

Musings from Mike

'Are You Sure You Want the Way It Used to Be?'

You can almost feel it in the air.

We all want our lives back.

We want to look people we love in the eye and hug them.

We don't say it out loud, but we would like to erase the last year and go back to the way 'it used to be'.

But it seems clear to me that this is a moment of choice for lots of people.

- Do I go back to work the way I used to?
- Remember all the stuff I thought was 'so important' and it just isn't anymore.
- I don't want to lose some of the habits, strengths, and gifts I discovered during the pandemic.

How do we figure that out? I think being people of faith equips us very well for new realities.

The people of Israel: leaving Egypt; entering the Promised Land; going into Exile; coming back from Exile.

Jesus' disciples; being called out of the lives they worked so hard on to follow this remarkable man from Galilee; seeing, hearing, and experiencing highs and lows for three years with him, thinking they lost it all only to find the most unbelievable crossing of all – Jesus is risen!

Yeah, I think we can have everything we need to find our way in this new land.

Shalom,

Pastor Mike



WORSHIP AND PREACHING FOR AUGUST 2021

During the month of August you are invited to reflect with Pastor Mike on some scriptures and teachings of Scripture that give a concrete guide to the next steps of our journey out of a pandemic and your next steps in your journey.

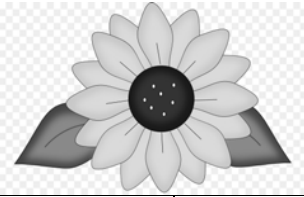
- August 1st : Communion. Luke 14:15-24
"I'm Good" (How much help are you willing to accept?)
- August 8th : Mark 4:1-9 "Three out of Four"
(How well do you handle mixed results or even failures?)
- August 15th : Baptism for the Coleman Family. Matthew 7:21-29
(Are you sure enough that you would tell Jesus what you really think??)
- August 22nd : Mark 4:26-32 "I Wasn't Even Looking"
(How many good things come to you unexpectedly?)
- August 29th : Deuteronomy 26:1-11 'Places Matter'
(There is a reason we go to all the trouble to have a church building.)



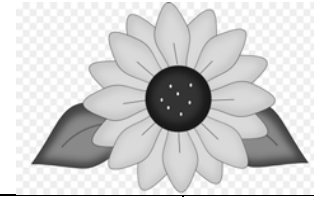
... **Sunday School** ministries will return to Sunday mornings on **September 12th** at 9:30 a.m.

... We will have a Fall '**Change the World**' Sunday on **September 19th**.

... **Weekly Bible Study** will return with details being announced during August.



AUGUST 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<u>1</u> 9:30am Worship / Online by 11 11:30am Spanish Worship	<u>2</u> 9am-1pm Office Open 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 7-9pm Gleaners Open	<u>3</u> 9am-1pm Office Open 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 7pm Al-Anon in Hall	<u>4</u> 9am-1pm Office Open 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 3pm Zoom Support Group	<u>5</u> 9am-1pm Office Open 10am-1pm Gleaners Open	<u>6</u> 6am Men's Bible Study 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 9am-1pm Office Open	<u>7</u> 10-1:00pm Gleaners 10 am NA Meeting In Fellowship Hall
<u>8</u> 9:30am Worship / Online by 11 11:30am Spanish Worship	<u>9</u> 9am-1pm Office Open 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 7-9pm Gleaners Open	<u>10</u> 9am-1pm Office Open 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 7pm Al-Anon in Hall	<u>11</u> 9am-1pm Office Open 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 3pm Zoom Support Group	<u>12</u> 9am-1pm Office Open 10am-1pm Gleaners Open	<u>13</u> 6am Men's Bible Study 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 9am-1pm Office Open	<u>14</u> 10-1:00pm Gleaners 10 am NA Meeting In Fellowship Hall
<u>15</u> 9:30am Worship / Online by 11 11:30am Spanish Worship	<u>16</u> 9am-1pm Office Open 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 7-9pm Gleaners Open	<u>17</u> 9am-1pm Office Open 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 7pm Al-Anon in Hall	<u>18</u> 9am-1pm Office Open 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 3pm Zoom Support Group	<u>19</u> 9am-1pm Office Open 10am-1pm Gleaners Open #	<u>20</u> 6am Men's Bible Study 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 9am-1pm Office Open	<u>21</u> 10-1:00pm Gleaners 10 am NA Meeting In Fellowship Hall
<u>22</u> 9:30am Worship / Online by 11 11:30am Spanish Worship	<u>23</u> 9am-1pm Office Open 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 7-9pm Gleaners Open	<u>24</u> 9am-1pm Office Open 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 7pm Al-Anon in Hall	<u>25</u> 9am-1pm Office Open 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 3pm Zoom Support Group	<u>26</u> 9am-1pm Office Open 10am-1pm Gleaners Open	<u>27</u> 6am Men's Bible Study 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 9am-1pm Office Open	<u>28</u> 9am-12:30pm Loaves & Fishes 10-1:00pm Gleaners 10 am NA Meeting In Fellowship Hall
<u>29</u> 9:30am Worship / Online by 11 11:30am Spanish Worship.	<u>30</u> 9am-1pm Office Open 9am-Noon Gleaners Sorting 7-9pm Gleaners 7-9pm Loaves & Fishes	<u>31</u> 9am-1pm Office Open 10am-1pm Gleaners Open 7pm Al-Anon in Hall				

LOAVES AND FISHES – August News

Last summer Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry collected school supplies for the school age children and families we serve. Those supplies were deeply appreciated and met with smiles.

During the month of August we will be collecting school supplies again to be shared with our families at the August Food Distribution. The supplies we are seeking include:

Black and white marbled notebooks	crayons
Blue and black erasable pens'	pencil cases
Dry erase markers	box of markers
Post it notes 3x3 size	colored pencils
Composition style notebooks	pencil erasers
1 subject spiral notebooks	glue sticks
3 ring binders	2 pocket folders
½ inch binders	loose leaf paper
Kids scissors	

In addition we will continue to collect non-perishable foods, household cleaners, and personal care products to share with our Guests each month (see the list of what is especially needed this month on the back page of this newsletter). So far through the spring and summer we are serving an average of 60 households which represent 225+ people.

Your continued prayer and donation support are much appreciated.

If you would like to be part of the team that serves our guests on Saturday, August 28th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or Monday, August 30th from 7 to 9 p.m. you are invited to reach out to Debbie Smeilus at: pdsmeilus@optonline.net



Bloomin' 4 Good Program

Bloomin' 4 Good: Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry was Selected to Benefit in Stop & Shop Floral Program Designed to Fight Hunger in Local Communities

Butler NJ– Brighten up your day with a bouquet of flowers that fights hunger in the local community! Butler Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry has been selected by local Stop & Shop store leadership as the benefiting hunger organization in the Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program for the month of August.

The Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program, which launched in February 2021, is an easy way for shoppers to give back as part of the regular shopping routine. Every \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet with the red circle sticker sold supports a hunger organization local to the Stop & Shop in which it was purchased. According to [Feeding America](#), every \$1 donation to a local hunger organization can provide 10 or more meals to someone in need.

As part of this ongoing program, every month at every Stop & Shop location a different local hunger organization is selected to benefit from the sale of the Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet. Butler Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry was selected as the August beneficiary by local store leadership at the Stop & Shop located at 4 Union Ave Wanaque NJ will receive a \$1 donation for every \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet purchased at this Stop & Shop location in the month of August.

“Flowers can make someone's day, brighten up a room or spread a smile,” said Kim Monaco Executive Director of Bloomin' 4 Good Program. “Now they can fight hunger too! We are thrilled to be chosen to benefit from this unique and impactful Stop & Shop Program, as the demands of those in need are higher than ever this year.”

Butler United Methodist Church Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry is a non-profit based in Butler NJ. Loaves and Fishes works to alleviate hunger in our local community.



\$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet

For more information about the Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program, please visit stopandshop.bloomin4good.com.

SPECIAL

Service

OPPORTUNITIES

SOUND TECHNICIAN

**(Dan Hack 973-492-1505)
(dannyparts@hotmail.com)**

August	Jim Gawley
September	Karl Barton
October	Dan Hack

VIDEO TECHNICIAN

**(Pat Inglis 973-838-1916)
(jpinglis@optonline.net)**

August 1st	Jeff Matthews
August 8 th	Pat Inglis
August 15 th	Pam Campbell
August 22 nd	Pat Inglis
August 29 th	Jeff Matthews

COUNTERS

**(Tim Campbell 973-768-2476)
(tjcamp13@optonline.net)**

August 1 st	Jeff Matthews, Linda Bosland & Janet Schaefer
August 8 th	Linda Meilan & Karen Bailey
August 15 th	Carroll Campbell, Vickie Boyd & Betty Greig
August 22 nd	Dawn Kruimer, Jean Bresett
August 29 th	Jeff Matthews, Linda Bosland & Janet Schaefer



Loaves & Fishes

Can you help?? The supply closet could use replenishing of cleaning items this month, which are in **bold type below** but any of the items on the list can be used to help our families supplement their monthly food budget. Donations can be put in the bin in the lower parking lot, by the entrance for the church office.

Macaroni & Cheese

Canned Tuna

Canned Fruit

Canned vegetables

Canned beans

(Red, black & cannelloni)

Canned tomatoes

Hot or Cold Cereals

Pancake Mixes/Syrup

Dried or Powdered Milk

Peanut Butter

Condiments

(Ketchup, mustard, mayo)

Tomato Products

Pasta

Pasta Sauce

Boxed Potatoes

Stuffing

Rice Side Dishes

Bags of White Rice

Soup

Dried Beans – Red or Black

Jelly – Strawberry & Grape

Snack foods

Paper towels

Toilet paper

Tissues / Napkins

Toothpaste/Toothbrush

Soap / Shampoo

Bleach

Dish / Laundry Detergent

Cleaning Wipes

Thank you for your generosity,
Debby Smeilus, Coordinator



A WORD OF APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION

In July, Isabelle Butler concluded a 22 year journey as the Office Manager of Butler UMC. In this role she produced weekly bulletins, various reports, distributed the Tab Times, letters and other notices, answered untold calls, welcomed guests, vendors, church members and friends and helped them to get what they needed. Above all she was a support and reminder to Pastors Steve and Mike who gratefully acknowledge her invaluable knowledge and help. We wish her the very best of God's blessings as she enjoys traveling to be by her children and grandchildren over this summer and fall.

We are pleased to welcome Pam Campbell to the role of Office Manager at Butler UMC. Pam brings many gifts and skills to the role that are going to help the church office and ministry to grow and continue to be a place where people can find the information and help they need.

God's blessings and grace to you both!

August '21 - insert