

January 30, 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,

John Lennon in his song "Imagine" shares these words; "Imagine all the people, living life in peace; you may say I'm a dreamer but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us, and the world will be as one". Peace is something nearly all of us want, an ideal we strive to achieve in our lives, our families, our communities, and our world.

The root of the Hebrew word for peace is shalom which means "whole, complete, sound" and points to peace within oneself as well as peace with all life. Peace begins with one person and spreads, and then is returned in kind. When we are connected to our wholeness, we become peace on earth. In John 17:27, Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you". Why does Jesus say he is leaving peace with us? Maybe because we are supposed to do something with the peace He gives us. We can't leave it up to our neighbors. We each need to be responsible for the peace we want in the world.

Remember hymn 431 in the United Methodist Hymnal, "Let There Be Peace on Earth". This hymn encourages us to let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me, and you. When our hearts are ruled by God's peace, our relationships reflect God's spirit of oneness.

The key to peaceful living is to practice forgiveness as a way of living the truth we know. When we forgive, we are choosing to see beyond circumstance, beyond appearance, beyond our immediate reactions. Through forgiveness, we realize that peace comes from releasing resentment, blame, and frustration and committing to see the truth in ourselves and in others.

On Sunday, 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", to establish community or an act of reconciliation. Starting this Sunday, February 2, I am inviting you to start practicing the passing of the peace by saying "The peace

of Christ be with you”. We will try to limit the passing of the peace to the people who are around us. Thank you!

The Scriptures for worship service on February 2, – Communion Sunday/4th Sunday after the Epiphany are: Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; and Matthew 5:1-12. At least one of the scripture will be the focus of the message.

Journeying together in 2020,
Pastor Nation

Sunday, February 2, 2020. Pastor Nation will be giving the Sermon; Ken Richardson is our Organist and Director of the Chancel Choir; Liturgist is Pat Eshun; Reader is Michele Charles; Ushers are Everett Fitch, Brian Lynch, Carol Provenzano, Michael Provenzano, and Richard Tiedge; Counting Team members include Bill Hartmann, Jennifer Morton, Eleanor Phillip, Savi Thomas, and Karen Vetter.

Flowers were given last week in loving honor of Anne Mahoney’s 96th Birthday from all her friends at Grace Church.

Prayer List. ♥Prayers for Australia, ♥Prayers for Puerto Rico, ♥Amy Cooke (sister of Pearl Hamilton), ♥Family of Kobe Bryant and Gianna Bryant, ♥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), ♥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.

News of Friends and Members.

Congratulations to James and Courtney O'Brien on the birth of their second daughter, *Annabelle Grace*, on December 20, 2019. Big sister, Molly, and parents are all doing well.

Congratulations to Kyle O'Brien and Jayme Murphy on the birth of their twins, *Kayleigh Paige and Patrick James O'Brien* on January 13, 2020. All are doing well.

Hello from ***Richard Keidel*** who is still living in Arizona. He is doing well and misses his friends at Grace Methodist. He's wishing everybody a Happy New Year (and a happy Chinese New Year)!

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

Book of Remembrance. A gift has been given in loving memory of Herb Biegler by the Grace Methodist Nursery School.

There were 19 students in **Church School** this Sunday, January 26th. There were three students in the PreK/K class and five in the First and Second grade class. There were four students in the Third and Fourth grade class and two students in the Fifth and Sixth grade class. There were five students in the Youth class. Next week's lesson will be "The Beatitudes" from Matthew 5:1-12. We look forward to working with your students! ~Janet Stone, Church School Director~

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.

February Calendar

Sunday, 2/2 – Evangelism Meeting after Church/UL

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

Have a great week.

Eileen