

February 4, 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,

In the month of February, we celebrate Black History Month also known as African History Month in America. In Canada, United Kingdom and the Netherlands February is known as Black Achievement Month. Black History Month began as a way of remembering important people and their contributions, and events in the history of the African Diaspora. One person who has influenced my life is Susan L. Taylor. I have read some of her work and frequently read from a book of Daily Meditations with some of her work.

Susan L. Taylor was born in Harlem, New York City on January 23, 1946. She attended Fordham University. She is an American editor, writer, and journalist. She served as editor-in-chief of Essence Magazine from 1981 through 2000. Essence is the premiere lifestyle, fashion and beauty magazine for African-American women. It explores topics from health to career to contemporary living to investing. It also offers advice on style, beauty and fitness, and deals with artwork, fashion items and accessories, all with an African-American flair. In 1994, American libraries referred to Susan Taylor as “the most influential black woman in journalism today.” I invite you to read more about Susan L. Taylor and her work.

On Sundays, our worship service includes “passing of the peace”. This is the ancient practice of greeting one another with the words, “The peace of Christ be with you”. This is done to establish community or an act of reconciliation. We are inviting you to start practicing the passing of the peace with the words “The peace of Christ be with you.” The Worship Committee suggested that we pass the peace to the people who are seated near us. This will help to reduce time spent in passing the peace.

The Scriptures for worship service on February 9, – Black History Month/UMC Scouting Sunday/5th Sunday after the Epiphany are: Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-9 (10); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16); and Matthew 5:13-20. At least one of the scripture will be the focus of the message. Grace UMC Troop will participate in

the worship service and sponsor coffee hour in the Undercroft. Thanks to the Grace UMC Scouts, parents and leaders.

Journeying together in 2020,
Pastor Nation

Scout Sunday, February 9, 2020. Pastor Nation will be giving the Sermon; Ken Richardson is our Organist and Director of the Chancel Choir; Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists, Readers: Alessio Fratarcangeli, Fabrizio Fratarcangeli, Ryan Healey, Jonathan Herrera, Brannon Marin, Vincent Vacchiano, Alexander Gay, Dylan Padilla, Aidan Mitchell, and Luke Lopez; Counting Team members include Sonia Khan, Ken Pearce, Yvonne Pearce, and Marisa Pershad.

Prayer List. ♥Prayers for Australia, ♥Prayers for Puerto Rico, ♥Amy Cooke (sister of Pearl Hamilton), ♥Bob von Schmid (son-in-law of Adam and Christine Doeringer), ♥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.

2020 Offering Envelopes are in the Narthex. If you cannot find your number, please give me a call in the Church Office or email me at GraceVSNY@aol.com. Thank you. *Eileen*

There were 25 students in **Church School** this Sunday, February 2nd. There were two students in the PreK/K class and three in the First and Second grade class. There were four students in the Third and Fourth grade class and eight students in the Fifth and Sixth grade class. There were eight students in the Youth class. Next week's

lesson will be "Salt and Light" from Matthew 5:13-20. We look forward to working with your students!
~Janet Stone, Church School Director~

Super Bowl Food Drive. Thank you so much for the generous donations of boxed and canned foods. In addition to the food items over **\$414.00** was sent over to the Interfaith Nutrition Network, to aid them in serving those in need. May we continue to be a generous and caring church! ~Janet Stone, Church School Director~

February Calendar

Tuesday, 2/4 – ALPHA 7:30PM/BKR

Sunday, 2/9 – UMW Bake Sale after Church

Tuesday, 2/11- GMNS Committee 7PM/Rm#2

Tuesday, 2/11 – **NO ALPHA**

Friday, 2/14 – HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

Friday, 2/14- UMW providing meals at the INN 10:45AM

Sunday, 2/23 – Church Council Meeting after Church

Tuesday, 2/25 – **NO ALPHA**

Wednesday, 2/26 – Ash Wednesday 8PM/Church

The members of the Evangelism committee would like to thank the members of our church family and guests who participated in our **5th Annual Prayer Breakfast** on Saturday, January 25 of this year. It was a joy.

According to Tonia Ukanwoke as we debriefed yesterday, "I felt so proud of my church family. We supported each other so well, I feel like I could call on them any time." Pastor Nation and Dr. Simon Nzuzi both said, "This one feels like the best! We came to pray and we fulfilled the purpose, we felt the prayers going up." The three members from visiting United Methodist Women group said, "It was great, we will come again."

Special thanks to Bob DiSalvo and his hospitality team for volunteering to take charge of the meal preparation and serving; Easton Hazell led us into our spiritual realms with well-selected music that also ordered our praying process. Kudos to Kim Neri for her piece Amazing Grace on violin, and for accompanying Tonia Ukanwoke, Patricia Graham and Enid Simpson with their music selection.

Our corporate prayers by Patricia Eshun, Earl Boyd, Tonia Ukanwoke, Katherine Perkins and Dr. Simon Nzuzi were well received. Pastor Nation played an integral role in designing and printing the programs and songs.

For all present your individual prayers and presence were a light in our world.

To God be the glory we made \$1279 which will be used to further strengthen our newly formed Prison Ministry in our Church.

Grace and Peace,

Andrea Owen-Boyd, Evangelism Chairperson

Have a wonderful week. The results are in: **On Groundhog Day 2020**, Punxsutawney Phil could not find his shadow. And as the legend goes, [this means we're in for an early spring](#). (I hope so!!) -Eileen