

The Ties that Bind – NEWSLETTER



United Methodist Church
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APRIL 2017

Our 2017 Lenten Journey

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

How I hope that your Lenten season has been richly rewarding spiritually. I am so pleased to share with you the events of the last three weekends which culminate in our Easter Weekend.

Three Weekends of Praise and Joy Coming Up

March 31 - April 1 - April 2

On Friday Night March 31 there is Movie Night - 7:30pm - in Fellowship Hall

A Movie About Our United Methodist Origins

A Heart Transformed Can Change the World

Free Popcorn - Come one! Come all!

On Saturday Night April 1 - A Covered Dish Supper with Bishop Karen Oliveto.

Bishop Oliveto started her Christian Education in this congregation and served it in many capacities. She went on to serve churches in New York, and California and to teach at the Pacific School of Religion. In 2016 the Western Jurisdiction elected her Bishop in many many votes that went long into the night. When Bishop Oliveto was elected, a motion was made seconded and carried that her election be acclaimed unanimously.

6:00pm - Bring a Covered Dish or a Dessert.

THEN - On Sunday Morning - April 2

at 8am - Our Regular Sunday Morning Service

at 9:30am - A Service of Joyful Celebration led by our usual suspects and Bishop Oliveto, the Rev. Kenneth White and the Rev. Ellen Witko.

Former Choir Directors: The Rev. Kenneth White and Julianne Carney will be singing with the choir.

Many former members have checked in that they are coming back for this great day.

at 11am - The Celebration Continues with

A Joyful Hymn Sing led by Kenneth White

Kenneth White and Neil O'Connell will play a piano organ duet.

Ken has written a new hymn for the day.

Come one! Come all! Give Praise.

THEN on PALM SUNDAY - April 9

Services with great music at 8, 9:30 and 11am.

This is a Designated Festival Sunday in the life of the church.

The Services include the distribution of the ashes.

Holy Week - Maundy Thursday, April 13 - Soup Supper and the Communion Service of the Upper Room Soup at 6:30pm - Service at 7:30pm

Good Friday - April 14 - A Service including the Chancel Choir singing *Man of Sorrows* - 7:30pm

THEN on EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 16

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Services with great music at 8, 9:30 and 11am.

"made like him, like him we rise!"

You may be receiving this Newsletter by e-mail at first but when you receive it by traditional mail there will be an EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPE. The church relies heavily on special collections to meet its financial obligations. I hope you will consider making an Easter gift. We are so thankful for your many gifts. Blessings to you.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Tom

FINANCIAL NEWS

In the last Newsletter there was a lengthy Financial Update that may have been confusing. Someone asked me "If there is a money crunch why was so much work done on the steeple and the organ?"

Let me clarify what I should have clarified in the first place. In the Methodist Church Trustee Funds and Current Expense Funds are separate.

The Trustees, as part of the responsibility, have to see that the physical plant and property are maintained. Fortunately, the Trustees were blessed financially right at the time when repairs were needed.

These repairs were NEEDED. Both the organ which was sinking into the basement and the steeple which was leaking and rotting because of water damage were in reality threatening the existence of the 1859 sanctuary. It was an emergency. I hope this clarifies the confusion I created.

The place where we struggle to keep us is Current Expense, weekly collections, which go to keep the church running (i.e. salaries, electricity, fuel, etc.) We had planned this year for about \$5,250 to come in each week through regular giving. At present it appears that about \$5,000 comes in weekly after a slow start in January (a cold and snowy January). If we can grow by another \$250 per week that would be prayers answered.

We are happy to announce that almost \$1,000 comes in weekly through automatic

withdrawals from peoples' bank accounts that people have elected to utilize. We are grateful. Call the church office if you would likely your weekly or monthly gifts to automatically come to the church. This is just one method of giving. Regular donations on the collection plate are a blessing, as they always been. Mailed in donations work. If you wish to give to the church, use any method you wish. We thank you for your generosity. God bless you.

Sincerely yours,

Pastor Tom

11 am Services

As you know we discontinued regular 11 am services at the church, **BUT** there are Sundays coming up when we do have 11 am church services in the sanctuary. If these services work for you PLEASE COME!

On Sunday, April 2nd at 11 am there will be a great Hymn Sing featuring our new organ.

On **Palm Sunday, April 9th** there will be a traditional Palm Sunday service at 11am.

On **Easter Sunday, April 16th** there will be a traditional Easter Service at 11am.

On Sunday May 21 there will be an 11 am worship service celebrating Church Membership (details to follow) and this will include the Service of Confirmation.

Take note. If you were a fan of the 11 am service take note. God bless you. Join us for worship whenever you can.

Easter lilies in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone may be ordered through the church office at \$20. Please order before April 10th.

The lilies will be delivered to "Our Friends to Remember" after church services on Easter Sunday. Please volunteer to deliver plants after the 11 am service.

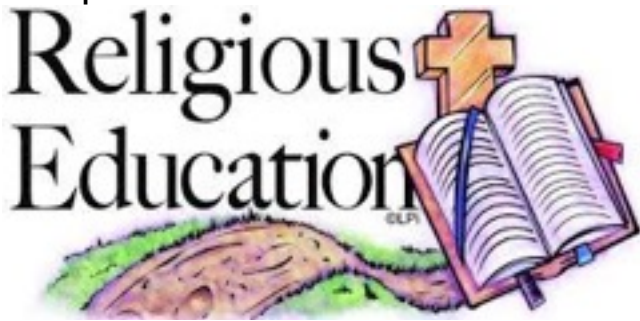
Ushers are needed for Palm Sunday (8, 9:30, 11:00), **Holy Thursday** (7:30 in the sanctuary, **Good Friday** (7:30 in the sanctuary, and **Easter Sunday** (8:00, 9:30, 11:00). Please call Doris Richter (669-7065) or the church office to volunteer.

FOOD PANTRY We wish to thank everyone who supports the Food Pantry. We appreciate your donations of food and gift cards, and especially wish to thank the people who volunteer their time for the food collections at Stop/Shop. **We desperately need volunteers for the Rotary Club Food Drives in general and the next one is on APRIL 8th. Please volunteer to Sue Tremblay – susantrem@aol.com**

The Sharing & Caring Soup Kitchen will be seeking donations of packaged candy for "goody bags" from our good stewards to serve for their Easter Sunday celebration on April 23rd. All donations are greatly appreciated! We continue to need your loving donations of hearty soups and helping hands. If you would like further information, or wish to make donations of soup or candy, please call Rose Alfini 631-827-2245 or Kathy Montreuil at 917-476-6338.

Please continue to remember the Food Pantry when you are shopping – Spam, corned beef hash, beef stew, tuna, chili, peanut butter, jelly, dry milk, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, instant potatoes, rice(2 lb),and coffee. **Shampoo, toothpaste,**

bar soap, disposable razors, dish detergent and laundry detergent are greatly appreciated. NO spaghetti or cereal or soup is needed at this time.



Bible Studies

Tuesday night Bible Study continues to study and to explore the Gospel of Mark, with many exciting and engaged discussions.

The facilitators of the Monday morning Bible Study took some time off for medical reasons; therefore there is a temporary pause for this meeting. The Monday morning Bible Study will recommence in May.

Sunday School

When kids have fun at church, they look forward to returning each week. The Sunday School teachers are doing a great job creating fun ways to engage the children about Jesus, cultivating faith, and building a relationship with God, including the use of games, activities, singing and community service. Since September they have covered the following studies:

3-Year Old, 4-Year-Old, Kindergarten and 1st Grade; Covered **Faith**, understanding who Jesus is? and how he works in our lives?

2nd and 3rd Grades explored **Unselfishness** learning what Jesus said? Jesus tells us to forgive over and over.

4th and 5th Grades have been inspired to give back to their community by making Birthday Boxes for the Food Pantry and, participating in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale to benefit the Bethany House in Roosevelt Long Island. This class also hosted the Valentine's Day Coffee Hour, and are creating many other activities for the classes to come, including ideas towards a Thanksgiving Table Setting event as well as working on homemade Felt Placemats for the Soup Kitchen. Incorporating their Bible stories with each service.

6th, 7th and 8th Grades pore over **confidence** understanding what are God's plans? and having confidence in themselves.

The Confirmation class continues to prepare for their special day when they become full members of the church. Some students have started on their project leading up to Confirmation.

Senior High seminar is having some very in-depth discussions on topics like:

What would we change about society, and how would we do it?

How do we deal with mistakes? How we make them right, and move past them?

Self-identity. How do we define who we are, and if it's even a good thing to "define" ourselves?

We must keep in mind these are our leaders of tomorrow.

Sunday Morning Offering

The Sunday morning offering is up and running with a wide variety of topics. There was a celebration of Love Feast, a Christian Art exposure lesson, an offering that reflected on the connection between our sect of Christianity as Methodists and others, such as the Baptist and Catholic faiths. This offering was so intense with much to cover that a part II was suggested, stay on the lookout for the date. Looking ahead, the Sunday Morning Offering aims to continue to provide new

and provocative ways to further the learning and appreciation of our faith, on the heels of Sunday Service. Come join and experience the calm and innovative lessons had in Sunday Morning Offering.

Upcoming Events

Promotion Sunday is June 4th, come and support the students as they showcase what they have learned during the Sunday school year.

Summer one room Sunday School commences on June 25th.

Vacation Bible School runs from August 14th through the 18th.

MAUNDY THURSDAY –THE LAST SUPPER

SOUP AND BREAD SUPPER AND HOLY COMMUNION

April 13th, 2017

Soup at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Service at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday offers an opportunity for the celebration of the Lord's Supper at an hour when, perhaps the associations are most fraught with meaning and responsive feeling. The name by which the day is identified is a corruption of the Latin word "mandatum" meaning mandate; and refers to Christ's new commandment "that ye love one another as we have been loved." found in John 13:34.

You are cordially invited to come celebrate this most important Christian Observance around tables with a soup and bread supper.

Immediately following the Soup Supper we will go to the Sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. for the Ancient Communion Service of the Upper Room.

I/we plan to attend the Maundy Thursday Soup and Bread Supper on Thursday, April 13th at 6:30 pm

Homemade soups will be served.

I/we will bring: _____ a loaf of homemade or bakery bread **or** _____ a container of grape juice.

Name _____ Phone # _____

No. of people attending _____

Or call the church office - 661-5151 ext. 201 to make your reservation.

Volunteers are needed to make soup, set up and cleanup. Please let us know where you can help.

Setup at 5:00 _____ Cleanup _____ Make Soup _____



MYF ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH

9:30 am-11:00 am

**** EGG HUNT WILL BEGIN AT 10AM SHARP, DON'T BE LATE!**



FELLOWSHIP HALL

OR



PLAYGROUND

21 JAMES STREET BABYLON, NY

\$5 per child

Ages 2-5 *only* can participate in the egg hunt

