



# The MESSENGER

Spring 2025

**Worship Service Sundays**  
at 10 AM  
on Zoom and Facebook

**Bible Study**  
Tuesdays at 7PM  
Wednesdays at 12PM  
Thursdays at 7pm

**Friday Morning Prayer**  
7am on Facebook

**Book Study**  
3rd Sunday after worship

**First Friday Fellowship**  
Friday February 7th at 11am

**Christian Meditation**  
Thursdays at 6:30pm

# The United Methodist Church in Wayne

## Spring/Easter at UMC Wayne



**UMC Wayne Ministers**  
*All the members of UMC in Wayne*

**Pastor**  
Ninabeth Metcalf

**Lay Leader**  
Don Matthews

**Music Director**  
Peter Candela

**Jubilation Ringers Director**  
Marilyn Creamer

**Administrative Assistant**  
Nicole Force

*We welcome the beauty of God's early signs of  
spring and the Easter Season to our church  
community!*

# UMC in Wayne Worship

Ongoing Thursday  
Evenings  
**Christian Meditation** @  
6:30pm  
*in the Sanctuary*

**New Series Beginning on  
Sundays**

**Friday morning Prayer  
and Devotion**  
*on Facebook  
streams live at 7am,  
available anytime.*



**UMC in Wayne  
Wednesday Bible Study  
beginning May 7<sup>th</sup>**

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

The GOSPEL  
of JOHN

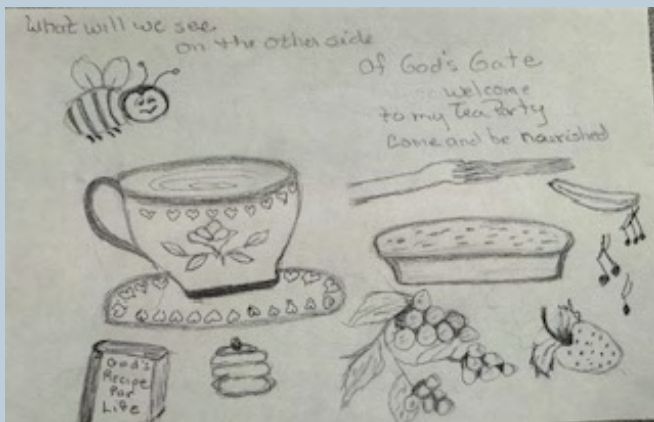
AMY-JILL  
LEVINE

John's Gospel offers readers a new language—of being born anew, of living water, of wind and spirit, of the “I am”—that enhances how we understand the divine, how we experience the world, and how we participate in the mystery of faith.



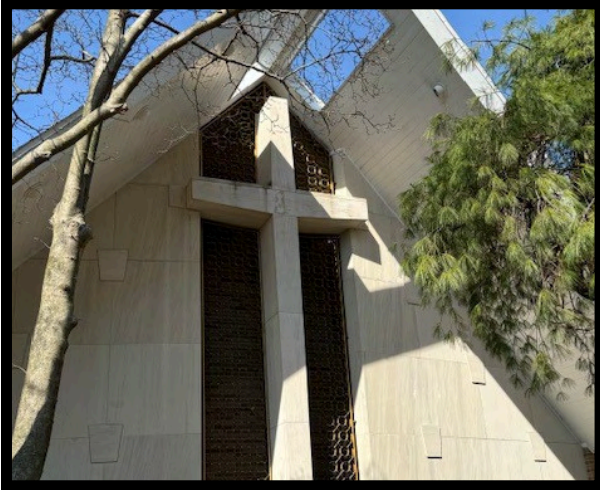
# Draw Close

## A creative way to study Scripture



Draw Close – The Scriptures of Lent are full of anticipation and curiosity. They invite us to open our hearts and pay attention to God’s work in the beauty and brokenness of the world around us. Each week we approached a biblical text with playful creativity!

We hope you enjoy our hand drawn, colored and collage works of art.



## JOY & CONCERN PRAYER LIST

Peggy and Erin

Don

Lois M

Marc

Robert

Roy

Judy

Heather

Aunt Jeanne

Eric

Faith

Maureen

Kedem

Gia

Steven

Carol

Richard

Carly

Emma

Steve

Kathy

Austin

Steve

Peter

Bob

Chris

Mike

Rick

Lori

Aunt Elaine

Don

Mental health issues

Addiction

Peace

That wars may cease

Our students

***If you would like to join our  
e-mail prayer chain  
please call or e-mail  
the church office!  
(973) 694-3260  
office@umcwayne.org***



*God, You are a God of compassion and love.  
Time after time we have experienced your care  
and provision. Time after time You've answered  
our prayers and met our needs— often in ways  
we could never have dreamed possible.  
We praise You for Your faithful love toward us.  
Because we have known Your love, we come to  
You with confidence, offering our prayers for the  
people, creatures, and world that You love.*





**Get to know your 2025 church leadership!**

**Church Council Chair** – Janine Batta

**Finance Committee Chair** – Kim Grebel

**Lay Member to Annual Conference** – Pat Moore

**Lay Leader** – Don Matthews

**SPRC Chair** – Tim Cooper

**Sunday School Chair** – Dawn Castro

**Trustee Chair** – Don Stone

**Treasurer** – Christine Mercado

**SPRC Members** – Tim Cooper, Dianne DeVos, Anita Dispenziere,  
Larry Gaines, Cathy Nalesnik, Liz Tible, Gail Papadopoulos,

**Trustee Members** – Don Stone, John DeVos, Chuck Kloo,  
Christine Mercado, Jason Snyder

**Finance Committee** – Kim Grebel, Christine Mercado,  
Patty Hassler, Dawn Gaines

**Spiritual Development Committee** – Deb Foray, Beth Foster, Dawn Monroe,  
Lynn O'Brien, Pastor Ninabeth Metcalf

**Worship Chair** – Nancy Kinch

**Scouting Coordinator** – Brian Creamer

**Outreach Chair** – Anita Dispenziere

**Nurture Chair** – Liz Tible

**Music Director** – Peter Candela



## *A note from our Pastor...*

### *Resurrection Hope*

*When asked what reading material would be most helpful if stranded on an island, the New Testament scholar N.T. Wright states, without hesitation, The Gospel of John chapter 20. I agree. This text embodies Resurrection Hope; that we are never alone and God is always creating something new and beautiful. Mary stood in the garden - weeping outside of the tomb. The past three days had been too much. Her world had fallen apart. Shock, Grief and despair embraced her heart. How - why - was the tomb empty? And through her tears, the kind of tears that just keep falling, she looked into the tomb and saw two angels. She sees them and hears them speak. She is not startled. For her tears are connecting her to a deeper reality.*

*“Why are you weeping?”, they ask. “They have taken away my Lord and I do not know where he is.”, she answers. She turns and sees the gardener and the Gardener asks the same question - “Why are you weeping? And asks another question, “Whom are you looking for?” She answers, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”*

*Then Jesus speaks her name.*

*I imagine a long pause here as it dawns on her that her Lord and Savior has not been taken away. Through her tears she begins to see clearly; Jesus is indeed the Gardener, the Word/Logos the creating One who was with God in the beginning (See John 1:1-5) For Mary the darkness is fading, the sun is rising above the trees, an Hallelujah is rising from her heart.*



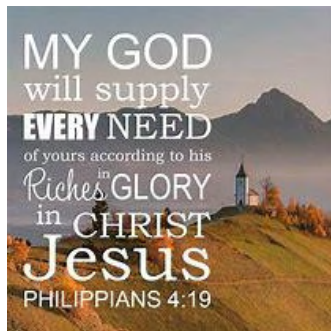
*Last October when my sister passed into eternal life, I felt as if I had been stranded on an Island; shocked, alone, heartbroken with endless tears. Looking back on those first few months, I realized that I was called by name, held and steadied by our Triune God. Angels accompanied me. Not celestial angels - human angels. When I received the news about Karla's passing, I was with 2 angels; my husband and a dear friend. Whenever grief would attempt to paralyze me and card, a gift, or a text sent by angels would arrive expressing loving kindness. Angels continue to call or show up just when I need them, to invite me to tell the story of why I am weeping.*

*Like Mary, I have come to realize that something good is happening among all this... something wonderful, something that gives me hope. A new day has dawned. And not just in my personal life but also here in this garden community that we call the UMC in Wayne. Here in this place we are the angels that listen to each other's stories through tears and laughter, and bring healing and loving kindness to our world. Here in this place I am seeing new life - new possibilities - NEW CREATION! Friends, our Easter Hope is that our Great Gardener Creating God is for us and with us, knows us by name, and never leaves us alone!*

*He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!  
Pastor Ninabeth*

## Message from the Finance Committee

We are blessed here at UMC in Wayne as we work hard toward financial stability. Our giving is consistent with 2024 averages. We continue to work on fund raisers like grocery cards and soup sales to support our ministries. Our rents currently represent 44% of our overall income. In first quarter of 2025 we met all of our salaries and operating expenses but are behind in our conference obligations (both billables and shared ministries). Our average weekly giving of \$2,263 is lower than our budget need of \$2,735 (resulting in a deficit of \$472 weekly). The great challenge that we have in managing the finances of our church day to day is cash flow. I'm sure many of you can relate. In April Columbia bank closed our line of credit and asked us to convert our Letter of Credit into a 7year term loan. The current balance of \$59,057 at a rate of 6.5% will result in monthly loan payments of \$877, This is an increase of \$460 per month. The finance team is meeting this month to discuss options to help improve the financial sustainability of our church. We will bring our thoughts to council.



On a final note, we'd like to thank Christine Mercado for her tireless efforts managing the day to day as our treasurer. We are thankful for the continued dedication of Dawn and Patty. We are very lucky to have dedicated servants on our Finance team; however, our team is small so if you are interested in joining us please contact Pastor Ninabeth or any of the finance team members. Please pray for our upcoming meeting as we discern opportunities to fund our ministries.

As always if you'd like to get a copy of the detailed financial reports, please call the church office.

We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can continue to support our ministries. We would love to hear your ideas! Please send an e-mail to our finance team mailbox ([treas\\_umcw@yahoo.com](mailto:treas_umcw@yahoo.com))

The Finance Committee  
Kim Grebel, chair Dawn Gaines, Patty Hassler, Pastor Ninabeth  
Metcalf, Christine Mercado



# *Palm Sunday*



Riley Gaines does a reading on Palm Sunday.

Our palm Sunday service was a beautiful time of remembrance of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice through the reading of the Passion.



# Egg Dyeing on Palm Sunday



Our UMC Wayne Sunday School kids had so much fun dyeing eggs for Easter! Special thank you to Dawn, Heather, and Amy for helping out!



# Easter Services



We thank all who purchased flowers to decorate our sanctuary



Delicious Fellowship for Easter!!

“Having just returned from Europe, the selections all represented the countries I had visited along with my heritage and the USA.

USA, Poland and Ukraine (my heritage), Gibraltar, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal!”

~Lyn Sentowski



We were blessed by the beautiful harmonies sung by Rachel Fikslin and Cathy Nalesnik.

# Easter Services



Special thanks to our ladies that help make fellowship time extra special!



Liz Tible



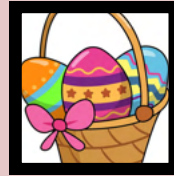
Lyn Sentkowski



Anita Dispenziere



# Easter Egg Hunt



Our Annual Egg Hunt was an eggcellent time! Our spirited egg hunters were blessed with baskets full of sweet treats! Special thanks to all who made this event happen and a success!





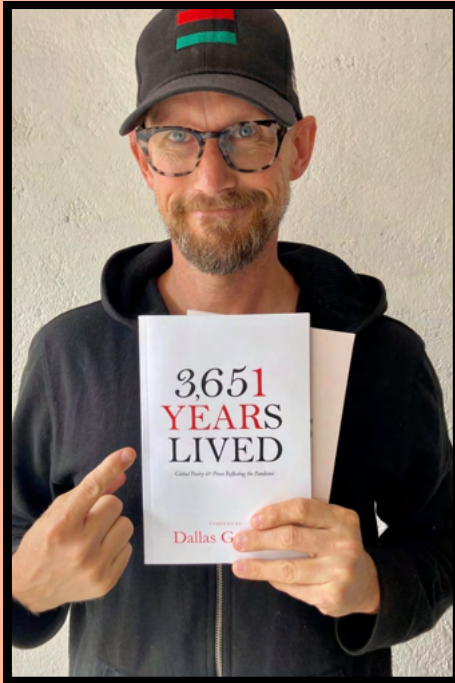
# Communion and Sunday School



Pictured Here:  
Sunday School kids patiently waiting for communion.  
It was very impressive how many new the Lords  
Prayer.

# First Friday Fellowship Fostering Friendships and Fun!

## First Friday Fellowship



The First Friday fellowship group has been enjoying their monthly get-togethers. In March, our guest speaker was Dallas Graham. Dallas is an artist and kind soul from Salt Lake City, Utah. He spoke about his labor of love, as he developed story books with children who have extraordinary health circumstances. Sadly, the Covid pandemic put a pause on his work with this project. He also spoke about a book of poetry that he compiled where contributors reflected on the effects of Covid. For more information about Dallas, look up [redfredproject.com](http://redfredproject.com) and his book "3651 Years Lived-Global Poetry & Prose Reflecting the Pandemic". In April, we celebrated foolishness, as we learned the background of April Fools' day. We shared riddles and stories of a foolish nature. Dessert fit the theme, with "French Fries" (pound cake), "Hamburgers" (brownie cookies), "Ketchup" (strawberry sauce), "Cereal bowl with milk" (cake base, icing and cheerios), and "Puppy Chow" (Chex cereal coated with chocolate and peanut butter).



**MISSION**

The Red Fred Project finds children living in extraordinary circumstances (rare diseases and life-threatening illnesses) and asks them the question: If you could write a book for the entire world to read, what would it be about?





# First Friday Fellowship

## Fostering Friendships and Fun!



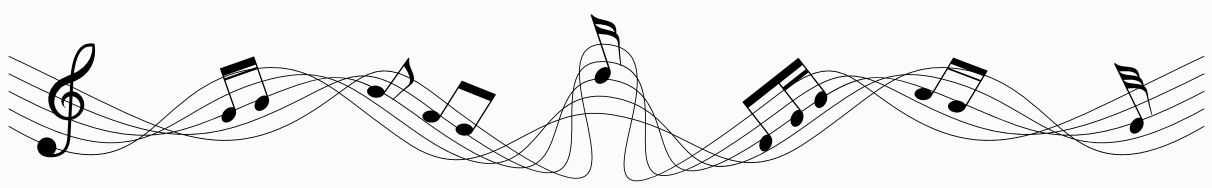
We also donned silly hats for a photo op. Besides our foolishness, we discussed ways to have a greater involvement in missions. Watch for more information about our upcoming mission projects of sock collections, food assistance, and school supply collections!

Our next gathering is Friday, May 2 at noon. All are welcome to come, as we BYO our lunches, beverages, and our willingness to have fun together. Our focus will be "Mothers".

We will honor and talk about our mothers- their joys, triumphs and challenges during their lifetimes. All are invited to text or email a photo of their mothers to Anita (201-874-6915 or [anitadispenziere@gmail.com](mailto:anitadispenziere@gmail.com)).

We will be able to view the pictures on the large screen TV as we tell our stories.





# Music News

Winter was full of special performances and even some new additions to our music program. We welcomed our new hymnals in March! Special thanks as always to our Music Director Peter Candela



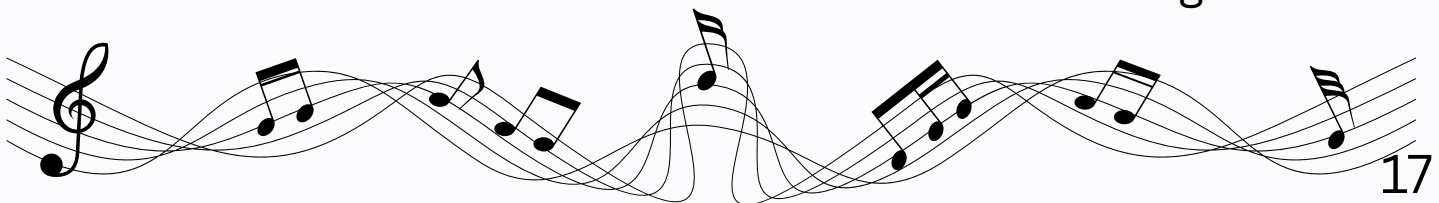
Pastor Ninabeth and choir singing Sarah McLachlan's rendition of Prayer of St. Francis.

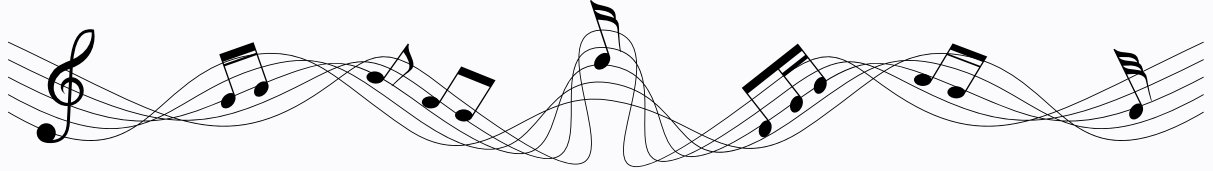


Our very special guest vocalist, Nicole Force, singing Who Do You Say I Am.



Jackson is exhausted from working as a steadfast guard dog over all these music liturgy planning meetings.





# Music News

Easter Sunday was a beautifully musical service.



Our choir preparing to sing on Easter Sunday



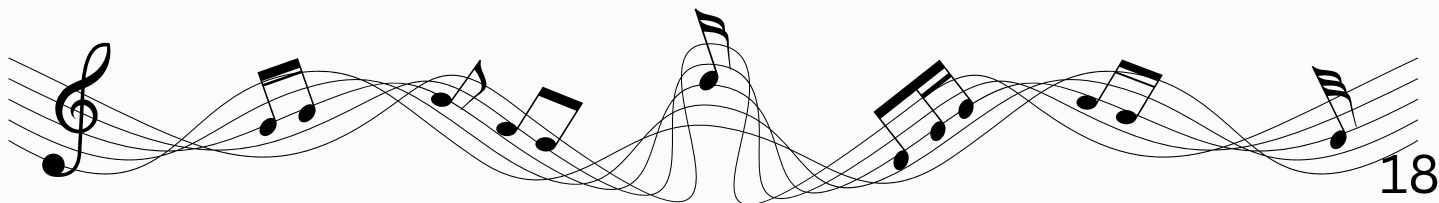
Our Bell Ringers played beautifully during Easter service.



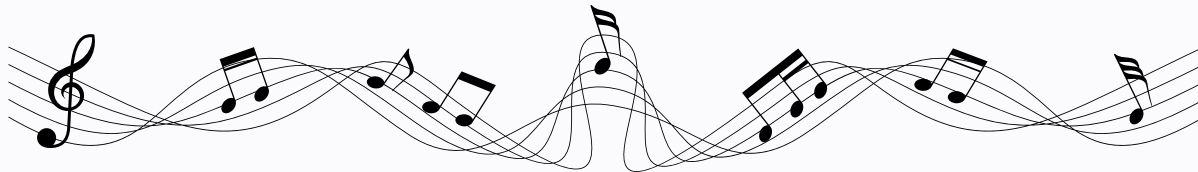
Parish Drive tuning up for Easter Sunday Service.



Anita Dispenziere, Beth Willer, Deb Foray, and Liz Tible warming up for services.





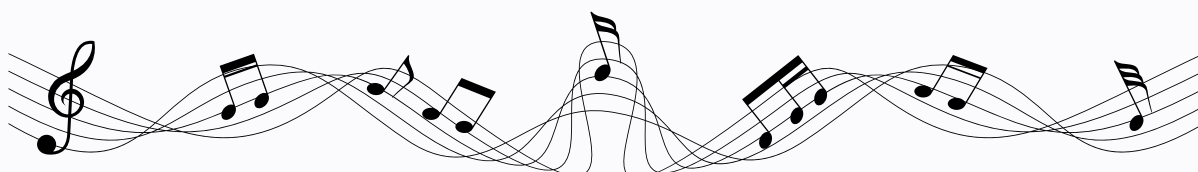


## Local Choral Concerts

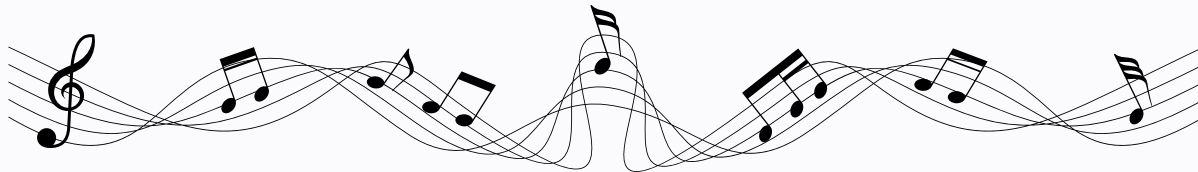
### **The Ridgewood Singers**

The Ridgewood Singers present their spring concert "Where is Home?" on Sunday, May 4th at 2 PM at the First Presbyterian Church (722 East Ridgewood Ave, Ridgewood). This concert will feature various songs through the ages, and a special presentation by their high school scholarship winner, who is bound for Juilliard upon graduation.

Tickets are available at the door, or through Cathy Nalesnik, Liz Tible, or Anita Dispenziere







## **Local Choral Concerts**

### **New Jersey Choral Society**

SEASON FINALE MASTERWORKS CONCERT

Lux Aeterna Masterworks Concert Featuring

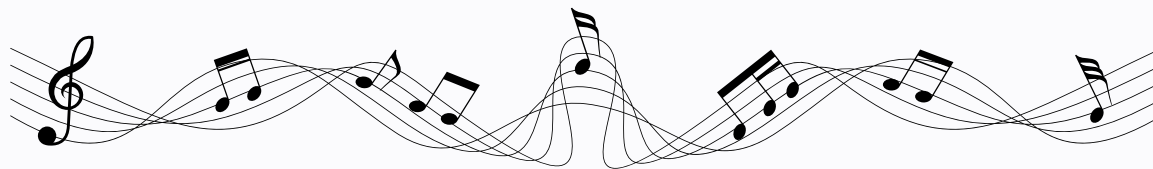
Faure's Requiem

June 14th, Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at Westside

Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood NJ

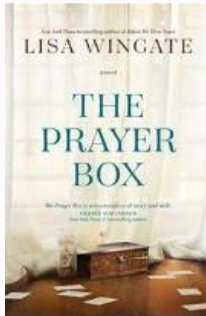
Everlasting light, eternal rest, and consolation are woven together in Gabriel Faure's Requiem, an inspiring, world-renowned Mass, sometimes described as a "lullaby of death." Additional musical choices presented reflect on profound meanings of eternal light and the circle of life.

See Lyn Sentkowski for ticket info.

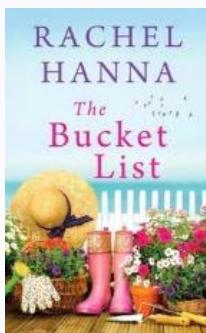


# Book Club News

Book Club's next meeting is April 27th!



April  
The Prayer Box  
By Lisa Wingate



May  
The Bucket List  
by Rachel Hanna



June  
Missing White  
Woman  
by Kellye Garrett

Please find descriptions of each book on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

**Wayne Koei-Kan Karate**  
**99 Parish Drive, Wayne, NJ**



**Wayne's longest running karate club, since 1970, and still the best prices in town.**

**Our classes are on Tuesday & Thursday**

**Age 9 to 12 @ 5:30pm to 7pm and Teen/Adults from 7pm to 8:30pm**

**On Wednesday is our little group from age 5 to 8 @ 5:30 to 6:30**

**Call (973) 202-6190**



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## ***New Community Garden coming to UMC Wayne!***

**Spring has arrived! A season of growth and new beginnings, and..... a new garden!**

**We would like to start a community garden on our church property! We are looking for folks interested in planning, building, planting and any other ideas you have to offer. We would like to call it “The Garden of Eatin’ ”.**

**If you are ready, willing and able to help, please email Pastor Ninabeth at [pastorninabeth@gmail.com](mailto:pastorninabeth@gmail.com).**

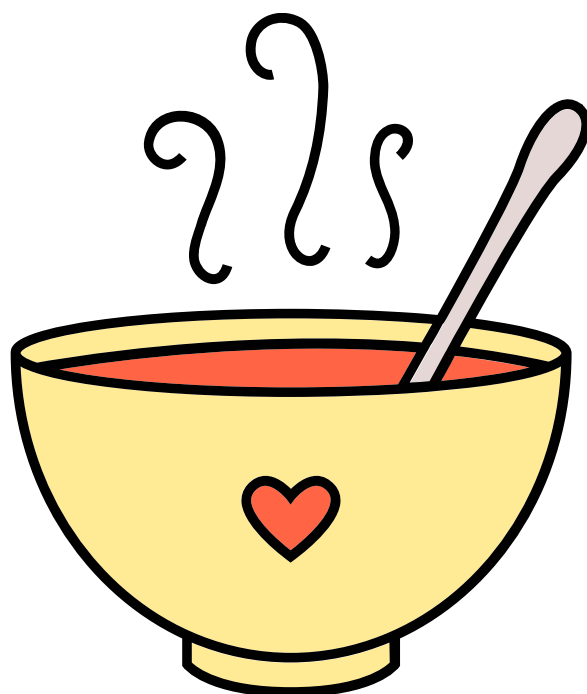


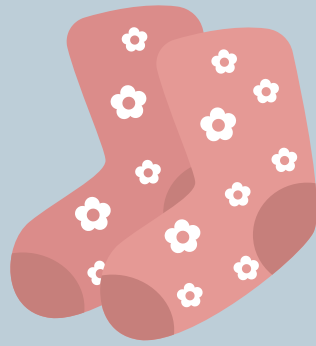
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***The 2025 Lenten soup sale was a great success!***

***Many thanks to all who supported this endeavor by cooking, donating, and purchasing soups during the 6 weeks of Lent.***

***The sale is a whole church event, and we rejoice in the \$1000+ raised to benefit our ministries.***





The **UMC for Greater New Jersey Annual Conference** will be held May 18- 20 in Wildwood NJ. This year's mission project is "Socks for Seniors", where adult socks will be collected by local churches and distributed to Cape May County seniors in need.

Our Wayne UMC collection will start on Sunday, April 27 and end on Friday, May 16.

A box for your donations of NEW ADULT SOCKS will be in the narthex. Pat Moore will be attending the conference and will proudly bring our collection.



## New e-Giving platform - Vanco



<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZP6G>

**We are so excited to announce that we will be transitioning our online giving to a new and easy way to give! You can now simply give using Vanco Online for your tithes, offerings, and more. This new platform has reduced cost for the church and allows you to give to the various ministries of our church either using a website or the QR code above from your computer, phone or tablet. It accepts Visa, Mastercard, Discover or bank account debits and allows you to set-up recurring donations on a periodic basis if you desire (weekly, monthly, quarterly, etc.). We hope you will consider using this new approach to giving.**

**We will provide further instruction and details to help those already using our online e-giving transition from our current platform to Vanco.**

**To start, click the link to access our new online giving page where you will see all the different ways you can give to UMC in Wayne.**

**If you have any questions around this new platform, please contact Kim at [treas\\_umcw@yahoo.com](mailto:treas_umcw@yahoo.com) or 908-672-1473. Because of your generosity we have been able to see countless lives transformed by the gospel each week.**

# Staff/Pastor - Parish Relations

## Committee 2025

The SPPRC (S/PPRC) focuses on building strong relationships between the staff and congregation, and between the congregation and the District Superintendent (DS). At the UMC of Wayne, we manage three staff: Pastor Ninabeth, Nicole Force (Administrator), and Peter Candela (Music Director). The Committee keeps its eyes on the big picture of the Church and its daily functions. They listen to the Congregation and the District Superintendent and are the liaisons to both areas to keep the Church moving closer to God's vision.

The management role of the Committee is tending to the daily activities so that details are taken care of, and strategies are implemented. Management includes holding both staff and congregation accountable for carrying through with plans and promises and dealing with both celebrations and disappointments in the life of the Church.

Your current 2025 members of the SPPRC are: Tim Cooper and Anita Dispenziere, Co-Chairpersons, Dianne DeVos, Larry Gaines, Cathy Nalesnik, Gail Papadopoulos, and Elizabeth Tible.



# Get to know UMC Groups

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## **The Role of Layreaders**

Layreaders are participants in our worship services who assist Pastor Ninabeth by leading prayers, prompting hymns, and reading scripture. The layreaders get the best view in the sanctuary, as they can gaze at the beautiful stained glass window in the rear, view the kids up close, and see all the musicians play their best. It is an honor and a joy to serve in this role.

All who attend our worship services are welcome to volunteer for a turn as a layreader. If interested, you may email Nicole ([office@umcwayne.org](mailto:office@umcwayne.org)) to give her dates you are available.

## **Missions at the Wayne UMC**

The current co- chairs of the Mission team are Liz Tible and Anita Dispenziere. An ongoing mission that many support is food donation for the Wayne Interfaith Network (WIN) food pantry, which is housed at the Wayne Community Center. Non- perishable food donations can be brought to the table in the narthex anytime. Food store gift cards are also accepted.

Ideas for local and global missions are welcome, as well as anyone who would like to be part of the team. Please see Liz or Anita if you feel called to participate in mission work.

# Get to know UMC Groups

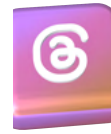
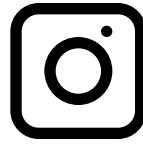
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## **First Friday Fellowship Group**

On the first Friday of each month, all are welcome to gather at noon in Room 8 for lunch (BYO) and dessert. We have had a lot of fun getting to know one another better, through games, discussion topics, singing, painting, and learning. The group is open to anyone who is available during the noon time. Suggestions for future meeting activities are welcome. Please see Anita Dispenziere with any questions or ideas.

## **Offering Counters**

Each week, 2 rotating members count and account for the offerings and other income (rents, grocery cards, and gifts). This is an important confidential task that takes about 20 minutes each week. The commitment is 1-2 Sundays each month, with flexible assignments to fit individual schedules. If you are interested in joining the team, contact Patty Hassler.



## **Social Media News!**

**We have a new presence on Facebook. Instagram and Threads!**

**We invite you to like and follow us!**

**Our New Facebook page**

is linked to our other page. We created this new page in order to take advantage of easier posting, sharing, and cross-posting to other platforms. The link is:

**[umcwaynenj](#)**

**Our New Instagram Page:**

**[@umcwaynenj99](#)**

**Our New Threads page:**

**[@umcwaynenj99](#)**

