

March 12, 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 we reflect on the people and happenings in our churches, we are reminded that there are no perfect churches because there are no perfect people. Although many churches are having problems, we should never use this as an excuse for giving up on the church or settling for mediocrity and dysfunction. Remember that God has not left us to solve our problems on our own but has given us guidance in His Word. The best example in Scripture of a church rife with problems is the one at Corinth. The book of 1 Corinthians is Paul's response, and answers he gives are still relevant to churches today.

The season of Lent can be a good time to look deeply within ourselves in order to understand the dark realities that beset us. Among our realities are our fears, including our fear of the many uncertainties over which we have no control. It is in the face of human fears that human hopes seem most necessary. That an undeniable link between hope and fear should exist has been given poetic rendering in William Cowper's adage, "He has no hope who never had a fear." During this season of Lent let us work to become more like Jesus individually to enhance our corporate life together.

On Saturday, March 16, all clergy and some laity will gather with Bishop Bickerton at Purchase University. Our Bishop will provide more clarity and information on the results of the Special General conference. Our Bishop reminds us to listen deeply to one another and to work hard to model a spirit of Christian love. What will enable us to do this are words from the prophet Isaiah: "You and I are created, formed, redeemed, and known by our creator God. We are not abandoned when times are difficult. Rather, God is with us, all of us, because we are precious in the sight of God, honored and loved" (Isaiah 43:1-2).

You are invited to come to the weekday Bible study on Mary -the mother of Jesus- on March 13th at 11AM- Noon in the Bert Keller Room. Please come, share and learn with us. If you have any questions, please call me at 646/483-1221.

Confirmation class continues on March 12, at 6PM–7PM in the Bert Keller Room. Children 12 and older are invited to participate in confirmation class. There are seven participants in confirmation. Classes will continue through June. Confirmation Sunday is June 16th. 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 10, please read the following scriptures: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; and Luke 4:1-13. At least two of these scriptures will be read during our service and will be the focus of the message.

Please come to Bible Study at 7PM-8PM and the Lenten Service at 8PM on Wednesday evenings, March 13, 20, and 27. We will study the book of Romans. The services will be led by laity.

Journeying with you towards Lent,
Pastor Nation

Sunday, March 17, 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 – your eyes are showing green – from all your friends; Liturgist is Lenore Kurz; Reader is David Dorsey; 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.

Prayer List. ♥Herb Biegler, ♥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), ♥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 DESPERATELY NEEDED. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to complete our Counting Teams. You would meet once every six weeks for approximately one-half hour. If you can count money you are qualified! Ask one of your church friends, your husband or wife to join you and help out your Church. If you need any further information, please contact Eileen in the Church Office either at 516/825-1182 or GraceVSNY@aol.com. 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.

DON'T FORGET!!! The **6th Annual Evangelism Outreach Service** is happening on Saturday, March 23, 2019 from 9:30AM to 12 Noon. The program is about "Spending Time with Mary, Mother of Jesus". There will be music, singing, scripture readings, and prayers. Please join us on Saturday. The service is free!

March Calendar

Tuesday, 3/12 – Confirmation Class 6PM/BKR
Wednesday, 3/13 – Bible Study/Mary 11AM/BKR
Wednesday, 3/13 – Board of Trustees 7PM/BKR
Wednesday, 3/13 – Lenten Bible Study 7PM/Chapel
Wednesday, 3/13 – Troop 109 7:30PM/G

Wednesday, 3/13 – Lenten Service 8PM

Sunday, 3/17 – HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Tuesday, 3/19 - Confirmation Class 6PM/BKR

Wednesday, 3/20 - Bible Study/Mary 11AM/BKR

Wednesday, 3/20 – Spring Blood Drive 2:30PM/G

Wednesday, 3/20 – Lenten Bible Study 7PM/Chapel

Wednesday, 3/20 – Lenten Service 8PM

Saturday, 3/23 – Evangelism Outreach Program 9AM

Tuesday, 3/26 – Confirmation Class 6PM/BKR

Wednesday, 3/27 – Bible Study/Mary 11AM/BKR

Wednesday, 3/27 – Lenten Bible Study 7PM/Chapel

Wednesday, 3/27 – Lenten Service 8PM

Have a great week!

Eileen