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## *SpiritLines*

October 10, 2021

**Welcome worshipers!** We're glad you joined us for services this week! God uses worship in so many ways: to transform lives, heal wounded souls, renew hope, shape decisions, provoke change, inspire compassion and bind people to one another. We hope the service will be a good—and meaningful—experience for you and we hope you'll feel happy you logged or dialed in. We hope you'll come back!

**Parents** - We love having your children and youth worship with us and we believe it is important for the generations to worship together. Relax, stay positive, and know God's grace is at work even when we can't see it. Worship is love.

**Pastoral Care** Please see that the pastor or the church office is notified in the event you or a family member is hospitalized. *Need to talk?* Please see Pastor Ben or call his cell phone (908 674-1453) for an appointment. Or just check the last item on the Prayer Request form (I'd like to schedule an appointment with the pastor) and give the form to an usher. If you are homebound or otherwise unable to travel and would like to receive communion, please let Ben know.

**Prayers** Got a prayer request? Go to: <http://www.fumcsomervillenj.org/prayer-requests.html>

**Ushers needed!** We need to rebuild the usher group. New volunteers are needed asap as we prepare to reopen the sanctuary for in person worship. Now is the time for you to step forward to help your church in a meaningful way. Safety and hospitality are sacred elements of each Sunday morning. To volunteer, please call Jen at the church office (908 725-1473) and leave a message in her voicemail box.

**Book Club** - The club is looking to start meeting again and have proposed Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm via Zoom. This month's book is **The Lager Queen of Minnesota** by J. Ryan Stradal. The book is available on Amazon in paperback, hardcover, and Audible, and there are also copies available in our county libraries in various formats. Please reach out to either Mike Ultee, Pat Dedert, or the church office if you are interested in joining or have any questions.

**OPPORTUNITY: LAY SERVANT CLASSES** - Would you like to serve the church in a deeper way? Then perhaps you might like to become a Lay Servant within the United Methodist Church. If so, you're welcome to take advantage of the Basic and Advanced/Certified Lay Servant classes being offered virtually this fall on Zoom. The Basic Course focuses on caring, communicating, and leading. It will be held Saturdays, Oct. 16 & 23; from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. To learn more or to register, please go to this

link: <https://www.gnjumc.org/lay-servant-ministries/basic-lay-servant-class/>. If you have already taken the Basic Course and want to expand your knowledge, or if you are due for recertification this year, please go to <https://www.gnjumc.org/lay-servant-ministries/advanced-lay-servant-class/> and register for the Leading Prayer course, which will be held Sundays: Oct. 17, 24 & Nov. 7, 2:00 – 5:30 p.m.

**Bible Study Group** – meets Thursdays from 7:30-8:30 PM on Zoom and currently is discussing the presence of the Kingdom of God in the midst of chaos, as found in six Bible stories presented in *Chaos and the Kingdom* by Nathanael Vissia and Michael T. Bush. Interested? Contact Janet Stafford ([jstaff52@comcast.net](mailto:jstaff52@comcast.net)) or the church office for more information. The Zoom link to the group is published weekly on FUMC's Facebook group, but also may be found on the Events page at the church's website ([www.somervillefumcnj.org](http://www.somervillefumcnj.org)).

**HOME (Housing. Outreach. Multifaith. Empowerment.)** – This is our week! Please pray for the family we will be feeding and for those who are making the meals. Also, if you wish, you can make a donation to help pay HOME pay the family's motel bill. (Make sure you specify that your donation is for HOME.)

**CROP Walk is back!** The United Reformed Church is hosting the CROP Walk this year! Grab a couple of friends, raise some donations, and help feed hungry people. Then go to [https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/centralsomervillenj?fbclid=IwAR2Y\\_Oo8LBZwjwvcktuy39ru9-AmFVX062Z1ki6ogOYYyBA8OBnNqBLkSe4](https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/centralsomervillenj?fbclid=IwAR2Y_Oo8LBZwjwvcktuy39ru9-AmFVX062Z1ki6ogOYYyBA8OBnNqBLkSe4) to register. If you cannot walk this year, you can always donate to the cause!

**Zoom Issues?** – If you are having problems phoning in or logging into zoom services on Sunday mornings, please let us know! You can contact Jen during office hours (see below) so that we can try to solve any issues.

**Prayer Requests:** Laura Sergile, member; Judy Smith's nephew and family; Roe McBurnett's mother.

Online giving through Zelle: [givingtofumc@gmail.com](mailto:givingtofumc@gmail.com).  
Or you can simply mail your donation check, or drop off it off in the church's side-door mail slot. Thank you!

Always check our website for links and updates!  
[www.fumcsomervilleNJ.org](http://www.fumcsomervilleNJ.org)

Or find us on Facebook: "First United Methodist Church of Somerville NJ"