

May 28, 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,

“Life has two rules: Number 1, never quit; Number 2, always remember rule number 1” (Duke Ellington). Duke Ellington was an American composer, pianist and leader of a jazz orchestra. It is said that his career spanned over 50 years. Life is not hopping from one mountaintop experience to another because there is a valley in-between. The valley is dark, bleak, ugly and frightening. The mountaintop is the opposite experience of the valley. Take the time to learn the value of the valley experiences. There is value in the valley not only for you, but to help others. It is our duty to share what we learn. If your valley experience has helped you to move beyond some darkness in life, then it can help others when you share. Psalm 23 reminds us that the Lord is with us in the darkest valley; the Lord's rod and staff comfort us.

As human beings we have a certain amount of power given to us by our Creator. We are not limited in how we express our humanness; we are not limited by the labels we choose to describe our humanness and that of others. Basic human nature makes us see people and situations the way we want them to be, not the way they are. This was evident even with Jesus' disciples. Until the day of Jesus's Ascension, called “Ascension Day,” Jesus' followers recognized Jesus as a great teacher and miracle worker. However, after Jesus ascended into heaven (Ascension Day), the disciples began to realize he is the cosmic Lord of all. This year Ascension Day falls on May 30th.

As we journey through life there are three keys to successful relationships that will impact our life: 1) Never make anyone else responsible for our happiness; 2) Trust what our inner self feels, sees and says; 3) Pay close attention to the warning signs. One song writer states “Life is just for living.” You have to decide how you will live your life, not others, unless there are challenges mentally, spiritually or physically that prevent you from doing so.

The Scriptures for our worship service on June 2nd, the 7th Sunday of Easter, are: Acts 16:16-34, Psalm 97, Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 and John 17:20-26. At least two of these scriptures will be the focus of the message.

Confirmation class continues on May 28, from 6 PM-7:30 PM in the Bert Keller Room. Classes will continue through June 11th. Confirmation Sunday is June 16th.

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

Journeying in Easter,
Pastor Nation

Communion Sunday, June 2, 2019. Pastor Nation will be giving the Sermon; Ken Richardson is the Organist and Director of the Chancel Choir, Pat Eshun is the Liturgist; Jeanette Tatum is the Reader; Ushers are Everett Fitch, Brian Lynch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano, and Richard Tiedge; Counting Team members include Sonia Khan, Phil Osei-Boah, Ken Pearce, Yvonne Pearce, and Marisa Pershad.

Prayer List. ♥Family of Fay Rose (mother of Nicole Robinson), ♥Paul Wasek (husband of Nancy Wasek), ♥Desmond Nation, ♥Miki Nation (daughter-in-law of Pastor and Desmond Nation), ♥Family of Vicki Pemberton's Grandmother, ♥Lascelles Boyd (father of Earl Boyd), ♥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, ♥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.

Eagle Scout Project. Life Scout Fabrizio Fratarcangeli of Troop 109 at Grace Methodist Church will be collecting travel size toiletry items for his Eagle Scout project. Please consider donating small items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner, etc. They will be assembled as welcome kits to the Veterans and Guide Dog Foundation. Collection bins can be found at the entrance of the church and Nursery School until May 31, 2019. Thank you.

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!

Blast off with the first **VBS** to land on the moon! *To Mars and Beyond* will help kids discover the wonders of God's universe. They'll become Voyagers on a journey through space, exploring where God's power can take them. Along the way, they'll learn how God walked with heroes of the Bible, and that God is always with them, too. The adventure continues with out-of-this-world fun, learning, and timeless Bible stories that inspire kids to give glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine! VBS at Grace Methodist Church will be held **August 19-August 22** daily from 9AM to 12PM. Children who will be in K-8 in September may participate in VBS. Teens who are 14 and older may serve as assistants. Adult volunteers are needed to lead groups! Registration information will be available soon. Please see Janet Stone or email mom2springers@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.

The **Landscaping** has been completed and looks great. Our new **Sprinkler System** is up and running. Don't forget, if you are able, there is a donation envelope in the Narthex for the Landscaping/Sprinkler System Fund Drive. Any amount will be appreciated. Make sure you put your name and/or envelope number on the envelope. Thank you.

Thrift Shop. *HOLD THE DATE!!* The Thrift Shop will be open on Saturday, June 29, 2019, for their **HOT SUMMER SALE**. Make sure you drop in and take a look at all the bargains!

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.

May Calendar

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

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

I hope everyone had a relaxing Memorial Day. Have a wonderful week.

Eileen