



FEBRUARY 2022

BENEATH THE STEEPLE

NEWS FROM HAMPTONS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LET US LOVE & PRAY

*"You are never more like Jesus than when you pray for others.
Pray for this hurting world." – Max Lucado*

Each week during worship, we take time for intercessory prayer – lifting the people and situations that are weighing on our hearts and minds. For me, it's one of the most important things we can do as followers of Christ. Prayer shapes us individually and in community.

Through the practice of prayer we grow closer to God and to one another. Intercession shifts our focus away from our own lives to the needs of others. It's one of the most precious ways that we can care for, and love, one another.

The apostle Paul writes in Galatians 6:2, "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

We pray for others so that healing may occur – whether it be physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual. When we pray for others, we help carry their burdens and elevate their own requests to God.

I imagine that you have witnessed the power of prayer in your life or in the lives of family and friends. I most recently felt surrounded by your prayers for recovery after my surgery. (Thank you so much!)

Intercessory prayer also takes the form of thanksgiving, praising God for healing, and for the blessings and joys of our lives. The joy in our hearts pours out as gratitude for the Creator who provides for us all along life's journey.

So whether you voice your prayer requests aloud or hold them in your hearts, know that God does hear you, and that your church family is here for you through the tears and in the rejoicing.

In God's care and service, Rev. Joanne S. Utley



Come & See

We will resume hybrid worship at 9:30 a.m. on February 13 with both in-person and Zoom options. Facemasks and social distancing will still be required. All are welcome!

**160 MAIN STREET
SOUTHAMPTON NY 11968
631-283-0951
www.hamptonsumc.org**

ZOOM LOGIN

**Meeting ID: 307 937 8077
Password: PraiseGod**



CHRISTMAS DAY TEAMWORK: More than 300 dinners – ham, turkey and beef – were prepared for pickup and delivery by an incredible group of community volunteers led by Denise Smith Meachem.



BLESSING BOX UPDATE

We are delighted to see that the Blessing Box is indeed helping out community members. Donations have come from the community, our preschool parents, and the Heart of the Hamptons as well as our church.

Dotty Walker and Pastor Joanne have been restocking the box. We use the closets in the back hall and Memorial Lounge for storage. Please refrain from bringing glass jars or things that might freeze during the winter.

Some folks may only have access to a microwave, or no way to cook at all. Canned foods like pasta, chili, and baked beans can all be eaten straight from the can, if need be.

Try to avoid foods that need additional items to prepare – like boxed mac & cheese needs milk; pancake mix needs eggs and oil. We have more than enough pasta, mac & cheese, canned vegetables and fruit for now.

Most needed items:

- Individual microwave meals/to-go meals
- Stews or chili in flip-top cans
- Tuna and chicken in cans or pouches
- Peanut butter & crackers
- Instant coffee
- Cereals /instant hot cereal packets
- Ketchup, mustard, salad dressing, mayo
- Salt & pepper in shaker sets; spices
- Infant formula, dry infant cereal
- Baby food in plastic containers

Personal care items:

- Hand sanitizer, cleansing wipes
- Travel size toiletries
- Body lotion
- Combs/brushes, razors
- Feminine care pads/regular tampons
- Diapers and baby wipes

WHAT'S GOING ON?

THANK-YOU! To Rev. Mike Smith, Rev. Steve Peiffer and Dotty Walker who led worship while Pastor Joanne was on medical leave. We are so grateful!

Prayer of thanksgiving: Vikas Paul returned home to India in mid-January after 4 years in the US. He had hoped that his wife and 2 young children could join him, but that failed to happen. Once in India, he was able to secure visas for his family to make the move to England instead. We wish them Godspeed.

Maureen's Haven: We continue to shelter and feed about 10 guests on three Mondays a month. We're always in need of socks, underwear, gloves, hats and toiletry items.

Prayer Gathering: Thursdays at 6 p.m. A quiet time to pray for others and ourselves on Zoom.

March Birthdays to Celebrate

2: Candice Spears 3: Sang Le
22: Jerlean Hopson & Arlean Vanslyke

LENT 2022

Pastor Joanne will lead a 7-week worship series, called "Good Enough: Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith," beginning on Ash Wednesday.

Bible Study: Wednesdays at noon and 6 pm. Our Lenten study book, "Witness at the Cross" by Amy-Jill Levine, explores the characters who the Gospels tell us witnessed the Crucifixion of Jesus. The plan is to do the study in person.

March 2: Ash Wednesday service, 7 p.m.

April 10: Palm Sunday worship, 9:30 a.m.

April 14: Maundy Thursday service, 7 p.m.

April 15: Good Friday service, 7 p.m.

April 17: Easter Sunrise service at Cooper's Beach with Pastor Joanne preaching; worship in the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m.