



# Mission and Resource Center Dedication

Friday, April 15, at 10:30 a.m.  
205 Jumping Brooke Road, Neptune, NJ



The worship guide is being provided electronically on the screens in the Learning Center and online to emphasize our commitment to be environmentally-friendly.

*The worship table is inspired by an Ebenezer rock altar. Artifacts from the General Commission on Archives and History are on display in the 1st floor conference room.*

PRELUDE:

*John Walsh, pianist*

CALL TO CELEBRATION:

*Reverend Lou Strugala, Chair of the Building Committee*

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad.**

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ, we gather to celebrate and dedicate the Mission and Resource Center to the glory of God. Let us consecrate this space, as well as ourselves, as sacred so that all people who enter this place experience God's grace, feel welcomed and are inspired to share in the mission. Today we will call upon God to use this place to recruit and develop transformational leaders, make disciples, grow vital congregations, and transform lives and communities. May the Holy Spirit's presence and power be experienced by all who enter these doors. Come let us celebrate all!

WELCOME:

**Worship through Song:**

*#3152 Worship and Song*

Let's walk together for a while  
And ask where we begin  
To build a world where love can grow  
And hope can enter in  
To be the hands of healing  
And to plant the seed of peace

**Chorus:**

Singing welcome, welcome to this place  
You're invited, to come and know God's grace  
All are welcome the love of God to share  
'Cause all of us are welcome here;  
All are welcome in this place

Let's talk together of a time  
When we will share a feast  
Where pride and power kneel to serve  
The lonely and the least  
And joy will set the table  
As we join our hands to pray

**Chorus**

Let's dream together of the day  
When earth and heaven are one  
A city built of love and light  
The new Jerusalem  
Where our mourning turns to dancing  
Every creature lifts its voice

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Crying welcome, welcome to this place  
You're invited to come and know God's grace  
All are welcome the love of God to share  
'Cause all of us are welcome here  
All are welcome in this place

## OPENING PRAYER:

*in unison*

**Creator, we come today asking your blessing as we dedicate the Mission and Resource Center and recommit ourselves to mission and ministry. We ask you to bless this day and every day forward. Bless the doors so that they swing wide to welcome all and wide enough to carry our mission into the world. Bless the staff, leaders and volunteers who serve here so that they may find courage for the journey and meaning in their work. Bless the ministry and mission so that we continue to make a difference in the world.**

**We come before you today God to dedicate and consecrate, and ask your blessing in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen**

## ABOUT THE MISISON AND RESOURCE CENTER:

*Reverend Clifford Still, Chair of the Board of Trustees*

## WORDS OF THANKS:

*Bishop John Schol, United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey*

## LITANY OF THANKSGIVING:

*Rosa Williams, Lay Leader of the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey*

Leader: Blessed be the name of God whose presence here has been waiting for us to arrive.

**People: We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: As we and others pray our prayers and sing your praises here, your Holy Spirit will bless us as we live out our calling together in the name of Christ.

**People: We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: We will do your work here and in doing so will accomplish the ministry you have called us to: to recruit and develop transformational leaders, grow vital congregations and bring hope to communities in need.

**People: We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: From this place many will go out equipped to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**People: We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: As we now begin our work here in this holy space, bless the work of our hands and the dedication of our hearts.

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**People: We give you thanks, O God. Amen.**

OUR MISSION: BUILDING IN OUR PAST AND TRANSFORMING OUR FUTURE:  
*Alfred T. Day, General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History*

A FUTURE WITH HOPE MINISTRY: Video

**Worship through Song:**

*Our Hope is Built*

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name  
On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!  
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne!  
On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand

IMAGINE NO MALARIA MINISTRY: VIDEO

The GNJ Way:

*Reverend Hector A. Burgos, Director of Connectional Ministries, United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey*

LETTERS OF CONGRATULATION:

*Carolyn Conover, Director of Communication and Development, United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey*

**Worship through Song:**

*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*  
UMH #400

Come thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
He to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love,  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

## SCRIPTURE READING:

Psalm 127:1-2

*Nicole Caldwell-Gross, Director of Mission and Multi-Cultural Ministries*

1 Samuel 7:5-6a, 12

## WORSHIP THROUGH SONG:

### **Great is Thy Faithfulness**

*UMH #140 verse one*

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.  
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see,  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

## THE CONSECRATION AND DEDICATION:

*Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, The United Methodist Church of New England,*

*Bishop Ernest S. Lyght, Retired Bishop of the United Methodist Church,*

*Bishop John Schol*

**Bishop Schol:** Friends, rejoice that God moved the hearts of the people of Greater New Jersey to build this Mission and Resource Center as a place for praise and prayer, mission and ministry, and education and resourcing. Let us now consecrate it for service to the world and celebrate its holy use.

**Bishop Lyght:** Creator, mighty in power and of incomprehensible majesty, whom the heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of buildings made with hands, you have promised your presence whenever two or three are assembled in your name to offer praise and prayer. Grace this space with your creativity to inspire a world changing mission.

**Bishop Devadhar:** Redeemer, guide and empower the proclamation of your word, the celebration of your sacraments, the pouring out of prayer, the singing of your praise, the gathering of your people, the work of the staff, the ministry of the clergy and the laity, and the mission of your church.

Bishops Devadhar, Lyght and Schol together: Sustainer, fill this place with passion and power for an eternal mission that changes lives and transforms the world.

**People: Now, O God, by the power of your Holy Spirit consecrate this Mission and Resource Center. Sanctify this place, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Bless us also and sanctify what we do here, that this place may be holy for us and a blessing for all people. Amen.**

## SONG OF RESPONSE:

### **Great is Thy Faithfulness**

*UMH #140 verses two and three*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun moon and stars in their courses above

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Join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love  
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see,  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.  
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see,  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

### CONSECRATION OF DESIGNATED AREAS:

You are invited to join in the consecration of designated areas of the Mission and Resource Center which will be dedicated by leaders of our ministry:

#### **Communications Ministry** (*second floor southeast*)

Reverend Jennifer Cho, First UMC in Newton  
Carolyn Conover

#### **Finance and Administration Ministry** (*second floor southwest*)

Reverend Gina Hendrickson, Dean of the Cabinet  
John Cardillo, Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services

#### **Connectional Ministries** (*second floor northwest*)

Reverend Vicki Brendler, Chair of the Connectional Table  
Hector Burgos

#### **A Future With Hope** (*second floor northeast*)

Revered Lou Strugala  
Bobbie Ridgely, Executive Director of A Future With Hope

#### **Episcopal Office** (*second floor southeast*)

Bishop Ernest Lyght  
Nicola Mulligan, Executive Assistant to the Bishop

#### **Baptismal Fountain and Hospitality Ministry** (*first floor center*)

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar  
Jasmine Ferguson, Operations Assistant

#### **Video and Sound Studio** (*first floor northwest*)

General Secretary Alfred T. Day  
James Lee, Manager of Visual Arts

#### **The Learning Center** (*first floor south*)

Dr. Javier Viera, Dean of Drew Theological Seminary  
Nicole Caldwell-Gross, Director of Mission and Multi-Cultural Ministries

As you leave today, please take a stone to remember the consecration of the Mission and Resource Center.