



SpiritLines

September 19, 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.

Nominations Season Each Fall, the church has the important work of reviewing just who will lead its committees and ministries in the year to come. Some committees require leaders to rotate off after an amount of time, but others are often reenergized by new voices around the table. Is God calling you to something new in service to this church?

If you are asked to serve, know that that is the result of other conversations, prayer, and discernment. What it means is that, as we gather to think about just who can best steer our course in the future, your name came up - and how cool is that? It's a good thing to be nominated. You can always say "no," of course. If you should say "yes," however, know that Rev. Ben and the existing leaders will work to equip you and ensure you have everything you need to succeed. This is a faith-building, mutually supportive enterprise.

Even better than us seeking you out is when you find yourself thinking, "you know, I feel like I can give or do more here." If you have that sense that you are already being invited into leadership here, don't be shy! Rev. Ben would love to hear from you. It's a blessing to serve and work together to share the hope of Jesus with our neighbors in Somerville, and we've got a good team to do it.

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 11th 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.

Bible Study Group – will be starting its 2021-2022 year on Thursday, September 23, from 7:00-8:30 PM and will be held on Zoom. The first study has to do with chaos: what it is and how we as Christians need to deal with it. Over seven weeks, the group will read *Chaos and the Kingdom* by Nathanael Vissia and Michael T. Bush. It focuses on seven Bible stories in which chaos has a part and how we find hope and help in the stories. The paperback and ebook versions are available on Amazon. You don't need to be a Biblical scholar to be part of this group. You just need to be curious. Contact Janet Stafford (jstaff52@comcast.net) for more information. The Zoom link will be published one week before the group starts.

BLAST FAMILY READINGS – will have a new look. Beginning September 5, we will experiment with Illustrated Ministry's *microRevolutions* curriculum. It is highly flexible and has options that can relate to most ages. Families can choose what works best in their families, but should remember to keep the Bible reading central. A benefit of *microRevolutions* is that the Bible reading for the week relates one of the readings from the lectionary (the Bible passages we hear each Sunday at worship). That means there is a connection between church and your family's home worship/devotional time. If you want to get on the mailing list to receive the new materials, please contact Janet (jstaff@comcast.net), since their copyright will not permit us to anything up on social media or our website.

Zoom – 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, the people of St. John UMC, Fordville, NJ.

Online giving through Zelle: 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

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