

THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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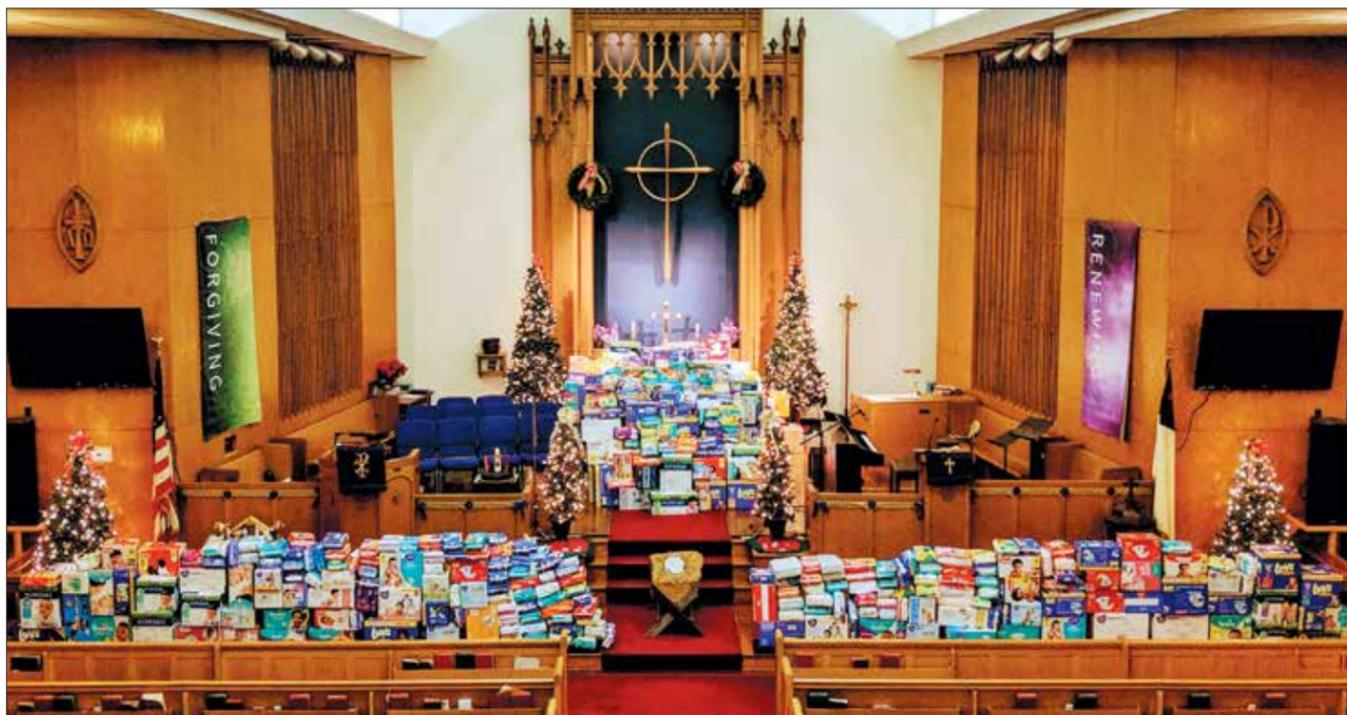
The Maker's Place Making Moves with 87K Diapers

By Josh Kinney
jkinney@gnjumc.org

TRENTON – For children in Trenton who reach their first birthday, there will be plenty of diapers to go around; over 87,000 to be exact, all due to United Methodist churches in Trenton and throughout Greater New Jersey partnering to collect them for low-income families with babies in the state capital, which has one of the highest infant mortality rates in America.

The effort was spearheaded by The Maker's Place, a new Trenton-based mission initiative of United Methodists in Greater New Jersey.

Rev. Michael Reed was appointed to The Maker's Place in 2018 and put out a call to United Methodists in GNJ to participate in its holiday diaper drive. On December 16, Turning Point UMC in Trenton became the collection depot where volunteers were ready to welcome participants with high-fives and hot drinks. Reed encouraged churches to bless and pray over their diaper collections during services and to pray together



87,000+ diapers are displayed on the altar at Turning Point UMC in Trenton as a result of The Maker's Place diaper drive. Photo provided by Rev. Michael Reed



Rev. Michael Reed and Rev. Rupert Hall are joined by volunteers who helped make The Maker's Place diaper drive a sweeping success. Photo provided by Rev. Michael Reed

as congregations for the mothers and babies who would receive the gifts as well as for the formation of relationships with families through Maker's Place.

"These congregations made a change for babies and families living in poverty and at the same time partnered to launch a new mission and ministry in Trenton," said Reed. "Our prayer was that the light and love of Christ – born as a child, born as one poor and margin-

alized – would be with these congregations in the Christmas season as they shared Christ's love with others."

When Lucy, a high school student who lives around the corner from Frenchtown UMC, heard about Maker's Place diaper drive, she started her own, reaching out to friends and neighbors, surpassing her goal of 2,000 diapers.

"Diapers connected church and community!" exclaimed Reed.

Within days, the word spread and tens of thousands of diapers were collected. From 2,000 to 10,000, the goal kept expanding. Churches, workplaces and friends gathered diapers by the thousands. In total, more than 87,000 diapers were collected with the help of nearly 40 congregations and community groups from across the state.

The diapers will be distributed at

community birthday parties this year, celebrating one year olds and their families. These 'First Birthday Parties' will be sponsored by The Maker's Place in partnership with The Children's Home Society of New Jersey, along with community partners and other congregations including African UMC, Turning Point UMC, Trinity UMC in Ewing and Iglesia Metodista Unida Wesley. The parties will also provide resources to reduce Trenton's high infant mortality rate with the first party being held on March 2 at Turning Point UMC.

"I had a goal of 10,000 diapers," said Reed. "We got a bit more than that. Oh me of little faith. I certainly was blown away and am so thankful for everyone who supporter this project. It was affirming for me to see individuals and

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New Superintendents Appointed

By Josh Kinney
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NEPTUNE – In January, Bishop John Schol announced the appointments of new District Superintendents for the Capital, Raritan Valley and Skylands Districts.

Capital District

Rev. Hector Burgos will become the new Capital District Superintendent starting July 1. Burgos currently serves as Director of Connectional Ministries where he has led the conference in completing the 2013-2018 strategic plan and the development of the new one that takes GNJ into 2023.

The Capital District Superintendent vacancy became open when the district's former Superintendent, Rev. Frank Davis, chose to return to pastoral ministry in Wilmington, DE to be closer to family after caring for his mother on hospice care and realizing he was "a pastor at heart."

Bishop Schol took over as interim Capital District Superintendent in Davis' absence.

"Hector is a deeply spiritual and thoughtful leader," stated Schol, who expressed how he leads both through relationships and strategic thinking with commitments to congregational vitality, leadership development and urban min-

istry making him uniquely suited to lead the Capital District.

Burgos considers his last four and a half years as Director of Connectional Ministries an honor.

"With a gifted and passionate team of transformational leaders, we made significant progress together to move the mission forward," he said. "As I enter this season of transitions, I am joyfully expectant of what God will do in and through the clergy and congregational leaders of the Capital District as we work together, guided by the Spirit, to share God's healing love, hope and justice, make disciples of Jesus Christ and grow vital congregations to transform lives, communities and the world."

Burgos' appointment to superintendent opens up the position of Director of Connectional Ministries. A full job description with information on how to apply can be found at gnjumc.org/job-opportunities.

Raritan Valley District

Rev. Sang Won Doh of Calvary Korean UMC in East Brunswick will become the new Raritan Valley District Superintendent starting July 1.

Schol described Doh as a "leader of leaders" whose church has been in the top 25 fastest growing United Methodist

Continued on page 5

Special GNJ Clergy Session



Bishop John Schol addressed more than 450 GNJ clergy at a special all clergy session of Annual Conference on January 24 at Calvary Korean UMC in East Brunswick.

"I am very proud and honored to serve GNJ," said Schol. "It is a unique place where people work hard, seek to do the right thing, continue to work to be inclusive in the midst of differences and continue to glorify God."

A Special Session for all members of GNJ (clergy and laity) has been called for March 16 to hear reports from GNJ's delegation to the General Conference Special Session on The Way Forward. The session will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Brookdale Community College's Collins Arena on Arena Drive in Lincroft, NJ.

Photo by Laura Canzonier

A Message from the Bishop



Statement of How Bishop Schol and the Cabinet will work with Clergy and Congregations up to and through the Special Session of General Conference

The following was shared with the GNJ clergy at a special executive clergy session on January 24, 2019.

The Cabinet and I recognize that we are all facing a challenging season in the life of our church and that each of you have invested your lives into being faithful United Methodists. We, along with you, are praying and working toward improving our own leadership and making The United Methodist Church better to serve Christ as we seek to transform the world by making disciples of Jesus Christ and growing vital congregations.

As The United Methodist General Conference delegates gather February 24-26 for a special session to seek a way forward concerning the church's disciplinary paragraphs concerning homosexuality, no one knows what the outcome will be, but I believe we all recognize that the church will not be the same following the special session.

While we do not know the outcome, we can prepare and lead in ways that glorify God regardless. Here are things we call clergy and congregational leaders to do.

1. Lead with integrity

- In the Wesleyan spirit, do no harm, do good and stay in love with God.
- Do not fan the flames of bitterness, divisiveness and discontent.
- Do fan the flames of mission, respect in the midst of differences and point to where Christ is alive and active through The United Methodist Church.

2. Lead together

- Don't let yourself be isolated. Connect with colleagues, learn from each other what you are doing to lead with integrity.
- Report to your superintendent anything that raises concerns for you within your congregation. We are here to work with you.
- Ask for help. I've been asking for help. Not from people who tell me what I want to hear but from people who help me see things from all sides. I invite you to do the same.

3. Lead well

- Lead with stories.
- Use this present challenge as opportunity to deepen faith.
- Use good questions:
 - How is the conversation about the way forward deepening faith?
 - How is the conversation raising questions about your faith?
 - What do you need during this season to be faithful and move through this time?
- Lead conversations with your congregation and if you need help ask another colleague who is good at facilitating dialogue to lead the conversation with your congregation.

We understand that chaos can feel uncomfortable. We recognize that a number of you are facing the stiff winds of fear and anxiety within your congregations.

Well, there are also winds of hope and wonder. We have raised in gifts and pledges more than \$3.7 million toward the Miracles Everywhere campaign. We have just appointed three new outstanding superintendents, hired the first ever Executive Director of Next Generation Ministries, a new Director of Worship and a new Executive Director for A Future With Hope. In the midst of the chaos, God is doing a new thing here in GNJ and you are a part of it. We also see clergy from across the country seeking to become a part of GNJ because they see in us a future. As one person said to me recently who wants to be a part of GNJ, 'I want to be part of a United Methodist organization that is moving ahead.' And we are moving ahead. We started more than 80 new faith communities over the last five years and 17 last year. God is not done with us yet.

Who will you be on February 27, the day after General Conference ends. Will your nature, beliefs, commitments change the day after General Conference. I know who I will be, John, a child of God, a disciple of Jesus Christ who is committed to leading the church to transform the world as we make disciples and grow vital congregations.

We are here to support you through this season of change. We have no agenda but to serve Christ, you and the church. We recognize that we will not all agree, but we all can love, love like Christ.

GNJ is a special place. There are few conferences in the world that have what we have – geographic, theological, racial and ethnic diversity that is unparalleled throughout the denomination. You, the clergy of GNJ have figured out how to work together in the midst of significant differences. The love of Christ has been at work through you.

If the outcome of General Conference introduces significant change, we will establish a diverse team to assess what is best for the mission of GNJ and individual congregations. I anticipate we can work things out just as we have in the midst of our current diversity. I trust the people of GNJ to do the right thing and I invite you into a season of faith and trust.

As Jeremiah said in the 29th chapter, verse 11: *I did not bring you to this place for destruction, but for a future of hope.*

Hope is ours, the future is ours. God has a great future for us as we trust God, lead with integrity, lead together, and lead well. You can be the difference!

In the name of the one who is our creator, redeemer and sustainer. AMEN.

Bishop Schol on One Church Plan Podcast

United Methodist Bishops have created a website to provide information about the One Church Plan: Onechurchplan.org. A podcast interview with Bishop John Schol can be accessed at Onechurchplan.org/podcast.

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SAVE THE DATE: Annual Conference Special Session - March 16

A Special Session for all members of GNJ (clergy and laity) has been called for **March 16** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Brookdale Community College's Collins Arena on Arena Drive in Lincroft, NJ. We will hear reports from GNJ's delegation to the General Conference Session on The Way Forward.

The March 2019 issue deadline is February 16, 2019

THE RELAY

The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

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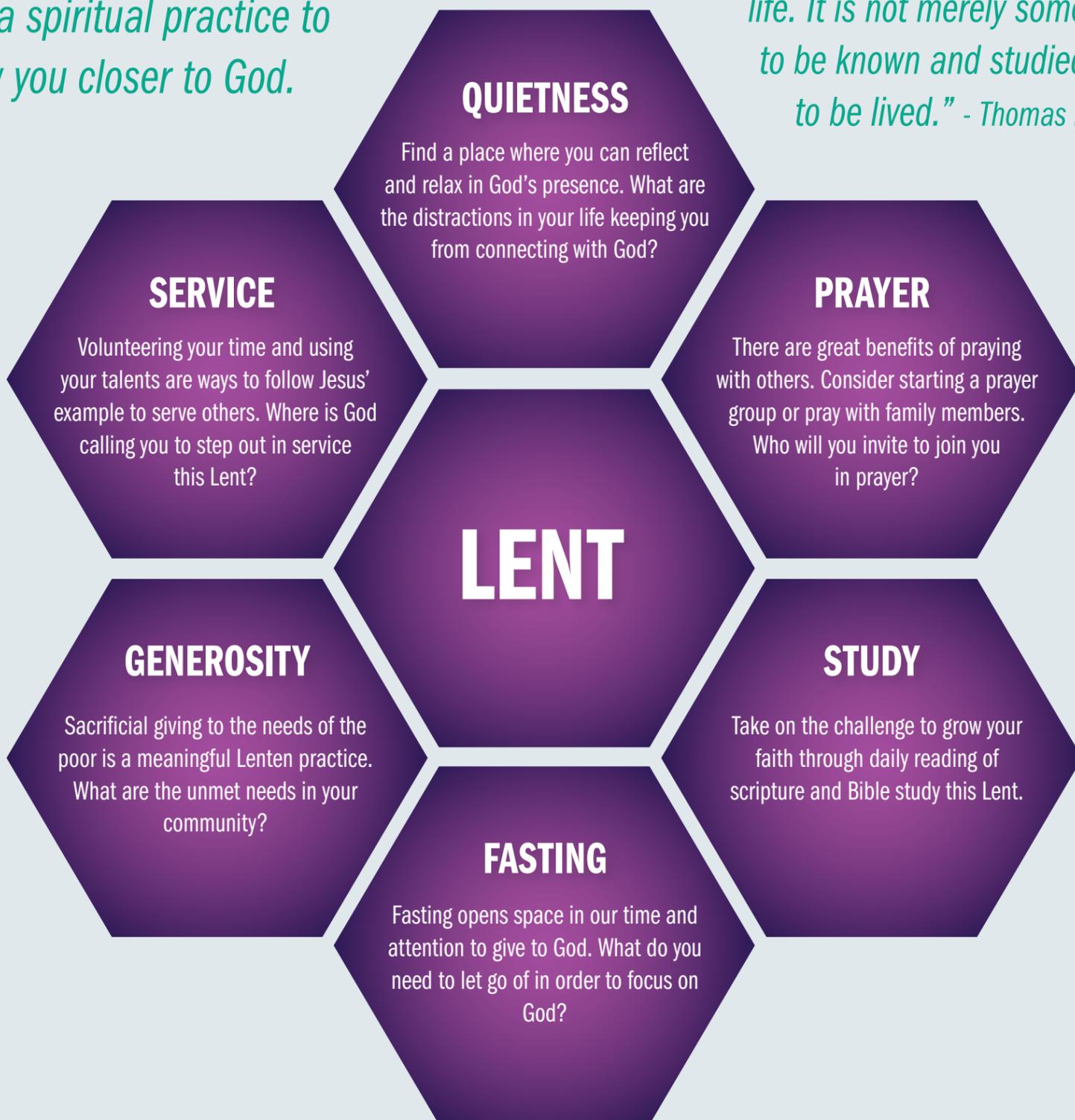
PRACTICE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Spiritual Disciplines, I always hated how that sounded. Disciplines...

It sounds like rules and something in us naturally bristles against rules. However, it is that part of us that doesn't like the rules that most needs spiritual disciplines. These "disciplines" help us stay connected to God. Without the practices of prayer, quietness, fasting, service, study and giving, we find ourselves drifting, doing our own things and losing centering in God.

This Lent, I challenge you to delve into a spiritual practice to draw you closer to God.

"The spiritual life is first of all a life. It is not merely something to be known and studied, it is to be lived." - Thomas Merton



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Gina Yeske | Director of Small Groups
O: 732.359.1042 | E: gyeske@gnjumc.org

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Small Group Reaches and Inspires Community Mothers

By Denise Herschel
Nj6pack@yahoo.com

DOVER - Shirley Sanchez, a young mother to children Kyle and Liam, has a wealth of experience in early childhood education and social services. As the Children, Family and Youth Coordinator at Grace United Methodist Church in Dover, engaging children is not only her responsibility as a mom, but her job at the church.

Last year, she organized a MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) chapter at the church to support and inspire mothers of pre-school children to establish more relationships within the local community, but the program struggled to find women to participate much to the dismay of Sanchez and Grace UMC Pastor Tricia Piazza.

"We thought MOPS would be a good program but we struggled with it. Then one evening at the 'Soccer Through Scouting' program at First UMC, our sister church in Dover, Shirley noted that there were moms just waiting around for their sons while they were playing soccer.

We found out there was a room available for the moms and Shirley to use," Piazza said. "Our community has many families of single parent households and our town has a large Hispanic population. We wanted to try to begin another support group with the purpose of providing a safe place for these mothers to help build them up, find encouragement and allow them to have time for themselves while knowing that their children are being taken care of."

Sanchez and Piazza decided to form a partnership with First UMC's soccer ministry.

"We formed a new pack of scouts. First UMC provided the facility and the leaders and Grace UMC provides the soccer coach and organization representatives," said Sanchez. "And because many of these mothers are single moms who would wait with other young children as their children participated, Grace UMC decided to host a women's group at the same time called the 'Inspiring Women's Group.' It has been well-received by the moms and we are now working to build consistent attendance."

Originally the MOPS group was supposed to serve mothers of preschoolers, but once it shifted location and became Inspiring Women's Group mothers of kindergarten through fifth graders began attending. According to Sanchez, the majority of the families attending are working Hispanic.

"Currently we are serving mothers of the boys who are registered in the scouting program," she added. "Families are welcome to register their sons in kindergarten through fifth grade for soccer training and Cub Scout meetings at First UMC."

Sanchez, who runs the Inspiring Women's Group twice a month, added that it is humbling to help moms have a space for themselves, building their confidence with yoga and learning how to refocus and think about their next steps in life, personally and spiritually.

"Grace UMC felt that this would be a great ministry since there are many single mothers who do not have a good support system which can lead to depression. Our hopes are to provide a safe space to minister to these women

through building relationships, discussing how to move forward with a positive outlook and providing space for exercise. All of these aid in fighting depression and help to build up low self-esteem," Piazza said.

Sanchez continued that working with the women's group has increased her faith in "knowing what God's purpose is for her life."

"Our church recognizes the need to become a multi-cultural congregation," said Piazza. "We hope that by supporting the scouting program and the Inspiring Women's Group we will be able to bring more diversity to our church, effectively changing the perception of those in the community."

If your church is interested in starting a small group that acts also as a community outreach or meets a specific need, contact Rev. Gina Yeske, Director of Small Groups at (732)-359-1042 or send her an email at gyeske@gnjumc.org. Grace UMC is located at 98 North Sussex Street in Dover, N.J. For more information call the church at 973-366-3681 or visit www.umc.org

New Superintendents Appointed

Continued from page 1

churches in the U.S.

"His unique spiritual depth, consensus building and leadership style connects with the community and leads churches to grow spiritually, missionally and numerically," said Schol.

Doh has been chairperson of the Connectional Table where he has led leadership of the conference in planning for GNJ's mission.

Rev. Drew Dyson, current Raritan Valley District Superintendent, praised Doh's leadership.

"I know that greater things are in store for years to come under his leadership," he said.

Dyson will begin an extension ministry appointment as the Executive Director of Princeton Senior Resource Center on March 19.

Dyson's parents both dedicated themselves to ministry with seniors. His father was instrumental in the founding of Princeton Senior Resource Center when serving as pastor of Princeton UMC. Dyson taking over the leadership there brings his life's work full circle.

"This position offers an opportunity to carry on the ministries and legacies of both my mother and father," said Dyson. He continued, "For the past five years I have been blessed to serve alongside the churches, laity and clergy of the Raritan Valley District as part of Bishop Schol's cabinet. This has been one of the great joys of my ministry and I am excited about all we have accomplished together by God's grace. I am truly grateful to my colleagues and friends - both clergy and laity - who I have been privileged to share this journey with."

Schol described Dyson as a leader with a strategic mind, a passion for developing leaders, particularly young leaders, and committed to growing stewardship and discipleship.

"Although he is leaving a year before his term is complete, he is pursuing work and a position that has deep family connections for him," said Schol. "Drew will be deeply missed by the district and the cabinet."

Northern Shore District Superintendent Rev. Gina Hendrickson will provide interim superintending during the transition period.

Skylands District

Rev. Eunice Vega-Perez will serve as the Skylands District Superintendent

starting July 1. Vega-Perez, passionate for growing faith, developing congregations, doing justice and mercy and building up laity is excited to take on her new role. In her last two appointments, she grew worship and giving. She presently leads Bishop Janes UMC in Basking Ridge and has effectively served in cross cultural and cross racial appointments since 2003.

"Eunice has the ability to love people, help them see God's larger vision and nurture and develop people to deeper faith and service in the world," said Schol. "She has provided proven leadership for GNJ, serving as one of four clergy delegates to General Conference and a leader to the GNJ Board of Ordained Ministry."

Rev. Dr. Steve Bechtold is completing his eight year term as Skylands District Superintendent and will be transitioning to a new appointment to be announced later this year. Superintendents serve for six years and may be renewed for two additional years.

"Steve has been a strong leader of the district and within the cabinet," stated Schol. "He brought experience, knowledge, strong administrative skills and deep passion to serve Christ and the Church."

While serving on the cabinet, Bechtold was the cabinet representative to The Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM) and Next Gen Ministries. He also took leadership roles in teaching at the first GNJ Tanzania Pastor School and in streamlining and automating the charge conference forms for local churches.

"Steve has helped to move forward the GNJ vision and mission," said Schol. "He will be deeply missed by the cabinet."

"The role of superintendent is to represent the ministry of the bishop to the congregations and to articulate the hopes and concerns of congregational and clergy leadership to the bishop," said Schol. "I have been blessed by proven leaders who served on the cabinet. I will miss the leadership of Steve Bechtold and Drew Dyson. They have served GNJ and me well. I also look forward to the new superintendents and their unique gifts and abilities. I am uniquely blessed that in our diversity, we remained unified to Christ's mission."

To see a full list of new 2019 appointments, visit gnjumc.org/2019-appointments.

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A Future With Hope Engages Teens, Builds Connections

By Josh Kinney
jkinney@gnjumc.org



PATERSON – Better tools for education, a level playing field for minorities and employment opportunities topped the list of requests from New Jersey teens during a series of community engagement trainings hosted by A Future With Hope.

The program was made possible by a \$10,000 grant from the NJ Office of Faith Based Initiatives. A Future with Hope partnered with Rays of Hope, an organization dedicated to engaging youth in community service projects and leadership, and New City Kids in Paterson, an afterschool center that empowers students to become role models.

Tara Maffei, a Hope Center Developer for AFWH was a facilitator at the training.

“We’re excited to take a first step in partnering with these nonprofits so they can see what A Future With Hope can do and think about the future possibilities,” said Maffei.

The two hour training familiarizes students with how to identify a need in a community and used asset based community development to meet the need. Students learned to develop a coalition, sharpen a message and identify partners to help make change including local political leaders, schools administrators, business owners and community

organizations. In small groups, teens practice 45 second elevator speeches, condensing and honing their message to succinctly articulate “an ask” of community members or leaders.

The sessions, led by A Future With Hope’s Hope Center Developer’s Maffei and Andrea Wren-Hardin, asked students to come up with issues they care about for social change, develop pitches, and explore action steps.

“These students were amazing,” said Wren-Hardin who also facilitated the sessions. “So many teens are being left disengaged yet impacted by social change. This has been a powerful way to inspire hope and action.”

“We help them understand they have a right to create change and have the power to do so at any age,” said Maffei. “We direct these sessions with active participation exercises so that students are doing their own leading.”

The trainings, which received positive feedback, have helped students identify their strengths and their communities’ assets as well as how to be facilitators and lead groups in disagreement.

“We were very excited to partner with A Future With Hope to invite our youth to further deepen their civic engagement,” said Jeremy Jerschina, Executive Director of New City Kids. “The work of New City Kids is centered on youth being engaged as change agents in their own neighborhoods, and the additional skills and insight they are gaining through this partnership are invaluable. Our youth were energized to begin learning



Hope Center Developer Tara Maffei facilitates a civic engagement workshop with New City Kids in Paterson. Photo provided

about the broader world of grassroots community change and to see themselves and the things they do daily with younger kids in their city in the context of that larger movement, as well as to start the process of dreaming beyond to see how that legacy can continue.”

Leading this effort has been an important step for A Future With Hope which pivoted to community development a year ago. The relationships with related nonprofits and state funding resources will only enhance future projects. The civic engagement training under this grant will continue through September. For more information, visit gnjumc.org/afwh.

Hope Center Volunteer Workshop

To support our Hope Centers and their community partners, A Future With Hope is sponsoring a workshop on volunteer management on **Saturday, Feb. 23**. All Hope Center leaders are encouraged to attend or invite their volunteers and partners. Visit gnjumc.org/events for more info. To RSVP, email Hope Center Developer Tara Maffei at tmaffei@gnjumc.org

The Maker’s Place Making Moves with 87K Diapers

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congregations getting excited about mission. I think The Maker’s Place is off to a great start!”

Reed believes the diapers were a way of saying, “Unto us a child is born.”

“If we follow Christ, who taught us to ‘love our neighbor as ourselves,’ then we too can say, ‘These are our babies. And these mothers are part of our family.’ The 87,000 diapers were a concrete expression of Christ’s love and peace. They also prove just how much we can do when we do it together. That’s what The Maker’s Place is all about: a place that connects neighbors with neighbors, so that together, we can live into the powerful idea that we multiply everything we do, when everyone’s gifts and assets are included.”

Reed considers the 87,000 diapers as proof of God’s divine economy of abundance.

“I believe that’s a small picture of how Jesus saw the world,” he said. “Jesus invites us to consider the radical truth that we live in a ‘divine economy of abundance.’ God made the world to be a place of life and abundance for all people. It’s an idea wrapped up in the peaceable kingdom of God, which Christ announces

during his first advent. When Isaiah, long before the time of Christ, looks towards the future and says, ‘Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end,’ I don’t think he had diapers in mind—but maybe he could have! God’s peaceable kingdom increases whenever we take what we have and give it to God, so God can multiply it for God’s purposes.”

About The Makers Place

Trenton is famous for its slogan, “What Trenton Makes. The World Takes.”, which was adapted in 1917 to represent Trenton’s role as a manufacturing center.

“The changing economic reality of the city often challenges that message,” said Reed. “Our aspiration is to create a place where all people are empowered to be makers, and where all people experience the abundant life of God the Maker.”

A few years ago a handful of folks in central New Jersey started to dream about the vision for Maker’s Place: a multiethnic and economically diverse community in Trenton where all people could experience the wide welcome of God, and where United Methodists from across the state could live out God’s love in action.

The Maker’s Place has started with initiatives centered around food and families, and in partnership with four United Methodist churches in Trenton, cultivating transformative relationships and helping people build bridges out of poverty.

“We’ve begun to identify core team members and volunteers,” said Reed. “We’ve started doing community walks and meals, and have partnered with a local elementary school to distribute food and clothing. We’re building relationships, starting new spiritual conversations, and taking stock

of the abundant resources and assets already present in Trenton, and in the lives of the people around us.”

In January, Susan Victor was appointed to join Rev. Reed at The Maker’s Place. Victor serves full-time as the Director of Counseling at Womanspace, a Trenton-area non-profit that works with women, men, and families impacted by domestic and sexual violence. Alongside her work at Womanspace, she is also ordained as a United Methodist Deacon. Princeton UMC has been the context of Victor’s secondary appointment for the past nine years. Pastor Jenny Smith Walz and the congregation are sending Victor to The Maker’s Place with their blessing, and with the intention of building a stronger connection between the new ministry and their church.

“Susan’s expertise, dedication, and passion will be a tremendous asset to The Maker’s Place,” stated Reed. “I’ve had the opportunity to get to know her better over the last several months, and I’ve been tremendously impressed by her immense personal capability and strong spiritual commitment to serving others.”

The Maker’s Place is organizing around a mission of food and families and is looking to establish a more permanent



Rev. Michael Reed of The Maker’s Place in Trenton and Rev. Iraidia Ruiz De Porras of Christ UMC in Lakewood, stand together in front of a diaper-filled altar at Trenton’s Turning Point UMC celebrating a successful diaper drive in collaboration with United Methodist churches, organizations and volunteers in Central New Jersey. Photo provided by Rev. Michael Reed

location and flagship ministry this year.

“But we can’t do it alone,” stated Reed. “The Maker’s Place will only work if all of us remember that our own wellbeing is bound up in the lives of our neighbors, whether near or far.”

The Maker’s Place is looking for early adapters to dream and become active in their mission by incorporating their passions, gifts, ideas and interests. They also seek prayer going forward. If you want to volunteer give, or collaborate, or find out more information, visit www.makersplace.org or email Rev. Michael Reed at michaelreed@makersplace.org



Maker’s Place volunteers kept bringing in more diapers, wildly exceeding Rev. Michael Reed’s hopes for the drive. Photo provided

NEWS, RESOURCES, INFO, EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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THE GNJ DIGEST

UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY



YEAR AT-A-GLANCE

2019 GNJ Key Dates & Deadlines

*Dates are subject to change. Please continue to check the GNJ Digest and specific district resources for further events and information.

FEBRUARY

Sat.	2	Palisades Foundational Leadership Training (English)	Krystina Michalopoulos
Fri.	8 -	Local Pastor Licensing School	Beverly Karlovich
Sat.	9	IGNITE Youth Leader's Day	Cristelle Ramirez
Sun.	17	Palisades Foundational Leadership Training (Korean)	Krystina Michalopoulos
Mon.	18	President's Day	MRC closed
Wed.	20	Central Region Clergy Retreat	Megan McKay
Sat.	23	AFWH Volunteer Training	Tara Maffei
Thur.	28	Pre-Retirement Seminar	Alexa Taylor

MARCH

Sat.	2	Team Vitality II, Increase Your Impact	Diana Picurro
Wed.	6	Ash Wednesday	
Fri.	15	GNJ Leadership Appraisal	Laura Canzonier
Sat.	16	Special Clergy and Laity Session of Greater New Jersey	
Sat.	23	Confirmants' Day with the Bishop	Soomin Lee
Sat.	30	Quarterly Check-In's Due (new appointments only)	Regional Team

APRIL

Sat.	13	Laity Recognition	Beverly Karlovich
Sat.	13	UMM Workshop	
Fri. - Mon.	19 - 22	Good Friday through Easter Monday	MRC closed
Sat.	27	New Appointment Transition Workshop	Megan McKay

MAY

Sat.	11	New Appointment Transition Workshop	Megan McKay
Sun. - Tue.	19- 21	Annual Conference	Beverly Karlovich
Mon.	20	GNJ Clergy Coaching Registration Opens	Diana Picurro
Mon.	27	Memorial Day	MRC closed

JUNE

Sat.	1	Lay Servant Graduation	Beverly Karlovich
Sat.	1	2018 Fund Balance Report Deadline	Regional Team
Mon.	3	GNJ Clergy Coaching Registration Closes	Diana Picurro
Sat.	22	Team Vitality II, Increase Your Impact	Diana Picurro
Sun.	30	Quarterly Check-In's Due (new appointments only)	Regional Team
Sun.	30	Pastoral Transition Audit Due (new appointments only)	Regional Team

JULY

Mon.	1	Church Conference Forms Available Online	Regional Team
Thurs.	4	Independence Day	MRC closed
Sat.	20	Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural Workshop	Diana Picurro

AUGUST

Thurs.	1	Fall 2019 PaCE Registration Opens	Diana Picurro
Mon.	26	GNJ Clergy Coaching Registration Opens	Diana Picurro
Sat.	31	Fall 2019 Team Vital Application Deadline	Diana Picurro

SEPTEMBER

Mon.	2	Labor Day	MRC closed
Thurs.	12	Bishop's Day on the Central Region	Megan McKay
Sun.	15	GNJ Leadership Appraisal	Laura Canzonier
Sun.	15	Fall 2019 PaCE Registration Closes	Diana Picurro
Mon.	16	GNJ Clergy Coaching Registration Closes	Diana Picurro
Thurs. - Fri.	19 - 20	Bishop's Day on Southern Region	Jennifer Creran
Sat.	28	Laity Leadership Academy	Beverly Karlovich
Mon.	30	Quarterly Check-In's Due (new appointments only)	Regional Team
Mon.	30	Pastoral Transition Audit Due (new appointments only)	Regional Team

OCTOBER

Thur.	3	Clergy Coaching Registration Closes	Diana Picurro
Fri. - Sun.	4 - 6	IGNITE	Cristelle Ramirez
Wed.	30	Quarterly Check-In's Due (new appointments only)	Regional Team
Wed.	30	Pastoral Transition Audit Due (new appointments only)	Regional Team

NOVEMBER

Fri.	1	Pre-Retirement Seminar	Alexa Taylor
Fri. - Sat.	8 - 9	Local Pastor Licensing School	Beverly Karlovich
Thur. - Fri.	28 - 29	Thanksgiving	MRC closed
Sat.	30	Quarterly Check-In's Due (new appointments only)	Regional Team

DECEMBER

Sun.	1	Spring 2020 PaCE Registration Opens	Diana Picurro
Sat.	7	Laity Academy Grant Application Deadline	Beverly Karlovich
Tue. - Wed.	24- 25	Christmas	MRC closed
Tue.	31	2020 Local Church Budgets Due	Regional Team

JANUARY 2020

Wed.	1	New Year's Day	MRC closed
Mon. - Wed.	13 - 15	Bishop's Convocation	Soomin Lee
Mon.	20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	MRC closed

THE GNJ STAFF IS HERE TO HELP!
CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL ADMIN WITH QUESTIONS.

Krystina Michalopoulos | Northern Region Districts:

Gateway North, Palisades & Skylands

Email: kmichalopoulos@gnjumc.org

Call: 732.359.1075

Megan McKay | Central Region Districts:

Capital, Northern Shore & Raritan Valley

Email: mmckay@gnjumc.org

Call: 732.359.1085

Jennifer Creran | Southern Region Districts:

Cape Atlantic, Delaware Bay & Gateway South

Email: jcreran@gnjumc.org

Call: 732.359.1080

Conference Happenings



General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Nominations - Deadline Feb. 15

GNJ is electing delegates for the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences of the United Methodist Church during the Annual Conference in Wildwood on May 19-21. The nomination process is open. Visit gnjumc.org.

Annual Conference Legislation and Reports - Deadline Feb. 15

All committees and agencies of GNJ are called to submit reports to be included in the pre-conference journal. All members of GNJ can submit legislation for consideration at Annual Conference. Visit gnjumc.org to submit forms.

Focus Group Reservations for Annual Conference

If your group or committee would like to schedule a special gathering at the Wildwoods Convention Center, please visit gnjumc.org to complete the form. The deadline to reserve a meeting space is **April 3**.



Roseland UMC hosts "Miracles Everywhere Concert"

The Eastern Cultural Exchange Association and the "Small Orchestra" of Roseland UMC combined their talents in a Christmas Concert on December 9, 2018 with a free will offering collected for the Miracles Everywhere Campaign. The audience was treated to singing, dancing, instrumental solos and ensemble playing, featuring music from the Baroque era to "Star Wars," complete with neon lighted violin bows. A Christmas carol sing-along concluded the program, followed by a festive reception.



NEXT GENERATION
UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

Confirmation Classes Day with Bishop Schol

GNJ confirmands are invited to spend the day with Bishop Schol, connecting with other United Methodist students

and learning about what it means to be the Next Generation of GNJ Methodists on March 23 at the Mission and Resource Center. Visit gnjnextgen.org for details and to register your church.

Summer Internship Application Deadline March 1

Can your church benefit with an extra set of hands this summer or do you know a high schooler eager to get involved in ministry? Cultivate offers a unique opportunity for student summer internships. Visit gnjnextgen.org to learn details on how students and churches can collaborate. Deadline is March 1.

Higher Education Scholarships from UMEF

A variety of scholarships are available for United Methodist students who need help with tuition expenses at United Methodist-related colleges, universities, and seminaries. Visit umhef.org to learn more and apply.

Pinelands Center Hosting GNJ Retreats

Pinelands Center can host retreats and conferences for up to 150 people. The year round facility has everything you need for a weekend church retreat or meeting. Visit gnjnextgen.org/pinelandscenter or contact Ryan Clements, Acting Camp Program Director at rclements@gnjumc.org for more info.

Scholarships Available for Ecumenical Training

The Council of Bishops is offering up to six partial scholarships for young adults and seminary students participating in the 2019 United Methodist Ecumenical and Interreligious Training in the U.S. The training will be held April 1-4, in conjunction with the National Workshop on Christian Unity. To obtain a scholarship application, contact Rev. Jean Hawxhurst at jhawxhurst@umc-cob.org or visit nwcu.org.



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Resources in Investments, Capital Campaigns, Personal Finance, Estate Planning and More

The United Methodist Stewardship

Foundation of Greater New Jersey has excellent resources for your church. Visit gnjumc.org/umsf if your church would like to learn more.

Don Brown Memorial Scholarship

Applications for CUMAC's Don Brown Memorial Scholarship are now being accepted. This scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is given to support the educational pursuits of a deserving student from Passaic County. It is open to high school seniors and college students who demonstrate financial need and have engaged in community volunteer work. Applications must be received by March 29. Visit cumac.org to apply or learn more.



BREAKTHROUGH

A GNJ guide to best practices for worship

A resource designed to provide easy to use best practices and worship series so that GNJ congregations can re-tune their worship, spend less time preparing the details and focus on what really matters – preaching the gospel to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

Check out these worship series available now!

WORSHIP SERIES TITLES:

Stop Being Nice
Catch Your Breath
Take a Hike
Plugged In
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EACH SERIES INCLUDES:

Worship Resources
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Videos

Find out more and download today:

www.gnjumc.org/breakthrough

Conference Happenings

Lay Ministry Recognition

Is a special leader's ministry making a difference in the community? Each year, the Laity Board recognizes creativity and innovation in ministries led by GNJ laity. To nominate someone in your congregation or to find out more, visit [gnjumc.org/lay-](http://gnjumc.org/lay-ministry-recognition)



ministry-recognition. Nominations are due **Feb. 15**.

GNJ Represented at Young Clergy Leadership Forum

This year's Young Clergy Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C., hosted by General Board of Church and Society from Jan. 27-30, was represented by two GNJ clergy: Rev. Gabrielle Martone or

Central UMC in Linwood and Rev. Charles Perez of Morristown UMC. GNJ is proud of their involvement.

Retirements, Open Churches and New Appointments

Each Sunday at 1:00 p.m., Bishop Schol and the cabinet post open churches and new appointments to the GNJ website. Visit gnjumc.org/2019-appointments to see all new appointments, retirements and GNJ's appointment making practices.

Growing Your UM Men: A GNJ Workshop

Rev. Dr. Richard Vance from the Center for Men's Ministry at the General Commission of United Methodist Men will be speaking and offering a workshop on April 13 at the Mission and Resource Center for all members of United Methodist Men. Visit gnjumc.org/events to learn more and register.

Spring 2019 Basic and Advanced Lay Servant Classes

Basic and Advanced Lay Servant classes for certification and re-certification are available. For more information on dates, times and registration visit gnjumc.org.

2019 Pre-Retirement Seminar

The GNJ Board of Pension and Health Benefits is presenting a Pre-Retirement Seminar for pastors and their spouses. A benefits educator from Wespath will speak on retirement planning on Feb. 28 for those planning to retire in the next five years. Visit gnjumc.org/events to learn more and register.

Judy Arnold Speaker Option

Judy Arnold, former roller skater for The Philadelphia Warriors will be in NJ for the month of February and is available for speaking engagements on a free will offering. Arnold shares a moving testimony and has spoken at many churches in the region. Visit judyarnoldskater.com to learn more about her.

Clarification Regarding Pension Impacts of 2019 Special Sessions

The Commission on a Way Forward sought additional expertise from Wespath regarding the potential pension impacts of the Commission's three proposals to the 2019 Special General Conference. Visit wespath.org to learn more

Obituaries

John Geldart, spouse of Pastor Joy Geldart, died on Dec. 26, 2018. A memorial service was held on Jan. 20, 2019 at First UMC of Toms River in Toms River, NJ. Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent in memory of John Geldart to Oceanport UMC, 50 Main St., Oceanport, NJ 07757-1137. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Pastor Joy Geldart, 16 Promise Ct., Toms River, NJ 08755-4016.

Rev. Dr. Rollo Michael, Retired Elder, died on Jan. 1. A Memorial Service was held on Jan. 4 at New Hope UMC in Brookhaven, MS. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Margaret Michael to The Claiborne, 200 Whispering Pines Blvd, Room 31, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

Rev. Carmine Coppola, Retired Local Pastor, died on Jan. 1. A Memorial Service was held on Jan. 18 at Lechner Funeral Home in Medford, NJ. Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) and expressions of sympathy may be sent to Shirley Coppola, 3732 Ellison Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906.

Rev. Nelson K. Lamb, Retired Elder, died on Jan. 21. A Memorial Service will be held later this year. Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent in memory of Rev. Nelson K. Lamb to The Centenary Fund, 205 Jumping Brook Rd., Neptune, NJ 07753 or a hospice center. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Ellen Lamb, 14265 120th Place NE, Kirkland, WA 98034-1425.

Rev. Alfred Murray, Retired Associate Member, died on Jan. 24. A Memorial Service was held on Feb. 2 at St. Paul UMC in Willingboro, NJ. Memorial donations (in lieu of flowers) may be sent in memory of Rev. Alfred Murray to The American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241-7005. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Mrs. Margaret Murray and family, 7 Harris Ln., Willingboro, NJ 08046.

The March 2019 issue deadline is February 16, 2019

United Methodist Communities

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United Methodist Communities brings compassionate care to New Jersey's seniors with our full suite of living and care options. This includes affordable senior housing; home care with HomeWorks; and assisted living, memory care, long-term care, rehabilitation, and hospice and palliative care in our full service communities. We offer independent living for active seniors in our continuing care retirement community.

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A Future With Hope is working with 15 Hope Centers who are creating miracles in their communities throughout Greater New Jersey.

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Camp Y.D.P.
Christian Outreach Project
The Crisis Room at Aldersgate
CUMAC
Hope Center at Asbury UMC
Hope Center at Hamilton UMC
Hope Center at Lacey UMC
Hope Center at St. Luke's
Maker's Place
Hope Center at Morristown UMC
Hope Center at Venice UMC
The Neighborhood Center
Pathways to Prosperity
Wharton UCC

*Miracles
Everywhere*

**CREATE A MIRACLE.
JOIN THE CAMPAIGN!**

For more information and to be a part of miracles in Greater New Jersey, contact:

Michaela Murray-Nolan

*Director of Development, United Methodist
Stewardship Foundation of Greater New Jersey*

732.359.1045

mmurraynolan@gnjumc.org

ACCESS RESOURCES AT:

gnjumc.org/miracleseverywhere



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