

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 8, 2026



From Woody: The first conversation I had with George McGovern in 1983 he said that he wasn't a pacifist. This surprised me because of his opposition to the Viet Nam War. He said he thought that World War II was a necessary war but that he hadn't believed any war since then was needed. I asked him why he had never brought it up in the 1972 campaign that he had flown 35 bombing missions over Europe. He was the pilot on a plane with, if I recall correctly, 7 men. He said that he hadn't done anything that so many others had done during that war and he didn't want to make a big deal of it. That represents the World War II generation and a sense of leadership that speaks to their greatness. He also was a quiet but sincere Christian who had grown up in a home where his Dad was a minister and George himself had been a student pastor after the war but decided he was better suited to politics.

I think that a sense of humility is something seemingly in short supply these days in our politics. The other day President Obama and his wife Michelle were portrayed as apes in a post on the current President's Truth Social. It was taken down after 12 hours or so, but no apology given for this racist post. I end with a great response to the post by the past President that is well worth pondering: "Leadership is measured not by the volume of your voice or the sharpness of your insults but by the lives you improve and the integrity you maintain while doing it." Thank you, President Obama.



Congratulations to our new officers: Session: Ellen Anderson and Carol Hauser; Trustee of Trust Funds: Craig Anderson; Trustees of Expenditures: Dan Flotten and Dana Robie



A Lenten Garden: Lent is a special time of reflection and prayer, in preparation for the events of Holy Week. This year we will honor this time with a "Lenten garden" in the front of the sanctuary. We ask that people bring in a special plant, **one that is** not in bloom (flowers come with Easter), that they are willing to share with the church for the weeks of Lent through Easter. You can bring plants in by February 22nd, the first Sunday of Lent, or anytime thereafter. We promise to water occasionally. Thanks in advance for any contributions. Any questions? Ask Ellen Anderson or Janet White. andersel@njms.rutgers.edu, cell 973-747-2321



Sewing class: Interested in learning basic sewing skills? Then please join Kristi Citak and Judy Hull on Saturday, February 28 and March 28, from 10am-12:00pm in the Dignard room. We would love to hear what you want to learn as well. Some of you may learn how to make dresses for our Dress a girl dress making. HOW exciting would that be. I will have a sign up in the hallway. See Kristi or Judy.



Lenten Pilgrimage: Ash Wednesday is February 18th. On Sunday, the 22nd at 3:00 Dawn Sweet will be providing a Lenten organ time of prayer and meditation. As we begin Lent, she is inviting us to take a “figurative” walk on the pilgrimage route “The Camino - Santiago de Compostela” across northern Spain. We will walk approximately 500 miles from St. Jean - Pied - de - Port” to the Cathedral of St. James in Santiago de Compostela. We will not need hiking boots, backpacks, walking sticks, etc. We will, however, need a desire to recognize what in our lives “clutter” our day-by-day living. May our prayer include the words of Psalm 51:10: “Create in me a clean heart willing.”



Dawn will play hymns and chorales that represent places and scenes along the “The Camino.” As she plays, we are invited to silently pray and ponder centering on why we need to go on this “long walk” and what decluttering we need to do. As pilgrims meet and greet, they exchange the phrase “Buen Camino” meaning good path, good way or good journey. So “Buen Camino.”



Peace Quote: Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country,...*President John F, Kennedy*



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