

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER
NEWSLETTER
2021

Allentown United Methodist Church
23 Church Street
Allentown, NJ 08501

PASTOR'S CORNER MEDITATION

“What Do You Want Me to Do?”

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way. (Mark 10:45-52, NRSV)

Today we are traveling through what is known as the “Oldest city in the world”, Jericho, located northwest of the Dead Sea. And we arrived when Jesus was passing by

and he was about to ask the blind beggar, Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, “What do you want me to do for you?”

According to Rev. Stephane Brooks, International Director of Emmaus Ministries of the Upper Room, states in the book, *Disciplines: A Book of Daily Devotions 2021*:

We see Jesus performing a small act with huge consequences as he and his disciples move through Jericho. By now Jesus’ reputation has grown, and he is highly sought-after. In this scene, he is surrounded by a huge crowd. In the midst of the cacophony, a desperate Bartimaeus cries out. He is blind; and in that time and culture, he has no way of supporting himself or his family. He desperately wants his situation to change. Yet when he cries out for help, there is a popular attempt to intimidate him and leave him in his present condition. Fortunately for Bartimaeus, Jesus hears and pays attention. Jesus invites him to draw nearer and asks about his need. With a trusting heart, Bartimaeus shares his deepest concern and he is set free from his blindness. Jesus gives him new life. (The Upper Room, p. 351)

Today, Jesus is passing by and he is asking each of us, “What do you want me to do?” Before we answer the question this morning, what can we learn from Bartimaeus as described by Rev. Brooks?

First it is clear that Bartimaeus heard about Jesus of Nazareth before this moment because of his immediate response at the time of Jesus passing by him. It is clear by his reaction that he had heard about Jesus’ miracles.

Bartimaeus cried, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” And this cry did not come from a person who did not know about Jesus, but it came from a person who had heard about Jesus and believed. As identified by Jesus during their brief conversation, Bartimaeus’s cries came from a place of faith. What have you heard about Jesus? Faith comes by hearing, hearing the Word of God.

Second, Bartimaeus’ cries show us that sometimes your acts of faith will not be received by others. When Bartimaeus began to cry out for Jesus, others around him told him to be quiet. His response to those comments was to get even louder. If they had been in the condition that Bartimaeus found himself in that moment, not only blind but also a beggar, they may have joined him in crying out for Jesus, saying, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” We must press on like Bartimaeus, even when it means that we will be ostracized and find ourselves standing alone with our faith. Are you standing alone with your faith this morning? Keep standing, because Jesus hears you. And that is our third point.

Third, Bartimaeus’ cries of faith gets Jesus’ attention. He cried once more, “Son of David, have mercy on me” until Jesus stood still and invites Bartimaeus to come closer to answer the cry of his heart. Today I invite you to cry out to Jesus until he stands still and says come closer to me to answer the cry of your heart. And Jesus turns to you and asks, “What do you want me to do?” What will be your answer this morning?

In closing, Bartimaeus shows us to never forget the source of the answer to the cry of your heart. When Bartimaeus received his healing, the restoration of his eyes, he did not leave. The text says that he followed Jesus.

Today Jesus is passing by and he is asking each of us, “What do you want me to do?” What will you say? What is the cry of your heart today?

Source: Dr. Jessica Davis, Pastor of Allentown United Methodist Church. Sunday Morning Worship, October 24, 2021.

HOLIDAY PRAYER FROM PASTOR

*Praying that the gracious gifts of the season
bring you happiness and peace.
Amen.*

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER LIST: Barbara Barnett, Joyce Benson, Linda & Tom Carr, Marlene Clay, Yvonne Colts, Karen Dellett, Sharon Deluca, Maria Dembrowski, Michelle Ferner, John Fiore, Bruce Gollnick, Judy Gollnick, Roger Gravatt, Charles Homejeir, Betty Lanzillo, Jill & Jack & Meredith Malloy, Linda Marsh, John Orsag, Bud Podlesney, Liz Roof, Linda Ross, Tara Silva, Deb Smetanka, Rick Smetanka, McHenry Stiff, Yana Tarjay, Dorothy Tramontana, Debbie Weaver, Art West, Henry Wikoff, Caregivers, Our Church, Healthcare Professionals, Our Country, Our Community, renewal.

PRAY for those serving in our Armed Forces: Philip Barnes, Ben Haigh Bavona, Brian Carpe, Justin Carpe, Abigail Chek, Joseph Chicoski, Jonathan Crawford, Nate Donney, Jeffrey Emanmi, Jonathan Mele, Tim Sorensen, Stan Wisniewski III.

WE REMEMBER

All Saints Day is November 1st. We remember those in our church family who have gone home to be with the Lord during the past year.

Edith Cheney Raynor - 12/26/20

Ruth Krukowski - 1/8/21

Robert Cheney - 1/7/21

Gloria Nicholson - 1/19/21

Gary Kleinedler - 1/29/21

Mary Tucker - 5/13/21

Edna Litz - 7/4/21

Doris Hoagland - 9/11/21

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

November 7, 2021

Psalm 127

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

November 14, 2021

Psalm 13

1 Samuel 1:4-20

Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25

Mark 13:1-8

November 21, 2021 - Christ the King Sunday

Psalm 132:1-12

2 Samuel 23:1-7

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

November 28, 2021 - First Sunday of Advent

Psalm 25:1-10

Jeremiah 33:14-16

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

December 5, 2021 - Second Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:68-79

Malachi 3:1-4

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

December 12, 2021 - Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 12:2-6

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

December 19, 2021 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:46b-55

Micah 5:2-5a

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

December 26

Psalm 148

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School class is available at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. At 10:30 a.m. enjoy Worship in the sanctuary. We would love to see you in person. **The service is also available by Zoom.** Follow the Zoom instructions below.

BIBLE STUDY BY ZOOM

Our Bible Study will meet at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday. Follow the Zoom instructions.

ZOOM INFORMATION

To join by Computer: <https://zoom.us/j/369017132>
Meeting ID: 369 017 132

To join by Telephone: (pick a number to call)
1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
1 253 215 8782 US
1 301 715 8592 US
1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
Meeting ID: 369 017 132

CORPORATE MORNING PRAYER TIME

Every Tuesday and Thursday
at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

BROWN BAG LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

Join us for a time of meditation and fellowship
every Tuesday and Thursday
from 12:00 to 1:00 in Fellowship Hall.

NEW CHURCH APP

Download the new Allentown UMC app at
allentownumc.org.

Remember to approve church notification
so we can communicate with you.

OUTSIDE FLAGS

The flags are given in memory of those affected by COVID 19 and those still affected, and in honor of our Health Care Workers.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER

Tuesday, November 2nd - **Prayer Time** 9:00 a.m.
Brown Bag Lunch - 12:00 noon

Tuesday, November 2nd - **Administrative Council**
meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 3rd - **Bible Study** 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 4th - **Prayer Time** 9:00 a.m.
Brown Bag Lunch - 12:00 noon

Sunday, November 7th - **Sunday School** 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, November 9th - **Prayer Time** 9:00 a.m.
Brown Bag Lunch - 12:00 noon

Wednesday, November 10th - **Bible Study** 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 11th - **Prayer Time** 9:00 a.m.
Brown Bag Lunch - 12:00 noon

Sunday, November 14th - **Sunday School** 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, November 16th - **Prayer Time** 9:00 a.m.
Brown Bag Lunch - 12:00 noon

Tuesday, November 16th - **Annual Church Conference**
7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 17th - **Bible Study** 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 18th - **Prayer Time** 9:00 a.m.
Brown Bag Lunch - 12:00 noon

Sunday, November 21st - **Sunday School** - 9:00 a.m.
Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, November 23rd **Prayer Time** 9:00 a.m.
Brown Bag Lunch - 12:00 noon

Sunday, November 28th - **Sunday School** 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, November 30th - **Prayer Time** 9:00 a.m.
Brown Bag Lunch - 12:00 noon

CHURCH ACITIVITIES FOR DECEMBER

Wednesday, December 1st - **Bible Study** 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 2nd - **Prayer Time** 9:00 a.m.
Brown Bag Lunch - 12:00 noon

Sunday, December 5th - **Sunday School** 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, December 7th - **Prayer Time** 9:00 a.m.
Brown Bag Lunch - 12:00 noon

Tuesday, December 7th - **Trustees** meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 8th - **Bible Study** 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 9th - **Prayer Time** 9:00 a.m.
Brown Bag Lunch - 12:00 noon

Sunday, December 12th - **Sunday School** 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 12th - **Service of Remembrance**
2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 14th - **Prayer Time** 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 15th - **Bible Study** 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 16th - **Prayer Time** 9:00 a.m.
Brown Bag Lunch - 12:00 noon

Sunday, December 19th - **Sunday School** 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Friday, December 24th - **Christmas Eve Service** 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 25th - **Loaves and Fishes**

Sunday, December 26th - **Worship** 10:30 a.m.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Stewardship Sunday is November 21st. Join us in worship that Sunday. Come prepared to pledge your support of the church for 2022.

THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

We need 45 boxes of stuffing mix for the community food baskets. Please have the stuffing mix into the church by November 14th. We also need 45 boxes of Au Gratin, Scalloped, or Mashed Potatoes for the Christmas Baskets. The potatoes are needed by December 12th.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Shoebox Season Is Underway!

Simple things such as a toy, school supplies, hygiene items, or a photo can be used by God to make an eternal difference in the life of a child. Please remember that your shoebox may be the only gift the child receives. So, plan to pack quality items that will last, and don't forget to make it FUN! Get a standard-size shoebox to pack for a boy or girl. Select a quality "wow" toy. Pack full with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. Pray for the child who will receive your gift. Include a personal note and photo to delight the heart of a child. Donate \$9 per box to cover shipping and other project costs. Drop off your box at the church by Sunday, November 14th. Or you can also **Build a Shoebox Online** by visiting samaritanpurse.org/buildonline.

ANNUAL CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE

Tuesday, November 16, 2021
7:30 p.m. by Zoom

HANGING OF THE GREENS

The Week of November 22nd

Join us the week of November 22nd. Contact Karen or Linda for your availability to help us decorate for Christmas and the Advent season.

THE MAKER'S PLACE

Support The Maker's Place, and join the Christmas diaper drive November 28 - December 19. We will start collecting diapers in November. Or you can make a monetary donation.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

The community Service of Remembrance will be on Sunday, December 12th at 2:30 p.m. More information to come.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our Christmas Eve Service will be on Friday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

LOAVES AND FISHES

Planning the lunches and meal for Christmas Day is underway. We are in contact with the Loaves and Fishes Committee, and this year we may be able to serve our guests a meal in St. Mary's Fellowship Hall, but we will not know until after Thanksgiving. We will be packing the 400 lunches in our Fellowship Hall on the 22nd or 23rd of December (to be announced). If you can help in anyway, please contact Linda Watson. We will also be collecting socks, hats, scarfs, and gloves for men, women, boys and girls to be given out on Christmas Day. We will keep you updated as things become finalized.

CHURCH MOUSE BOUTIQUE

The Church Mouse Boutique is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Let your friends know about the many interesting and lovely items available in the shop.

Shirley also needs help with the Boutique. Please contact Shirley if you can help her. Cell: 609-462-0645.

LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

Your Help Is Needed!

The Allentown Food Pantry is very low on food right now. Everything is needed. The next time you go food shopping buy some canned or packaged food to donate to the pantry.

BIRTHDAYS

November 2 - Michael Fate
November 12 - Donna Kamer
November 14 - Walter Farmer
November 17 - Robert Peppler
November 25 - Ronald Rheaume

December 11 - Jessica Chiarvallo Leifer, Chase Durbin,
Carol Ruthven
December 17 - JoAnn Carmichael
December 21 - Hank Pierre
December 25 - Karen Schmalbach

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Free Dinner

Every Tuesday, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
at Holy Apostles' Episcopal Church
Every Tuesday you are invited to come to the church
for a free dinner to take home.
No questions asked. All are welcome

Allentown Food Pantry

Hours: Monday and Wednesday
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Location: Allentown Presbyterian Church
The Food Pantry relies on donations of food
and cash to purchase food.