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## Welcome Back Friends on Small Plate Sunday

Summer is winding down, and many folks have spent time away from church either on vacations, visiting family, getting kids ready for college, working on the house, or just taking a break. On Sunday, September 8th, we will return to the Sanctuary for worship and welcome back the choir, as well as our Sunday School leaders and youth. Following worship, we'll have a special "Small Plate" potluck Fellowship Hour and we encourage everyone to bring your favorite "small plate dish", which can be an appetizer, a cheese platter, sliders, a dip or side dish; think foods that people can hold and eat easily while they mingle.

After spending time away, it is good to come back together and remember who we are and what we believe. Having special Fellowship time together strengthens our bonds and helps us sharpen our faith. It's also an opportunity to make plans with church friends to attend the many services, events and social activities planned for fall. We hope you will whip up your favorite small plate dish and join us on September 8th!

## Athletes at United: First Corn Hole Tournament

Did you enjoy sports in high school or in college? Did you enjoy a friendly bit of competition with your siblings or family? Well there is a new sports group at United! Our first sporting event will be a corn hole tournament. Sign up with a team of two or come as a single on Thursday evenings, beginning September 12th. The tournament will take place on three consecutive Thursdays: September 12, 19, and 26 at 6:00 p.m., at the home of Meghan Cassidy. Please call the church office for location/address. All of the important details are below.

When

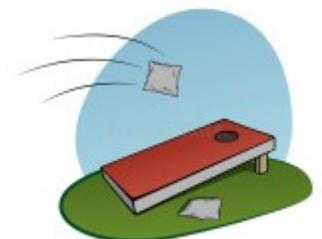
**September 12, 19, and 26  
6:00 p.m.**

Where

**Home of Meghan Cassidy  
(call church office for address)**

Cost

**\$10 per team**



**United Reformed Church  
"The Church on Main Street"**

100 W. Main Street  
Somerville, NJ 08876  
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Fax: (908) 725-1950

Email: [info@urcsomerville.org](mailto:info@urcsomerville.org)  
[www.urcsomerville.org](http://www.urcsomerville.org)

**#urcsomerville**

**Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Rev. Paul G. Janssen**

Follow Us On Facebook!  
[facebook/unitedsomerville](https://www.facebook.com/unitedsomerville)



## Parish the Thought

One of the many things I appreciate about the Bible is the way it portrays the human journey through life – honestly. Probably the most zig-zaggy stories is the story of Joseph: favorite son, tossed in hole, found by slave merchants, carried to Egypt, given dreams to interpret, accused of rape, chosen to lead, begged to by brothers, and in the end, merciful. In the end, Joseph offers this marvelous line: “God took what you meant for evil and turned it into good.”

Our journey looking for a director of music has been pretty zig-zaggy, too. We haven’t encountered evil along the way, but we’ve been here and there and back again. Would that the journey had been an easy straight line! But some wag has said that God writes straight with crooked lines, and I’ve found that to be true.

So whether we’re in a bit of a zig or a zag right now, we can only now in retrospect, but hang in there, folks. God can turn this circuitous journey into something that can yield more good than we had imagined at the outset. We’ll get there. We’ll get there.

In the meantime, keep your Consistory in your prayers. We’re doing our best to discern where God is calling us, and need your sympathetic support as we look ahead to where God is calling us.

**Rev. Paul G. Janssen**  
Pastor



### Join Our Family!

Have you been attending worship with us and are interested in becoming a member?

We’ d love to have you as part of our family!

Please contact Pastor Janssen or call Lori Herpen in the church office to schedule new member classes.

**All are welcome!**

## The Outreach Committee Seeks New Members

The Outreach Committee is seeking new members from the congregation to serve on of the outreach committee. As chair person, I plan to retire my role when my term on the consistory expires in January of 2020. My wife Beverly also plans to retire from the committee as well. So, it’s time for new members and new ideas.

Outreach ministries are an important part of every church congregation. However, no single congregation can provide every type of outreach ministry. Literature indicates, that “God has uniquely gifted each congregation with those who excel in particular types of outreach.” Some examples and of types of Outreach include: direct evangelism, i.e. telling others about Jesus Christ; World Missions: making disciples of all nations; outreach ministries to the poor and needy; outreach to children; and outreach to prison, military, and disability ministries.

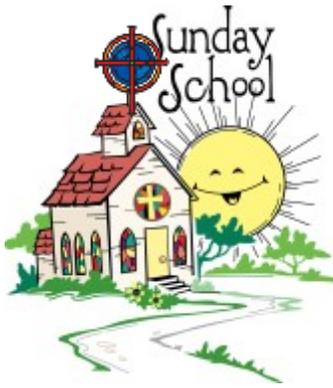
The outreach efforts of United Reformed Church have included: an ongoing monthly food drive for the Food Bank Network of Somerset County, support of SHIP’s Galley I and II, pet food drives for Saint Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center, 45 years of hosting, organizing and participation in the Annual CROP Hunger Walk, White Gift Sunday to support HomeSharing Clients and the Women’s Trauma Unit at Lyon’s VA Campus, as well as several RCA foreign missions, to name a few.

The committee is in need of new members to keep these important outreach effort going and to embark on new ideas.

The Consistory has been working on an initiative to clarify and strengthen the church’s five-year strategic plan. The initiative is referred to as “**STRONG: Supporting the Rise of the Next Generation**” This plan focuses on the desire of the church to reach out to younger persons and their families.

Those interested in becoming members of the Outreach Committee are urged to contact Jean Barber-Bucek or Pastor Janssen. Perhaps with additional members on the committee with new energy and innovative ideas, we can also be a force in supporting the rise of the next generation.

**Yours in Christ,**  
**John M. Colligas, Chair**



## Sunday School News

### Welcome Back!!!

Sunday School will be back in session on Sunday, September 8th beginning at 9:15 a.m., in Room 0, located on the second floor of the building.

Please fill out a Sunday School registration form, which can be found on our website or in the church office. Let's get excited for another great year learning about Jesus' love for us. We are community-minded, Jesus-focused and welcoming to all. Spread the word to neighbors, friends and relatives about our Sunday School Program. We also have weekly nursery care for our littlest members, in the nursery/playroom also located on the second floor of the building.

The Sunday School and Youth Group will collect toiletry items beginning September 8th through October 6th, to make hygiene kits for the those in need within our community. We were very successful back in February and have decided to organize this service project again this fall due to an increasing need within our community. Our goal is to assemble 50 toiletry kits for clients of the Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (SHIP). Items needed are new toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, shampoo, conditioner, floss, feminine products, hairbrushes, combs, etc., which can be dropped off on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall or in the toiletries collection box, which will be located in the church office during the week.

The Christian Education Committee will have their next meeting after worship on September 29th at 11:30 a.m., in the lounge.

**Linda Hayes**  
Sunday School Coordinator

## The Book Club on Main

The next gathering of the *Book Club on Main* will take place on Wednesday, September 25th at 7:00 p.m., in the church lounge. Nancy Maggio will host. The current book selection is "Cutting For Stone" by Abraham Verghese.

## Choir Rehearsal

The Choir will meet on Thursday evenings, September 5, 12, and 19 in the basement choir room. Anyone who loves to sing and would like to join the choir is welcome. Please see Pastor Janssen for more details.

## Food of the Month

For the month of September, we are "going back to school" and collecting items that can be packed in school lunches (fruit cups, granola bars, snack-size chips, juice boxes, etc.)

Donations can be dropped off in the shopping cart in Fellowship Hall or brought to the church office during the week. All donations benefit the Food Bank Network of Somerset County and/or SHIP.

## Sharpen Your Pencils, it's Time to Color!



**Sunday, September 22nd at 11:15 a.m.**  
**Fellowship Hall after Worship**  
**FREE!**

Every major news outlet from CNN to CBS News is reporting about the adult coloring phenomenon. What once was an activity that kept so many of us entertained as children, is now resurfacing as a trend adults are coming to love. Therapeutic elements parents sought to keep their children calm or entertained before dinner, are now being applied to adults, to help distract them from the daily pressures of life. It has been said that during coloring, your brain experiences relief by entering a meditative state, stress and anxiety levels may be lower, focusing on the present helps you achieve mindfulness and being unplugged from technology promotes creativity.

Come and join friends after worship for adult coloring. It will be a wonderful time to socialize and let the creative juices flow. We will have colored pencils and coloring pages available, or if you have your own supplies, feel free to bring them.

**Beth Cassidy**  
Activities Coordinator



*Life Line Screening goes beyond regular check-ups to look inside your arteries for signs of plaque build up.*

The next Life Line Screening will take place on Wednesday, September 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.



Life Line Screening, recognized with an A+ rating by the Better Business Bureau offers a 5-test package to thoroughly check for risk of stroke, cardiovascular disease and other chronic conditions. The combination of these tests helps detect problems – before you have symptoms - and while you and your doctor can still take action.

The five screenings include: carotid artery screening, heart rhythm screening, abdominal aortic aneurysm screening, peripheral disease screening and an osteoporosis risk assessment. The cost for all 5 screenings is \$149.00. Appointments are needed and can be made by calling: 1-888-653-6450.

## Twelfth Night Committee Meeting



The Twelfth Night committee will have their next meeting on Tuesday, September 17th at 7:00 p.m., in the church lounge. If you are interested in joining our committee, please reach out to me at [bearwuff@optonline.net](mailto:bearwuff@optonline.net). All are welcome!

**Linda Hayes, Chair  
Twelfth Night Committee**

## Dinner Club

I hope you are ready to enjoy some of the great eats around Somerville. So tie the napkin around your neck, we will be eating Italian for our September gathering. Café Picasso is a favorite restaurant of many. Located in the heart of Somerville, this gem offers pasta, veal and fish dishes. On Wednesdays, chicken dishes are ½ price! Please bring cash, as they are only able to split the check four ways. Below are all the details for the September Dinner Club.



### Date

**Wednesday, September 11, 2019  
6:30 p.m.**

### Meet at

**Casa Picasso  
81 West Main St.  
Somerville, NJ 08876**



Everyone is responsible for his or her own meal, tax and gratuity. Please call or email the church by **Monday, September 9th**, so that we can call ahead to reserve a table. If you would to attend but need a ride, please contact me or call the church office. If you would like to host and select the next restaurant for our Dinner Club in October, please contact me.

**Beth Cassidy  
Activities Coordinator**



# September 2019

September 2019

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2019

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Sep 1</b> 10:00am Worship (S) 11:00am Fellowship Hour (FH) 3:00pm PDC Worship (S) 7:30pm PDC-Coffee	<b>2</b> Labor Day (United States) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (B)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30pm PDC Worship (S) 7:00pm Girl Scout Leaders (Room o)	<b>5</b> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal (B) 8:00pm AA (FH) 8:00pm AA (Room o)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00am Sunday School (Room) 10:00am Worship-Small 11:00am Fellowship 3:00pm PDC 7:30pm PDC-Coffee	<b>9</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts (B)	<b>10</b> 10:00am SHIP's Galley (FH, K) 7:00pm A&F Meeting (Office)	<b>11</b> 8:30am Life Line Screening (FH) 6:30pm PDC Worship (S) 6:30pm Dinner Club (Cafe) 7:00pm Marketing	<b>12</b> 10:00am SHIP's Galley (FH, K) 6:00pm Corn Hole Tournament 7:30pm Choir 8:00pm AA (FH) 8:00pm AA (Room)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00am Sunday School (Room) 10:00am Worship (S) 11:00am Fellowship 3:00pm PDC 7:30pm PDC-Coffee	<b>16</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts (B)	<b>17</b> 10:00am SHIP's Galley (FH, K) 7:00pm Boy Scout Monthly Committee (B) 7:00pm Twelfth Night Meeting	<b>18</b> 6:30pm PDC Worship (S)	<b>19</b> 10:00am SHIP's Galley (FH, K) 6:00pm Corn Hole Tournament 7:30pm Choir 8:00pm AA (FH) 8:00pm AA (Room)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:30am Reserved S+S (FH)
<b>22</b> 9:00am Sunday School (Room) 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coloring 11:00am Fellowship 3:00pm PDC 7:30pm PDC-Coffee	<b>23</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts (B)	<b>24</b> 10:00am SHIP's Galley (FH, K) 7:15pm Consistory Meeting (L) 7:30pm Scouts fundraiser kickoff (FH)	<b>25</b> 6:30pm PDC Worship (S)	<b>26</b> 10:00am SHIP's Galley (FH, K) 6:00pm Corn Hole Tournament 8:00pm AA (FH) 8:00pm AA (Room o)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00am Sunday School (Room) 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 11:15am Christian 3:00pm PDC 7:30pm PDC-Coffee	<b>30</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts (B)	<b>Oct 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

# Sunday Servers For September

Date	Ushers/ Greeter	Fellowship Hour	Altar Guild	Counters	Lay Reader/
9/1	Sue Elgard Mary Ann Ferrante	Parish Life Sundae Sunday	Mark Cannizzo	Mark Cannizzo Mary Ann Ferrante	Michelle Davis
9/8	Gary Spratt Mark Cannizzo	Fran Wise Lyn Van Gorder Annette Janssen	Michelle Davis	Michelle Lane Kathy Phillips	Jean Barber-Bucek
9/15	Jim & Kathy Phillips	<b>Open: Can you host?</b>	Alice Gunzelman	Michelle Lane Diny Buchanan	Gary Spratt
9/22	Michelle Davis Sandy Dibble	Alice Gunzelman Barbara Schwarz	Fran Wise	Jim Phillips Jean Barber-Bucek	John M. Colligas
9/29	Fran Wise Lorraine Malonza	<b>Open: Can you host?</b>	Sandy Dibble	Bill Everett Fran Wise	Tom Hayes

## Scripture Passages

### September 1: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 2:4-13                      Psalm 8:1, 10-16  
Hebrews 13:1-8                      Luke 14:1, 7-14

### September 8: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 18:1-11                      Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
Deuteronomy 30:15-20                      Luke 14:25-33

### September 15: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 4:11-12                      Psalm 14  
Exodus 32:7-14                      Luke 15:1-10

### September 22: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1                      Psalm 79:1-9  
Amos 8:4-7                      Luke 16:1-13

### September 29: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 32:1-3a                      Psalm 79:1-9  
Timothy 6:6-19                      Luke 16:19-31

## Office Closed Labor Day Weekend

In observance of Labor Day, the church office will be closed from Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup> through Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The office will be open on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday weekend.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



### Birthdays

Sept. 4                      Linda Hayes, Diny Buchanan  
Sept. 5                      Isabel Cannizzo  
Sept. 8                      Morgan McLachlan  
Sept. 9                      Heidi Schulthesis  
Sept. 11                      Jocelyn Hayes, Katherine Yohn  
Sept. 14                      William Everett, Elizabeth Fowler,  
and Charles Lane  
Sept. 15                      James Barry, Cindy Mendelson  
Sept. 20                      Carol Barry  
Sept. 21                      Mary Jane Swita  
Sept. 23                      Mark Cannizzo  
Sept. 24                      Lori Herpen  
Sept. 26                      Thomas Maggio

### Anniversaries

Sept. 1                      Neil & Jenny Robinson  
Sept. 12                      Morgan & Jan McLachlan  
Sept. 13                      Patrick & Linda Hayes  
Sept. 18                      John & Beverly Colligas  
Sept. 29                      Charles & Toni Moore

**InTouch is produced by  
Lori Herpen, Administrative Assistant**  
Deadline for the October Issue is  
**September 24, 2019**  
Please submit articles, news and photos to:  
admin@urcsomerville.org

# Registration Now Open

Classes begin September 8, 2019

9:00 to 9:50 a.m.

All kids age Pre-K through 8th Grade  
welcome anytime!

Our program includes:

- Stories from the Bible
- The teachings of Jesus
- Prayers & discussion
- Activity time & community service projects



For more information visit:  
[www.urcsomerville.org](http://www.urcsomerville.org)  
or call 908-725-4545

United Reformed Church  
100 W. Main St.  
Somerville, NJ 08876



*Love All - Serve All*