

**April 17, 2019**

**Words from the Pastor**

***Mission statement:***

***Grace United Methodist Church is a family of faith  
striving to share God's love with all people.***

Dear Church Family,

The Holy Week is an invitation to more praying, reflecting, examining, waiting, silence, and letting go. Holy Week is a time to let go of those things that hinder our progress as people made in the image of God. In that spirit, I offer up this prayer: *God of grace and glory, how we thank you for this Holy Week when we take time to draw closer to you, and be reminded of what you have done for us. Almighty God, you allowed your only Son to journey with his disciples to the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday) to share in The Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) and to have their feet washed by Jesus. Foot washing was an unusual activity for Jesus. On Good Friday your Son, Jesus, was crucified. Prior to his crucifixion he was betrayed, arrested, tried, denied, mocked, spat on, ridiculed, badly beaten, and required to carry his own cross on a blooded, sore back. Then on Easter Sunday morning we see your mighty hand at work in the resurrection of Jesus. May our experiences during this Holy Week embolden our faith and make us better disciples to transform our church, our homes, our workplaces, our schools, and the world. In the matchless name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.*

As we celebrate Easter let us get to a fuller understanding of the freedom we have in Christ Jesus. Our freedom was born out of pain, suffering and pure unadulterated love for us from our Creator. Let us grasp a deeper sense of our freedom and let go of limiting and binding thoughts so that any conditions, persons or circumstances can no longer have power over us. The spirit of God knows that we are greater than anything we have yet experienced or expressed. There is nothing that can erase or lessen the bright, glorious, wonderful Spirit that is in us. Let us be the people God created us to be.

Religious Education classes for Scouts continue on Thursday evening, May 2, 6:30PM-8PM in the Bert Keller Room. There will be no classes on April 18 or 25.

Confirmation class continues on April 16, at 6PM-7:30PM in the Bert Keller Room. Classes will continue through June, Confirmation Sunday is June

16th. Confirmands are required to attend the Holy Thursday and Good Friday Services as part of the confirmation classes.

You are invited to Holy Thursday Service on April 18, where we will serve Holy Communion. On Good Friday we will have two services. At the 2PM service some of our laity will share a brief message on the seven last words of Jesus from the cross. At 8PM it will be the Service of Tenebrae (“Darkness”). There will be two services on Easter Sunday morning one at 9AM and the second at 11AM. At the 9AM service our children and youth will participate.

Journeying towards Easter Sunday,  
*Pastor Nation*

**Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019.** Pastor Nation will be giving the Sermon; Kenneth Richardson is the Organist and Chancel Choir Director; *9AM Service:* Greeters are the Becker Family; Ushers are Jaxson Baptichon, Alanna Bolden, Ava Bolden, David Earl Boyd and Kelmani Sygapolho; Acolytes are Maxwell Charles and Miles Charles; Liturgist is Liz Lopez; Reader is Luke Lopez; Children’s Sermon will be given by Dylan Page. *11AM Service:* Coleen Murray is the Liturgist; Reader is Donna Hartmann; Ushers are Donna Hartmann, Carol Provenzano, Elias Tarquino, and Richard Tiedge; Counting Team members include Sonia Khan, Phil Osei-Boah, Ken Pearce, Yvonne Pearce and Marisa Pershad. There is no Coffee Hour this Sunday.

**Prayer List.** ♥Family of Vicki Pemberton’s Grandmother, ♥David Biegler, ♥Joan Bertie, ♥Debbielee Thomsen, ♥Cylene Brown (friend of Pearl Hamilton), Iris Molina, ♥Anne Mahoney, ♥Shirley Shivrattan-Dookhi, ♥Buddy Dookhi, ♥Marilyn Ike, ♥Fay Rose (mother of Nichole Robinson), ♥Everol Palmer (son of Enid Simpson), ♥Donna Lowe (daughter of Loretta Lewis Zimmer), ♥Rev. Barbara Melzer, ♥Evelyn Neber (friend of Elaine Treske), ♥Bill Hammen (brother of Edie Zipperlen), ♥Family of Excelencia Price-Edwards, ♥Carmelita and Charlie Seraphin (grandparents of Brianna and Jessica Knice), ♥Vincent Morrison, ♥Rondolph Ives (brother of Margo Morrison), ♥John Simpson. **Note.** Prayer List names will continue to be listed for two weeks. After that period of time, the names will be removed unless you call us with current information.

We are currently seeking a volunteer to become a **Church School teacher** beginning in September 2019. We use Sparkhouse Lectionary curriculum, which provides weekly lessons and scripture readings that are the same scriptures heard during worship service. If you love children and sharing the Word of God, this is a wonderful way to serve your church. We would love for you to visit a Church School classroom in the near future so you can see for yourself how

**Church School.** There were 35 students in Church School on Sunday, April 14th. There were four students in the Pre-K/Kindergarten class. There were four students in the First and Second grade class. There were six students in the Third and Fourth grade class. There were nine students in the Fifth and Sixth grade class. There were twelve students in the Youth class. This coming Sunday is Easter Sunday. It will be a Family Worship Sunday, with students staying with their families in church. The following Sunday, April 28th, will focus on Doubting Thomas, John 20:19-31. We look forward to working with your students. *Janet Stone, Church School Director*

We will be holding an Easter **Egg**stravaganza! on Saturday, April 20th, from 4PM-6PM here at Grace United Methodist Church ~ BKR/Gym. This event will include Egg Coloring, an Egg Hunt, Games and Activities with a Special Visitor - The Easter Bunny! Bring a dozen hard-boiled eggs for coloring. **All children MUST be accompanied by an adult.** Questions? Please speak with Deb Donaghy.

The **UMW** invites you to a luncheon on Saturday, May 4th, at 11:30AM in the Parrish Hall. As part of our Social Justice Ministry, the program will focus on youth incarceration. The issues that will be discussed are what brought them to prison, why do they come back, interventions, and advocacy to prevent incarceration. The program will be presented by Mr. William Tyson, Program Counselor - Youth Offender Program, Department of Correction. Come and learn more about this pressing social issue and how you can help prevent incarceration in your community and become an advocate for youth offenders. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. They will be available after church from Andrea Boyd and UMW members. Tickets will also be available at the church office (516/825-1182).

## April Calendar

Tuesday, 4/16 - Confirmation Class 6PM/BKR

**Thursday, 4/18 – Holy Thursday/Communion 8PM/Church**

**Friday, 4/19 – Good Friday 2PM/8PM**

**Sunday, 4/21 – EASTER 9AM/11AM**

Tuesday, 4/23 – No Confirmation Class

Thursday, 4/25 - Religious Education for Scouts 6:30PM/BKR

Saturday, 4/27 – Far Rockaway Mission 10AM/K

Sunday, 4/28 – Church Council after Church

Tuesday, 4/30 – Confirmation Class 6PM/BKR

Have a blessed week. Happy Easter.

Eileen

### *EASTER 2019*

**Altar Lilies have been given --**

**In loving memory of Pastor Robert Howard by the Howard Family.**

**In loving memory of Elizabeth Stone by Janet, Brian, Matthew and Thomas Stone.**

**In loving memory of Elena and Walter Smith by Janet, Brian, Matthew and Thomas Stone.**

**In loving memory of Loved Ones by Janet, Brian, Matthew and Thomas Stone.**

**In loving memory of Carole Kasuba by their loving family.**

**In loving memory of George Cowen by their loving family.**

**In loving memory of Bertha Cowen by their loving family.**

**In loving memory of my husband, Ned Mahoney, by Anne.**

**In loving memory of my son and daughter-in-law, David Carl Mahoney and Lydia Mahoney Buttafuoco, by Mom.**

**In loving memory of my parents, Amanda and Walter Hubbs, by Anne Mahoney.**

**In loving honor and memory of Loved Ones by the Panzarino Family.**

**In loving memory of Marion Kruger, Barbara Ehlinger, Florence Rothage, June Henderson and Bev Budde by a friend.**

**In loving memory of Ruby Walrond by Maudlyn Scarlett.**

**In loving memory of Irene Belsky and Irene and Thomas Robertson by Eileen and Sarah Robertson.**

**In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Keller and George Condelles by Sarah Robertson.**

**In loving memory of Ruby Walrond by Eileen and Sarah Robertson.**

**In loving memory of Gregory Ike by Marilyn and Brud Ike.**

**In loving memory of our parents Lillian and Nils Olsen by Marilyn and Brud Ike.**

**In loving memory of our parents Mary and Clarence Ike by Marilyn and Brud Ike.**

**In loving memory of our parents, Helen and Ludwig Kurz, by Lenore and Manny Kurz.**

**In loving memory of our parents, Jeannette and Gilbert McCormick, by Lenore and Manny Kurz.**

**In loving memory of our parents, Beatrice and Owen Honeyghan by Desmond and Pastor Nation.**

**In loving memory of our parents, Salvin and Authur Nation by Desmond and Pastor Nation.**

**In loving memory of Mrs. Geraldine Buggs by Desmond and Pastor Nation.**

**In loving honor of Family and Friends by Desmond and Pastor Nation.**

**In loving memory of Jane and William Heim by Nancy and Alan Davis.**

**In loving memory of Alma and Russell Davis by Nancy and Alan Davis.**

**In loving memory of my brothers David and Daniel Nelson Jr. by Enid Simpson.**

**In loving memory of my sister Olive Hutchinson by Enid Simpson.**

**In loving memory of my parents Rebecca and Daniel Nelson by Enid Simpson.**

**In loving memory of my deceased Sisters, Brothers, Mother and Father by Pearl Hamilton.**

**In loving memory of our parents, siblings and other family members by Margo and Vincent Morrison.**

**In loving honor of our children and grandchildren by Margo and Vincent Morrison.**

**In loving memory of Loved Ones by the Hartmann Family.**

**In loving honor of Loved Ones by the Hartmann Family.**

**In loving memory of our parents by Marianne and Don Pike.**

**In loving memory and honor of our Loved Ones by Marianne and Don Pike.**

**In loving honor of Shirley Shivrattan-Dookhi by Maudlyn Scarlett.**

**In loving honor of Debbielee Thomsen by Maudlyn Scarlett.**