

United Presbyterian Church

525 East Front Street • Plainfield, NJ 07060 • 908-756-2666 • http://www.upcplainfield.org/

Where God is exalted, Everyone matters, and You belong!

II:00 a.m. Worship

July 2021 - Newsletter

NOTICE: The Church Office will be closed July 5th & 7th



Just as a body, though one, has many parts, all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. I Corinthians 12:12

Dear Members and Friends,

In words found in 1 Corinthians 1: 2-4, grace and peace to you in the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our blessed Redeemer.

I thank God for your faithfulness to the mission and work of United Presbyterian Church Plainfield proclaiming the good news of the gospel in word and deed. Your generosity of spirit, acts of kindness, comforting words, and willingness to continue furthering the gospel inspire me to become a better preacher and more caring Pastor. Your steadfast commitment to this ministry is lauded and cherished.

If you are in the Plainfield area, volunteering to help with the brown bag lunches, serving as a liturgist, working on a committee, using your influence, skills, and muscles to keep the building and grounds beautiful, or prayerfully interceding for the people of God, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

For those living outside the local area, we are humbled by and thankful for the time, talent, and money you donate to boost the church's work. In addition to attending our virtual services, promoting our Facebook page and Sunday Livestream across social media platforms, you publicize the work of this ministry by word of mouth in the communities where you live. Thank you!

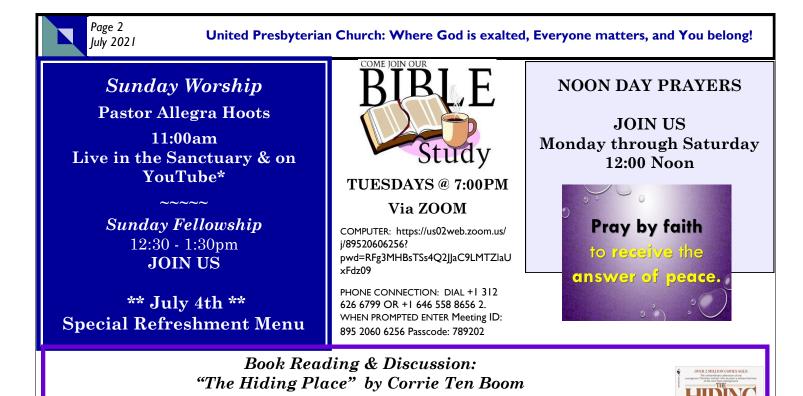
Praise God for the many different people, gifts, and roles that make up the body of Christ and that exist in every congregation. Diversity by Divine design, undergirded by the Holy Spirit's power, creates the capacity for God's people to collectively achieve God's will on earth as it is in heaven. It is awe-inspiring and marvelous to experience God's people altruistically working together for good.

There is something beautiful about witnessing people from different backgrounds with varying life experiences, differing personalities, and unique strengths collaborating to make positive things happen in the lives of individuals, families, and pockets of communities.

I do not know about you, but I am grateful God is no respecter of persons, and there is room in the body of Christ for every person and every talent. Moreover, I thank God you find the ministry of this house of worship meaningful and choose to share your gifts with us.

Contd. On page 4

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! Psalm 133: 1



Book Club: We will finish reading the true story of Corrie Ten Boom's, *The Hiding Place*, an account of the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands by independent study. As a group, we read through Chapter 4. If you prefer listening, you may listen to the chapters being read aloud on YouTube. The link for Chapter 5 is below. You can search for the other chapters on YouTube or email Sharon Stemple at <u>slstemple@yahoo.com</u>.

The Hiding Place - Chapter 5: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HthD68sv50c</u>

Worship service is held in the Sanctuary & on YouTube followed by Fellowship hour in the Lind Room

Upcoming Events

See calendars for more activities and events

July					August
Date	Time	Event	Date	Time	Event
4		Independence Day	4	7:00pm	Cottage Meetings—Via ZOOM
		Immigration Sunday	Sunday 7 10-3pm		Nutrition During The 20s
					UPC Mission Study—Continuation
10	9am-3pm	Flea Market		Duke Island Park, Bridge	
16	2:00pm	Brown Bag Lunch Prep	11	7:00pm	Cottage Meetings—Via ZOOM Mental Health During & Post COVID
21	7:30pm	Session Meeting			
28	7:00pm	Cottage Meetings—Via ZOOM <i>Current State of Haiti</i>			
		500 1/071		170	

FOR VIRTUAL EVENTS:

TO CONNECT BY COMPUTER OR TELEPHONE, GO TO THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE FOR INFOR-MATION: <u>http://www.upcplainfield.org/</u>



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INDEPENDENCE DAY

o-HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Declaration of Independence is one of the most important documents in the history of the United States. It was an official act taken by all 13 American colonies in declaring independence from British rule.

The document was originally written by Thomas Jefferson, but Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, along with Jefferson then worked together to make changes. The final draft of the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776, but the actual signing of the final document took place on August 2, 1776.

Here is an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence (U.S. 1776):

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of



these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

Independence is declared; it must be maintained. –Sam Houston, American politician (1793–1863)

The Declaration of Independence is America's revolutionary Charter of Freedom and the document upon which the nation's founding principles were established.

On April 19, 1775, during the Battles of Lexington and Concord (Mass.), the first shots were fired between colonists and British troops, starting the American Revolution. After these first military conflicts, tension between Britain and her American colonists continued to mount.

Finally, on July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress voted for independence from Britain.

Two days later, on **July 4**, the Congress approved the final draft of the Declaration of Independence, which had been written by Thomas Jefferson and edited by John Adams and Benjamin Franklin.

On **July 8**, the first public reading of the Declaration took place at the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Later that same day, other readings occurred in Trenton, New Jersey, and Easton, Pennsylvania.

However, it wasn't until August 2, 1776, that the Declaration was officially signed.

On August 4, 1776, after delegates of the Continental Congress had signed the document, the Declaration of Independence was made official.

HOW DID OUR FOUNDERS ENVISION INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS?

John Adams envisioned the celebration to be one filled with fun, games, and fireworks—not an occasion for displaying military strength.

On July 18, 1777, an issue of the Virginia Gazette describes the July 4 celebration in Philadelphia:

"The evening was closed with the ringing of bells, and at night there was a grand exhibition of fireworks, which began and concluded with thirteen rockets on the commons, and the city was beautifully illuminated. Every thing was conducted with the greatest order and decorum, and the face of joy and gladness was universal."

What's really special about America's celebration of freedom is it was quite different for its time, focusing on the joys of freedom. Many countries have emulated this spirit of celebration ever since.

Read a transcription of the complete text of the Declaration at $\underline{www.archives.gov}$.

https://www.almanac.com/content/independence-day-fourth-of-july

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Immigration Sunday

Immigration Sunday is July 4th, 2021. It is a ministry and advocacy for new immigrants among us and discern how we can engage in immigration issues. The Presbyterian Mission Agency has extensive resources and information to help migrants and the communities who welcome them.. For resources or additional information, go to pcusa.org/ immigration.

Pope Francis emphasizes the relationship between six practical actions that we can take to better serve those who are displaced:

- You have to know in order to understand.
- It is necessary to be close in order to serve.
- In order to be reconciled, we need to listen.
- In order to grow, it is necessary to share.
- We need to be involved in order to promote.
- It is necessary to cooperate in order to build.

Around the world, we know that many people are forced to flee their homes due to violence, hunger, poverty, and disease, but what does this look like in our own state? How is your parish implementing these practical actions? How is your parish working to provide for the pastoral care of internally displaced people? As we approach Immigration Sunday, we encourage you to begin examining what it means in your community to be displaced.

To move toward a greater understanding and gather ideas of how your community can mark Immigration Sunday, make use of the resources.

Note: Different groups celebrate this on different dates.

pcusa.org/immigration https://www.mncatholic.org/immigrationsunday/ If you are looking for congregational support, explore our <u>Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Minis-</u> <u>tries</u>.

(https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/racialequity-womens-intercultural-ministries/)

You may also find helpful advocacy and social justice resources in our <u>Presbyterian Ministry at the United</u> <u>Nations</u>, our <u>Office of Public Witness in Washing-</u> ton, and on our <u>Advocacy and Social Justice page</u>.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Contd. from pg 1

Pastors Message

Contd. from page 1

Now to bring you up to date on things happening around campus.

- July 16, we will begin our brown bag luncheon outreach to needy adults and children in Plainfield. With God's help, the church will continue to provide direct support to individuals for the next twelve months.
- A digital calendar running in the Hansen Room replaces the paper models previously displayed in the Pastor and Administrative Assistant offices. The calendar is updated daily and runs anytime the building is open. To add events to the calendar, contact Davaughn through the church office or via dhoots94@gmail.com.
- A hybrid weekly Bible study will begin on Tuesdays in September. Look for details in the August newsletter.

Brothers and sisters, may we continue growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and may God grant us peace and safety.

Blessings,

Pastor Allegra

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Our Cottage Meetings are made up of individuals who are interested in learning about topics that affect us and the people around us. Topics may be biblical, spiritual, social—any topic that would be beneficial and that we want to learn about.

Presentations for summer 2021 are as follows:

July 28th (Wednesday) 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Topic: The Current State of Haiti

Speaker: Ms. Dayanne Danier , Founder & Chair Fleur De Vie (www.fleurdevieonline.org)
A brief overview of Haiti's history, it's current state of affairs and especially working with children during these difficult times.

August 4th (Wednesday) 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Topic: *Nutritional Facts and Challenges During the 20s* Speaker: Julie O'Sullivan Maillet, PhD

Rutgers School of Health Professions

Dept of Clinical and Preventive Nutrition Science

We all know about nutrition but still have difficulty managing it. Why?? Learn tips to manage your nutritional challenges.

August 7th (Saturday) 10:00am to 3:00pm

Topic: United Presbyterian Church Mission Study (Continuation) Location: Duke Island Park—191 Old York Rd, Bridgewater Township, NJ 08807 During these challenging times, churches are forced to operate outside the box. Join us as we at UPC continue to forge our path and the best way to serve our communities.

August 11th (Wednesday) 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Via ZOOM

Via ZOOM

Via ZOOM

Topic: Our Mental Health Challenges During and Post COVID Speaker: Ms. Manuela Garcia, LCSW—Executive Director United Family and Child Society

2020 Has been a challenging year for children and adults mentally socially, etc. The saga continues. Learn how to manage your family's mental health challenges and where and how to seek help.

ALL ARE INVITED.

SHARE THIS WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS. INVITE YOUR FRIENDS OVER AND JOIN IN AS A GROUP WITH SNACKS!

To join via zoom or by telephone, see below

COMPUTER: https://bit.ly/2Te5g93 PHONE CONNECTION: 1. DIAL +1 312 626 6799 OR +1 646 558 8656 2. WHEN PROMPTED ENTER Meeting ID: 895 2060 6256 Passcode: 789202 Page 6 July 2021

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City of Plainfield Upcoming Events

Free Swimming Lessons: Starting July 12th for youth and adults; beginners only; must be a Plainfield resident. For more information contact 908-753-3097

Friday Night at the Plaza: Friday, July 16th 7:30pm—9:00pm. Games, Contests, food, music and more! Free family event.

Plainfield Fireworks Display – July 4th, 2021 at Cedarbrook Park. BEGINS AT 9:30PM. Everyone Is Welcome—No passes required to be admitted residents can assemble beginning at 8:00pm.

https://plainfieldnj.gov/all_events.aspx?category=1&page_id =37&page_name=City%20of%20Plainfield%20Events

Mark 5:36 Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."



Feeding the Hungry during Covid-19 pandemic

STAR FISH IS OPEN

To provide food for the hungry - Call Plainfield Action Services at 908-753-3519 to get your name on the list for the next available food delivery.

For drive-up food, go to Parking Lot 7 at East 7 Street and Park Avenue on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

TO DONATE:

Call 908-755-8888 Administrator@starfishplainfield.org

HELP SOMEONE IN NEED-GIVE!



tithes & offering

Worship the Lord in Giving

For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. <u>2 Corinthians 8:12</u>

To bless the Church with your tithes and offering you may:

- 1. Drop it off at the church office
- 2. Mail your check (not cash) to the church
- 3. Log in to <u>https://bit.ly/3ovj1J6</u> or
- 4. Go to the UPC website homepage and click on the "Give Now" button

~ Thank you ~



Saturdays at 6:00 PM Safe Lawn Concerts

1030 Central Ave, Plainfield, NJ 07060

6/12 Madison String	8/7 National Guard					
Quartet Classical	Army Band					
6/26 Jamore	8/28 Sol De 4					
Caribbean	Latin Salsa					
7/10 Mark Miller	9/11 E-Boro Bandits					
Inspirational	Country Rock					
7/24 Anthony Nelson, Jr. Jazz	9/25 твр					
FOR TICKETS & MORE INFO						

FOR TICKETS & MORE INFO https://www.ducret.edu/concert



United Presbyterian Church 525 E. Front Street - Plainfield, NJ (908) 756-2666

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Flea Market

Saturday, July 10th, 2021 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Fr	sale tes for chi ee prizes ing the day		Health Information Raffle Information At the registration form below :
	No of Tables		
	No. of Spaces	@ \$25.00 each (with 2 chain @ \$20.00 each	(Buy 3 tables OR space & get the 4th FREE)
Name			Date:
			Apt
City:		State	e:Zip:
Telephon	e #	Email:	
Make mon	ey order or check paya	ble to: United Presbyterian Church ~ Mail	not permitted ed on when this form and fees are received. or bring money order or cash (do not mail cash) and this form to: 5 East Front Street • Plainfield, NJ 07060
	For add	litional information please call (908) 756-2	2666 or email upcnews525@gmail.com
		Outdoors \sim Stay Covid Safe \sim	Follow State Mandates

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Prayers for Healing

Remember our sisters and brothers listed below and call them if you are able to. Let us know if there are members who are not on this list.



Emory Dawson Helen Foerster O'Harold Hoots BJ Klikus Frank Klikus Jack Perry Marianna Perry Pat Perry Gail Stokes Izaiyah Stokes Jamie Sweeney



July

- 14 Mary Semambya Oladimeji Falowo O'Harold Hoots
- 15 Joy Awobue
- 18 Tasha Vaughn
- 25 Chris Awobue Avery Breitenbach-Allen Amy Grier

August

- 7 David Scott
- 9 Butherde Darius
- 15 Marcia Marsh-Hines
- 20 Beatrice Awobue
- Bentley Awobue 25 Neekah Hinds

Flower Ministry

With your donation of \$25 or more to the Flower Fund, the Deacons will provide a beautiful floral arrangement for the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. After worship, the arrangement will also



brighten the day of a member or friend of UPC who is unable to join us for worship.

Flowers may be made in honor or memory of a loved one. Honoree names will be listed in the church bulletin.

You may complete the form below or add your information to the flower chart in the Narthex.

*Email:*_____

Blessings, Zorina Bowers

Name:_____

Telephone: _____

Address:

Amount: _____

In Memory of: _____

Thank you for your generous support of UPC's Flower Ministry

Board of Deacons

Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer. Hebrews 10:24-25 GNB



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CHILDREN'S CORNER

Parents, please read this to your younger child(ren)

God Chooses Us

Theme: God chooses us to be His children.Object: A soccer ball or a ball for another sport; a book without a prominent title on the coverScripture: Ephesians 1:3-14

Do you like sports? (Hold up the ball in your hands). What's your favorite sport? (Pause.) Are you pretty good? (Pause.) Not everyone is, you know. Today I have a story to tell you about a boy named Thomas who was pretty bad at sports. (Open the book, and pretend you're telling the story from it.)

Thomas looked up from his book as his teacher announced to his class, "It's time for recess--we're going to play softball. Jacob, you and Mary will be the team captains today."

"Oh no!" Thomas thought to himself, "If Jacob and Mary are choosing their teams, I'll probably be one of the last ones chosen, as usual." As he stood with the other children on the playground, Thomas tried to pretend it didn't bother him when the other children were chosen, one by one, and he was left behind. But the truth was, it really hurt his feelings. "I wish, just once I could be the first one chosen," Thomas whispered to himself. (Close the book and put it down.)

I hope this hasn't ever happened to you, but the truth is that it's happened to most of us at one point or another. Surely there must be a better way to choose teams. Does anyone have any ideas about how to make the process better? (Pause.) I have an idea! What if we just have everyone number off 1-2-1-2-1-2? All of the ones could be on one team and all of the twos on the other. (Number the kids off and have them separate into the two groups). This way, no one is the last one chosen.

Our Bible lesson today is about being chosen to be in God's family. Would you like to be in God's family? (Pause.) The good news is the way Thomas' classmates chose teammates is not how God chooses His family. God chooses everyone who accepts Jesus as their savior. The Bible tells us that before He even made the world, God loved us and chose us--He already knew who would choose to accept Jesus. Anyone and everyone can be in God's family by placing their faith in Jesus. God welcomes and wants everyone!

When we confess our sin and put our trust in Jesus, we become God's adopted children, and He makes everything work out according to His plan for us. I am so glad that God chose me to be a part of His family.

How does it make you feel that God wants you to be part of His family?

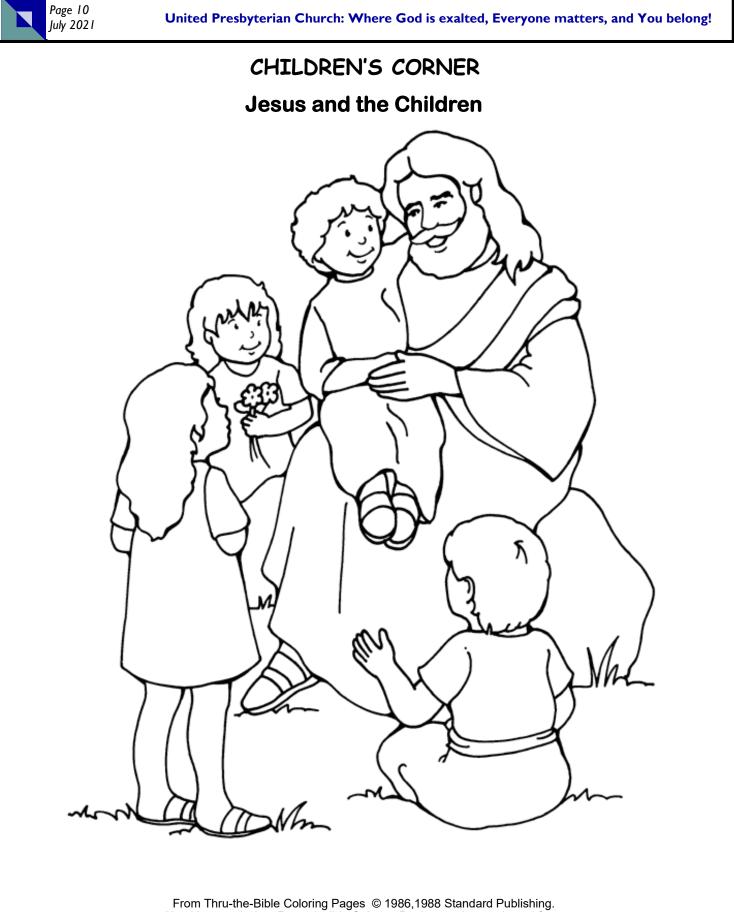
Dear God, thank You for choosing us and for sending Your Son so that we can choose to be a part of Your family. In Jesus' name, amen.

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** MEMORY VERSE ** Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

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2021 PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT Never too Late!

Your annual Per Capita is \$45.00 and is shared as follows: General Assembly \$8.98, The Synod of the Northeast \$4.10, The Presbytery of Elizabeth \$31.92. Per Capita is a member assessment used to fund the operating expenses of governing bodies. (Book of Order; G-9.0404 d).

Consider paying more than your share to help cover the cost of others who are unable to pay

Important: Deadline is the 20th of each month for the Newsletter. Leave your news in the Church Office or email it to <u>upcnews525@gmail.com</u>					
Church Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-3pm	Church Administrators				
Schedule of Pastor's Office Hours Monday to Friday 9:00am to 1:00pm Please call the Church Office for an Appointment or to contact the Pastor	Pastor Allegra Hoots Director of Music: Mr. Ronn Daniels Executive Assistant: Ms. Pat Perry & Mr. DaVaughn Hoots (Temporary) Sexton: Ms. Sue Terry				
Session Members Al Tate (Clerk) Emory Dawson Patricia Dawson Avril Lecky Marcia Marsh-Hinds Therefore, my beloved brothers, therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always be	Board of Deacons Helen Foerster - Moderator Daniel Bofah Thelma Fleming Virginia Hansen Desirae Hemans (in training) Maggie Anglin (Volunteer) Zorina Bowers (Volunteer) Zorina Bowers (Volunteer) To contact the deacons for assistance Call the church office at 908-756-2666 <u>CONTACT INFORMATION</u> Church Email: upcplainfield525@gmail.com Newsletter: upcnews525@gmail.com Church website: http://upcplainfield.org Telephone No.: (908) 756-2666				
If you have information that you would like to share, send them to upcnews525@gmail.com	Newsletter EditorsContributorsAvril LeckyPastor Allegra HootsBola FalowoSharon StempleGeorge HansenHugh Lecky				

James Plummer

United Presbyterian Church

July 2021 MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY **SUNDAY** THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY 1 2 3 Happy Independence Day Noon Day Prayer Noon Day Prayer Noon Day Prayer 7:00pm Book Reading & Discussion 5 7 8 9 10 4 6 Noon Day Prayer **11am Worship Service** 9am-3pm In-person & Livestream 7:00pm Book Read-7:00pm Bible Study Flea Market ing & Discussion **Communion Service** Independence Day/ **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED JULY 5th & 7th** Immigration Day 12 13 14 15 16 17 11 11am Worship Service Noon Day Prayer In-person & Livestream 2:00pm Brown Youth Sunday **Bag Lunch Prep** 7:00pm Book Read-7:00pm Bible Study ing & Discussion 24 18 19 20 21 22 23 11am Worship Service Noon Day Prayer In-person & Livestream 7:30pm Session Mtg 7:00pm Book Read-7:00pm Bible Study ing & Discussion 25 27 28 29 30 31 26 **11am Worship Service** Noon Day Prayer In-person & Livestream 7:00pm **Dedication Sunday** Cottage Mtg* NOTE:

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CALENDAR EVENTS MAY CHANGE BASED ON THE STATES POLICY ON GROUP MEETING. THE CALENDAR REFLECTS REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE. **CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.**

Communion & Deacon Sunday — Ist Sunday Monthly Youth Sunday—2nd Sunday monthly

Dedication Sunday—4th Sunday Monthly

Committee Meetings (unless stated otherwise): 2nd Saturday @ 10:00am: Administration Meeting 2nd Sunday following Worship: Deacons Meeting 3rd Wednesday @ 7:30pm: Session Meeting

If you would like to be a member on any committee or help with any project, call the Church Office at 908-756-2666.

United Presbyterian Church

August 2021 TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY **SUNDAY** MONDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Noon Day Prayer **11am Worship Service** In-person & Livestream 7:00pm 10am-3pm: Cottage Mtg Mission Study **Communion Service** 7:00pm Bible Study (Duke Island Park) 9 8 10 11 12 13 14 Noon Day Prayer 11am Worship Service 7:00pm In-person & Livestream Cottage Mtg 10:00am Administra-7:00pm Bible Study Youth Sunday tion Meeting 15 17 18 19 20 21 16 **11am Worship Service** Noon Day Prayer In-person & Livestream 7:00pm Bible Study 23 24 25 26 28 22 2 **11am Worship Service** Noon Day Prayer In-person & Livestream 7:00pm Bible Study 29 30 31 **11am Worship Service** Noon Day Prayer Noon Day Prayer Noon Day Prayer In-person & Livestream **Dedication Sunday** 7:00pm Bible Study

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