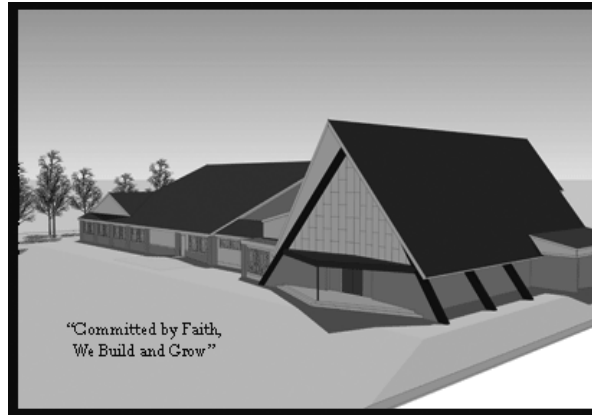


SIMPSON SPEAKER



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Phone/Fax: 732-679-7499

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www.SimpsonUMC-OldBridge.com

Facebook: Simpson UMC-Old Bridge

Twitter: @OB_SimpsonUMC

Rev. Kevin G. Davis, Pastor

11 AM Sunday mornings

on facebook and you tube

Thanksgiving Sunday Service November 19th @ 11:00 AM
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Sunday, November 19th @ 3 PM

Christmas Eve Services December 24th

Belford UMC @ 9:00 AM

Simpson UMC @11:00 AM

Belford UMC 7:00 PM

Simpson UMC 11:00 PM

November/December Newsletter 2023

Dear Friends,

Fall is here and the holidays are right around the corner!

We have been on a journey through the Fruits of the Spirit, Love, Joy, Peace, Forbearance, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control. We are reminded that each one is rooted and grounded in the first, Love, the all-encompassing Agape love that Jesus shows us how to live out.

As we approach some of the most beautiful, meaningful, and special seasons in the life of the church, let us seek out ways to share that love with each other and with those around us. Let us seek out opportunities to be together in worship, small groups, fellowship, and service to our church family and beyond. Let us live out this agape love together.

The seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas are also rooted and grounded in this agape love. My prayer is that we will take every opportunity to prepare our hearts, minds, and spirits to fully experience the beauty and meaning of these upcoming seasons. This is especially important as we continue into this time of transition and hope to share in time together with our sisters and brothers in the Belford church.

So, let us journey together, grow in our faith, renew our commitment to each other, and to the mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world. Let us share the light and love of Christ with all we can.

The prophet Micah reminds us of how best to be on this journey, in Micah 6:8,

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

I am greatly looking forward to walking with you through these wonderful upcoming seasons!

Let's go!

In Christ's amazing agape love,

Pastor Kevin

Please join us

Old Bridge Annual *Interfaith* Thanksgiving Gathering

Sunday, November 19 at 3 pm

Simpson United Methodist Church, *hosting*

2095 Rt. 516 Old Bridge

VISITATION

Pastor Kevin announced that we want to rejuvenate our visitation program. This is an important ministry of our church. We want to visit members that have health concerns or those that have not attended for various reasons recently. We want them to know that they are a part of this church family and that we care about them.

We want to start the visitations during the four Sundays between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The visits will take place after the Sunday service. We will be in groups of two like Jesus did with His disciples. Some members may prefer a phone call instead and that is fine. Everyone will be notified in advance about the schedule.

I am hoping to have 10 volunteers join this mission. The holidays are a great time to restart this ministry. Please see me in church this Sunday or respond to my email with questions. Please contact me if you want to volunteer. A meeting will be held to discuss specifics. I look forward to working with you on this important mission.

In God's Love,
Gail Thompson

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday school has been learning the stories of the Bible, starting from the creation. We've learned about Job, Abraham, and Adam and Eve. We're going to continue to learn more stories in the Bible, and about more people in the Bible. In music, we made shaker instruments out of part of God's creation. They were made from leaves, rocks, sticks, acorns, and pinecones. We had a lot of fun playing them while we sang, our songs. When we learned about Abraham, we sang father Abraham. That's always a lot of fun with a lot of motions and dancing around. We even had breakfast together in October at Applebee's and had our Sunday school lesson there.

In December the students will sing for church one morning and we will also have our Christmas party with music games and crafts.

We would like to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving, and a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Abby, Lynn and Pam

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

As of the writing of this article the schedule for November and December remains a bit fluid and is still being set. We will once again be doing our Christmas wreath making, having our Christmas party, and leading worship on Dec 31. We will also be involved in delivering food baskets to area families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. So much more will be added to our schedule too!

-We will also have our 10am Sunday morning youth group devos throughout November and December

The youth group is open to anyone in grades 6-12, and you don't have to be a member of Simpson UMC to be a member of the youth group. Friends are welcome as well!

If you have any questions or comments about the youth group, please feel free to contact Scott by email at RU1989@aol.com or by phone or text at 908-705-3315.

Scott Hunter
Youth Group Leader

PUMPKIN PATCH

This October our front lawn has once again been transformed into a pumpkin patch! On October 7 we received a shipment of 877 large pumpkins and well over 1,000 small pumpkins and will be selling them through October 31. This serves as both a church fundraiser and a community outreach.

Sales so far (at the time of the writing of this article we still have 1 more week before the end of the pumpkin patch) have been going very well. In fact, we have already sold out of the small pumpkins!

The pumpkin patch has always been about so much more than just raising money and this year we have had outdoor movie nights, arts and crafts events, bake sales, and in the next week will be having a blood drive and a Trunk or Treat!

We also welcomed over 60 pre-k and kindergarten kids for story time led by Gail and Nancy!

We once again this year have a Great Gratitude Pumpkin where the pumpkin buyers can write something they are thankful for or grateful for and it is jam packed with writing! In fact, we may need to roll out a 2nd pumpkin for the rest of the week!

The patch was a tremendous success last year raising over \$3000 for the church! Although at the time of this writing the totals for this year so far are not yet known, I anticipate raising even more this year!

Thank you to everyone that has helped (or will be helping during this final week) with the patch in any way this year!

Respectfully Submitted,
Hunter, Coordinator

Scott

Huge thank you to everyone who supported the youth group's breakfast fundraiser at Applebees on Sunday Oct 22.

It was tremendously successful and we raised \$854 !!

Thank you for supporting the young men and women at Simpson!

God bless,
Scott Hunter
Youth Group Leader

OUTREACH

COMMUNION : November communion will go towards UMCOR #01138A: Global Mission Undesignated supports the mission priorities of the General Board of Global Ministries where most needed, including mission programs in over 80 countries. The work of Global Ministries connects the church in mission by

equipping and transforming people and places for God's mission around the world.

COMMUNION: December communion will go toward :The Neighborhood Center in Camden is a local non-profit, breaking the cycle of poverty through Academic, Athletic, and Arts programs for children and teenagers.

Food Pantry: Our food pantry is running low. Please don't forget to bring your nonperishable items to the Lords table the 1st Sunday of every month.

Visitation: We were not able to visit any of our shut-ins. At this time visitations are on hiatus. We will resume soon as we can.

CHANGE FOR L.I.F.E: Our change for life is still going on. This will be going towards Heifer International. Heifer International's mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth.

Baskets: We will be delivering Thanksgiving baskets Sunday Nov. 19th and Christmas baskets will be delivered Sunday December 17th.

Donation drop off for Thanksgiving: Sat. November 18th 8:30-11am

Donation drop off for Christmas: Sat. December 16th 9:00-11:00 am

I would like to thank everyone as always for your generosity during this Holiday Season. We are able to put smiles on the families faces.

God Bless & Happy Holidays

Nancy Carrasquillo, Mission Chairperson

SHAREGOOD THRIFT SHOPPE

ShareGood Thrift Shoppe

Fall is here and November is a special time for ShareGood. This November we are celebrating our 10th anniversary on November 9th. It's hard to believe 10 years have gone by. We have met so many new friends through the shop and helped many missions. We have such dedicated volunteers that have enjoyed working hard to make our little shop a place that makes a difference.

Happy 10th Anniversary ShareGood!!

In the shop you will find **Holiday decorations and all things Christmas**. We have so much to choose from. Come on out to see the selection. So, remember to come out and visit us before heading to the big stores. Our customers love new choices to pick from each week. We continue to enjoy new customers that have discovered our little shop. ShareGood is not only a place to buy stuff, but a place to go to talk with friends new and old. Many customers come to the shop to visit our cute mascot, Giovanni, Pam's dog. They love him and he loves all the attention. Donations have picked up so there is always new things to look at. We have high days and low ones but we are ready whenever they arrive. We get so much great stuff so that there are always new things to look at when our customers come to the shop each week.

This passed month we donated 9 bags of coats, hat & scarves, socks, and blankets to the St. Vincent de Paul coat drive. We are always assisting others and their missions to help family and friends here in our neighborhood and around the world. We are always ready to help where help is needed. We are involved in our own missions and the many missions of our customers. We learn about the situations in their families, countries and neighborhoods. It fills our hearts with compassion to hear their stories and have the opportunity to help. The Thrift Shop is a wonderful outreach opportunity for Simpson and I encourage everyone to come out and see for yourself. We always welcome new volunteers. Many hands make light work.

ShareGood is open on Saturdays from 9-1.

The volunteers are available to accept donations on Sunday after service.
Those of us at ShareGood continue to pray for everyone's health and safety during the holidays.

Respectfully yours,
Lynn Palladino
ShareGood Thrift Shoppe Chairperson

SUPERMARKET GIFT CARD NEWS

DON'T FORGET !! Supermarket Gift Cards for Shop Rite and Stop & Shop make wonderful holiday or hostess gifts for the loved ones on your list who "have everything" !!
As a bonus to your purchase, our church treasury profits by 5% !

See Betty Muldowney after church to obtain these cards by cash, check or credit card.
Have a wonderful holiday season.
Blessings to All, Anita Fuzesi, Program Coordinator

FABRIC PHOTO FRAMES

MADE BY GAIL THOMPSON

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT OUR CHURCH

I am making picture frames and selling them for \$30.00 each. Please consider ordering one. You can get one for your pet and tell me your pet's name and a greeting. I will use my embroidery machine to print this and sew it to the top of the frame. Place a 5X7 picture in the mat board using tape.

You may also order a frame for your family or other person. I think the ones you see here are nice and you'll have this remembrance forever. This also makes a nice gift. Select one of the two greetings shown or write one yourself. The personalized greeting is what I like the most about the frames. **ORDER A FRAME TODAY AND HELP OUR CHURCH AT THE SAME TIME.**

Contact Person Gail Thompson gsmall52350@gmail.com

Your Friend in Christ,
Gail Thompson

Christmas Giving Tree

This year we will put up envelopes for monetary gifts to help pay our 1st mortgage payment of **\$5100 since the pandemic. We have not been paying a full payment due to covid relief but the time has come to start paying the mortgage in **full** every month, for the past 2 years we had to only pay the interest part. Thank you in advance for helping with this mission!**

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY WISHES

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Willow Marcon Caffrey	2
Daniel Palladino	4
William Jarvis	7
Joseph Layton	8
Denise Trimarco	11
Ashley Brooks (Gaunt)	13
Joey Davis	15
Steven Fasulka	15
Mina Opoku	16
Thomas Grimes	19
Kelly Jarvis (Donohue)	19
Jayden Alexander Thompson	20
James Baron	21
Kristin Hart	23
Monica Gamadia	24
James Ploskon	24
Irene Ritz	25
Logan LoCascio	26
Danielle Murphy	26
Miranda Yeats	30

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Rob & Sue DeFilippo	4
Reggie & Carol Tucker	10

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Camila Hope DeSciscio	4
Bob Fuzesi	5
Axel Malson Cornelison	7
Amanda Caffrey	9
Mary Jane Ziobro	10
Robin Grimes	14
Payton Holowinski	16
Donna Callahan	19
Anita Fuzesi	19

Jefferson Husarenko	19
Rose Siobhan Caffrey	21
Matthew DeSciscio	21
Elmer Camba	26
Brittany Yeats	27
Caylee Salica	29
Adelyn Bottinick	30
Nancy Magaw	30

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Elmer & Tess Camba	26
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