

CHURCH LIFE

January 16, 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,

On this second week of 2020 we have seen and heard of the many happenings that are causing instability in our country and in our world. Just watch the news on TV, or listen on the radio or other social media and we learn what is going on in the world. As Christians, how do we prevent ourselves from getting information overload, frustrated and downright just want to give up? Develop more of our divine qualities.

One suggestion is to remind ourselves that each one of us was born with the power of imagination. Imagination is our powerful capacity to picture what can be and develop that idea in our minds until we feel its effect while it is yet unfolding. Imagination is also our ability to live into an idea until it essentially becomes our reality. Can you imagine the difference we could make in this world, in our homes, churches, schools and work places?

We need to learn or remind ourselves that with our minds one with divine mind, we are creators. We draw from infinity of divine ideas – in Jesus' words the kingdom of the heavens - to catch one ripe possibility and bring it into expression. We do this naturally, one idea at a time.

As you journey in 2020, ask yourself - What next possibility am I interested in? What have I been dreaming about, envisioning for the rest of this year? Contemplating this divine idea, confirm that: By the light of imagination, I conceive of possibilities, envisioning my dreams fulfilled, I embody my divine identity.

My prayer for all of us in 2020 is that our spiritual practices nurture and nourish our spirit, so that we may shine our divine light wherever it is needed.

The Scriptures for worship service on January 19, 2020, Human Relations Day are: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; and John 1:29-42. At least one of the scriptures will be the focus of the message. Bob DiSalvo will give the message.

Journeying together in 2020,
Pastor Nation

Sunday, January 19, 2020. Bob DiSalvo will be giving the Message; John Conner is our guest Organist; Flowers are given in loving honor of our son Ekow on the occasion of his 25th Birthday from Mom and Dad; Liturgist is Lenore Kurz; Reader is Enid Simpson; Ushers are Donna Hartmann, Carol Provenzano, Elias Tarquino, 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, ♥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), ♥Jonathan Greifenberger, ♥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.

EVERY ONE OF US IS OF SACRED WORTH. We are all family. When we walk past our neighbor who is hiding in plain sight, we limit the gifts and graces that our sisters and brothers in Christ bring to the table. We limit the experiences, the voices and the beloved community that take place through mutual sharing of gifts. With a special offering celebrating **HUMAN RELATIONS DAY, Sunday, January 19, 2020**, we join with United Methodists around the world, remembering that the size of the table of divine love is unlimited. Across the United Methodist connection we come together to help bridge the gap between church and community by participating in an offering set aside for Human Relations Day. For more than half a century, United Methodists have observed this church wide special Sunday in recognition of the message Jesus demonstrated during his life: all of God's children are important. One of the wonderful aspects of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so much more together than we ever could do on our own. On Human Relations Day, we join other UMC congregations in a special offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. In recognizing Human Relations Day, we are called to make an impact in communities where people struggle because they don't have the tools or resources to reach their God-given potential. Our gifts are part of building beloved community through faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens.

January Calendar

Tuesday, 1/14 – GMNS Committee 7PM/Rm#2
Tuesday, 1/14 – ALPHA 7:30PM/BKR
Wednesday, 1/15 – Finance Meeting 7PM/BKR
Wednesday, 1/15 – Board of Trustees 7:30PM/BKR
Wednesday, 1/15 – Troop 109 7:30PM/G
Saturday, 1/18 – Prison Ministry – Riker's Island Visit
Sunday, 1/19 – UMW Meeting after Church/UL
Tuesday, 1/21 – **NO ALPHA 7:30PM/BKR**
Saturday, 1/25 – Annual Prayer Breakfast 9AM/G
Tuesday, 1/28 – ALPHA 7:30PM/BKR
Wednesday, 1/29 – SPPRC 7:30PM/BKR

A STEWARDSHIP REQUEST. We thank all of you who have made a pledge for 2020. If you have not yet done so and would like to make a pledge, please ask the ushers for a pledge card or contact Eileen in the church office.

There were 19 students in **Church School** this Sunday, January 12th. There was one student in the PreK/K class and three 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 will be a Family Worship Sunday due to it being Martin Luther King Jr. weekend.** The following week's lesson (1/26) will be "The Disciples" from Matthew 4:12-23. We look forward to working with your students! ~*Janet Stone, Church School Director*~

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*

Your **Record of Contribution** was mailed out last week. If you have any questions or discrepancies, please give me a call in the Church Office or email me at GraceVSNY@aol.com. Thank you. *Eileen*

Dear **Church School Family**, Next Sunday we will be honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Students will stay in church for a Family Worship time.

On **Super Bowl Sunday, February 2, 2020**, we will be having a one day food drive. Send your student with boxed and canned food, which will be donated to the INN. Cash donations will also be accepted.

Have a great week.

Eileen