



# The Messenger

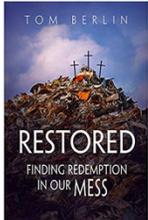
First United Methodist Church Newsletter  
446 Camden Avenue, Moorestown, NJ 08057  
856-235-0450, www.meetwithGod.com

Rev. Tom Korkuch, Pastor  
Kathy Clawges, Director of Youth  
Donna Banes, Co-Music Leader  
Doug Hamilton, Maintenance Coordinator

Rev. HeyYoung Horton, Associate Pastor  
Karen Murray, Director of Christian Education  
Norm Dorrell, Co-Music Leader  
Devika Gill, Director of First Light Learning Center

Join us for Worship - Saturday 5:30 pm, Sunday 8:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am  
Web: www.meetwithGod.com -or- Social media: @fumcmoorestown

SEPTEMBER 2019



## RESTORED: Finding Redemption in Our Mess

### Topical Bible Study by Tom Berlin

Six Wednesdays beginning September 18 at 7:00 PM in the Heritage Room

Often, we make a mess of our lives and wonder if there is any redemption. In this study, pastor and author Tom Berlin helps us see our mess through the eyes of Christ to find redemption and restoration. Using Scripture, devotional tools, and the writings of Ignatius of Loyola, John of the Cross, St. Augustine, John Wesley, Evelyn Underhill, and others, Berlin encourages reflection and meditation through our own brokenness. Only then can we focus on the cross as the place where we truly surrender control, leave our mess, and find redemption.

You're invited to join Pastor Tom for this faith-filled and refreshing time of study and fellowship!

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### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Rally Day & Welcome Back Dinner  
with Pie Squared Bake-Off!**  
Sunday, Sept. 8th, 4:00 p.m.  
See pg. 7 for all the details!

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### UMC UPDATE MEETING

Thank you to all who were able to come out in early August for the session hosted by our Pastors about the challenges and issues facing the UMC Denomination and member churches following the adoption of the Traditional Plan by the General Conference and the effects this will have on FUMC and other UMC Churches. We had a good discussion and lots of questions asked and answered, although there remain many questions that do not yet have answers. We will host further UMC Update sessions in the future as information becomes available. If you would like more information about the meeting, would like a copy of the handouts provided to attendees, or have more questions, please reach out to either of our Pastors, or to Lisa Kulp (trklkk@comcast.net) or Pattie Gritzan (pgritzan2@verizon.net).

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 2nd Labor Day - church office closed
- Sept. 4th Sing-Along at Avista -10:30am
- Sept. 5th Adult choir begins - 7:00pm
- Sept. 7th Church Leadership Conclave - 8:30am
- Sept. 8th Fall Sunday School session begins
- Sept. 8th Light Harbor at Avista - 2:30pm
- Sept. 8th Rally Day/Welcome Back Dinner - 4pm
- Sept. 8th Adult Handbells begins - 7:00-8:00pm
- Sept. 9th Church Council - 7:00pm
- Sept. 10th MCF & Choir begins - 5:00-6:30pm
- Sept. 12th My Abba's Hands - 7:00-9:00pm
- Sept. 13th My Abba's Hands - 9:00am-3:00pm
- Sept. 14th UMM breakfast - 7:30am
- Sept. 15th Youth Choir begins - 5:30-6:30pm
- Sept. 15-22 Host IHN
- Sept. 18th "Restored" bible study begins - 7:00pm
- Sept. 21st Eyes of Our Hearts breakfast - 7:00am
- Sept. 21st Youth at Six Flags
- Sept. 21st Adult Fellowship - Noon
- Sept. 22nd Parents' DIGG - 10:45am
- Sept. 24th LYRA concert - 7:00pm
- Sept. 24th Crafts for Good - 7:00pm
- Sept. 28-29 Christian Education weekend-all services
- Sept. 30th Blood Drive - 1:30-6:30pm



FROM  
PASTOR TOM

***“Philippians: Letter from a Roman Jail”***

*Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.* Philippians 4:1

The title of this month's article is taken from the kick-off sermon series I'm planning as we begin a new church year in September. It's also an allusion to Martin Luther King's classic "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" that was penned in 1963 as a defense of the strategy of non-violence as a way to combat racism and segregation in the United States. It was in this letter that Dr. King offered the famous words, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Paul's letter to the church in Philippi shares some similarities with Dr. King's letter - but one of its unique main emphases is a plea by the apostle to the congregation to be "one in Christ Jesus" even though differences and disagreements may occur among the members. Paul presents this idea in the prologue to the famous "Christ Hymn" in chapter 2:

*If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...*

These are important words for followers of Jesus to hear - regardless of whether they were spoken two thousand years ago or today - and this is especially true given the recent challenges that face our church and our denomination. It's important to understand that "unity" in Christ does not equate with "uniformity" in thought - or, as John Wesley once said:

*Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences.*

As disciples who are called to serve here at First Church, we likely share many ideas and thoughts that may not be in alignment with one another. This has always been true in the church - and yet, as Paul reminds us today, the goal is not perfect alignment or "uniformity" of thought. The goal is to come together as followers of Jesus despite disagreements or divergent viewpoints, having the same unifying mind in Christ so that the important work of mission and ministry may continue.

May we all heed Paul's words of encouragement and agree to disagree agreeably when it comes to "opinions." And may we focus on our commitment to "love alike" - not for our own selfish gain, but rather for the selfless goal of attaining the kingdom!

Peace!  
Pastor Tom

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**A THANK YOU  
FROM THE GIDEONS**

*The following is an excerpt from a thank you note sent to Pastor Tom from Robert Bowen, a representative of The Gideons, who spoke at our services August 11th.*

"I want to thank you for allowing me to give a stewardship report to your wonderfully warm and gracious congregations this morning. Thanks go to you and your congregations also for the outstanding offering received which will supply four thousand, three hundred sixty four Testaments for overseas and/or one thousand ninety one Hotel/Motel Bibles like the ones placed in the hotels/motels here in the Moorestown Camp Area this past Spring."



FROM THE DIRECTOR  
OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*"It's God's job to work in our children's hearts, but it is our job to make God's standards the standards of our own heart and then to walk by those standards...I hope and pray for myself as well as for you-that we come to treasure God's Word, His wisdom, and His ways so that we can go boldly before His throne for our children's good."  
(From Elizabeth George writer of "Woman After God's Own Heart" Daily Calendar- August 13th)*

When I read this today it reminded me that we (not just moms) have a responsibility to care for ourselves so we can care for our children and our families and not just our own but those in our community of faith. We are to continue to stay connected and to learn more and more from God's Word, from the wisdom that God imparts to others and then we are to incorporate those standards into our daily lives.

We know that children watch and learn from the adults in their life. They pick-up on just about everything they say and the actions they do. They will see what standards you live by and they will embrace them. That to me is a bit scary! Remember our actions do speak as loudly as our words. So what actions are you doing that the children in your life are picking up on? Are you reading and studying God's Word? Are you seeking God's wisdom and encouragement? Are you doing what Jesus would do?

Participating in Sunday School, Bible Study and Small Groups are ways to develop even further those standards which lead into the likeness of Christ. There are Sunday School classes for all ages. If you've not participated before and would like to join one, or if you would like to start a new group just let me know.

As the reading said, "It's God's job to work in our children's hearts but it's our job to make God's standards the standards of our own heart..."

~Peace,  
Pastor Karen Murray, DCE

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**Sunday School for All ages begins on September 8th**  
**Nursery Care available in Room E-101 during all Worship Services**

**9:30** - 2 year olds - Rm. E-102      3 year olds & 4 year olds - Rm. E-104      K's & 1st grade - Rm. E-202  
2nd grade & 3rd grade - Rm. F-104      4th, 5th & 6th grade - Rm.E-203      Jr. High (7th & 8th) - Rm. F-05  
Adults Class - Heritage Room

**11:00** - Kindergarten - 6th grade - Room F-105 (Staff is still needed - Curriculum provided)  
Adult Sermon Discussion Group - Rm. E-203  
(A few volunteers are still needed to assist with Sunday School at both hours.)

**Thursday Youth Group, Dinner & Choir Combo Begin September 12th for ages 5-5th grade!**

We begin with Dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 then Choir at 5:30 & Fellowship time from 6:00 to 6:30. This is a great opportunity for the children to make lasting friendships while experiencing, singing and learning about God. (Volunteers are always needed.)

**First Place 4 Health** - Begins September 20th at 9:00 am in the Heritage Room

**Prayer & Pilates** will resume on Wednesday, September 4th & Monday September 9th at 5:30.

**SEE The Bulletin Insert for the Start of Bible Studies and other learning opportunities.**

If you would like to volunteer in the Christian Education Department, please contact me at 856-222-1120 or via e-mail at [education@meetwithGod.com](mailto:education@meetwithGod.com).



MUSIC NOTES

As I sit writing this article, several things are running through my mind. First, the Back to School commercials have ramped up reminding everyone that summer is about over and school is about to begin. Second, an anthem we have done over the years started running through my head, "The Time for Singing has Come!!" My thought on this, YES, yes it has!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Not only singing, but ringing, youth groups, Sunday School; many of our programs are ready to start back up again!! It's exciting, I always loved the anticipation of starting a new school year, now it's the anticipation of starting a new choir and handbell season.

I have sung in choirs since I was five years old here at FUMC. Singing has always been a huge part of my life!! The friendships that developed and have grown into family, the music as a way to give back to God, all started here!! It is my sincere hope and prayer that if you love to sing, if your kids love to sing, if you have ever been a part of a choir at school or in the community that you will consider becoming a part of one of our musical groups. Encourage your kids to be a part of our choirs, it gives them a place to make new connections and share the love of God through music with not only those around them, but with our congregations. We embrace all who love to sing and would like to be a part of our music and fellowship!! Take heart- the time for singing has come!!!

The Time for Singing Has Come

by Natalie Sleeth

The time for singing has come, the time for singing has come,

The time for singing a joyful song to God, the Lord, has come!!

The time for praising is here, the time for praising is here,

The time for praising the Lord above with songs of love is here!

Blessed, blessed shall they be, all who praise with melody,

Let the chorus fill the air, God's great goodness, God's great goodness to declare!!

Let all before the Maker bow, the time for singing praise is NOW!!!!

Look for the start up schedule here in the Messenger (see page 5) or in the bulletin!! I hope to see you at one of our rehearsals!!

Musical Blessings!  
Donna Banes, Co-Music Leader

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Weddings:

Denise Krippel &  
Danny Borrero on  
August 16, 2019



THE RETURN OF  
LYRA IN CONCERT  
Tuesday, September 24th  
7:00 pm

Come and hear the exciting vocal ensemble from St. Petersburg, Russia. They will introduce the enormous musical heritage of the Russian Orthodox Church as well as traditions of Russian folk music. Whether you saw them when they were here last year and are excited to watch their new show, or missed the last concert and have a chance to be here this time, we know you will have a wonderful time!



Deaths:

John Byrne  
on July 24, 2019



# Choir Start Up Schedule

## **ADULT CHOIR** *Begins September 5<sup>th</sup>*

Rehearsals are **Thursdays 7:30-9:00 PM**. The Adult Choir sings a wide variety of music at the 11:00 am worship service, in addition to special concerts. If you loved singing in a school choir or community choir, join us!!

## **ADULT HANDBELL CHOIR** *Begins September 9<sup>th</sup>*

Rehearsals are **Mondays 7:00-8:00 p.m.** Adult Bells have participated in local handbell festivals and play regularly in church worship services

## **YOUTH CHOIR** *Begins September 15<sup>th</sup>*

The Youth Choir is for teens in 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Rehearsals are **Sundays 5:30-6:00 PM**. The Youth sing contemporary as well as traditional style music. We meet just before Youth Group. The Youth will sing at both the 9:30 & 11:00 AM services.

## **CHILDREN'S CHOIR** *Begins September 12<sup>th</sup>*

The Children's Choir is for ages 5 years old – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. This choir meets two different days. **Thursdays** with the CYF program, our rehearsal is **at 5:30PM**. On **Sunday**, we include our 3 & 4 year-old children and we meet in the Chapel **at 9:35 AM** as part of the Sunday School Program. The children's choir will sing the fourth Sunday of the month at our 9:30 & 11:00 AM services.



**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**  
**Monday, Sept. 30th**

The next Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Monday, September 30 from 1:30 to 6:30 in Fellowship Hall. Summer is always a slow season for blood collection, and your help is desperately needed to catch up with lagging supplies. Many potential donors don't realize that most medications and vaccinations do not interfere with your ability to give blood. In fact, many blood donors are survivors of serious illnesses or injuries and celebrate their triumph by helping someone else to heal. To make an appointment, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), stop by the table in the Narthex, or contact Jen Dunne at [jendunne1@gmail.com](mailto:jendunne1@gmail.com) or 856-979-6329. Thank you!

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**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**



On Sunday afternoon, **October 6**, we will hold our fifth annual Blessing of the Animals in our courtyard at **3:00 p.m.** You are invited to bring your dogs, cats, birds and other companion animals. Please bring with you bags or cans of pet food, which we'll collect and donate to the rescue groups that we support. We will start with a time of fellowship and refreshments for people and pets, followed by a brief service, including a personal blessing for each pet. Even if you have no pets of your own, you are welcome to join in the fun. From a spiritual standpoint, this worship service will provide an opportunity to celebrate our deep connection with creation and each other that our pets help enable. All pets will need to be on a leash or otherwise restrained. Questions: contact Margie Morgan at 856-764-1247 or [margmorgan75@gmail.com](mailto:margmorgan75@gmail.com).

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**A PGMC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONCERT**  
**Saturday, November 16**



The Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus (PGMC), featuring the select ensemble Brotherly Love, will perform a 60 minute concert in the sanctuary at 7:30 pm on Saturday, November 16th, 2019. Since its formation in 1981 the PGMC entertains audiences, supports communities, and fosters acceptance through exceptional musical performance. This choral community celebrates differences and inspires change with their broad repertoire of pop music, spirituals, sacred music, love ballads, comic pieces, Broadway and Hollywood tunes, opera, folk songs and current gay empowerment music. A free-will offering will be taken.

**TUESDAY AFTERNOON**  
**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

Adult Bible Study resumes on Tuesday September 10 from 2:00 until 3:30 PM in Room E204 and meets at this time weekly.

Our current study is "Harmony of the Gospels"; reading in parallel the life of Christ in all four Gospels. Our study is informal with open discussion. There is no set schedule. We take as much time for discussion as needed.

All are welcome. Please join us every week or whenever you can.

For questions contact Charlie Rudolph at 856-235-9206.

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**ADULT FELLOWSHIP**  
**BROWN BAG LUNCH**

Please join Adult Fellowship on Saturday September 21 at noon in Fellowship Hall for a brown bag lunch and an afternoon of socializing. Be prepared to talk about the future of Adult Fellowship and what you expect from it.

This is not a covered dish. Bring your own sandwich or whatever you prefer. Drinks will be supplied.

Adults of all ages are welcome

To let us know how many to expect, please call Carol or Charlie Rudolph at 856-235-9206 if you plan to come.

- 12:00 Meet and greet
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:30 Discussion and socializing



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Sunday, Sept. 8th**

FUMC Friends - please join us for our Rally Day/Welcome Back Dinner September 8th starting at 4pm! Get ready to be welcomed back from summer time fun with dinner in Fellowship Hall and games in the Courtyard! Join us as we celebrate the beginning of our fall programs at FUMC and enjoy a chance to catch up with your FUMC family and friends that you've missed over the summer!

This will not be any potluck dinner - remember how much fun we had at our Chili and Chocolate Cook-Off? This time we're planning a Pie Squared Bake-Off! Enter your pie, either sweet or savory (chicken pot pie, shepherds pie, tomato pie, etc.).

Enter your pie for a chance to win the sweet golden pie server or the savory golden pie server. Pies can be dropped off from 10:30am - 12 noon on Sunday Sept. 8. We will have another panel of expert judges ready to award prizes.

Tickets will be available ahead of time in the office or by emailing Lisa Kulp at [trklkk@comcast.net](mailto:trklkk@comcast.net) or Devika Gill at [devikagill@comcast.net](mailto:devikagill@comcast.net). Tickets will also be available at the door. Ticket prices will be \$15 for adults, \$10 for children (\$40 per family max). All proceeds will benefit the Education and Youth departments.

Bring us your best recipes, your family favorites, your tried and true recipes or a new creation - this promises to be a fun event!



**ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTION**

If you would like to use your mobile device to make an electronic donation to FUMC Moorestown, just scan this QR code and you'll be connected to our mobile giving page!



**MY ABBA'S HANDS**

My Abba's Hands will be meeting in Room F105 on Friday, Sept. 13th from 7-9pm and Saturday, Sept. 14th, 9am - 3pm. All who are interested are welcome! Questions? Contact Rae Caputo, 609-417-4444.

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**VOLUNTEER  
CHAPLAIN AIDES NEEDED**

Volunteer Chaplain Aides are needed at Virtua Memorial Hospital in Mount Holly. There are openings for trained lay visitors every day of the week. Following a training and orientation process, an Aide may donate two to four hours each week to visit patients.

The 16-hour Training Course will be offered in the conference center at the Virtua Memorial Hospital, 175 Madison Ave, Mount Holly, NJ Thursday, October 17, and Friday, October 18, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with continental breakfast at 7:30 a.m. If you want to find out if volunteering is for you before signing up for the course, please phone or email for an information package with details of the course and the process of volunteering in the hospital.

Please phone Chaplain Marge McGinley, 609-914-6365 or email [mmcginley@virtua.org](mailto:mmcginley@virtua.org).

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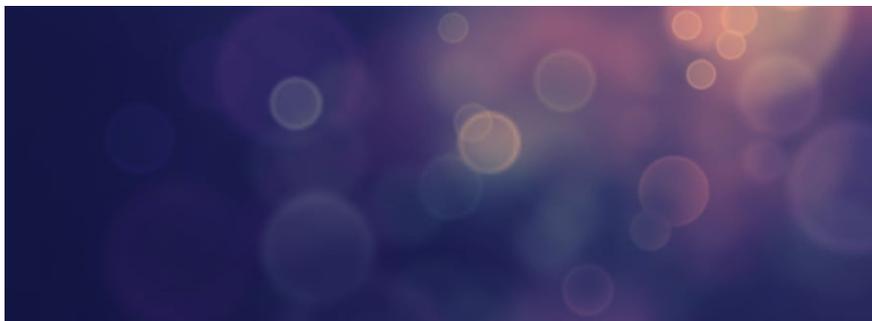
**ATTENTION CHURCH GROUPS**

As we begin the new program year, it's time to think about your committee or group meetings and to get your dates on the church calendar. If you have not already done so, please submit your meeting and program dates and times to [joan@meetwithGod.com](mailto:joan@meetwithGod.com) as soon as possible. Thank you!

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**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

*First United Methodist Church is a community of faith committed to sharing the love of Jesus Christ with a hurting world through words and actions.*



## September Youth News

First United Methodist Church  
Jr. & Sr. High Newsletter  
kclawges@gmail.com  
856-912-1148



### Youth Group Kick-Off

Sept. 8

**4pm - 7pm**

**Location: First UMC**

Church wide Rally Day & Pie Cook-off Dinner!

For more information contact: Kathy Clawges 856-912-1148, kclawges@gmail.com

### Youth Group is for grades 6th-12th.

---Jr. High meets Sunday nights 6pm-8pm in the Jr. High room - downstairs below Fellowship Hall

---Sr. High meets Sunday nights 6pm-8pm in the Sr. High room - downstairs below Fellowship Hall

## The Role of Youth in Today's Church

Investing in today's youth is necessary in growing the body of Christ. Teaching young people in the church to grow in their relationship with the Lord prepares them to serve Christ in all they do. As a result, this nurtures the congregation and allows the church to flourish.

Serving young people cannot only prepare them to become future leaders, but also allow them to contribute to the church. This is seen many times in the Bible, as God often used young people to do great things. For example, God used Timothy to pastor and lead the Ephesian church when he was a teenager. 1 Timothy 4:12 says, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

In addition, there is much to be learned from the faith of a child. Matthew 18:2-4 says, "He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.'" Because of God's heart for young people, it is important to recognize their value in today's church.

Youth need guidance and support as they navigate through the most challenging part of their development and seek to grow in their walk with Christ. Christ-like leaders are needed to serve young members of the congregation and help them to reach their full potential.

It is important for the truth of the gospel to be passed down from generation to generation in order to grow the body of Christ. Ultimately, helping youth to grow spiritually in their formative years will equip them to make an impact for Christ both now and in their future.

*Continued on next page*

**Youth News, continued**

YOUTH GROUP VOLUNTEERS - Do you like to spend time with teenagers? Do you find them interesting and fun to hang out with? Have you ever considered volunteering in Youth Ministry or facilitating a small group with teens? If you have answered yes to any of these questions, you just may be who we need. We're looking for volunteers to help out on Sunday nights for both Jr. High & Sr. High. For more information, please contact Kathy Clawges 856-912-1148 [kclawges@gmail.com](mailto:kclawges@gmail.com).



## IGNITE YOUTH CONFERENCE

October 4 - October 6

5pm - 12pm

LOCATION: Wildwood Convention Center

### THEME

Move Mountains | Matthew 17:20

If you had the faith of a mustard seed... you could move mountains. This was Jesus' call to his disciples.

Struggles are inevitable. Life's challenges can feel more like insurmountable obstacles. These mountains can hinder our progress. One can easily mistake Jesus' declaration that we have the ability to "Move Mountains" as an instruction that requires strength, action and motion. But moving mountains does not happen in our own strength! In order to move mountains, we must grow in faith. Growing in faith means cultivating the belief that God can do anything. When you believe this, nothing is impossible. Know that God is in the mountain moving business and wants our faith to supersede our doubts. It is out of a place of deep faith that we can move forward and journey courageously into the future.

LOCATION Wildwood Convention Center | 4501 Boardwalk, Wildwood, NJ 08260

**\*\*\*Total cost: \$150 per person -- \$50 DEPOSIT DUE BY SEPT 15TH |  
FINAL PAYMENT DUE SEPT 29TH**

### CONTACT

For questions, contact: Kathy Clawges 856-912-1148 | [kclawges@gmail.com](mailto:kclawges@gmail.com)

### CONNECT ON THE WEB

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

### CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

#IgniteGNJ19 #MoveMountains

/IGNITEGNJ

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