

**March 5, 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,

At the Special General Conference of the United Methodist Church held in St. Louis, February 23-26, the Church decided to support the Traditional Plan by a vote of 438-384. What this means is that the Church will continue to support the language in the Book of Discipline related to human sexuality. The language in the Book of Discipline Paragraph 161 section G states "We affirm that sexuality is God's good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift. ...The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching. We affirm that God's grace is available to all..."

In the Bishop's letter to the churches in the New York Annual Conference he offered words of encouragement to all of us. He shared that the decision of the General Conference has left some confused and disheartened, while others feel affirmed. The Judicial Council will meet on April 23-25 to do a complete review of The Traditional Plan to ensure that all aspects of the plan are compliant with the provisions of our Book of Discipline. This means that there is more work to do before the Book of Discipline is updated. To get more information go to the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church website: [www.nyac.com](http://www.nyac.com).

On March 16, at Purchase University, all clergy and some laity are required to gather with Bishop Bickerton. At this meeting our Bishop will provide more clarity and information on the results of the Special General Conference. During these days 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).

The weekday Bible study on Mary-the mother of Jesus will continue on March 6th 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 continues on March 6, at 6PM–7:30PM in the Bert Keller Room. Children 12 and older are invited to participate. Seven participants started last Tuesday. Classes will continue through June, Confirmation Sunday is June 16th. If you have any question, 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.

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. The scriptures for Ash Wednesday Service are: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 51:1-7, 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. On the five Wednesday evenings following Ash Wednesday we will have Bible Study at 7PM–8PM and Lenten Service at 8PM. We are planning to study the book of Romans. Please plan to attend Bible Study and the services.

Journeying with you towards Lent,  
*Pastor Nation*

**March 10, 2019.** Pastor Nation will be giving the Sermon; Kenneth Richardson is the Organist and Chancel Choir Director; Kim Neri is the Director of the Westminster Ringers; Flowers are given in loving honor of Bev Budde on the occasion of her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday in heaven from Debbielee Thomsen; Reader is Warren Pershad; Liturgist is Coleen Murray; Ushers are Earl Boyd, Pat McKnight, Carol Provenzano, and Richard Tiedge; Counting Team members include Barbara Casey, Pat Eshun and Debbie Nicosia.

**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](mailto:GraceVSNY@aol.com). Thank you.

**The Jean and Ken Larson Memorial Sunday is March 10th.** The Emergency Food Program, sponsored by the Long Island Council of Churches, had its beginning here at Grace Church in 1976 under the direction of Jean and Ken Larson with two appeals made for food throughout the year. In 1977, Jean and Ken Larson initiated a program of contributions to be made weekly, 52 times a year, and it continues until today. In their honor and memory, we would ask you to **bring extra food** on this Sunday (March 10th). Money is also welcome as the Council can purchase food at lower prices than we can. Checks should be made out to Grace United Methodist Church, put in a separate envelope and marked for the Church Office. Please continue to support this worthwhile tradition which has been going on for **43 years**. 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 you leave. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Church School.** There were 18 students in Church School on Sunday, March 3rd. There were two students in the Pre-K/Kindergarten class. There were three students 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. There were six students in the Youth class. This coming Sunday, March 10th, our lessons will be The Good Ruler, Jeremiah 33:14-17. We look forward to working with your students.

*Janet Stone, Church School Director*

### **March Calendar**

Tuesday, 3/5 – Confirmation Class 6PM/BKR  
Wednesday, 3/6 – Bible Study/Mary 11AM/BKR  
**Wednesday, 3/6 – Ash Wednesday 8PM**  
Saturday 3/9 – Nursery Room Clean-up 10AM  
**Sunday, 3/10 – Jean/Ken Larson Memorial Sunday**  
Sunday, 3/10 – UMW after Church/UL  
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