



# The United Methodist Church in Wayne



The UMC in Wayne Garden of Eatin' is a reality! We recieved the Dig IN! grant from City Green!

**Join us on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 12pm for an informational meeting**



Worship Service Sundays  
at 10 AM  
on Zoom and Facebook

Bible Study  
Wednesdays at 12PM

Book Study  
3rd Sunday after worship

First Friday Fellowship  
Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month @12pm

UMC Wayne Ministers  
All the members of UMC in Wayne

Pastor  
Rev. Ninabeth Metcalf

Music Director  
Peter Candela

Jubilation Ringers Director  
Marilyn Creamer

Threads @umcwaynenj99

Instagram @umcwaynenj99

Facebook @umcwaynenj **1**

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

*In the same way,  
let your light shine before others,  
so that they may see your good works  
and give glory to your Father in heaven.  
~Matthew 5:16*



Winter arrived early this year, and the "January thaw" has been more of a rumor than a reality. It seems every weekend the forecast promises a rise in temperature only to deliver more cold. I suppose the meteorologists are just like us—trying their best to hold onto the hope that spring is indeed on the way.

But while the ground is still frozen, something beautiful is germinating in our midst. I am thrilled to announce that we have received a **Dig In** grant from City Green, Inc. and the Passaic County Board of County Commissioners to create the "**Garden of Eatin'**."

This garden will be more than just soil and seeds; it will be a place of learning, collaboration, and radical generosity. By partnering with **Scout Troop 101** and donating our produce to the **Wayne Interfaith Network Food Pantry**, we are living out our vision of a flourishing, healthy, and inclusive community where we can connect, serve, care, and learn from each other..

The "**Garden of Eatin'**" will be a true light in our neighborhood. As we begin this journey, I find myself humming Hymn of Promise: "In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."

**Join us Sunday, February 15th at noon** for an informational gathering (and a delicious meal!) to see what God has in store.

Grace and Peace,  
*Pastor Ninabeth*

# UMC in Wayne Worship

## *Hangíng of the Greens and Christmas Eve!*



# *Opportunities to observe a Holy Lent*



## *Windows Into the Light*

*A Lenten and Holy Week*

*Journey of Witness*

February 18<sup>th</sup> thru April 3<sup>rd</sup>

## **Worship**

**Ash Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup> 12pm & 7pm**

The First Window ~ 3 year olds are the Best Theologians

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent February 22<sup>nd</sup> 10am**

The Second Window ~ Jesus & the Prophets

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent March 1<sup>st</sup> 10am**

The Third Window ~ Nicodemus at Night

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent March 8<sup>th</sup> 10am**

The Fourth Window ~ The Woman at Midday

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent March 15<sup>th</sup> 10am**

The Fifth Window ~ The Man Without Sight

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent March 22<sup>nd</sup> 10am**

The Sixth Window ~ Martha, Mary, & Lazarus

### **HOLY WEEK**

**Palm Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> 10am**

The Seventh Window ~ Jesus & the Pophet Zechariah

**Maundy Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:30pm in Fwllowship Hall**

The Eighth Window ~ Dinner with Jesus

**Good Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup> 12pm in the Sanctuary**

The Ninth Window ~ The Gospel of John - Jesus' Last 3 Words

**Easter April 5<sup>th</sup> 10am**

The Tenth Window ~ Mary Magdalene Early in the Morning

# *Opportunities to observe a Holy Lent*

## *Windows Into the Light*



*A Lenten and Holy Week  
Journey of Stories and Art*

February 18<sup>th</sup> thru April 3<sup>rd</sup>

## **Bible Study**

**Ash Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup> 12pm**

The First Window ~ 3 year olds are the Best Theologians  
Art Practice: Assemble photos of your life

**Wednesday February 25<sup>th</sup> 12pm**

The Second Window ~ Sons and Daughters of Dust  
Art Practice: Create a Vessel to hold the dust

**Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup> 12pm**

The Third Window ~ In the Face of Death - Freedom  
Art Practice: Writing Your Story

**Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup> 12 pm**

The Fourth Window ~ Reclaiming the Temple of Our Lives  
Art Practice: Cleaning the Temple

**Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> 12pm**

The Fifth Window ~ Breakfast with Billy  
Art Practice: Food Collage

**Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup> 12pm**

The Sixth Window ~ In the Darkest Hour Eternal Light Springs  
Art Practice: Losing and Finding Life with the photos of your life

**Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup> 12pm**

The Seventh Window ~ Holy Week Pilgrimage  
Art Practice: Washing Away the Grime

**Good Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup> 12pm in Sanctuary**

The Eighth Window - Trusting the Faithfulness of God  
Art Practice: Seeing our lives in the cross of Christ

# Opportunities to serve in Worship

## 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.

## Ushers

Ushers greet people as they enter our sanctuary for worship on Sundays and on Special occasions.

They hand out bulletins and hymnals, answer questions, help people find a seat, and collect the offering during the service. All that is required is a smile and a love of God and people.

## 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.



## JOY & CONCERN PRAYER LIST

Peggy and Erin  
Steven  
Richard K  
Carly  
Emma  
Heather  
Maura  
Ken Blair  
Laura  
Compton  
Mike  
Shirley  
John D  
Susan  
Joe

Tony L  
Kevin Doyle  
Rev Tanya Bennett  
Dorothy  
Matt  
John  
Robert  
Phil  
Don Miller  
Jim Viscos  
Janet  
Carol  
Linda  
Erin  
Lou  
Joy Sedlacek

*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.*

If you would like to join our e-mail prayer chain  
please let us know  
(973) 694-3260  
office@umcwayne.org

# UMC Women & First Friday Fellowship



*Thank you to everyone who made out Holiday Cookie sale a success! We raised over \$900*



# Olive Branch Book Club 2026

## FEBRUARY: Pineapple Street by Jenny Jackson



A novel about three women their family, love, and class.

[Pineapple Street Summary & Study Guide](#)

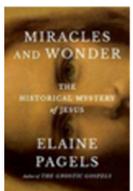
## MARCH: Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng



Bird and his friend, Sadie, used to bond over their missing mothers. Under the PACT law, authorities can take custody of children who are exposed to dangerous, unpatriotic ideas by their parents. Sadie was removed from her home and placed with a foster family because of her mother, Erika's journalistic criticism of PACT. Last year, she ran away from her foster family, and Bird has not heard from her since.

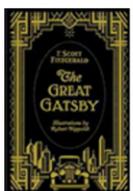
[Our Missing Hearts Summary & Study Guide](#)

## APRIL Miracles and Wonders by Elaine Pagel



'Miracles and Wonder' explores mysteries about Jesus with detective zeal. In her latest book about religion, Elaine Pagel digs deep into the gospels to unpack the mystery of Jesus.

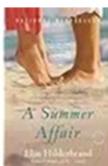
## MAY: The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald



The Great Gatsby explores the lure of decadence, superficiality, and the ever-elusive American Dream through the eyes of narrator Nick Carraway and the longings and obsessions of mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby.

[The Great Gatsby Summary & Study Guide](#)

## JUNE: A Summer Affair by Elin Hilderbrand



A Summer Affair captures the love, loss, and limbo of an illicit romance and unchecked passion as it takes us on a brave and breathless journey into the heart of one modern woman.

[A Summer Affair Chapter Summary | Elin Hilderbrand](#)

# Celebrate Your Birthday with a Good Deed at UMC Wayne

Make a Positive Impact on Your Special Day.

Birthdays are not only a time for celebration but also a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community. If you want to do something meaningful on your birthday, consider performing a good deed at UMC Wayne. By choosing to do a good deed at UMC Wayne for your birthday, you will create lasting memories and make a positive impact in your community.

Happy birthday and thank you for spreading kindness!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAWN!**



# Financial News from Discipleship Ministries



If you have an **Individual Retirement Account (IRA)** and are age seventy (or getting close), you should know about a way you can give to your local church that will strengthen the church's ministry and produce tax savings for you!

Here are some important facts you should know.

## 1. Individual Retirement Accounts Have Come of Age (Middle-Age).

IRAs have been around since 1974, though in the beginning, they were only for folks who didn't have any other pension coverage. A bill in 1981 made all workers and their spouses eligible for these accounts. That's a solid forty-plus years that people have been putting money away without having to pay federal taxes on it. (That part is important.)

## 2. You Can't Take It With You or Leave Your Money There Forever.

The understanding was that those folks could access that money without a penalty as early as when they turned fifty-nine and a half, but when they reached seventy and a half, they were required to start taking at least a minimum amount out each year—"required minimum distributions" or RMDs. In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the age for these RMDs was gradually raised: now it is seventy-three. Since participants didn't pay tax on the money when they put it in their IRAs, they are required to pay tax on it when money comes out. RMDs can push some people into a higher tax bracket. That can be avoided...

## 3. Give It to the Church; Avoid Paying the Taxes.

In 2006, pension protection legislation allowed for tax-free use of RMDs for charitable contributions, saving the tax that people would have had to pay when they took this money out of their IRA accounts. These are called "qualified charitable distributions" or QCDs. Here's an important distinction: these are NOT tax deductions. They do not provide a charitable deduction regardless of whether you itemize deductions. The tax benefit

is the ability to exclude the donated distribution from taxable income! Here's an example: If you were planning to give \$1000 per month to your church, you don't qualify for more than the standard deduction amount, and you are at the 12% tax bracket—giving that amount from your IRA (as a QCD) will save you \$1,440 in taxes! If you are in the 22% tax bracket, the savings will be \$2,640!

#### 4. From Ira to “My UMC”—Never In My Pocket!

With a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), a check goes directly from your IRA to your church or the charity you select. Many people who are facing RMDs that will have tax implications could pay all their annual tithe or offering at one time, hopefully early in the year, through their QCD and never have to show it as income.

#### 5. You Don't Have to Wait For 73 to Do the QCD!

While Congress recently raised the age for RMDs to seventy-three, QCDs can happen for anyone who has reached the age of seventy and a half. Retirees who are over that age and want to continue to be generous to their local church should consider a qualified charitable distribution.

#### 6. Most Taxpayers No Longer Get a Tax Break for Charitable Giving.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that went into effect in 2019 (and was renewed in 2025) included an increase in the standard deduction—it nearly doubled. That standard deduction is the threshold that your itemized deductions have to exceed to make itemizing worthwhile. It left many people better off, but with 90% of taxpayers taking the standard deduction (which does not require any evidence of charitable giving), it eliminated a tax-incentive regarding charitable donations for most of us (not to say that this is the main reason people give to the church). Inviting retirees in the seventy-plus group (who use the standard deduction) to consider using the qualifying charitable distribution may reduce or eliminate the tax that they might have to pay on RMDs. Yet many will not know of this option unless your church makes the invitation!

We encourage everyone to discuss this with a financial planner, tax consultant, or attorney—and be sure to let your family know! It could be a savings for you and a blessing to your local church!



**Get to know your 2026 church leadership!**

**Church Council Chair** – Janine Batta

**Finance Committee Chair** – Kim Grebel

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

**Lay Leader** – This could be you!

**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,  
Mike Lakner, 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

**Jubilation Ringers Director** – Marilyn Creamer

# **UMC IN WAYNE LEADERSHIP**

## **Staff/Pastor - Parish Relations Committee**

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 Pastor Ninabeth 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 2026 members of the SPPRC are:

Tim Cooper, Anita Dispenziere, Dianne DeVos, Larry Gaines, Cathy Nalesnik, Gail Papadopoulos, and Elizabeth Tible.

## **Missions at the Wayne UMC**

The current co- chairs of the Mission team are  
Liz Tible and Anita Dispenziere.

We support 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.  
Food store gift cards are also accepted.

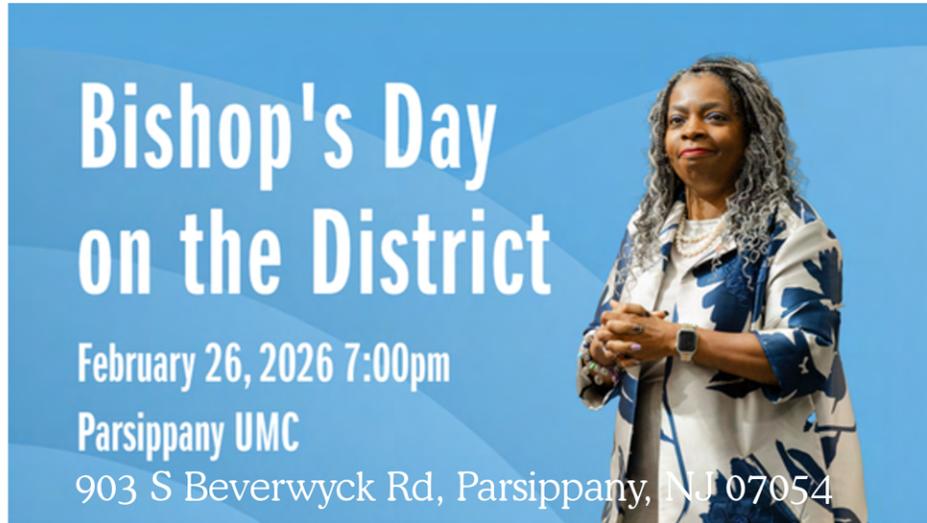
In late summer we collect Backpacks and supplies for Passaic County.

In the Fall we fill boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Ideas for local and global missions are welcome.

Please see Liz or Anita if you feel called to participate in mission work.

# Greater NJ Annual Conference Opportunities to Learn & Serve



## Spring 2026 Basic and Certified Lay Servant Classes

This spring we are offering a Basic Lay Servant Class (beginning Mar. 2) and a Certified Lay Servant class in Leading Worship (beginning Feb. 9).

Both classes will be offered over Zoom.

Get more info and register [here!](#)



Please contact Jennifer Schiffrin at UMC Wayne

## Christian Outreach Project (COP)

For one week each summer, COP sends groups to houses in local communities to provide repairs to homeowners who are unable to handle the projects themselves.

This year's service week is June 28-July 4.

Find out more about [COP Here](#)

[Register here.](#)

