

**February 25, 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,

As you read this article there are hundreds of United Methodists – clergy and laity - meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. They are gathered there for General Conference 2019 (GC2019). The purpose of GC2019 is to receive and act on a report from the Commission on the Way Forward based on recommendation of the Council of Bishops (COB). The Commission on a way forward was created in 2016 to do a complete examination and possible revision of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality.

The Council of Bishops has presented three plans to GC2019 for consideration: The One Church Plan, The Connectional Conference Plan, and The Traditionalist Plan. The COB has recommended The One Church Plan for consideration at the GC2019. The Council of Bishops believes The One Church Plan is the best plan for a “Way Forward” for The United Methodist Church on human sexuality and maintaining unity. You can find more information at [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org). Go to “Who We Are” and select “General Conference 2019.

The Alpha group met on February 23, at the NYAC (conference room). We had a glorious day of fellowship, activities, learning, food and fun.

The weekday Bible Study on Mary - the mother of Jesus will continue on February 26th at 11AM-Noon in the Bert Keller Room. Please come, share and learn with us. If you have any question, please call me at 646/483-1221.

Confirmation class begins on February 26, at 6PM–7:30PM in the Bert Keller Room. Children 12 and older are invited to participate in confirmation class. The families of six children have signed up to participate in the 2019 confirmation class. If you have any questions, please call me at 646/483-1221.

To help us learn more about God, ourselves, others, and prepare for the worship service on Sunday, March 23, please read the following scriptures: Exodus 34:29-

35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; and Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a). At least two of these scriptures will be read during our service and will be the focus of the message.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on March 6th. On this day we begin the Season of Lent. There will be an Ash Wednesday Service at 8PM. On the five Wednesday evenings following Ash Wednesday we will have Bible Study at 7PM–8PM and Lenten Service at 8PM. Please plan to attend these services and Bible study.

Journeying with you towards Lent,  
*Pastor Nation*

**Sunday, March 3, 2019.** Pastor Nation will be giving the Sermon; Kenneth Richardson is the Organist and Chancel Choir Director; Flowers are given in loving honor of Bev Budde (the Ides of March - Bev would be loving springtime coming) from Debbielee Thomsen; Reader is Ekow Eshun; Liturgist is Pat Eshun; Ushers are Everett Fitch, Brian Lynch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano, and Richard Tiedge; Counting Team members include Bill Hartmann, Jennifer Morton, Eleanor Phillip, Savi Thomas and Karen Vetter.

**Prayer List.** ♥Iris Molina, ♥Anne Mahoney, ♥Marianne Pike, ♥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), ♥Joan Bertie, ♥Rev. Barbara Melzer, ♥Evelyn Neber (friend of Elaine Treske), ♥Bill Hammen (brother of Edie Zipperlen), ♥Wilfredo Ortiz (brother of Frances Ortiz), ♥Gisela Nunez (friend of Naomi Brown), ♥Nadia Gay (aunt of Renée and Marlon Polycarpe), ♥Rose Ramsaran (mother of Savi Thomas), ♥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.

**Church Offering Envelopes.** If you have not picked up your Church Offering Envelopes, they have been moved to the Bert Keller Room. Those that are left after the month of March will be eliminated next year. **Your envelope number will remain and will need to be put on either a check or an envelope with your name and number. This will allow us to update your Record of Contributions.** If you

are unable to attend church and would like them mailed to you, please contact Eileen in the Church Office. Thank you.

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED.** We are looking for two volunteers who would be willing to work on Monday's and Thursday's from 10AM-3PM in our Thrift Shop. Our Thrift Shop is not only a service to the community, but a ministry for our Church. Please either speak with Jean Biegler or Eileen in the Church Office. Thank you.

**GIVE BLOOD, GIVE LIFE.** March 20, 2019, from 2:30PM to 8:30PM in the Education building gym, we will be hosting our Spring Blood drive. Please keep the date open and available to give of yourself, just as Jesus has given life to us, we can give life to others. To make our spring drive a success, we are looking for 5 drive captains to make schedules and about 15 phone calls. Contact Bob DiSalvo (516/318-9106) to volunteer to help, even if you cannot donate, you can still make a difference by volunteering to get involved. Thank you and God bless you.

**REMINDER.** If you put the heat up in the room you are using, please remember to put it back down before your leave. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Church School.** There were 17 students in Church School on Sunday, February 24th. There were two students in the Pre-K/Kindergarten class. There were two students in the First and Second grade class. There were four students in the Third and Fourth grade class. There were five students in the Fifth and Sixth grade class. There were four students in the Youth class. This coming Sunday, March 3rd, our lessons will be on The Transfiguration, Luke 9:28-36. We look forward to working with your students.

*Janet Stone, Church School Director*

"I would like to share **Alpha Program** from my eyes as Evangelism Co-Chair – Andrea Owen-Boyd. To God be the glory, I was one of 9 participants in the Alpha program. It was truly an opportunity to know more about who we are as sons and daughters of God. For me it was a reinforcement of what I was learning in Bible Study in live and living color. It was also a reinforcement of the preached words in a little more intimate setting of our weekly coffee hour after Sunday worship. Yet, it was more, the small group made it more personal. The beautiful thing about it was that the program included us watching videos and hearing many, many people of all walks of life profess their faith and how they came to know Jesus, the challenges faced on the journey and The Good News it has been to them when they found Christ. The Alpha gathering included us bringing food each week, sharing our faith experience and sharing who we are as individuals. The program concluded with us having a free spirited retreat at the home of the NY Annual Conference center. We worshiped, learned more about our Annual Conference and had a delicious lunch prepared by us all. It was heartwarming to hear participants asking Pastor Nation if there was a Part 2 of Alpha. Yes, the Alpha Program has been another opportunity to better equip us for our Christian walk, talk and life as we spread the Good News. Trusting that you join in on the next program, *Andrea Owen-Boyd.*"

### **February Calendar**

Wednesday, 2/27 – SPPR Committee 7:30PM/BKR

Have a wonderful week.

Eileen