

CAUTION – When entering the church building, please use the ramp, not the front steps. The winter weather has damaged several of the steps and therefore they are not safe to walk on. Thank you.

The FUNERAL SERVICE for **Harold Hawkes** will be held on Sat., Feb. 28 at Zion church building. Visitation is at 12:00 and the service at 1:00. Condolences can be sent to the Hawkes Family at 301 7th St., Ship Bottom, NJ 08008.

A SPECIAL INVITATION from JoySea Smith –

I would like to invite you to celebrate The Rev. Wes Smith's 75th birthday on Sunday, March 1. Wes will be preaching at the 9:30 AM worship service, which will be followed by a brunch catered by Neptune Market. We would love for you to join us in celebrating this special milestone. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach me on my cell at 401-787-5439.

Warmly, JoySea Smith

The ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING was held on Sunday, Feb 15th following the 9:30 worship service. One of the main items at the meeting was the election of members to the congregation council. Elected to the new '26-'27-'28 year term were Karen Barrett, Brian Griswold and Jeanne Semon. These folk join the present council membership of Bob Durham, Dave Frisk, Gail Regan, Susan Scangarello and Rosemarie Unger. Outgoing member and president Lou Ann Preston was acknowledged by Susan Scangarello (past vice president and incoming president) for the 8 years she had served on the council, especially during this challenging time of a pastoral vacancy. Please remember the members of council in your prayers and provide words of encouragement and support to them.

THANK YOU to –

- To the bakers who provided there special treats for the coffee hour following the annual congregation meeting on Feb 15th.
- Joysea Smith for the refurbishing of the nativity scene figures which are displayed during the Advent and Christmas seasons in front of the altar table. The many years of their presence had shown its toil with nicks and missing features. Although we'll have to wait until Advent 2026 to be able to see the holy family, we thank Joysea now for her labor of love.

The US FLAG for the month is dedicated in memory of Ziggy Dunphey by her dearest friends.

The ZOOM BIBLE STUDY led by Glenn & Diane Burkland will continue a study of the Gospel of Matthew on Tuesdays from 10-11 AM. The central theme of the Bible Study during this Lenten Season is "Why did Jesus have to die?" In answer to this question, two metaphors will be studied to try to explain the "unexplainable" – *substitution* and *sacrifice*. The goal of the Bible Study is to explore Biblical texts to consider how they direct us to reflect on God, live our lives, express faith and set priorities. Contact the church for the Zoom link.

The LADIES GUILD will resume their monthly meetings on Sunday, March 15th in the Fellowship Hall following the 9:30 worship service. All ladies are welcome to become a part of the guild. Please note this date on your calendar.