

Grace-Filled **Community** | Inspired **Worship** | Transformational **Mission**

# CONNECT

JESUS TODAY

Science

Technology

Partisan Divide

Diversity

## JESUS TODAY

Following Jesus in the 21st century has unique challenges and emerging issues that we must reconcile and live in tension with. Given the rise in secularism, decline in membership and affiliation with organized religion in our country, as well as conflict within and among churches and faith groups, living out Christian faith can be just plain difficult. And yet, Jesus leads us to love and witness boldly through these challenges and not contribute to the noise.

### PREACHING SCHEDULE:

#### MAY 7: Science

Job 38:1-18 & John 1:1-18  
Rev. Chris Heckert

#### MAY 14: Technology

Psalms 8:3-6, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23,  
Matthew 22:34-40  
Rev. Chris Heckert

#### MAY 21: Partisan Divide

John 18:33-38a  
Rev. Chris Heckert

#### MAY 28: Diversity

Acts 2:1-21  
Rev. JiSun Yang

## SPOTLIGHT: Celebrating HUMC Kids



by Rachel Martin

Spring has sprung, flowers are growing, and so is our children's ministry! For two years, I've taught the 3rd-5th grade Sunday School Class with the help of my other creative and dedicated Sunday School teachers. Last year, we were lucky if we had two or three students each week. This year, our class has swelled to over ten students, many of whom come consistently every week!

What's even more exciting is that they've started to bring friends as well! At first, I thought it was just a fluke—maybe only my class has increased attendance, but Julie

Robertson, Director of HUMC Kids, confirmed that our Sunday Children's Programming is close to pre-pandemic numbers! From crafts, to games, to scripture readings—our children are connecting and making more friends in Christ at HUMC.

It's a blessing to see families with young children connecting in the Welcome Center or picking up their children from Sunday School and Children's Worship.

It seems like more families are choosing HUMC as their children's first spiritual home. Just a few Sundays ago, we had four baptisms during the Traditional service! We also were blessed recently with performances from both of our children's choirs—the Cherub Choir and Joyful Hearts!

With the weather warming up, you can find families connecting outside, watching their children play together on the playground.

### WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HUMC KIDS? CONTACT:

Julie Robertson | [jrobertson@haddonfieldumc.org](mailto:jrobertson@haddonfieldumc.org)

See page 5 for more ways families can connect through HUMC Kids!

### IN THIS EDITION:

Worship Schedule	p.2
What's Happening	p.2
Announcements	p.3
HUMC Kids Updates	p.5
Important Dates	p.5
Staff Transition	p.6
Mission	p.6
Pastor's Message	p.7
In Memory & In Honor	p.7



### IN-PERSON WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

**SATURDAYS**  
@ 5pm | Brown Chapel

**SUNDAYS**  
@ 8am | Brown Chapel  
@ 9am | Fellowship Hall  
@ 10:30am | The Sanctuary

### ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

**VIRTUAL MODERN SERVICE - ON DEMAND**  
@ 6pm | Every Saturday

**YouTube**  
[youtube.com/HaddonfieldUMC](https://youtube.com/HaddonfieldUMC)

**LIVE-STREAM WORSHIP**  
@ 9am & 10:30am | Every Sunday

**Facebook Live**  
[facebook.com/HaddonfieldUMC](https://facebook.com/HaddonfieldUMC)

**Worship by Phone**  
Call 856-213-2015 for audio-only

### CONNECT WITH US:

[www.haddonfieldumc.org](http://www.haddonfieldumc.org)

**Haddonfield UMC App**  
Download at Google Play or iTunes Stores

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HUMC

### Figuring Out Retirement Group Begins

HUMC is offering a group experience on "Figuring Out Retirement," affording the opportunity to discuss candidly the challenges and opportunities of life during retirement. The group will meet weekly on **Tuesday mornings from 9-10:30am beginning May 2**. The meetings will be facilitated by Harry Shallcross, PhD., a licensed clinical psychologist and ordained American Baptist minister, who is continuing to figure out his further life. Contact the church office at [office@haddonfieldumc.org](mailto:office@haddonfieldumc.org) for more information.

### United Women in Faith Luncheons

The United Women in Faith will hold a luncheon on **Thursday, May 4 at 11:45am** with Rev. Tom Lank sharing his work on immigration with "Justice For Our Neighbors." RSVP by May 1. On **Thursday, June 1**, there will be a salad buffet at 11:45am with Janet Giordano, Executive Director of the Cherry Hill Food Pantry. Bring your salad specialty to the luncheon, and RSVP by May 30. Call Ginny Dengler at 856-904-5563 to RSVP for both luncheons.

### Your Saving Grace Child Care Nights

Children are invited to join us for our final Your Saving Grace Child Care Nights of the program year on **Fridays, May 5 and June 2 from 6-9pm**. Under the supervision of our experienced child care team, children enjoy a kid-friendly dinner and fun with friends. The cost for the evening starts at \$20 for the first child. For pricing and reservations, contact Julie Robertson at [jrobertson@haddonfieldumc.org](mailto:jrobertson@haddonfieldumc.org).

### Steeple Club Luncheons

The May Steeple Club Luncheon will be held **Monday, May 8 at 12pm** and will be an "inside cookout" with Joan and John McCann speaking about the Dominican Republic. Lunch will be \$5, and reservations can be made by contacting Leslie Robinson at [lrobinson527@gmail.com](mailto:lrobinson527@gmail.com) by Friday, May 5. The June luncheon will be held on **Monday, June 12**.

### Mother's Day Flower Sale

The Floral Arts Guild will offer small flower arrangements as gifts for mothers, grandmothers, or anyone significant in your life on **Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14**. There will be something for people of every age to give. Floral gifts will be available in the Welcome Center and Sayre Pavilion after worship services. Proceeds help us to continue our ministry of decorating the church in appropriate ways year-round.

### Chancel Choir Summer Schedule

The Chancel Choir will have its final rehearsal of the program year on **Thursday, May 25**. The Chancel Choir will sing on Sundays in June and July, with an abbreviated rehearsal before worship at 10am. Shorter and simpler anthems will be featured in Traditional worship during those months. If you would like to try out Chancel Choir for a week or two, please contact Matt Smith at [msmith@haddonfieldumc.org](mailto:msmith@haddonfieldumc.org). New singers are not only encouraged to try us out, but also expected!

### Summer Sunday School

HUMC Kids Summer Sunday Programming begins on **Sunday, May 28**. Children age 3 through 5th Grade are invited to Summer Sunday School, offered at 9am as a hybrid, one-room class. Summer Children's Worship is hosted at 10:30am every Sunday. Visit our Kid-Check kiosk in the HUMECC entrance (across from the Welcome Center) to check-in. Email Julie Robertson at [jrobertson@haddonfieldumc.org](mailto:jrobertson@haddonfieldumc.org) to receive Zoom information.

## COMING SOON



### JUNE 2023 - THE PRACTICES OF PEACEMAKING

It is becoming easier and easier to share our opinions with fervor behind the safety of devices, social media accounts, and safe social bubbles. Yet, Jesus calls us to be peacemakers and bridge builders – letting your good works show before others so they will give glory to God. What does that look like – to make peace amidst the arguing, debating, unfriending, and fighting happening all around us? Following the life and teachings of Jesus can help us to change the story and even dispel some of the hatred, anger, and darkness we experience.

#### PREACHING SCHEDULE:

**JUNE 4: Ask Anything**  
Matthew 5:1-13, Rev. Chris Heckert

**JUNE 11: Listen Well**  
James 1:17-21, Rev. Chris Heckert

**JUNE 18: Disagree Freely**  
Matthew 7:1-5, 12, 24-27, Rev. Chris Heckert

**JUNE 25: Love Regardless**  
Matthew 5:38-48, Rev. JiSun Yang

## CHANCEL CHOIR CONCERT



Join the Chancel Choir of HUMC for a celebration of sacred music! The choir will sing through some of their favorite anthems from the past program year, as well as share some newer selections.

## SERVE DURING VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!



by Sharyn Bailey

VBS 2022 was a blast! Following the isolation of Covid, and with my youngest grandchild turning 14 years old, I longed to be around young children again in a church setting. Having been a member of the United Women in Faith at HUMC for many years, I felt comfortable contacting Julie to ask if I could volunteer. Her response was amazing!

I happily got to work with the pre-K children as a guide. They were adorable, and so excited about everything!

VBS has been a part of my life since childhood. The simple faith young children have has always amazed me! They see Jesus for who He is, a friend who is always there for them in good and bad times. Anything which I can do to help nurture that relationship with Him is a huge blessing to me!

By the way, my three oldest grandchildren all accepted Jesus in my car on the ride home from VBS! VBS matters!

 **Vacation Bible School is August 14-18. Willing to serve? Email: [jrobertson@haddonfieldumc.org](mailto:jrobertson@haddonfieldumc.org)**



### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

#### CHERRY HILL FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER DATES

Join the HUMC team for behind-the-scenes volunteering at the Cherry Hill Food Pantry. Help stock shelves, load clients cars, fill shopping carts, or get food ready for clients. Your help makes a difference to bring food security to our neighbors! Volunteers are needed:

- Tues., May 16 | 5-7:30pm
- Thurs., May 18 | 10am-1pm
- Tues., May 23 | 5-7:30pm
- Thurs., May 25 | 10am-1pm

Contact the church office at [office@haddonfieldumc.org](mailto:office@haddonfieldumc.org) if you are interested in helping on any of these dates!

#### ENVELOPES OF HOPE

Help care for our students as they prepare for their Give Kids The World Mission Trip! Take part in this mission by filling an Envelope of Hope with your gift. The colorful envelopes will be available in the Welcome Center **May 7-May 21**. Please specify "Student Mission Trip to GKTW" on your donation. You are also able to donate at [haddonfieldumc.org/give](http://haddonfieldumc.org/give) using the Envelopes of Hope fund.

#### NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER BREAKFAST

—  
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023  
8:30AM PROPERT CAFÉ

Contact  
[office@haddonfieldumc.org](mailto:office@haddonfieldumc.org) for  
ticket information





Row 1: Good Friday Seven Last Words Service, Foot Washing during the Experiential Service of Communion on Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday Parade. Row 2: Traditional Easter Worship, Palm Sunday Procession into worship, Modern Easter Worship. Row 3: Children wait for the start of the Easter Egg Hunt. Below: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Making space to experience God throughout Lent and Easter

Our HUMC Kids program held a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, providing space for families to interact and share fellowship. During Lent, we opened up Brown Chapel for weekly contemplative prayer services led by Pastor JiSun.

Holy Week started with the annual Palm Sunday parade and procession into worship, featuring a donkey and members of our HUMC Kids program. Proport Café hosted a moving Experiential Service of Communion on Maundy Thursday, followed by the traditional and beautiful Good Friday Community Service of the Seven Last Words.

The church buzzed with activity

on Holy Saturday as over 275 children and their families attended our Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Fair while the Floral Arts Guild and Chancel Choir prepared for Easter Sunday.

Over the course of six worship services, in-person and online, we welcomed 724 people in the building and almost 500 people online to celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection together!



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

On Palm Sunday, April 2, we welcomed our newest members during the 9am and 10:30am worship services. We warmly welcome the following new members and offer support as they continue on their Christian journey:

- Sharyn Bailey
- Maureen "Reeni" Mattson
- Nancy Masarek
- Hugh McStravick
- Kristen McStravick
- Becky Riether
- Matt Riether
- Heather Szychoski
- Jay Vincent



## YOUTH & FAMILY HAPPENINGS

### 5th Grade Game Night

This year's 5th Graders are invited to a 5th Grade Game Night on **Sunday, May 7 from 4:30-6:30pm** in the Youth Room! Children can join us for a fun night of table-top games and video games, food, and music while they learn more about the upcoming Student Ministries year and share what they are most looking forward to about graduating into a new program. This special evening will be hosted by our Student Ministries leaders and Child Care Team. To RSVP or for any questions, please contact Julie Robertson at [jrobertson@haddonfieldumc.org](mailto:jrobertson@haddonfieldumc.org).

### HUMC Kids Taco Night

Families with young children are invited to our HUMC Kids Taco Night on **Tuesday, May 16 from 5:30-7pm** in Proport Café. Enjoy a kid-friendly dinner, fun activities, and fellowship as a community. Children of all ages are welcome! To RSVP, please contact Julie Robertson at [jrobertson@haddonfieldumc.org](mailto:jrobertson@haddonfieldumc.org).

## RECOGNITION SUNDAY – JUNE 11

We will celebrate our 50 year members and graduates from 8th grade, high school, and college during worship on Sunday, June 11.

If you are a 50 year member this year, or if you missed a celebration of your 50 year membership a previous year, please contact the church office with your name and the starting year of your membership.

If you are or have a student graduating from 8th grade, high school, or college, please send the student's name, the name of the school from which they are graduating, the name of the school they are attending next year (if applicable), and a photograph.

Send information to [office@haddonfieldumc.org](mailto:office@haddonfieldumc.org) or call 856-429-0403 with questions.



## CONGRATULATIONS THIRD GRADERS!

Our third graders attended special classes on how to use the Bible and then were presented with Bibles by our pastors during worship on Sunday, March 5. Sixteen children completed two one-hour classes about the history of the Bible and how to use it with Julie Robertson and Pastor JiSun in February. Please pray for them as they continue to form their faith.



### IMPORTANT DATES:

- May 4 | National Day of Prayer & United Women in Faith Luncheon
- May 5 | Your Saving Grace
- May 7 | Tri-State Jazz Concert
- May 8 | Steeple Club Luncheon
- May 21 | Chancel Choir Concert
- May 22 | Church Council Meeting
- May 29 | Memorial Day (office and building closed)
- June 1 | United Women in Faith Luncheon
- June 2 | Your Saving Grace
- June 3 | AGO MasterClass
- June 4 | Confirmation & AGO Recital
- June 11 | Tri-State Jazz Concert
- June 12 | Steeple Club Luncheon
- June 19 | Juneteenth (office and building closed)

The American Guild of Organists presents

# NICOLE KELLER

on the Haddonfield UMC Sanctuary Organ

Two Events:  
MasterClass: Saturday, June 3 • 10 AM to 12 PM  
Organ Recital: Sunday, June 4 • 4 PM

# SMALL GROUPS & MISSION



## STAFF TRANSITION

In March, Haddonfield UMC bid farewell to Director of Student and Mission Ministries, Kristi Edmonds, who began her ministry with the church in August 2018. She writes:

"I am very humbled by all the love and support everyone has shown me the past couple of weeks. Thank you for the opportunity to be the Director of Student and Mission Ministries at HUMC the past five years. It has been a privilege to be in ministry with each of you. My time here has been meaningful and rewarding. I have experienced personal growth, deepened my faith, and developed friendships. I wish you all nothing but the best, and I will be back from time to time to say hello."

## MISSION MAKES A DIFFERENCE



### MISSION TRIP THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who supported February's mission trip in the Dominican Republic. Your love, prayers, and gifts are changing lives, raising hopes, and creating opportunities. Our Dominican friends send you their thanks and blessings.

Using your gifts, our team built homes for two families and helped the St. Andrew's UMC team build a third. Assistance was given to a fourth family working to build a home on their own. The team also gave school supplies to 170 children and took part in further building at the Community Center.



Cherry Hill Food Pantry

### THE CHERRY HILL FOOD PANTRY

HUMC is off to a great start, collecting 1,585 items for the Cherry Hill Food Pantry so far this year. Thank you everyone for your continued efforts to curb food insecurity in our community!

We are currently 24.4% of the way to meeting our 2023 goal of 6,500 items collected.

Continue to drop off non-perishable items in the breezeway of the church, located next to the parking lot anytime! Most needed donations include non-perishable, pancake mix, pancake syrup, laundry detergent, toilet tissue, and napkins.



## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Pictured above: the Mary Circle, one of the groups making up Haddonfield UMC's United Women in Faith, met in March for St. Patrick's Day treats and a Bible study on "Goodness," one of the Fruits of the Spirit.

Last year, the national organization United Methodist Women changed its name to United Women in Faith. Their mission is to "support ministry with and advocate for the oppressed and dispossessed with special attention to the needs of women, children, and youth; work to build a supportive community among women; and engage in activities that foster growth in the Christian faith, mission education, and Christian social involvement throughout the organization."

Haddonfield UMC has several active circles, meeting monthly. Our United Women in Faith also have regular luncheons with guest speakers and run service projects supporting our mission partners. Every September, they host the Thrifty Treasures Rummage Sale with proceeds benefiting mission work.

To learn more, contact **Andrea Mastro, President HUMC United Women in Faith**, at **609-827-4155** or **[amastro08043@gmail.com](mailto:amastro08043@gmail.com)**.

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

**"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." - Philippians 4:4**



Recently, looking through my phone for a picture, I saw photos of my girls from September and was blown away by how much younger they looked just seven months ago. In one school year, they have grown taller, matured, and have grown in their academics, social relationships, and even church participation. A lot can happen in one year!

The same goes for the program year in the life of the church – so much can happen and change. Thinking back to September, we really didn't know what to expect for our ministries in the first year without mask restrictions since the start of the pandemic.

This May/June I want to celebrate what God has done in the life of Haddonfield UMC over the past program year. We have emerged from prolonged uncertainty into

a vibrant new season where we are experiencing blessings and opportunities at every turn.

Just like looking at children's photos side by side in September and June, we can see the growth and development of our church thriving in the present and embracing the future.

Among the things we celebrate together this year:

- 57% growth in children's Sunday programming attendance
- 30 new members
- 46% increase in Trunk or Treat attendance
- 110.5% increase in Advent Workshop attendance
- Doubling of attendance of our NJ MasterChorale concerts
- 724 in-person Easter attendance with over 489 online (total over 1,200 in 2023, compared to 1,000 in-person attendance Easter 2019)
- Increase in preschool

enrollment with addition of full day kindergarten next year

Along with quantifiable successes, we have launched a new strategic plan that will help us build on this year's growth to more fully live into our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The three goals of this plan that will set the tone for our ministry efforts are:

- Ignite Passionate Faith
- Build Up the Next Generation of Faithful Leaders
- Respond to the Hurts and Needs Around Us

With all that has happened, and all that is in store at HUMC, we have much to celebrate!

Thank you for an amazing year of resurrection. Join me in praying for revival in the year to come.

Rev. Chris Heckert, Sr. Pastor

## GIFTS IN MEMORY AND IN HONOR

**Haddonfield UMC gratefully acknowledges donations.**

**In memory of:** Charles Legge from Susan Bien, Connie & Bob Dilks, Eloise Douglas, Audrey Frank, Haddonfield 65 Club, Carol & Ed Hann, Audrey & John Martin, Janice McNally, Harold & Veronica Rementer, Elaine & Ron Sandmeyer, Peggy & Dennis Van Name, Connie & Donald Windus

**In memory of:** Peter Ghares from Andria Balicki, Evelyn & Joe Hultz, Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Klein, Shirley & John Landgraf, Anyce & Mark Miles, Edye Mitchell, Pat & Phyllis Nobel, Marianne & Dave Petaccio, Pat Rafter, Darlene & John Sharpe, Ursula Tracy

**In memory of:** Dorothy Lanier from Connie & Bob Dilks, Amy & Bill McElwee

**In memory of:** Hal Schiffman from Lisa & Lee Price, Connie & Donald Windus

**In memory of:** Rev. Bob Smyth from Connie & Donald Windus

**In memory of:** Frank Bunker from Eloise Douglas

**In memory of:** John McGowens from Kathryn McGowens

**In memory of:** Pastor Grace T. Benson from William Hunter

**In memory of:** Sharon McGuckin from Mr. & Mrs. Frank Grasso

**In memory of:** Dinny Traver from Lynne Stockton Miller

**In memory of:** Harriett Fiore from Connie & Donald Windus

**In memory of:** Jere Estes from Audrey Frank

**For Handbell Refurbishing:**

**In honor of:** Ken Hall from Connie & Donald Windus

**In honor of:** Moriah Miller D'Amico from Kathy Miller

**For the Ronald P. & Elaine H. Sandmeyer Building Preservation Fund:**

**In honor of:** Ron Sandmeyer's 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday from Alice & Ronald Sandmeyer

**For the Friends of Music:**

**In memory of:** Phil Noll, Janet Norcross, Bob Smyth from Joan & Bob Shaffer

## CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMANDS!

Confirmation is Sunday, June 4!



Casey Birdwell



Tanner Bulvin



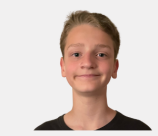
Jayla Cabrera



Ben Clark



Philip Fizur, Jr.



Reid Kolbe



Reed Rusc



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[www.haddonfieldumc.org](http://www.haddonfieldumc.org)



# Haddonfield UMC

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