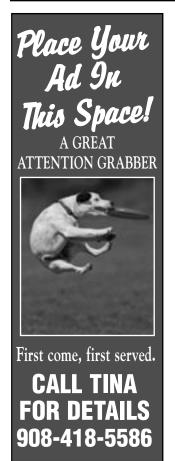
Watchung Watchung's Hometown Newspaper

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ISSUE 101 • MARCH 2021



U.S. POSTAGE BRIDGEPORT

ECRWSS

WATCHU **POSTAL**

****ECRWSSEDDM****

LIBRARY HAS PROJECTS FOR TEENS #BESAFEATHOME

at home with the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) From Page to Project segment on the Library System's YouTube channel.

The From Page to Project pre-recorded videos highlight activities and experiences for teens and tweens, all available and discoverable in the System's expansive nonfiction collection.

format that teens gravitate toward to promote nonfiction literacy, making it fun and accessible, even to reluctant readers," said Katie Salerno, youth services librarian. "These videos are just one way that Library staff is adapting to the virtual environment and continuing to encourage teens to explore books from SCLSNJ's nonfiction collections."

The first video features step-by-step instruction for learning to sketch for fashion design based on the book "Fashion Design Lookbook: More than 50 Creative Tips and Techniques for the Fashion-Forward Artist" by Blandine Lelarge, while the second shares insight into mindful meditation based off the book "Mindfulness and Meditation: Handling Life With a Calm and Focused Mind" by Whitney Stewart.

In addition to the current topics, the Library System is planning on uploading a new video every month including an upcoming cooking demonstration.

"In direct alignment with the S.A.F.E. Families initiative, SCLSNJ created the From Page to Project videos to engage SCLSNJ.org.

Teens, #BeSafeAtHome and discover projects you can do teens during virtual and hybrid learning," said Deadra Boardman, youth services librarian. "From Page to Project provides great content on various topics. We like to think of it as 'nonfiction is your oyster."

SCLSNJ's S.A.F.E. Families initiative supports students, parents and caregivers, and educators navigating the educational shift towards virtual and/or hybrid learning. Educators will be able to connect to librarian-curated virtual "Our From Page to Project videos utilize a YouTube learning resources, services, and programming easily and effectively.

> "One of SCLSNJ's strategic priorities involves exploring new ways to shape our spaces to meet community needs," said Meredith Hoyer, youth services supervisor. "In the current climate, this meant transitioning to virtual spaces as the primary venue for encouraging literacy and connecting customers with Library materials."

> Discover your next project with your Library staff: SCLSNJ.org/YouTube.

About Somerset County Library System of New Jersey

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) partners with you to connect, to explore, to share and to discover. Together we enrich lives, expand knowledge and strengthen communities. SCLSNJ branches can be found in Bridgewater, Bound Brook, Hillsborough, Manville, North Plainfield, Peapack & Gladstone, Rocky Hill at Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, Somerville, Warren Township, and Watchung. Additionally, there are two SCLSNJ reading stations in Branchburg and Washington Valley. Visit

LIBRARY TO PILOT DELIVERY SERVICES

Submitted by Tracy Carney

of residents are living with disabilities, and over 5 percent Library System's physical locations. of Somerset County households have no vehicles available. County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) is piloting borrowing systems for Library customers that live in qualifying situation.

In early 2021, SCLSNJ will begin to test the home the Library due to a housebound or other qualifying situation. During this trial phase, 25 customers will receive Library materials via the U. S. Postal Service (USPS).

In mid-2021, the home borrowing service will become more According to recent data, approximately 16.5 percent of widely available to qualifying individuals including those Somerset County residents are 65 years or older, 8 percent facing health, mobility, and transportation barriers to the

As 2021 closes, the initiative will extend to Somerset In order to better serve these populations, the Somerset County's community living centers, where SCLSNJ will partner with facility staff to coordinate pickup of materials at the nearest Library branch. Community living centers include community living centers and those in a housebound or other assisted living facilities, group homes, and senior housing complexes.

"We are looking forward to the expansion of both home and borrowing service for individuals unable to physically access community living borrower services planned for later this year," said Pascoe.

> For questions contact Pascoe: 908-458-4935 npascoe@sclibnj.org.



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Watchung Post

Watchung Post is published by Renna Media. 3,000 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and home in Watchung, NJ and the balance are distributed for free pick-up throughout town.

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BELOVED PASTOR RETIRES

Submitted by Nancy Scott

The congregation at Mary E. Wilson Union Memorial Church, located in Watchung, NJ, has bestowed the honorary title of Pastor Emerita upon their beloved senior pastor, Barbara Grace Peters.

The status of Pastor Emerita honors a former pastor for ministry marked by distinguished service. Reverend Peters retired on January 17, 2021 after devoting 25 years to the Wilson Church Family.

Reverend Peters was ordained in 1981 and began her ministry at Wilson in 1996 as a Bible Study Leader. Her role quickly expanded to Associate Pastor, then Senior Pastor upon the retirement of her mentor, Reverend Ron Miller.

While at Wilson, she introduced spiritual practices, contemplative prayer, centering prayer, and meditation. She was instrumental in organizing community and congregational projects and events.

Her final sermon was followed by an emotional zoom coffee hour where congregants gathered to offer their memories, thanks, and good wishes.

Reverend Michael Droege will assume the position of Acting Pastor for a period of one year.



(above) Reverend Barbara Grace Peters retired on January 17, 2021 after devoting 25 years to the Wilson Church Family.

PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos on recent events.

Organizations
who are interested
in submitting
content can
email
editor@rennamedia.com
or call 908-418-5586

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(above) Brian Shapiro shows off his Volvo Cross Country.

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CAR DONATION PROGRAM GIVES WHEELS TO REAL PEOPLE

What does it mean to have your own car? For longtime Community Access Unlimited (CAU) member Brian Shapiro, it means both stability and freedom. Before he had a car, Brian had to get a ride from a friend or take an Uber to his job driving a cab in Bloomfield. director, mpagan@Vehicle those that the director is the property of the community Access Unlimited (CAU) with the property of the community Access Unlimited (CAU) with the property of the community Access Unlimited (CAU) with the property of the community Access Unlimited (CAU) with the property of the community Access Unlimited (CAU) with the property of the community Access Unlimited (CAU) with the property of the community Access Unlimited (CAU) with the property of the community Access Unlimited (CAU) with the commun

"It's a lot easier," Brian said, thanks to the Volvo he received as a donation through Community Access Unlimited this fall. "I go to work and take my son places."

CAU started the vehicle donation program as a way to aid youth and individuals with disabilities who wished to complete their drivers test and gain the independence that comes with owning a vehicle. Now Brian can easily travel to the job he has had for nearly 20 years. Many have already benefited from the donation of reliable cars to get them where they need to go- from work and school to social functions.

"I've known about it for a while and it finally worked out," Brian said.

Unlike other car donation programs, CAU does not sell or scrap donated cars, receiving only a percentage of their value. By donating a vehicle to CAU, 100% of your donation will go to a person with transportation needs.

Those interested in donating a car should contact Mercedes Pagan, fundraising and event

director, at 908-354-3040 x4376 or mpagan@caunj.org.

Vehicles that may qualify for donation include those that are new, gently used, or vehicles needing minor body or mechanical work. The owner of the car must have the title at the time of donation. Car donors will receive a donation letter which can serve as a charitable donation, which is tax deductible.

Learn more about donating to or volunteering with CAU at caunj.org/support-us.

ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating its 40th year in 2019, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU gives a voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little power in society, assisting its members with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. Currently serving more than 5,000 individuals and families, CAU continues to grow each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, info@cauni.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.

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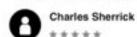


2019-20



Spring Grove is by far the best rehab center I have ever been to. The staff are kind and caring and have gone above and beyond my expectations. The building is kept extremely clean and the new renovations are very nice.

Thank you Spring Grove for a wonderful and pleasant stay.



I have been at Spring Grove for a few weeks now, they have exceptional service and excellent staff. All the nurses have been professional and attentive to all my needs. I never thought a rehab center can have such a beautiful layout and well put together. The newly renovated room I have stayed in, is up to date and extremely clean. The therapy staff have gone above my expectations with their expertise and getting me to where I am today. Alyssa the social worker has gone above and beyond with all her assignments.

Thank you Spring Grove.



The nursing staff and administration is professional, patient, attentive and understanding. The facilities are very clean and well maintained. My parents room is always clean and tidy. Although it was a difficult decision to make relocating my folks from a home environment to a senior living facility. Spring Grove made my decision easy.

Thank God for them!



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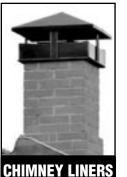
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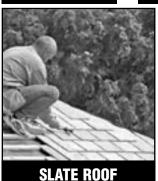




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(above) This picture, sent to Faith by Pedals for Progress, demonstrates how completely and creatively the recipients use their bikes.

BICYCLE COLLECTION FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Submitted by Larry Holt

In August 2020, Renna Media reported that Faith Lutheran Church collected and repaired 170 used bikes from residents of New Providence, Berkeley Heights and neighboring towns. The collection was conducted on behalf of Pedals for Progress, an organization which recycles bikes for persons in developing countries. Faith contributed \$1,700 toward the shipment of the

In the United States daily transportation occurs conveniently with little or no forethought. This is not the case in developing countries, where a village may not have one car. The mode of transportation for commuting to work, going to market and receiving medical care is frequently a pedal bike.

Later this year, Faith will again be asking persons to donate bikes for Faith to process through Pedals for Progress. A person may ask Faith to pick up the bike from his/her house or deliver the bike to Faith. If one wishes to donate a bike before the request, one may place the bike by the shed at the back of Faith's parking lot located at 524 South Street, New Providence, NJ. If you would like a bike picked up call 908-464-5177.

Since 2002 Faith has been participating in the Pedals for Progress program. For the past five years, Casey Walsh has chaired the ministry for Faith.

The pastor of Faith is Rev. Jane McCready. Visit online at famfaith.org, or reach by phone at 908-464-5177.





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represented to major pharmaceutical companies, such as Schering-Plough and Pfizer, in a consulting and educational role for his peers. Dr. Somma has been a clinical educator for Seton Hall's Physician Assistant Program as an Associate Professor of Medicine for their Internal Medicine program.

community and his outstanding service to the goals of the Foundation.

Dr. Somma has special interests in various fields of Internal Medicine, including diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases and arthritis/rheumatology. He has

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After graduating from medical school, Dr Somma served his internship in Internal Medicine at Trinitas Regional Medical Center. He then completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Seton Hall Post Graduate School of Medicine, where he was

Dr. Somma has been in practice in Union and Middlesex counties for over 20 years, with an emphasis on excellence and compassion for his patients. He has served as the physician for the Elizabeth Fire Department, the Board of Health of Hillside and has served the Board of Education for Woodbridge NJ. He was granted the Humanitarian of the Year Award by Trinitas Health Foundation in May 2014, for his dedication to the

WHRHS WINTER COLLEGE ATHLETIC SIGNINGS

Submitted by Denis Kelly

Two Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Student Athletes, Seniors Chad Martini of Warren Township and James Coslet of the Millington Section of Long Hill Township, announced their intentions to matriculate and play football next year.

The announcements were made on Thursday, February 4, at their high school's Media Center.

Martini, WHRHS Quarterback as well as WHRHS Basketball Team member, said he intends to attend and play for the Cornell University "Big Red," Ithaca, N.Y. He plans to study Economics.

Coslet, WHRHS Offensive and Defensive Lineman, said he intends to attend and play for



(above) Chad Martini, WHRHS Quarterback as well as WHRHS Basketball Team member, will attend and play for the Cornell University.

the Dartmouth College "Big Green," Hanover, N.H. He plans to study Political Science.

Both Martini and Coslet were among several WHRHS players who were named Captains of this year's WHRHS Football Team. Both schools, Cornell and Dartmouth, play in the Ivy League athletic conference, and are Division I Colleges.

Also attending the signing announcement ceremony were the player's parents, Chris and Christopher Martini and Jennifer and Jonathan Coelet

Earlier in the year, on Wednesday, November 11, there were six other WHRHS Student Athletes who signed to matriculate and play intercollegiate sports: Five at Division I colleges and one at Division II colleges.



(above) James Coslet, WHRHS Offensive and Defensive Lineman, said he intends to attend and play for the Dartmouth College.

Photos by WHRHS

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SCLSNJ'S MARCH VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

All programs listed are free. Registration is required unless indicated. Programs are subject to change. All programs are virtual unless otherwise indicated. Visit sclsnj.libnet.info/events.org for SCLSNJ's complete calendar of events. For questions contact SCLSNJ staff at ask@sclibnj.org.

PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

Music, Bubble, and Comedy Show

March 9, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4652088.

Meet the Author - Debbie Levy, Writing RBG:

March 10, 1-2 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4644913.

St. Patrick's Day Storytime With Miss Karen

March 17, 6-6:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4707028.

We Can Do It - American Women In History

March 18, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4651434.

Family Night - DIY Bird Nests

March 18, 7-7:45 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4686783.

Sensory Time - STEAM Edition

March 20, 10:30-11 a.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4702995.

A Virtual Visit With Louisa May Alcott -Performed by American Historical Theatre

March 25, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4553334

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, TWEENS, AND TEENS

A Virtual Escape Room - Leprechauns (ages 10 and up)

March 1-14,

For more: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4731066.

Caves - The Real Land Down Under (grades K-5)

March 2, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4708452.

Art Workshop - Creating Texture and Effects (grades 6-12)

March 3, 5-6:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4717977.

Spin, Pop, Boom (grades 2 and up)

March 4, 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4650066.



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Girl Power - Block-Based Coding (grades 4-8)

March 8, 5-6 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4718126.

Crafting Fun - Easy Paper Kite (grades 2 and up)

March 9, 3-3:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4672697.

Puppet Time (ages 2-5 and caregivers)

March 10, 10-10:25 a.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4689446.

High School 101 - Q&A (grades 7-8)

March 10, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4693631.

Artes y Manualidades (Kids Crafts) (grado 2-4) (grades 2-4)

March 13, 2-2:45 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4701828.

STEAM - Exploring and Constructing Tessellations (grades 1-4)

March 15, 4-4:45 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4697825.

National Panda Day (grades K-3)

March 16, 3:30-4 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4670327.

Greek Gods and DC Heroes (grades 9-12)

March 17, 5-6 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4702497.

Math Matters - Dragons Love Tacos (ages 3-6 and caregivers)

March 18, 11-11:30 a.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4707078.

Ukrainian Egg Design (grades 3 and up)

March 19, 4-4:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4707136.

Learning Lab - Crazy Chemistry (grades K-5)

March 19, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4686787.

Hour of Code - Undersea Arcade (grades 2-5)

March 22, 4-5 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4686785.

Calligraphy - Fun With Upper Case Letters (grades K-4)

March 24, 3-3:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4694146.

Let's Cook - Your Choice Green Smoothie (grades 3-5)

March 26, 4:30-5 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4708759.

STEP Up Social Hour - Navigating College and Career Resources (grades 9-12)

March 29, 4-5 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4704139.

Mystery at the Library - The Case of the Missing Author (grades 4-8)

March 31, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4697915.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Quilting Over the Centuries -Women's Life and History in America

March 1, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4570632.

Making Your Job Search Work For You - Presented by Paul Grzella

March 2, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4710916.

Amelia Earhart - The Power of One

March 2, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4516004.

New Jersey Women in World War II -Presented by Dr. Patricia Chappine

March 3, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4551443.

The Lowell Mill Girls - Organized Labor and the First Strikes in America

March 4, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4513364.

Disability Awareness Panel Discussion

March 8, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4723786.

Lydia Darragh Quaker Spy of the Revolution - Presented by Dr. Jack Briggs

March 9, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4515548.

Show And Share - An Event For Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

March 11, 2-3 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4711308.

Women at Work - Paterson Silk Strike of 1913, Presented by the American Labor Museum

March 11, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4624414.

Meet the Author - Kathy Peiss

March 16, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4531058.

Meet the Author - Stephen Puleo

March 17, 7-8 p.m.

Register now:: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4626775.

Meet Catherine the Great - A Woman of Her Time, Russian Czarina of the 18th Century

March 18, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4549056.

Becoming an Informed Investor - Presented by Investor Advocacy Project

March 19, 2-3 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4667646.

"The Fact That I Was a Girl..." - Willa Cather's Unconventional Life

March 22, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4564595.

Mental Wellness, It Is Easy If You Do It Smart -Hosted in Partnership with Somerset County Youth Services Commission (caregivers and educators)

March 24, 5-6:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4718473.

Meet the Author - Antonia Felix "The Unstoppable Ruth Bader Ginsburg American Icon:"

March 24, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4642381.

Apertura de una Empresa en Nueva Jersey

March 30, 3-4 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4710929.

Scent, Style, and Culture - Five Iconic Fragrances of the 20th Century

March 30, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4568379.

The Military Accomplishments of Major Alexander Hamilton

March 31, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4513462.

FAITH LUTHERAN, NOT A BUILDING, BUT PERSONS HELPING THOSE IN NEED

Submitted by Larry Holt

Since the surge of the pandemic in March 2020, Faith Lutheran in New Providence has again demonstrated that it is not a church building but a servant community. Because of the contagion of COVID 19, social ministry programs have not been able to occur physically. Nonetheless, the members of Faith have overcome obstacles and continued to conduct their ministries.

Managing this persistent and tenacious initiative is Faith's pastor, Rev. Jane McCready.

The following describes the ministries, adjustments that have been required and the names of Faith's members who lead the ministries.

ST. JOHN'S SOUP KITCHEN IN NEWARK

Since March 2020; members, co-workers and friends of Faith have prepared over 36,000 sandwiches for the homeless persons served by St. John's. The sandwiches, an average of 775 per week, are delivered by Faith each Thursday morning to St. John's. Included with this delivery are fresh fruit, baked goods, snacks and toiletries. Prior to the pandemic, on the second Saturday of every month, for the past thirty-six years, Faith has prepared and served a comprehensive hot meal to the clients of St. John's.

This ministry is led by Joanne and Mike Warin of New Providence and Désirée Bouchat of Springfield.

FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise is an organization of churches which hosts families and individuals who are temporarily homeless, with each church providing care for a week at a time. Faith has participated in this program about four times a year for the past three decades. The ministry changed dramatically with COVID 19. In place of hosting, Faith has made generous financial gifts, given three pre-owned cars, grocery store gift cards and clothing to Family Promise, for the people it serves.

This program is led by Kim Delatour of Berkeley Heights.

BROADWAY HOUSE FOR CONTINUING CARE

Broadway House for Continuing Care is a facility in Newark where about eighty persons suffering from HIV/AIDS live. The patients receive care from doctors, nurses, therapists and counselors. Twice a month, a small group from Faith have gone to Broadway House to do crafts and visit with the residents. In response to COVID 19, Broadway House was closed to visitors.

Wendy Naratil of Warren, the leader of the ministry, continues to send to each resident a 3D or music birthday card from Faith. Broadway House says Mrs. Naratil's card is often the only birthday greeting that a resident receives.

NEW PROVIDENCE FALL FOOD DRIVE

Each November, Faith partners with the New Providence Community Service Association (CSA) and the New Providence Cub and Boy Scouts to collect food for needy families. The food is donated to Star Fish Pantry in Plainfield and the CSA. A major part of the Drive is about 130 people gathering on a Saturday in November

to sort and pack the food. This collection of close working people could not occur in November to teach the children, Faith did not forget them.

Faith gave a check to Pastor Moacir of St

To substitute, members of Faith generously gave checks and gift cards to Starfish Pantry and CSA

The chairperson for Faith is Cheryl Bock of Summit.

CROP WALK TO STOP HUNGER

The CROP Walk to Stop Hunger is a three mile walk through New Providence on a fall Sunday afternoon by members of Faith and other local churches. The purpose of the Walk is to raise money to help eradicate hunger in the United States and around the world. The members of the churches walk as a group, with many carrying signs to publicize this social issue.

In the fall of 2020, a group walk of about 100 persons could not occur. Mike Warin of Faith and New Providence, the chairperson planned and managed a group walk. Participants could choose the time, route and length of their walks. The virtual walkers achieved \$3,120 in contributions toward the reduction of hunger.

SHARING TREE

Through this ministry, members of Faith buy Christmas gifts for persons who live in social agency homes or face economic stress. COVID 19 changed past procedures. While the Sharing Tree was virtual, the gifts for recipients were real. They could choose from a warm hat/scarf/gloves set or a cozy sweatshirt sized to fit.

The leader of the Sharing Tree ministry is Joanne Berryman of Madison.

KNIT, PURL AND PRAY GROUP

The members faced a new experience in 2020. They were unable to meet together and share fellowship while doing their knitting and crocheting. Nevertheless, the group, working individually at home, made 110 hats and scarves for St. John's Soup Kitchen, 337 baby hats for University Hospital in Newark, 60 hats and scarves for St. Stephen's Grace Church in Newark, whose members are largely immigrants, five prayer shawls and four comfort hearts.

The group is led by Theresa Adamson of Warren and Joyce Brandt of Sterling.

PREVIOUSLY OWNED BIKES

In August of 2020, Faith collected 170 used bikes, repaired them and arranged for their shipment to rural Thailand. The bikes are being used by persons to travel to work, go to market and receive medical care. The bikes were collected on behalf of Pedals for Progress, an organization that recycles bikes for persons in developing countries. Faith contributed \$1,700 for the shipment of the bikes.

Casey Walsh of Bridgewater is the leader of the ministry.

TUTORING IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

Once a month about fifteen members of Faith have been tutoring Guatemalan children in English and math at St. Stephan's Grace Church in the Ironbound section of Newark. The members work with adults as well who want to improve their English. At the end of the tutoring, the entire group always plays bingo.

March 2020 changed everything. While

members of Faith could no longer go to Newark to teach the children, Faith did not forget them. Faith gave a check to Pastor Moacir of St. Stephan's Grace to help the immigrant children and their families buy food. At Christmas, the tutors gave thirty-seven sweatshirts to the children and their fathers and money for food. The above mentioned, Knit, Purl and Pray group, made hats and scarf sets for the children and their fathers.

Kim Delatour of Berkeley Heights is the leader of the tutoring program.

Each Sunday morning, Faith's 10 a.m., liturgical service, led by Pastor Jane McCready, can be seen at:

facebook.com/FaithLutheranNewProvidence/l ive.

The two associate pastors of Faith are Rev. Robert Kriesat of Convent Station and Rev. Lucas Vaga of Millington.

Faith is located at 524 South Street in New Providence. Visit online at famfaith.org or reach by phone at 908-464-5177.



(above) Tony of St. John's Soup Kitchen and Rev. Jane McCready with delivery of 800 sandwiches and other items.

a worshiping and serving community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 524 South Street, New Providence, NJ 07974 908-464-5177 • family.faith@verizon.net www.famfaith.org • The Rev. Jane McCready, Pastor Online Weekly Worship Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Online Midweek Lenten Liturgy with Organ Recital to Follow Wednesdays at 12 noon February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24

Online Holy Week Worship 2021
• Passion/Palm Sunday, March 28 •

Festival Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

- Holy Thursday, April 1 •
 Special Liturgy at 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday, April 2 Special Liturgy at 7:00 p.m.
- Easter Celebration, April 4 •
 Lighting of the Paschal Candle Garden Liturgy at 7:00 a.m.
 Festival Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

All services are streamed on Facebook at Faith Lutheran, New Providence

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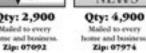


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receives about 4,000 calls and texts a year from individuals who are in crisis, need information about domestic violence, or want to access a S+SS service. The hotline is the first point of contact for S+SS services and information. Here is what you can expect if you decide to reach out to us.

AVAILABLE FOR ALL

First, you should know that your call or text is important to us, and our staff will work very hard to connect you with services and answer your questions.

If you are in crisis, a trained advocate will help assess your situation. If appropriate, an individualized safety plan will be created, and services available to help will be discussed. If the services we offer don't meet your specific needs, the advocate will work to provide you appropriate community resources and referrals.

If you are looking to access another S+SS service such as – counseling, legal advocacy, family advocacy, Financial Empowerment Center, and/or housing assistance – the hotline advocate taking your call will collect your information and submit a referral on your behalf.

If you have questions about domestic violence, DV services or community resources, we can provide you with referrals and information.

If you need someone to listen, we provide supportive listening.

Anyone can call our hotline. We talk with survivors of domestic violence, family members, friends, teens dealing with dating relationships, parents concerned about their teens, professionals and community partners with questions about domestic abuse or our services, and more.

If you are under 18 years of age, you can call the hotline confidentially. No parents will be notified if you call or text. However, if you want to explore using our other services, your parents will need to provide permission.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I CALL OR TEXT?

When you call the hotline, Hotline Advocates will answer, "Hi! How can I help you?" We do not identify that we are a domestic violence hotline to safeguard your safety and confidentiality.

The Hotline Advocate who answer the calls and texts 24 hours a day, 7 day a week are specially trained. They are kind and compassionate women (primarily) and men, who are committed to helping survivors of domestic abuse and their children become and remain safe.

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> We ensure complete confidentiality of all matters discussed, unless there are reports of child abuse or neglect, elder abuse or neglect, abuse or neglect of an individual with a disability, or suicidal or homicidal ideation. As with all adults in New Jersey, we are mandated reporters, meaning that we are required by law to report these cases to the appropriate authorities. Hotline staff inform callers of these confidentiality limitations at the beginning of the call for complete transparency and will also inform the caller if a report needs to be made.

> If you text the hotline, you will get an automated response from Safe+Sound Somerset, explaining that we are mandated reporters and asking to verify that it's safe to text. Once you reply "Yes," we will be able to communicate with you further.

> The advocate will then ask you a little bit about what's going on to make sure she/he is assisting you in the best way possible. Your immediate safety is our first concern, so we assess this first. We will discuss and create a safety plan with you. Based on the information provided, we discuss services and resources available to you and provide referrals to Safe+Sound Somerset and other Somerset County providers, depending on your unique circumstances.

> If you need someone to listen, our staff provides supportive listening to those who need to talk through their experiences or find a starting point for moving forward. Many of those who reach out to use need to be heard but are not yet ready to make any other changes. Calling or texting our hotline for the first time is a courageous first step!

> Always remember, our services are provided free of charge and in your primary/preferred language.

> So, now that you are familiar with Safe+Sound Somerset's 24/7 Call and Text Hotline, feel free to contact us any time at 866-685-1122. Find out more about our services at safe-sound.org.

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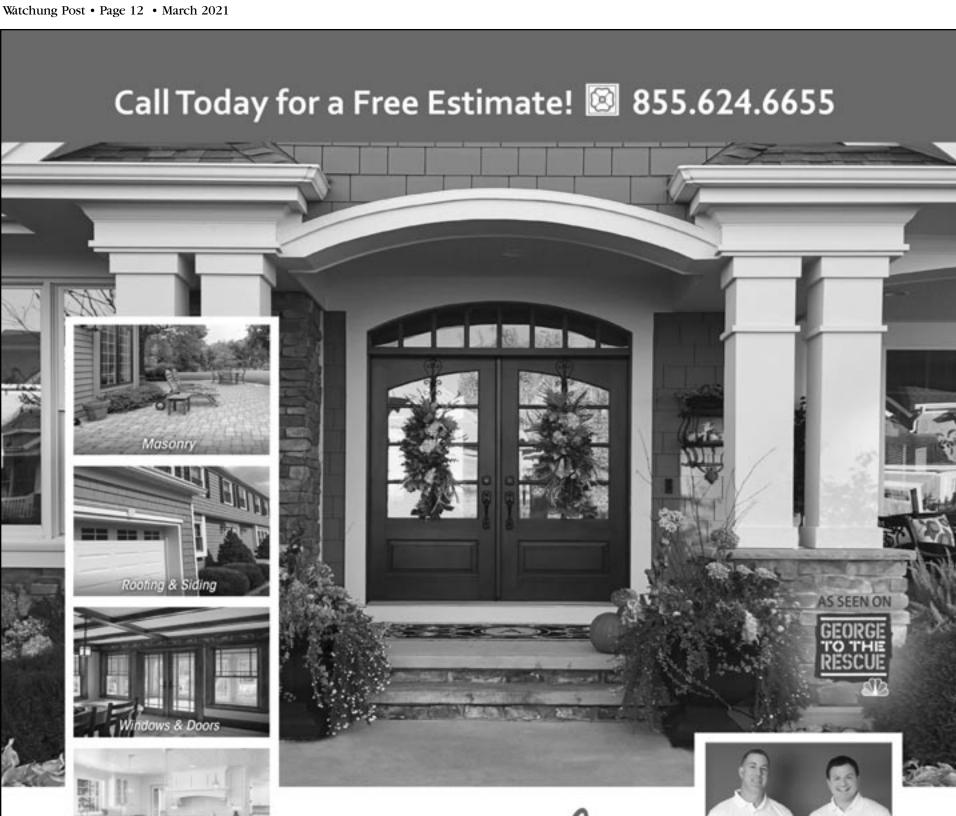
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