

March 19, 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 journey through the season of Lent, let us take time to think about the hard things of life. Lent is a time to see us as the people who contributed to Jesus' pain, as the ones for whose sins Jesus died. Lent is also a time to redouble our determination to leave our sins behind and stay in step with the Spirit as a response to the wonderful grace of Jesus.

During this season of Lent, let us fast from discomfort and feast on gratitude. It is easy to focus on what we don't have until we consciously take account of all the many blessings in our lives – large and small. Gratitude comes from within. There is always something for which we can be thankful. Lent invites us to use the power of imagination to create an abundant feast in hope, peace, love and joy and all the good things our hearts desire. Let us feast on what we have to be thankful for, and it will be plenty. Gratitude is food for the soul.

Over 1000 clergy and laity met with Bishop Bickerton at Purchase College on March 16, 2019, from 10AM to 3:30PM. Our Bishop provided additional information on the results of the Special General conference. The Traditional Plan was selected as the way forward for the United Methodist Church. However, there are parts of the plan that have to be reviewed by the Judicial Council at the meeting in April. After this meeting we will be provided with more information.

You are invited to come to the weekday Bible Study on Mary, the mother of Jesus, on March 20th 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 19, at 6PM – 7:30PM 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 24, please read the following scriptures: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 and Luke 13:1-9. 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 Lenten Service at 8PM on Wednesday evenings March 20 and 27. We will study the book of Romans. Laity will lead the services.

Journeying with you in Lent,
Pastor Nation

Sunday, March 24, 2019. Pastor Nation will be giving the Sermon; Kenneth Richardson is the Organist and Chancel Choir Director; Kim Neri is the Director of the Rainbow Ringers and Junior Choir.

Flowers are given in loving honor of Bev Budde – Loving you always – from all your friends.

Liturgist is Tonia Ukanwoke; Reader is Michelle Lewis; Ushers are Jenifer Hartig, Chris Ukanwoke, Carol Provenzano, and Richard Tiedge; Counting Team members include Yvonne Basnight, JoAnne Hazell, Vicki Pemberton, Don Pike and Matt Roth.

Prayer List. ♥Family of Rose Ramsaran (mother of Savi Thomas),♥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), ♥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.

UMCOR SUNDAY - March 31, 2019. Since 1940, when UMCOR's forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we've continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world.

The response of UMCOR isn't something "they" do, it's something "we" do.

When You Give You Equip Christ's Body to Serve in His Name.

That's because your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday (**formerly One Great Hour of Sharing**) is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded
- And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond

UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through UMCOR Sunday, (**formerly One Great Hour of Sharing**). In fact, it's your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes.

Not "they."

We.

Ensure the United Methodist Church Can Keep Helping.

Will you continue to give to UMCOR Sunday (**formerly One Great Hour of Sharing**)? Will you continue to meet the needs of the children, families and communities who've experienced devastation in the wake of disaster?

When we meet the needs of those who suffer we actually minister to Jesus, who said:

"I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I

was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.” (Mt. 25:35-36, CEB)

As we respond, we recognize Jesus in those who are reeling in the wake of disaster.

Spring Food Drive ~ Grace Church will be collecting boxed or canned food items from March 31-April 14. Please bring your donated items to one of the collection boxes in the Narthex and Education building. All food donations will benefit the INN in Hempstead and the Far Rockaway Mission. Questions? See Janet Stone or call the Church Office 825-1182. Thank you!

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 rewarding being a Sunday School teacher can be. Please speak to Janet Stone for more information.

There were 25 students in **Church School** on Sunday, March 17th. There were two students in the Pre-K/Kindergarten class. There were three students in the First and Second grade class. There were five students in the Third and Fourth grade class. There were six students in the Fifth and Sixth grade class. There were nine students in the Youth class. This coming Sunday, March 24th, our lessons will be The Parable of the Fig Tree, Luke 13:1-9. We look forward to working with your students.

Janet Stone, Church School Director

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 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.

6th ANNUAL EVANGELISM OUTREACH SERVICE

Do join us this Saturday morning at 9:30AM in church as we Spend Time with Mary, Mother of Jesus.

Why was Mary chosen?
What was her character?
Do we know Mary?
Do we know someone like Mary?
Am I a Mary?

Come and see, worship and ponder. In a world that is crying for a mother's care, come and see as Mary did.

March Calendar

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 9:30AM

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

Sunday, 3/31 - UMCOR Sunday

Have a great week.

Eileen