luke 16:19-31

Sermon: What are You Doing for Lazarus?



WORSHIP SCHEDULE
OCTOBER 2022

Sunday, October 2, 2022

17th Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
10:15am
Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na
Scripture Lesson: 2 Timothy 1:1-14
Sermon: "Rekindle the Gift"
Holy Communion will be served

Sunday, October 9, 2022

18th Sunday after Pentecost
10:15am
Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na
Scripture Lesson: 2 Timothy 2:8-15
Sermon: "Present Yourself to God"

Sunday, October 16, 2022

19th Sunday after Pentecost
10:15am
Guest Speaker: Robert (Bob) Carlson
Scripture Lesson: TBA
Sermon: TBA

Sunday, October 23, 2022

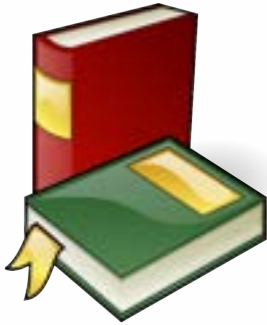
20th Sunday after Pentecost
10:15am
Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na
Scripture Lesson: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Sermon: "Poured Out"

Sunday, October 30, 2022

21st Sunday after Pentecost
Halloween Harvest
10:15am
Guest Preacher: TBA
Scripture Lesson: TBA
Sermon: TBA

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 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.

CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

SINCE THE METUCHEN FAIR HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR OCTOBER 2022 ~ We will be having a sidewalk sale 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 Carol Hock, Gladys Lehman and Nancy Rapp. Rev. Sooah Na will bless your pets from 2:00 to 3:00pm. This is our only fundraiser so we will need your support and volunteers to help set up the tents. We made over \$300 from the sidewalk sale last year. Please contact Sylvia Woodfield at 732-549-9042, and she will try to arrange a time to meet at the church for you to see the new items.

**CENTENARY'S GRADUATES** were honored as follows:

2022 Middle School — Sarah Kanchi

High School — Sonia Kanchi, Halle Lechelt

College — Juliana Martino

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.



GUEST PREACHER

Centenary was privileged and blessed to receive the message from guest preacher Rev. SunHo Na at its recent Sunday service. Rev. Na is the father of Centenary pastor Rev. Sooah Na; Pastor Sooah's parents were currently visiting from their native Korea. Rev. SunHo Na has served the Methodist church for 37 years and delivered inspiring words, "The New Self," to the congregation. To "conquer" the language barrier, Pastor Sooah simultaneously translated the sermon to English. Rev. SunHo Na said "Today, right now, like Joshua's commandment, may we commit ourselves and pray," "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Dan Tierno served as worship assistant and delivered that iconic passage from Joshua 24:15 as one of the scripture readings. During Children's Time, Miss Nicole's conversation with the kids included Jesus's "new" commandment "Love one another as I have loved you." She also noted that depending on the version of the Bible, the word "Love" is used between 300 and 545 times in the scriptures.



On May 8th, Centenary's "mothers" were honored and blessed with a prayer from Pastor Sooah during Sunday Service. Our Sunday School children handed out carnations to the mothers.

Then on June 19th, Centenary's "fathers" were honored and blessed with a prayer from Pastor Sooah during Sunday Service. The Sunday School children handed out chocolates to the fathers.



CELEBRATION OF SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS



A Birthday Drive-by on Sunday, May 15, 2022 at 12:00 pm for our long-time member, Mrs. Miriam Dingle's 98th Birthday.

Centenary members and friends gathered to wish long-time member Miriam Dingle a "Happy Birthday" with a "drive-by" on her special day. Centenary's pastor, Rev. Sooah Na, offered a birthday prayer for Miriam, and led the group in a resounding rendition of the classic favorite "Happy Birthday to You."



On Sunday, June 19, 2022, our service altar flowers were given by Alan, Doug & Byron Rooks in memory of their mother, Edna Rooks' 100th Birthday on June 6th.
Edna and her husband, Gene, were members during their time at Centenary.



CENTENARY'S SANDWICH MINISTRY CONTINUES ITS MISSION

In September, Centenary will mark the first anniversary of its new 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)



Centenary – “The Friendly Church On the Hill”

COMMISSIONING OF PASTOR SOOAH NA

The commissioning of Rev. Sooah Na as a “provisional elder” by Bishop John Schol of the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey, took place on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. Event was live streamed from the GNJ organization in Neptune, NJ. Centenary is proud and blessed to have Pastor Sooah serve our church and community.



The event was attended by Pastor Sooah's parents, Rev. SunHo Na and his wife, JoungHee Lee, and the Pastor's husband, YK.

Rev. Sooah Na with:
District Superintendent Rev. Sang Won Doh
Rev. Sungchun Ahn
Rev. Sunghyuk Samuel Kim



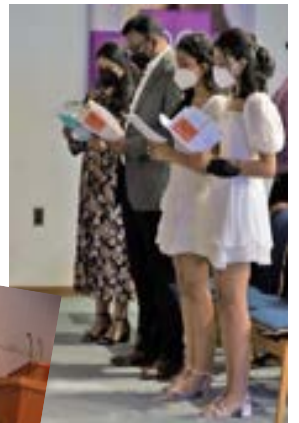
This year's Confirmation Class has been on an exciting and remarkable journey that began in January and concluded with confirmation on Pentecost (June 5th). Centenary joined with Trinity UMC of South Amboy and New Dover UMC of Edison for a combined confirmation class. The confirmands enjoyed meaningful and engaging discussions and lessons at its various sessions, while also designating time for collaborative activities and fun.



The most recent gathering was May 13-14, for a "Confirmation Lock-In" at Trinity UMC which included a pot-luck dinner on Friday night, a fire pit that provided the backdrop for gathering and songs, and "smores." Saturday's session included an Outreach Project, CPR lessons, a guidebook lesson and a worship service with communion.



The combined confirmation class has been conducted under the guidance of Rev. Sooah Na of Centenary, Rev. YoungHak Lee of Trinity, and Rev. Chuck Coblentz and Pastor Rosie Pang of New Dover. Also, a special thanks to all of the presenters and mentors at the various meetings of the class.





Pastor Sooah and Sylvia Woodfield, of the United Methodist Women's Group, honored the 2022 Graduates.

Halle R. Lechelt graduated from Edison High School and will attend Middlesex County College in the fall. She plans to continue her education at Rutgers University of New Brunswick. Halle is a graphic artist student and a very gifted crocheter. Halle is a very caring dog sitter and Murphy (her grandmother Ruth's dog) adores her.

Juliana Martino graduated Summa Cum Laude with her BFA in Dance at Rutgers University. Juliana has performed for multiple renowned choreographers and has choreographed her own group and solo works for performance on film and live. Juliana has been accepted into Graduate School where she will obtain her Masters in Dance Education in 2023. Post graduation, Juliana plans to expand her pedagogical studies as well as her dance training through travel and further study abroad opportunities.

Sarah Jasmine Kanchi completed her Middle School level and will be entering JP Stevens High School in Edison in the fall. While at her school, her basketball team won the GMC Championship title this year. Sarah loves to sing and has performed at the Regional Choir and wishes to continue her goal.

Sonia Jennifer Kanchi graduated from JP Stevens High School. She was on the Girls Varsity Bowling team. Sonia has been playing the violin since grade school and has performed in numerous concerts throughout her education. She will be starting Rutgers University in September of 2022, pursuing Computer Science as her major.



A special treat for our Confirmands, Graduates and members and friends were provided by "What's the Scoop" ice cream truck on Sunday.



SPRING HEALING CONCERT

Sunday,
May 22, 2022
at 9:30 AM

Our former Music Director, Donavon Soumas put together an outdoor concert, the “*Spring Healing Concert*”, following Sunday Service on the front lawn of Centenary. A variety of Centenary’s gifted and enthusiastic musicians provided sights and sounds to help find harmony and balance amidst our busy, and sometimes turbulent, world. Afterwards, all were able to enjoy the potluck dishes brought in by the members.



Centenary’s talented group of singers and musicians: Sarah Kanchi, Ed Stern, Emma Stern, guest drummer Jim, Karishma Bose, Pastor Sooah, and Donavon Soumas.



DS Rev. San Won Doh blessed the congregation.

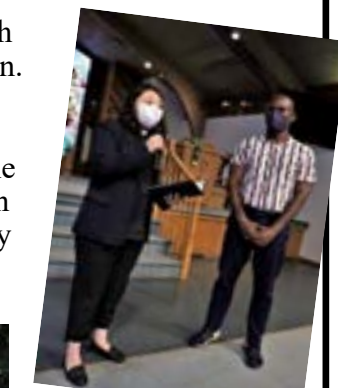


Peggy Martino served as Worship Assistant.

Centenary UMC members and friends bid farewell to Donavon Soumas, our Music Ministry Director on June 26, 2022 during our Sunday worship service. Donavon has arrived safely in Las Vegas via cross-country. May he continue his life adventure in his new home!



Donavon, we thank you for the wonderful 8 years!
Goodbye and all the best to you.
May God's blessings and grace be with you. A



2022 VBS was held during August 3-5, a three-day event, at Centenary UMC. This year's theme was "Jerusalem Marketplace". Miss Nicole and the many volunteers provided fun and creative "workshops", songs and dances, biblical characters, outdoor games, and snacks from the Bakery Shop. Our July's barrel offering was designated to World Vision for the Native American Reservation. Thank you all for your support!



BAPTISM OF DANTE ROSARIO SREBI

The baptism of Dante Rosario Srebi was held on Sunday, August 14, 2022 at Centenary UMC in Metuchen. Dante is the son of member Delanyo Srebi and his wife Marie, from Canada. Attended by grandparents Selormey and Hazel Srebi of Edison and members of Centenary, with their families and friends.
May God bless and keep you, Dante!



Rev. Sooah Na and Rev. Loraine Priestly-Smith presided over the baptism.

Rev. Ed Carll gave the Benediction. Donna Dingle served as Worship Assistant.



Linda Serentino would like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers and calls during her recovery. God bless you, Linda!



A grateful thank you to our guest pianist, Jonathan Benjamin, who performed during our July's Sunday Worship Services.

YK (YoungKwang Jun), the Pastor's husband, has volunteered to be our Director of Music Ministry in the interim.







The support group, Grief Share, will begin their fall sessions starting Tuesday, September 13, 2022 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 at 908-227-6670 for additional details.

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:

Miriam Dingle; family of Roslyn McCombs; Sylvia Woodfield; family of Frank Pike (cousin of Ellen Clarke); Poonam Chauhan (sister-in-law of Mala Roberts); Kristi Akins; Cathy Savoia; Linda Serentino; Anne Beattie; Rosie Ciccone (sister-in-law of Beverly Bell); Arthur Manjourides (father of Paul Manjourides); Monika Korte; Nancy Buday (friend of Ellen Clarke); Patricia Thompson; 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); 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; Samantha (neighbor of Nicole Tierno); Monika Van Houten; People of Uvalde and Ukraine.

