



# ***THE CROSSWORD***

**Manahawkin United Methodist Church**  
**116 Stafford Avenue**  
**Manahawkin, NJ 08050 (609-597-7666)**  
[\*\*www.manahawkinmethodist.org\*\*](http://www.manahawkinmethodist.org)

**January/February 2016**

*Open Hearts*  
*Open Minds*  
*Open Doors*

## **2016 - The Year of Prayer**



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### **“Sanctuary”**

**A Safe Place for People to Open Their Hearts  
to one another...To listen...To Pray...  
and to Celebrate Communion.**

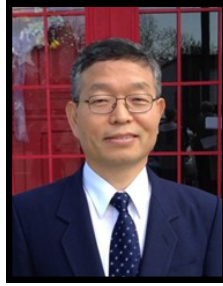
**A Place to Enjoy the Lord, Rest in his  
Presence , and Thoroughly Feel Him with Us**

### **In this Issue:**

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**PASTOR'S CORNER**

I don't exactly remember how I started my prayer life. Neither can I recall who taught me to pray or when I first started to pray to the Heavenly Father. Like most of you, I never took a course on prayer such as "Prayer 101: Introduction to Prayer." However, I started praying sometime during high school. It was, of course, after I became a believer in Jesus. As a believer, I naturally got into prayer (like a new born baby knows from the moment of birth how to breathe without training).



I remember some silly prayers to God that I would never repeat. For instance, I once asked (*demanding*—to be accurate) God to speak to me audibly so that I would believe in Him. *Otherwise, I said, I quit.* God never yielded to my silly ultimatum, though. Looking back, I am very glad that He didn't. From that experience, I learned that God is patient with my foolishness.

During my college days, I even tested the practicality of prayer. One year, I decided to experiment on prayer: whether it works or not to begin with; and if so, how exactly God answers prayers. So, I started a prayer journal where I would record all my prayer requests in detail. I did that for six months. At the end of the sixth month, I found 96 entries in the journal. To my great surprise, I found every one of them answered in one of the following ways: YES (majority). NO (some). WAIT (a few). I discovered that prayer is real, not just psychological hypnosis to comfort myself.

Then, there came the time when I did some serious prayers with fasting, especially during my major crises in life. Pouring my soul in anguish, I would cry out onto the Lord to deliver me from my troubles. The God Almighty surely listened and answered my humble pleas in the ways beyond imagination. Praise God!

Sometimes God reasons with me in prayers: I find Him very gentle and kind, patiently listening to my worries and frustrations. He reasons with me and leads me to His assurance that eventually takes away my worries.

After each prayer I always come out from God's Throne Room with the assurance that He is in control, faithful, and alive in my life. He is not the God who stays aloof from my daily challenges and struggles. Rather, He is deeply involved in the world affairs including mine. No wonder our God is Immanuel ("with-us-God").

This is why I designate this year to be the Year of Prayer so that all of us would engage in daily prayer and undeniably experience the Living God in our lives. Try it, and you will love it.

See you in prayer. Kyewoon

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

On behalf of your Worship Committee, thank you for a beautiful Advent & Christmas! Many hands added to the beauty of our Church; many voices and musicians added to the wonder and to the meaning of the Season and many faces added joy! To all those who helped and participated ~ we are sincerely grateful!

Looking forward:

- Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, we celebrate the Epiphany ~ a blessing and a focal point for this New Year. Adding to our prayer focus, we look forward to Pastor Choi's announcement "The Year Of..."
- Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, we will once again have a small Installation/Blessing of our 2016 Church Council (formerly known as Administrative Council). Our Committee Chairs and Presidents of Groups will be announced to the Congregation and we will join in prayer asking for blessing upon them and their service to the Lord and to our Church. Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, brings in Ash Wednesday.

We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce our new Worship Chair, Kathleen Tunes. Kathleen is known to most as she has been a member of the Committee and has already been "hands on" ~ we appreciate her for all that she is and does for MUMC. Joining Kathleen on Worship Committee are our Music Director, Vel Gamble; Holy Spirit Ringers Director, Joe DeVecchio; Communion Steward Director, Ruth Farley; Sunday School Superintendent, Rosemary Molinaro; Crossword Editor, Edna Winans; Members, Lauren Kokai, Marina Milia, Bob Molinaro; our Church Secretary, Cheryl Conti and our Beloved Pastor, Kyewoon Choi. We are so blessed having such dedicated and talented members willing to serve.

It has been an honor and a privilege serving on the Worship Committee. We know as we step down we leave all in good hands. We are grateful to all for your love and support offered throughout this last year ~ for the last years! Please continue to hold us in your prayers as we promise, as we all do, "to renew our covenant, faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ." (UMC Hymnal pg.43) So off we go into this New Year! Once again ~ our sincere thanks!

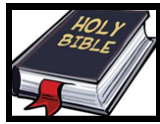
Blessings and Hugs!

Jody Endebrock and MarySue Pignato  
Worship Co-Chairs



**Help Wanted****Candle Lighters**

Sign up sheets in Narthex

**Readers****Greeters,  
Ushers****MUSIC NOTES by Vel**

Many, many thanks to all who participated in the music program for Advent and Christmas. Your dedication, your time and your gifts are all very much appreciated. Now as a New Year begins we will be approaching Lent and Easter very quickly, as Easter is very early this year.

Choir will resume practice on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM on January 6th. We are usually out by shortly after 8:00. New members are ALWAYS welcome. Come on men sing with us, WE NEED YOU!



**PRAISE BELLS** resume practice on January 4 and will play for both Services on January 10th. We will begin practice at the usual time 6:00 PM.

**JUNIOR BELLS** will take a short break and resume practice on January 25th at 4:30 PM.

They practice from 4:30 to 5:15 and then enjoy pizza together before finishing at 5:30 PM. Any child who has finished 1<sup>st</sup> grade and is willing to commit to weekly practice is welcome. This is a good time for new members to join. If your child is interested in coming, please contact me so that I can plan music accordingly. I can be reached by phone at (732) 961-1168 or at church on Sunday morning.

**MUSIC CALENDAR:**

January 3: 8:30 and 11:00 Adult choir  
 January 4: 6:00 PM Praise Bells  
 January 6: 7:00 PM Adult Choir  
 January 10: 8:30 and 11:00 Praise Bells  
 January 11: 6:00 PM Praise Bells  
 January 13: 7:00 PM Adult Choir  
 January 17: 8:30 and 11:00 Adult choir  
 January 18: 6:00 PM NO Praise Bells School Holiday  
 January 20: 7:00 PM Adult Choir  
 January 24: 8:30 and 11:00 Holy Spirit Ringers  
 January 25: 4:30 PM Junior Bells Resume  
 January 25: 6:00 PM Praise Bells  
 January 27: 7:00 PM Adult Choir  
 January 31: 8:30 and 11:00 TBD

February 1: 4:30 PM Junior Bells Resume  
 February 2: 6:00 PM Praise Bells  
 February 4: 7:00 PM Adult Choir  
 February 7: 8:30 and 11:00 Adult Choir  
 February 8: 4:30 PM Junior Bells  
 February 8: 6:00 PM Praise Bells  
 February 10: 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service  
 February 14: 8:30 and 11:00 Adult Choir  
 February 15: 4:30 PM Junior Bells  
 February 15: 6:00 PM Praise Bells  
 February 17: 7:00 PM Adult Choir  
 February 21: 8:30 and 11:00 Adult Choir  
 February 22: 4:30 PM Junior Bells  
 February 24: 6:00 PM Praise Bells  
 February 28: 7:00 PM Adult Choir

**PRAYER GROUP SCRIPTURE**

“Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied”  
 Jude 2

**OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES**

On Sun, Nov 8, 2015 at 8:37 PM, Marisa wrote:  
 Pastor Choi

Thank you for everything today it was fantastic! I also wanted to share something Dominick asked me tonight when we were putting him to bed... He stopped and looked at me and said Mom how many rooms do you think Jesus has? I said well Dom Jesus didn't live in a big house he lived very simple... He said no mom Jesus uses our hearts as his room...so how many rooms do you think he has?? Just wanted to share because that was him thinking about what you talked about today.

Thanks, Marisa

.....  
**MUMC based Boy Scout Troop 65** builds four 8 foot picnic tables in Manahawkin Lake Park.

See website below for photo and story:

<http://thesandpaper.villagesoup.com/p/boy-scouts-bring-building-skills-to-the-table-for-manahawkin-lake-park/1454353>

.....

**WEB COMMUNICATIONS**

Happy New Year!

Periodically throughout the month of January the church website will be down. New year, new website! Also Christmas Eve service will be available on our you tube account soon, to view search Manahawkin United Methodist Church and the videos will show up. Blessing for a Great Year!

Marina Milia

2016 HOLY SPIRIT RINGERS SCHEDULEPractices

- \*January - 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>
- \*February - 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>
- \*March - 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>
- \*April - 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>
- \*May - 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

Performance Dates

- \*January 24<sup>th</sup> - both services
  - \*February 28<sup>th</sup> - both services
  - \*March 27<sup>th</sup> - Easter Sunday - both services
  - \*April 24<sup>th</sup> - both services
  - \*May 22<sup>nd</sup> - both services
- \*\*\*ANY practice or performance you CANNOT attend please call Joe at 609-488-1786

ANOTHER YEAR  
(Thoughts to live by)  
Kenneth Schorr

With the beginning of the New Year many people (myself included) wonder what the year will be like. Will the problems and challenges of last year still haunt us? Will new challenges test our faith? If we are not careful this "wondering" can lead to worry to the point where it begins to take over our lives, and can even begin to create health problems.

While I do not have all the answers there are some things we need to remember; such as:

1. Instead of worrying about what you can't do, think about what God can do for you.
2. The best way to stop worrying is to start praying.
3. Never confuse worrying about tomorrow with planning for tomorrow.
4. Prayer changes things; worry changes nothing.
5. Spend time in reading God's Word. Put yourself into what you are reading (Psalms as an example). Find those verses that you can call upon when you see yourself backsliding into old thoughts and habits. A few helpful Scripture verses are: Ps. 46:1,10; Provo 3:5-6; Isa. 43:1-2,19; Jer. 29:11; Eccl. 7:8-9; Mt. 11:29; Phil. 4:4-7,13; IPe. 5:7. There are so many others.
6. Put aside all those things that prevent you from having a relationship with God and each other.
7. Surrender your will to God's will.

May we always remember, no matter how serious the problem, how desperate the situation, God's love is greater and stronger. Put your trust in Him. Have a blessed New Year and may the grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you today and in all your tomorrows. Amen.

MISSIONS

Missions has been busy this past Christmas season. We collected 48 Christmas Child boxes and two were delivered locally. Thank you to the Turis for folding all the boxes and Jim McShea for delivering them to the collection center.

Thank you to all church members and Preschool parents who made our coat drive so successful. New and gently used coats totaled 47, with 2 pairs of snow pants. Homemade and purchased hats and scarves numbered 50. Mittens and gloves collected were 36. Thanks to Lisa Mower for taking them to the community center, so many needy families could shop.

Our food collections for January are pasta and sauce and in February, it is soups, stews, and chili. Some of you are very conscientious about bringing items in monthly and leaving them in the box at the entrance. In addition to our monthly food donations, we gave ShopRite gift cards to 7 families for Christmas.

We will be having a mission meeting on February 7th between the Sunday services. In case of bad weather, the meeting will be held the following Sunday, the 14th. We will meet in Fellowship Hall and it is open to all who are interested in the garden project and or a mission trip. We will be brainstorming about our trips and plan what to plant in the garden. We hope to see you there during coffee hour.

Continue to save the Boxtops for Education and leave them in the basket on the table in the entryway. They are on all General Mills products and Campbell soups.

Art and Lovisa Hill, Mission Chairs

May the joy and love and hope at Christmas continue through the new year! We are people alive in Jesus Christ growing with our worship, nurturing and service in His name. God bless!

Louise Lovering Jones  
Lay Servant/Speaker

A team of members received permission from the Trustees to investigate and present a proposal to replace the Stair Lift chair up into the Sanctuary. Authorization was received to proceed with a firm estimate.

In addition, the project has been **expanded** to include a second stair-lift chair up to **Fellowship Hall**. A Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex to show your support of the project. There is also a pledge box if you would like to contribute to offset the costs.

Contact John Smith 609-698-0657 or  
Edna Winans 609-304-3403

**MUMC Resident Poet Norma Paul**

**SUNDAY TV**

At my hand  
 A mug of strong coffee  
 Lightened with cream—  
 While on the screen  
 Two violins accompany  
 Young men in robes of red who  
 Open their throats in praise  
 Of God on high.  
 Hot liquid spreads its joyful  
 Warmth coursing through  
 My being. Violins sing .  
 Red-coated men join their praise.  
 Within me, coffee slides in its  
 Eager descent into  
 This blissful moment.  
 Listen to the music,  
 Picture its harmony  
 Dressed in red. Feel the warmth  
 Surging through my body,  
 Filling my need.

Norma Paul

January 5, 2014



**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

**Submitted by: Rosemary Molinaro**

**Sunday School Superintendent**

On Sunday morning, December 20<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday School children celebrated Jesus' birthday with a special breakfast. We also celebrated our December Birthdays. We had lots of birthdays in the house!!!



Later that evening, we enjoyed dinner and fellowship with delicious foods and desserts brought by our guests followed by our annual Christmas pageant performed by our Sunday School teachers and children. This year's pageant was called "The Christmas Box." The story took place on Christmas Eve as Mom, Dad and the children were finishing their Christmas decorations. They took out the Christmas box that contained their Nativity set and as they put each piece under the tree, they imagined what it would be like if they all came to life. And one by one, Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus and all those who were there on that first Christmas night, came to life right in their living room. It was amazing!



This year we added singing to the Pageant with the help of Vel Gamble with the songs, and Shelly Sheft, Joel Applegate, and Sarah Choi with music accompaniment. It was a wonderful addition to the pageant. Each year the



**SHOPRITE GIFT CARD PROGRAM**

Our congregation has participated in the ShopRite gift card program for several years. We earn 5 percent on the total collected . Thank you for your support because it helps many worthwhile church endeavors.

If you eat and shop at ShopRite, please consider buying a gift card from either Mildred Plant or Lovisa Hill.

***Why not buy a card and give it away as a Random Act of Kindness?***



number of actors also increases and this year was no exception. We added three camels, a dove, a guiding star, a shaggy donkey and several extra sheep. Of course there is always a multitude of heavenly angels and shepherds. The past three years, we have been blessed with a very young baby to be our infant Jesus, and this year it was Paige Stevens. It was wonderful to see so many of our families participate in the pageant. Thank you so much to everyone for once again making this a terrific event.



Wishing you a happy and healthy 2016 from all of us at MUMC Sunday School!

### **PRAYER:**

Did you ever stop to think what it really is? The Ruler of the Universe invites us into the throne room to speak to him. Wow! Awesome beyond words? We can travel the world, without leaving our homes with prayer! Think about the “creativity of prayer.” There are so many ways! There is the prayer of Compassion when we hear of the horrible events happening all over the world. The lives of people can be changed through intercessory prayer! Fire and ambulance prayer when we see or hear fire alarms or the shrill cry of an ambulance. How about when your ate at stores? Ask Father God who there needs our prayers the most at that particular moment.

Attending meetings, libraries, next to a car while waiting for a red light to turn green. Ask God to point the person out to you and you get a special feeling the for that person. God hears and does long to answer. Your neighborhood is one of our personal greatest missionary fields. Take a house a week and pray every day for the occupants and also the house itself. Every time you go by that house – Pray..How about when you hear an airplane motor? Pray, for the people aboard, for the airplane itself to be doing exactly what it was created for.

Make your own creative list. You may not know the results but be assured; God is listening. After all, Jesus tells us: “Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.” Prayer is a big part of making it happen.

Submitted by Dottie Silvestri

ManahawkinMethodist  
PRESCHOOL 

Happy New Year from the preschool!

We had so much fun the last few weeks in our classrooms and in Christmas Club. We made decorations for the school, cards and gifts for shut ins, presents for our parents, performed for our families and wrapped it all up with a birthday party for Jesus!



All classes have been learning that the Lord loves a cheerful giver and have encouraged the children to help those less fortunate than themselves. We collected dessert items which we donated to Ocean Community Church and many coats, hats, gloves and scarves to donate to the Stafford Township coat drive. We were very fortunate to Ed Hazelton and Mark DeMeno from Shinn Funeral Home serve as Santa Clause. All children received an ornament from Santa with the legend of the poinsettia which teaches “whatever you give from your heart will make Jesus happy”.

Thank you to all who supported our Save Around coupon book fundraiser. I am pleased to say that we made \$1390.00 for the school. As Paul wrote to the Romans, “in all things God works together for the good of those who love him and have been called according to His purpose.” I am trusting that if we continue to do the works we were created for, He will continue to bless us!

Lisa Mower, Director



**Blood Drive in Memory of  
Emily Eismann  
at: Manahawkin United Methodist Church  
in Fellowship Hall  
Tuesday January 5, 2016  
1pm to 6:00pm  
See Marian Assur at church for an appointment  
or  
call her at  
609-204-2370  
or  
Call the American Red Cross at  
1-800-GIVELIFE  
(1800-448-5433)  
or  
make your own appointment on the web site  
[www.pleasegiveblood.org](http://www.pleasegiveblood.org)**

**Who can Donate Blood** - It is important that you feel good when you donate blood. Healthy people who are at least 17 years old and weigh 110 pounds or more are usually eligible to donate blood. Federal regulations require that donors wait 56 days between regular whole blood donations.

**Please remember to bring proper identification to the blood drive.**

Consider being a Double Red Cell Donor If you are type O or B.

To be eligible you must be

Male - at least 130 pounds and 5'1" tall

Female - at least 150 pounds and 5'5" tall

Anyone interest in double red cell Call or see Marian Assur for an appointment

Also on the day of the drive there will be the need for support help. Registration, canteen, set up and clean up.

**I will be leaving on vacation on or about January 3, 2016, if anyone can volunteer to be the point person during the drive, I would greatly appreciate it. Please see me or call me at 609-204-2370. It's not a hard job, the workers may need a little help to find something, but they do most of the work.**

**If you have a little computer knowledge**

and can help schedule appointments

please call or see Marian Assur

609-204-2391

Remember: The need is constant and the gratification is instant.  
Give Blood.

January 2016 Calendar

- Worship Hours: Two Services 8:30 and 11 A.M.
  - Communion: Sunday, January 3, both services
  - Emily Eismann Blood Drive: Tuesday, January 5, 1-5 P.M.
  - Installation of New Officers: Sunday, January 10, both services
  - Shoprite Gift Cards: Sunday, January 10
  - Church Council: Monday, January 11, 7 P.M.
  - UMW Meeting: Tuesday, January 12, 1 P.M.
  - Memorial Service (Grace M. Thorsen): Saturday, January 16, 10 A.M.
  - Trustees Meeting: Tuesday, January 19, 7 P.M.
  - Sunday School Sunday: Sunday, January 24, at both services
  - Baptism: Sunday, January 24, 11 A.M.
  - Men's Breakfast: TBA
  - Choir Practice: every Wednesday, 7 P.M.
  - Bell Choir Practice: every Thursday, 7 P.M.
  - Quilters: every Wednesday, 9:30 A.M.
  - Prayer Group: every Thursday, 11 A.M.
  - Youth Group: every Monday, 6:30 P.M.
- Pastor's Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 9:30-11:30 A.M.
- Secretary Hours: Monday and Wednesday - 9 A.M. to 12 Noon. Thursday 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

February 2016 Calendar

- Worship Hours on Sunday: Two Services 8:30 and 11 A.M.
  - Communion: Sunday, February 7, both services
  - UMW Meeting: Tuesday, February 9, 1 P.M.
  - Ash Wednesday Service: Wednesday, February 10, 7 P.M.
  - Shoprite Gift Cards: Sunday, February 14
  - Preschool Committee: Tuesday, February 16, 7 P.M.
  - Erik Houghton Concert (sponsored by Men): Sunday, February 21, 3 P.M.
  - Men's Breakfast: TBA
  - Trustees Meeting: TBA
  - Choir Practice: every Wednesday, 7 P.M.
  - Bell Choir Practice: every Thursday, 7 P.M.
  - Quilters: every Wednesday, 9:30 A.M.
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Additions or corrections to the Crossword:  
Contact Edna Winans at 609-304-3403  
[ewinans@verizon.net](mailto:ewinans@verizon.net)

**Manahawkin United Methodist Church**

Located in the hearts of the Jersey Shore



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**116 Stafford Avenue**

**Manahawkin, NJ 08050**



***Crossword Newsletter***

***January/February 2016***