

January 10, 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,

We wish your new year is off to a positive start. We pray that you have included God in your plans and life for 2019. William Gladstone, once Prime Minister of Great Britain, said, "It is a dangerous thing for a young man to start out life without the thought of God." I believe that it is a dangerous thing for anyone to start the New Year without giving honor and glory to God for the blessings and challenges of 2018. It is an even more dangerous thing to go into the New Year without asking for God's guidance and protection.

We all need help to live our best life in 2019. God had provided avenues for us to come together to encourage one another and to draw closer to him. The church is one of the avenues. Church is an institution, an organization and the people. The first mention of the church is in Matthew 16:18, "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." (The Message Bible).

The church belongs to Jesus, and He takes full responsibility for building, protecting, and Empowering it. The church is not a man-made project but a divine endeavor that cannot fail because the omnipotent Son of God is in charge. For this reason, God's universal church will continue.

The church's task is to proclaim the excellences of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). As a church we not only exalt and worship God together, but as those who have received mercy, we have been entrusted with the gospel that can save those trapped in the darkness of sin. People need to hear about God's love and Christ's sacrifice on their behalf. As the church we have the privilege of telling them that forgiveness is possible for all who will repent of sin and trust in Christ as Savior and Lord.

As we journey in 2019 as a church, let us ask ourselves, "How can we be more effective in doing the task of the church: proclaim the excellences of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light?"

On Tuesday, January 8, at 7PM pm we will meet in the Bert Keller Room in the Education Building to continue the Alpha course. Those who are participating in Alpha are richly enlightened with God's Word, grace and mercy. There are four remaining sessions.

To help us learn more about God, ourselves, and prepare for the worship service on the Baptism of the Lord Sunday, please read the following scriptures: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:4-17; and Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22. At least two of these scriptures will be read during our service and will be the focus of the message.

Journeying with you towards Lent,

Pastor Nation

Sunday, January 13, 2019. Pastor Nation will be giving the Sermon; Kenneth Richardson is the Organist and Chancel Choir Director; Liturgist is Coleen Murray; Reader is Michele Charles; Ushers are Earl Boyd, Pat McKnight, Carol Provenzano, and Richard Tiedge; Counting Team members include Pamela Applewhaite, Al Greifenberger, Fazile Remy and Debbie Nicosia.

Prayer List. ♥Family of Olive Hutchinson (sister of Enid Simpson), ♥Anne Mahoney, ♥Marianne Pike, ♥Shirley Shivrattan-Dookhi, ♥Buddy Dookhi, ♥Family of Carol D'Amico (grandmother of Lisa Becker), ♥Marilyn Ike, ♥Monica Godinho, ♥Fay Rose (mother of Nichole Robinson), ♥Everol Palmer (son of Enid Simpson), ♥Donna Lowe (daughter of Loretta Lewis Zimmer), ♥Linda Molina (sister of Iris Molina), ♥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.

Grace Methodist Nursery School. Registration for programs at Grace Methodist Nursery School is now available for eligible children of members of Grace United Methodist Church. Please contact the Nursery School office at 516/825-2354 to obtain a registration packet or arrange a tour.

What Is Alpha? Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone is welcome. You Are Invited - Tuesday, 1/8/19 (7PM)/BKR West Fairview Entrance.

Church Offering Envelopes. Our envelopes have arrived. They are available in the Narthex.

Church School. Nineteen students were in attendance at Church School on January 6th. There were two students present in the PreK/Kindergarten. There were three students present in the First and Second grade class. There were three students in the Third and Fourth grade class. There were four students in the Fifth and Sixth grade class. The Youth class had seven students present. Next week our lesson will be Jesus' Baptism - Luke 3:15-17, 21-22. We look forward to working with your student!
Janet Stone, Church School Director

Evangelism Committee. We are happy to announce that our Evangelism Committee met for our first meeting of 2019. We welcomed Patricia Eshun who was present as our current Lay Leader. We also welcomed back all of our existing members Frances Ortiz, Maudlyn Scarlett, Pearl Hamilton, Dr. Simon Nzuzi, Tonia Ukanwoke, Yvonne Basnight and Valda Facey. We were very excited to welcome Barbara Woodford, Dorrell DaCosta, and Mahala Holness-Brooks as our newest members to the team. They have recently joined our congregation and have blessed us by being a part of the Alpha Program. It is also great that seven of us on the committee including three of the newer members have participated in the trip to Sight and Sound in Pennsylvania on October 20th last year. We saw the

show “Jesus”. Pastor Nation was present to guide us and participate in the meeting. We became busy planning for our 4th Annual Prayer Breakfast. We look forward to your presence.

Volunteers Wanted



HELP 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 Yvonne Basnight or Eileen in the Church Office. Thank you.

January Calendar 2019

Tuesday, 1/8 – Alpha Meeting 7PM/BKR

Wednesday, 1/9 – Board of Trustees/Finance/Stewardship - 7PM/Counting Room

Sunday, 1/13 – UMW after Church/UL

Sunday, 1/20 – No Church School

Sunday, 1/20 – Martin Luther King Prayer Service 5:30PM/Islamic Center of the South Shore

Sunday, 1/20 – Ecumenical Service 6PM/St. John's UMC of Elmont

Saturday, 1/26 – 4th Annual Prayer Breakfast 9:30AM-11:30AM/BKR

Grace United Methodist Church

Fourth Annual Prayer Breakfast



YOU are invited

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,
that we may obtain **Mercy**
and find **Grace** to help in time of need.
(Hebrews 4 vs 16 NKJV)



Saturday, January 26, 2019

9AM - 11:30AM

Church Gym

Tickets are \$15 per person

For additional information
contact Andrea Owen-Boyd at 347/229-6633
or call the Church Office at 516/825-1182

Reverend Gertude V. Nation, Pastor
21 South Franklin Avenue, Valley Stream, NY 11580
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Have a great week!



Eileen

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10AM Worship Service; 10AM Sunday School