

CHURCH LIFE

February 27, 2020

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, I am sharing with you words from our Bishop's letter for Lent: "As we begin this Lenten journey, 'we are reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith. We invite you, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.'

Why do we accept this invitation and enter this kind of journey? We enter this journey because we are called to reflect on how our faithful response to Christ bears fruit in our own lives and in the lives of those around us. As Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice to bring us new life, we too are called to bring new life to our congregations, neighborhoods, and communities, called to live as resurrection people.

Lent invites us, individually and collectively, to a deep assessment of, and prayer-filled reflection on, our faithfulness and fruitfulness. Lent is a journey we take with Christ and one another. It is a journey that helps us to focus on our discipleship formation beginning with the reminder of our shared humanity on Ash Wednesday; traveling through the days of searching and repentance to the eager anticipation of Palm Sunday, experiencing the solemn and sorrow-filled journey to the cross on Good Friday, and then celebrating the empty tomb on Easter Sunday".

Ash Wednesday Service will be at 8:00 pm in the sanctuary. Invitation to the observation of Lent Discipline and imposition of ashes will be offered.

You are invited to our Lenten Bible Study, "On the Way with Jesus." We will meet in the chapel of the church building on Wednesdays from 7-8 pm followed by Lenten Service 8-9 pm.

Messages will be prepared and delivered by some of our lay members. Below are the dates, themes, and scriptures for the Bible Study.

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|------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| March 4th | In the Wilderness | Matthew 4:1-11 |
| March 11th | On the Mountaintop | Matthew 17:1-9 |
| March 18th | Transformed | John 4: 5-42 |
| March 25th | Sent | John 9:1-41 |
| April 1st | When the Way Means Staying Home | John 11:1-45 |

The Scriptures for worship service on March 1, 2020, Communion Sunday are: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; and Matthew 4:1-11. At least one of these scripture will be the focus of the message.

Journeying in Lent 2020,
Pastor Nation

Sunday, March 1, 2020. Pastor Nation will be giving the Sermon; Liturgist is Pat Eshun; Reader is Francis Ortiz; Ken Richardson is our Organist and Director of the Chancel Choir; Ushers are Everett Fitch, Brian Lynch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano, and Richard Tiedge; Counting Team members include Helen Avedisian, Everett Fitch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano, and Richard Tiedge.

Prayer List. ♥Prayers for Australia, ♥Prayers for Puerto Rico, ♥Family of Thomas Valva, ♥Danny Neri (father-in law of Kim Neri), ♥Amy Cooke (sister of Pearl Hamilton), ♥Bob von Schmid (son-in-law of Adam and Christine Doeringer), ♥Ian Lewis, ♥Kenneth Kurz (grandson of Lenore and Manny Kurz), ♥Tom Moylan (brother-in-law of Michael Kurz), ♥Joe Alberigo (friend of Lenore Kurz), ♥Pam O'Brien, ♥Eugene O'Brien, ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Castells Family (family of Elaine Treske), ♥Heather Eggermann, ♥Margo Morrison, ♥Carol Provenzano, ♥Alwyn Daniel (friend of Debbielee Thomsen), ♥Cyril (friend of Pat Eshun), ♥Peter Tanner (friend of Samantha and Pam O'Brien), ♥Kay Hartmann, ♥Sasha (Navy-Japan), ♥Bob LoBello, ♥Susan Selsen (friend of Steve Savarese), ♥Samuel A. Dorsey (father of David A. Dorsey), ♥Lascelles Boyd (father of Earl Boyd), ♥David Biegler, ♥Monica Campbell (friend of Margo Morrison), ♥Joan Bertie, ♥Iris Molina, ♥Anne Mahoney, ♥Shirley Shivrattan-Dookhi, ♥Buddy Dookhi, ♥Everol Palmer (son of Enid Simpson), ♥Donna Lowe (daughter of Loretta Lewis Zimmer), ♥Evelyn Neber (friend of Elaine Treske), ♥Bill Hammen (brother of Edie Zipperlen), ♥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.

GIVE BLOOD, GIVE LIFE. *In Memory of Herb Biegler*, our dear friend and mentor, who dedicated his life to serve our Lord, we will be hosting our *Spring Blood Drive March 18, 2020*, from 2:30PM to 8:30PM in the Education Building Gym. Please keep the date open and available to give of yourself, just as Herb gave, we now have an opportunity to give life to others. To make our spring drive a success, we are looking for 5 drive captains to make schedules and about 20 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. Herb will smile down upon us. Thank you and God bless you. *Bob DiSalvo*

**THE JEAN AND KEN LARSON MEMORIAL SUNDAY
IS MARCH 8TH.**

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 8th). 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 **44 years**. Thank you.

There were 19 students in **Church School** this Sunday, February 23rd. There were two students in the PreK/Kindergarten class and two students in the First and Second grade class. There were three students in the Third and Fourth grade class and six students in the Fifth and Sixth grade class. There were six students in the Youth class. Next week, our lesson will be “The First Sin”, Genesis 3:1-27. We look forward to working with your students! ~Janet Stone, Church School Director~

Volunteers are needed in the Thrift Shop. Please let Eileen know if you can help one or two days Monday and/or Thursday weekly. Thrift Shop is closed on holidays.

Confirmation Class will begin in March. Please speak to Pastor Nation or Janet Stone if you would like to have your child confirmed on May 31, 2020.

Dear Church School parents of 6th-12th graders - The youth of our church have been invited to attend the *Converge Retreat at Camp Quinipet*. Please see the flyer below for details. If your 6th-12th grader is interested, please reach out to Kim Neri and/or Janet Stone **as soon as possible**. If we have enough interested youth, we will move forward with registration and planning. If you have any questions, please let us know. **Kim Neri: violinkim@aol.com - Janet Stone: mom2springers@gmail.com**

Youth of the Long Island East, Long Island West, and Metropolitan districts are invited to join us (**Converge Retreat**) for a weekend of excitement, worship, workshops, and plenty of good food! The cost is \$110 early bird if registered by February 28, 2020. This includes housing, programming, meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday, plus T-shirt. The cost is \$120 after Feb. 28, 2020.

Please check out the attached flier for the **Seventh Annual Outreach Service** presented by our Evangelism Committee on Saturday, March 28, 2020.

February Calendar

Tuesday, 2/25 – NO ALPHA
Wednesday, 2/26 – Ash Wednesday 8PM/Church
Saturday, 2/29 – LEAP YEAR!!!

March Calendar

Sunday, 3/1 – Evangelism Meeting after Church/UL
Tuesday, 3/3 – NO ALPHA
Tuesday, 3/3 – SPPR 7:30 PM/BKR
Wednesday, 3/4 – Lent Bible Study 7 PM/Chapel
Wednesday, 3/4 – Lent Service 8 PM
Sunday, 3/8 – JEAN AND KEN LARSON SUNDAY
Sunday, 3/8 – UMW Meeting after Church/UL
Tuesday, 3/10 – GMNS Committee 7PM/Rm#2
Tuesday, 3/10 – NO ALPHA
Wednesday, 3/11 – Lent Bible Study 7 PM/Chapel
Wednesday, 3/11 – Board of Trustees 7:30PM/BKR

Wednesday, 3/11 – Lent Service 8 PM

Sunday, 3/15 – Church Council after Church

Tuesday, 3/17 – NO ALPHA

Tuesday, 3/17 – HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Wednesday, 3/18 – BLOOD DRIVE 2:30PM-8:30PM/Gym

Wednesday, 3/18 – Lent Bible Study 7PM/Chapel

Wednesday, 3/18 – Lent Service 8PM

Tuesday, 3/24 – SPPR 7:30PM/BKR

Tuesday, 3/24 – NO ALPHA

Wednesday, 3/25 – GMNS Open Registration 7PM-9PM/Office

Wednesday, 3/25 – Lent Bible Study 7PM/Chapel

Wednesday, 3/25 – Lent Service 8PM

Saturday, 3/28 – 7th Annual Outreach Service 10AM/Church

Tuesday, 3/31 – NO ALPHA

Have a Great Week!

Leap Year - February 29th! Enjoy. Eileen