

Lamplighter

SPECIAL POINTS OF IN- TEREST:

- From the Pastor's Desk
- March/April Worship Schedules
- CUMC Book Club
- Sandwich-Making Thursday Mission
- Sunday School Updates
- New Director of Music Ministry
- Centenary Celebrates Black History Month
- Reception of New Members to Centenary UMC
- Visioning Our Future
- March Lenten Bible Study & Monthly Prayer Group Meeting
- Easter Flowers 2023 Order Form



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

MAR/APR 2023

Dear Centenary friends and families,

I am writing to invite you to join me in this time of reflection, renewal, and growth as we are now in the season of Lent. Lent is a time for fasting, repentance, and self-examination, as we prepare for the celebration of Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This year, Centenary is embarking on "Visioning Our Future" - a process that involves reflecting on our past, assessing our present, and discerning where God is leading our community to in the future. At our first session on February 26 with our facilitator Rev. Grace Pak, we recognized that the Holy Spirit is nudging us to be a positive influence in the community, move forward from past pain and failures, and tap into unlimited blessings, while fostering growth through a focus on mission with a big caring heart and positive attitude! In our upcoming sessions, we will explore what needs to be done to live into the Holy Spirit's nudging and discover what we want Centenary to look like in five years.

I pray that this visioning process deepens our sense of purpose and commitment as a church and enables us to better serve the needs of our members and community. While the process may not be easy, I am confident that with faith and openness to the Holy Spirit's leading, we will navigate any challenges and emerge stronger and more united as a community of faith.

I invite each of you to participate in this visioning process by attending our next meeting on March 26, by sharing your thoughts and ideas with church leaders, or by simply praying for our church community. I am excited to see what God has in store for us, and I am grateful to be on this journey with all of you.

May this season of Lent be a time of grace, growth, and transformation for each of us, and for Centenary as a whole.

Blessings,
Pastor Sooh



WORSHIP SCHEDULE
MARCH 2023

Sunday, March 5, 2023

2nd Sunday in Lent

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Hebrews 4:12-14

Sermon: GNJ Sermon Series: Questions to God
“Is the Bible Reliable?”

Holy Communion will be served

Sunday, March 12, 2023

3rd Sunday in Lent

Lenten Mosaic Cross Event

Daylight Saving Time Begins (spring forward 1 hour)

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 100

Sermon: GNJ Sermon Series: Questions to God
“Why Should I Go to Church?”

Sunday, March 19, 2023

4th Sunday in Lent

UMCOR Sunday

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 137; John 11:23-35

Sermon: GNJ Sermon Series: Questions to God
“Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?”

Sunday, March 26, 2023

5th Sunday in Lent

Visioning Our Future

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 6:9-15

Sermon: GNJ Sermon Series: Questions to God
“How and Why Do I Forgive?”



WORSHIP SCHEDULE
APRIL 2023

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Passion/Palm Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Mark 11:1-11

Sermon: GNJ Sermon Series: Questions to God
"Why is Jesus Special?"

Holy Communion will be served

Good Friday, April 7, 2023

7:00 pm

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Colossians 2:13-14

Sermon: GNJ Sermon Series: Questions to God
"Why Did Jesus Have to Die?"

Sunday, April 9, 2023

Easter Sunrise Worship Service

7:30 am

Easter Sunday Worship Service

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Mark 16:1-8

Sermon: GNJ Sermon Series: Questions to God
"Why Be a Christian?"

Sunday, April 16, 2023

2nd Sunday of Easter

Holy Humor Sunday

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: John 20:19-31

Sermon: "Humors and the Bible"

Wednesday, April 23, 2023

3rd Sunday of Easter

Baptism of Alessia Rose Rodriquez

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: Luke 24:13-35

Sermon: "Walking with Jesus"

Sunday, April 30, 2023

4th Sunday of Easter

10:15am

Preacher: Rev. Sooah Na

Scripture Lesson: John 10:1-10

Sermon: "Someone to Watch Over You"

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'S SANDWICH MINISTRY CONTINUES ITS MISSION

**February Sandwich Thursday
We made 250 sandwiches this month!**

These sandwiches were delivered to New Dover United Methodist Church's Sandwich Bag Mission and distributed to feeding programs in Elizabeth, Plainfield, and Rahway.

We thank all volunteers and donors who continue to support our sandwich-making ministry!

If you are interested in supporting in this mission of Jesus, please get in touch with our mission committee chair, Bob Carlson (rjcarls75@gmail.com) or Pastor Sooah (pastorsooah@gmail.com).





2023 offering envelopes are available in the church narthex. Please pick them up on Sundays or during church office hours Mondays-Fridays 9 am - 11 am.

2022 Financial Statements have been mailed out.

If any questions, please contact Shirley Kanchi (shirleykanchi@yahoo.com)

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6



Dear Sunday School families,

I would like to remind you that this Sunday, January 15, 2023, will be my last day as the Sunday School Coordinator. It has been a joy to watch your children grow in their faith through the years. Although I will miss working with them in this capacity, I am glad that I will have an opportunity to see them at church as I am still a member of the Centenary community.

I'd also like to thank you for your partnership throughout the years. I value the connections we have made along the way. Additionally, I want to let you know that I have put together a little lending library with resources for children and parents located in a bin in the Narthex.

Please feel free to check-in with me, if you have any questions.

May God richly bless your family, Nicole Tierno

On January 29, 2023, the Sunday School children made "Snowflakes." Today's Sunday School lesson -- No two snowflakes are identical -- it's the same with people!

The meaning of the

Snowflake

Every new snowflake comes to the earth as a picture of our Saviour's birth, because they are sent from up above and remind us of God's care and love.

Each one is so intricate and small because Christ sees the detail of us all, and just as two are never the same, the Lord knows and calls us each by name.

Snowflakes gently cover the world in white and hide what's unlovely from our sight, showing us how He covers our sin and gives us His grace when we come to Him.

So may every snowflake bring Christ to mind and in every bit of white may you find



Our Sunday School children/youth and families celebrated Valentine's Day by decorating heart cookies. The event was also a wonderful treat enjoyed by all.



BRIAN CALABRO**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY AT CENTENARY UMC**

Brian Calabro, Director of Music Ministry, joins us in February at Centenary UMC. Brian is a skilled music educator qualified to teach choral and general music at the elementary and secondary levels. He is passionate about music and is able to engage students with a wide variety of learning styles. Brian is proficient in piano, organ, guitar and recorder. He has a Master and Bachelor of Science degrees in Music Education from Hofstra University in NY. Brian is also currently the Choral Director/Classroom Music Teacher at the Saddle River Day School in NJ. He and his wife reside in Metuchen, NJ. Let's welcome Brian to Centenary UMC.

An Update from Donavon Soumas

Hello Centenary Friends & Family,
Happy New Year! I miss you all.

I just wanted to take some time to say 'thank you' for all of your support, love, and many gifts during my move to Las Vegas last summer! Your support was an answer to prayer and a gift from God. Thank you! Words cannot express how I feel about our time together at Centenary over the past 7+ years. But, please know that God knows my heart and the gratitude therein.

Since moving to Nevada, I started playing the piano at Green Valley United Methodist Church - a wonderful and loving congregation in which I am grateful to be a part of. Also, I was recently hired as Adjunct Faculty and Doctoral Advisor at my alma mater, the University of New England, in Maine. And, the cherry on the cake is that I am now the Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging at an international company called Random Acts, headquartered in Arlington, Texas. Thankfully, the work (except for the church music work) is remote work from home, and I love it, love it, love it!

Again, I just wanted to share a few words of thanks and catch you all up on the good news of God's blessings in my life since moving out west.

FYI, if you ever plan to visit Las Vegas, please let me know. And, likewise, if I'm ever in NJ, I will let you know, as well. Until then, I pray for blessings of health, well-being, and happiness for each person and family at CUMC. Be well.

Your friend and brother, Dr. Donavon

CENTENARY CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(Photos and captions courtesy of John Wooding)

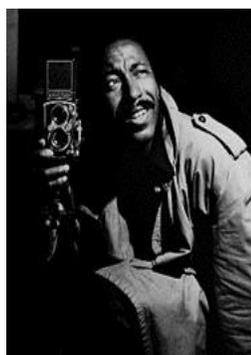
Bessie Coleman – “Queen Bess”

Born in rural Texas to sharecropper parents in 1892, Bessie Coleman overcame great obstacles to soar to unheard of heights as a pioneer in American aviation. In 1921 she became the first woman of African-American and Native American descent to earn her pilot's license in the United States. She used her platform as a popular exhibition ("stunt") flyer to speak out against racism and segregation. Earlier this year, the Bessie Coleman Quarter was issued by the U.S. Mint as the sixth coin in the American Women Quarters Program.

**Lewis Howard Latimer**

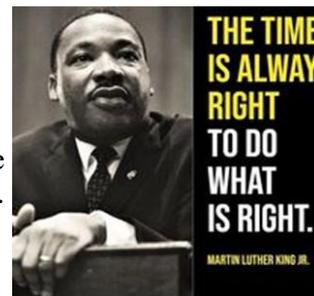
Latimer was the son of formerly enslaved parents, and grew to become an inventor, draftsman and patent expert. He worked with two of the most celebrated inventors in history, Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Edison, and played important roles in the development of the telephone and the incandescent light bulb. Latimer made significant scientific contributions to the evolution of the light bulb, helping to make it a more affordable and practical for everyday use. Latimer was inducted in the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2006.

Dr. Ralph Bunche became the first African-American to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, when in 1950 he was recognized for negotiating a cease fire and securing peace between the newly created state of Israel and its Arab neighbors. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963 for his efforts with the United Nations working to achieve peace in the Middle East. He eventually rose to the position of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, and was also an active civil rights activist.



Gordon Parks was a multi-talented artist — a celebrated writer, film director and composer, but was best known for the lasting images he created as a photographer and photojournalist. After an early life as a child of poverty and segregation, Parks found his calling when he obtained his first camera. He initially made a name for himself as a portrait and fashion photographer before he began documenting life in impoverished sections of Chicago through his images. This led to work in the Farm Security Administration, which chronicled rural poverty during the Depression. In 1948, Parks became the first African-American staff photographer at Life Magazine, where he remained until 1972. He was known for his portrayals of the civil rights movement and life in the ghetto. Parks took his iconic photo, “American Gothic,” an African-American cleaning woman holding a mop and a broom in front of an American flag.

“In order to look to the future, it is often necessary to get a clear picture of the past.” – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED IN AT CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

On Sunday, February 26, 2023, Centenary UMC welcomed and received in faith, 4 new members, to the United Methodist Church.

Janice Clinton
Donna Dingle
James & Maria Mojomick (their daughter, Elliana)





Key Bible Verse: Mark 4:26-32

Vision gives a church a reason to keep going, even when times get tough.

As a pastor, I believe that knowing God's grand vision for our church can build confidence and bring momentum, fruit, and growth within us.

Centenary's Church Council invites all of you to join us for two sessions of Visioning Our Future on February 26 and March 26, 2023. Let us discuss and share ideas and hopes for our future with one another.

**Both sessions will take place after the fellowship luncheon.
Facilitator at these sessions will be Rev. Dr. Grace Pak.**



We appreciate your prayers and support for the entire visioning process.

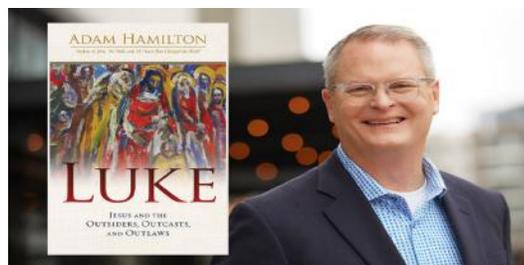


LUKE'S "GOSPEL OF COMPASSION"
(THEME OF MARCH LENTEN STUDY)

The Gospel of Luke is sometimes called the "Gospel of Compassion" because the author repeatedly shows the kindness of Jesus toward the sick, the poor, and the marginalized people of his time. Another unique feature of Luke's Gospel is that it contains more of Jesus's parables than any of the other gospels. Some of His most memorable teachings--the parables of the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, and Lazarus and the Rich Man--are found only in this gospel.

Luke's Gospel will be the subject of this year's small group Lenten study, beginning on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 and running for five consecutive Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 pm, through March 29th.

Our study will be based on the Rev. Adam Hamilton's latest book and DVD titled, "Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws." This gospel holds a special place in Rev. Hamilton's heart. In the introduction to his book he says, "It was while reading this gospel when I was fourteen that I fell in love with Jesus and decided to commit my life to him. My life was changed by reading Luke's account of the life, message, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus."



The study will be led by Pastor Sooh and Bob Carlson. Each session will begin with a 10-12 minute video featuring Rev. Hamilton, an outstanding preacher and teacher whose books and sermons relate faith to everyday life. A group discussion will follow. If you would like to participate in this study, please let Pastor Sooh know (pastorsooh@gmail.com).



Prayer with and for one another is one of the greatest gifts of our faith. As you navigate life's stressors, struggles, and challenges, we want to support each other in prayer. This year, we will learn prayers in the Bible and pray by using these bible verses. We will also pray for each other, our congregation, and the world.

Our prayer group will gather first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm.

If you are interested in joining this group, please let Pastor Sooh know (pastorsooh@gmail.com).



The support group, Grief Share, began their winter sessions, on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 from 7:00-9:00 pm, at Community Presbyterian Church, 75 Glenville Road, Edison, NJ. 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.

Notice of passing: Monika Karin Korte



With sadness, we inform you that Monika Karin Korte passed away on January 31, 2023.

Monika was a dear friend of Centenary. She enjoyed attending Centenary's worship services, and the "Once a Month Friday Lunch Group." Monika worked at the Centenary Early Learning Center and cared for all students who came through her classroom door.

Let us keep Monika's daughters Karen, Susan, Stephanie, as well as their entire families, and all who knew and loved her, in our prayers.

Thank you in advance for your love and prayers for Monika's family. May God's love and peace surround her family during this difficult time.



**EASTER FLOWERS
2023 ORDER FORM**

PLEASE PRINT YOUR INFORMATION

NAME _____ PHONE _____

LILIES- 2 plants per order, \$16.00

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Number of orders ____ Amount paid ____ (check number ____ / envelope number ____)

TULIPS- assorted colors/ 2 plants per order, \$16.00

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 EASTER FLOWERS in the Memo section of your check. Your order can be mailed to the church office at 200 Hillside Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840 or placed in the offering plate on Sundays.

LAST DAY TO ORDER IS APRIL 5, 2023

**Thank you for your order.
Äli 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>

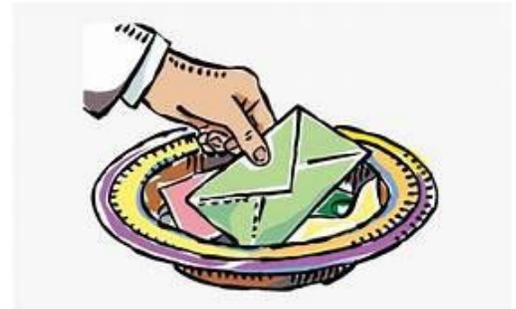


If you have a request for prayer, or a joy you would like to lift up, please send your requests to:

prayercentenaryumc@gmail.com

The requests will be passed along to Pastor Soah. 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:

Turkey/Syria/Ukraine; Sylvia Woodfield; family of Mala Roberts; family of Anne Beattie; parents of Lester Gesteland; mother of Asher Irfan; family of Mary Kari (aunt of Shirley Kanchi); family of Rowena Principe (sister of Odessa Delos Santos); family of Monika Karin Korte; family of Rev. Gary Frieze; Rev. Hoo-Sug Lee; family of Samantha Nu Nguyen Hogan (friend of the Tierno family); Shirley & Steve Mosteller; family of Lewis Hause; Monika Van Houten; Carolee Szajko; Patricia Thompson; family of Matthew Ferry (former teacher of Lily Tierno); Pvt. Brian Reppert (serving overseas and family friend of Ruth Lechelt); Miriam Dingle; Poonam Chauhan (sister-in-law of Mala Roberts); Rosie Ciccone (sister-in-law of Beverly Bell); Arthur Manjourides (father of Paul Manjourides); 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.

