

May 1, 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,

“The longer I live, the more beautiful life becomes.” Take time to appreciate yourself because you are an incredibly sophisticated creation. For example, you have a body that has the capability to continually repair itself at the rate of two billion cells per day. That means you replace 98 percent of all the atoms in your body in less than one year. If you did not like yourself yesterday, don't fret; you are changing all the time. You simply need to decide to change for the better. ~ Frank Lloyd Wright.

It is challenging to put ourselves in someone's shoes, especially when that person's views, interpretation of scripture and lifestyle are different from yours. That is why we may easily read the story of the resurrection of Christ without feeling the impact it had on those who witnessed it. Can you imagine what it was like for the women at the tomb who expected to find Jesus' dead body? Instead they discovered an angel sitting on the tomb, who spoke the most amazing words they had ever heard: “He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said” (Matthew 28:6).

Last week, the United Methodist Church's Judicial Council (its “Supreme Court”) ruled that the Traditional Plan is constitutional. This ruling provides a stable understanding of how the church can move forward with a traditional understanding of marriage and sexual ethics. In addition, the Judicial Council ruled that the option for a local church to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church is constitutional. As enacted by the General Conference, this option goes into effect immediately. It provides a way for those who simply cannot abide by the decisions of the church to find their own path in ministry.

We do not know the full impact of these decisions on our denomination as we move forward. It seems certain that there will be changes- numerically, financially and spiritually. Each person has a responsibility to do his or her part in love as we face these changes. As one member of our congregation stated at our last church council meeting, he will choose “to focus more on our similarities than on our

differences.” This seems like a positive approach to working with the changes in the United Methodist Church and our local congregation. Together, let us put God first. Then our differences and the things of this world will grow strangely dim in the light of God’s glory and grace. For additional information, you can visit the New York Annual Conference website: www.nyac.com.

Religious Education classes for Scouts continue on Thursday evening, May 2, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the Bert Keller Room.

Confirmation class continues on April 30, at 6PM–7:30PM in the Bert Keller Room. Classes will continue through June. Confirmation Sunday is June 16th. Many thanks to our Confirmation class participants who attended the Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday Services. We will have a discussion in class about these services when we meet on April 30.

For our worship service on May 5, the 3rd Sunday of Easter, the scripture readings are: Acts 9:1-20, Psalm 30, Revelation 5:11-14, John 2:1-19. At least two of these scriptures will be the focus of the message.

Journeying in Easter,
Pastor Nation

Lilies. The following Lilies were omitted from our previous list:

In loving honor of Susan and Everett Fitch by Everett Fitch.

In loving honor of James Wright by Everett Fitch.

In loving honor of Loved Ones by Everett Fitch.

Sunday, May 5, 2019. Pastor Nation will be giving the Sermon; Kenneth Richardson is the Organist and Chancel Choir Director; Pat Eshun is the Liturgist; Svetlana Harmon is the Reader; Ushers are Everett Fitch, Brian Lynch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano, and Richard Tiedge; Counting Team members include Yvonne Basnight, JoAnne Hazell, Vicki Pemberton, Don Pike and Matt Roth.

Prayer List. ♥Marianne Pike, ♥Desmond Nation, ♥Miki Nation (daughter-in-law of Pastor and Desmond Nation), ♥Family of Vicki Pemberton’s Grandmother, ♥David Biegler, ♥Monica Campbell (friend of Margo Morrison), ♥Joan Bertie, ♥Debbielee Thomsen, ♥Cylene Brown (friend of Pearl Hamilton), 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), ♥Rev. Barbara Melzer, ♥Evelyn Neber (friend of Elaine Treske), ♥Bill Hammen (brother of Edie Zipperlen), ♥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.

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.

Grace Methodist Nursery School is looking for certified teachers for potential part time employment during the 2019-2020 school year. If interested, please submit resume to the nursery school either by mail or by email to gmns21@aol.com. If you have any questions, please contact Diane at 516/825-2354.

The **UMW** invites you to a luncheon on Saturday, May 4th, at 11:30AM in the Education Building Gym. As part of our Social Justice Ministry, the program will focus on youth incarceration. The issues that will be discussed are what brought them to prison, why do they come back, interventions, and advocacy to prevent incarceration. The program will be presented by Mr. William Tyson, Program Counselor - Youth Offender Program, Department of Correction. Come and learn more about this pressing social issue and how you can help prevent incarceration in your community and become an advocate for youth offenders. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. They will be available after church from Andrea Boyd and UMW members. Tickets will also be available at the church office (516/825-1182).

We are having a **DIAPER DRIVE!** Did you know that Social Services benefits such as Welfare do NOT cover the cost of diapers? And that in order to leave a child with a subsidized daycare the parent MUST provide disposable diapers, not cloth? As we celebrate mothers during the month of May, let's remember to donate

diapers, wipes and baby food to those less fortunate. Collection boxes are located in the Church and in the Education Building. All donations will benefit organizations like The INN or the Long Island Council of Churches. We will be accepting donations through June 1st. If you have any questions, please see Janet Stone or email mom2springers@gmail.com. Thank you so much for your generous donation!

May Calendar

Thursday, 5/2 – Religious Education for Scouts 6:30PM/BKR

Saturday, 5/4 – UMW Luncheon 11:30AM/G-K

Tuesday 5/7 – Confirmation Class 6PM/BKR

Wednesday, 5/8 – Board of Trustees 7:30PM/BKR

Wednesday, 5/8 – Troop 109 7:30PM/G

Sunday, 5/12 – MOTHER’S DAY

Tuesday, 5/14 - Confirmation Class 6PM/BKR

Wednesday, 5/15 – SPPR 7:30/ BKR

Sunday, 5/19 – MUSIC SUNDAY

Tuesday, 5/21 - Confirmation Class 6PM/BKR

Saturday, 5/25 – Far Rockaway Prep 10AM/K

Monday, 5/27 – Memorial Day

Tuesday, 5/28 - Confirmation Class 6PM/BKR

Have a relaxing week (with some sun).

Eileen