

March 26, 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,

Today, on the 17th day of the season of Lent (excluding Sundays), let us remember that life is a gift to us from God, and what we do is our gift to God. Consider how we can give back to others by using our lives to exhibit peace, hope, love, joy, creativity and support for all life. Know that within you lies the spiritual reservoir of life and energy that you can tap into at any time. Here we discover divine wisdom to help us remain spiritually balanced.

During this season of Lent, as we journey, take time to rest, connect with Spirit to recharge, and to develop deeper spiritual awareness. Take time to rest and be at peace, allowing the Divine to still your thoughts. Take time to reflect and reconnect through prayer every day. There, in the life of God, we are enriched and renewed. There we find wholeness and strength.

On Saturday, March 23, those of us who gathered for the Evangelism Outreach Service experienced a renewing of our spirits. We gained strength for the Lenten Journey as we learned more of Mary, mother of Jesus, and reflected on her audacious faith and devotion to God. We give God thanks for this woman who trusted God, placed her obedience to God above herself to give birth to God's only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. I wish to give thanks to all who attended and participated in this service.

Religious Education for Scouts started on Thursday, March 21, 6:30PM-8PM in the Bert Keller Room. The purpose of these classes is to help our children and youth in scouting learn more about God, life and church. There are 14 participants in the class.

Confirmation class continues on March 26, 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 16.

To help us learn more about God, ourselves, others, and prepare for the worship service on Sunday, March 24, please read the following scriptures: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 1 Corinthians 5:16-21; and Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32. Two or three of these scriptures will be read during our service and will be the focus of the message. Our children and youth will participate in the service.

Please come to Bible Study at 7PM-8PM and Lenten Service at 8PM on Wednesday evenings March 27, and April 3, 10. Laity will lead the services. We will study the book of Romans. We are reading chapters 7, 8, 9, and 10 for Wednesday.

Journeying with you in Lent,
Pastor Nation

Youth Sunday, March 31, 2019. Pastor Nation will be giving the Sermon; Stephanie Neri will be giving the Children's Sermon; Kenneth Richardson is the Organist and Chancel Choir Director; Kim Neri is the Director of the Cherub Choir; *Flowers are given in loving honor of Bev Budde – To God be the glory for giving Bev to us – from all her friends*; Liturgist is Stephanie Robinson; Reader is Liz Lopez; Ushers are Alanna Bolden and Ava Bolden; Acolytes are Gavin Donaghy and Patrick Donaghy; Counting Team members include Helen Avedisian, Everett Fitch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano, and Richard Tiedge.

Prayer List. ♥Herb Biegler, ♥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), ♥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.

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.

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.

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. 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. 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.

Church School. There were 31 students in Church School on Sunday, March 24th. There were two students in the Pre-K/Kindergarten class. There were four students in the First and Second grade class. There were four students in the Third and Fourth grade class. There were eight students in the Fifth and Sixth grade class. There were thirteen students in the Youth class. This coming Sunday, March 31st, our lessons will be The Prodigal Son, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32. We look forward to working with your students. *Janet Stone, Church School Director*

March Calendar

Monday, 3/25 - Clergy Meeting 3PM/BKR

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

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

Wednesday, 3/27 – Lenten Service 8PM

Thursday, 3/28 - Religious Education for Scouts 6:30PM-8PM/BKR

Sunday, 3/31 – UMCOR Sunday

Have a great week! Hopefully Spring is here?

Eileen