

The Ties that Bind – NEWSLETTER



United Methodist Church
Babylon, New York 11702
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FEBRUARY- MARCH 2017

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

Even though it is January with its grey days and the colds and flu that challenge us, there are great things going on at the church. I would like you to be aware of many of them.

On February 19th at 7pm at the Greek Orthodox Church, there will be a Babylon Interfaith Service. It will feature musicians from many of our local churches. Over a year ago the Greek Orthodox Church had a fire which did damage and the member churches of the Babylon Interfaith Council reached out to that church. This service is a celebration that repairs have been made and the ministry at the Greek Orthodox Church continues. Our Chancel Choir will be singing 2 pieces that night. Mark your calendar.

Since the long essentially time of transition into having our two services on Sunday at 8 and at 9:30am, our 11am hour is now free to do some alternate experiences.

Stop by and see the messages on our own post it - note it wall near the library and look to the publication of 11am activities which will soon be available.

As a part of these activities, there will be a 40 day Prayer Challenge during Lent. Watch for the information as it is revealed.

February 28th is our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. It is always a great time of Fellowship. Our Ash Wednesday Service is the next day March 1 at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. Yes, less than one month until Lent. A Lent that is well observed makes for an Easter of great joy.

See you in church!

Tom

Pastor Tom

OUR MISSION STATEMENT – We are a community of Christ's followers. Our mission is to be worshipping, welcoming, inclusive, caring, growing in faith and to live and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in the world.

Welcome to eNewsletter for February-March. Receiving your newsletter **via email will help us to save paper, postage and time.** Please let us know your email address if you have not already done so. Email us at babylonumc@yahoo.com.

Worship Services are at 8 and 9:30 am. Sunday School classes are in session at 9:30 am. Children come to church with their parents and then are dismissed to their Sunday School Class after the children's message. Special program offerings will occur at 11 am on Sunday morning. Information on these programs appears in this newsletter and is open to all.

The Infant Toddler Nursery is for all children 3 years and under and is an important element of our church mission. Nursery care is available at 9:30 am for worship services. **Our Infant Toddler Nursery** is located in the Education Building.

Scout Sunday is February 12. Scouts wishing to participate in the service are invited to contact Doris Richter, Scouting Coordinator at the church office or email babylonumc@yahoo.com. All Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Adult Scouters are invited to attend the 9:30 am service in uniform. Please let Doris know your name and troop or pack number so you can be listed on the roster.

Bible Study – Join an open Bible study and discussion group - **Monday morning at 9:45 am** Sharon Niggemeier and Ed Tournu, facilitators. **Tuesday Evening at 6:45 p.m.** in the library with Rich Santoro, facilitator. For more information, call the church office.

DID YOU FORGET SOMEONE SPECIAL? A Christmas Ornament commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Candlelight Service is still available for purchase at \$25 each. See or email Sue Tremblay – susantrem@aol.com. A great gift or keepsake.

Information for the next eNewsletter is due no later than March 2nd for immediate mailing. Please get your information to Doris in a timely manner.

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 FEBRUARY 11th. Please volunteer to Sue Tremblay – susantrem@aol.com**

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.**

Share a little more love by **donating soup labeled with date and type** to our **Sharing & Caring Soup Kitchen** or come in and be a friend and **share a meal** with people who are in need. As we go through the rest of winter, in days of reflection, please spread the word to anyone who you feel may benefit from sharing a meal with us. The Sharing & Caring Soup Kitchen is always a place where you can share your hearts in many ways. You can make a donation of soup, labeled with date and type, donate other desserts or salads, or even just come in with helping hands. If you would like further information, please call Rose Alfini 631-827-2245 or Kathy Montreuil at 917-476-6338.

Once again, **Kits are needed by Church World Service for worldwide distribution.** When disasters strike, ready made Kits help families clean up, stay healthy and provide school supplies. **Our United Methodist Women are preparing such kits** that go to refugees, displaced people and victims of natural disasters at home and around the world. The types of kits

are: Hygiene Kits (value \$15), School Kits (value \$15), and Emergency Clean-up Buckets (value \$75). Everyone in our Church family is invited to contribute to this UMW program. Prepare a kit or donate money. You may write out your check to United Methodist Women. For kit details, call Millie Scott, 884-9183, or a UMW Circle chairperson. **Completed kits are due at the UMW Spring luncheon on Tuesday, March 14.**



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY -

If you know of someone who is experiencing a special joy, a loss, an illness or you just want to bless them with God's love, you may request a blessed prayer shawl or lap robe for them by filling in a prayer shawl request card found in the pew racks and placing it in the offering plate, or email: priscilla1629@optonline.net or mardowning@optonline.net with "prayer shawl request" in the subject line. Please include, recipients name, address, and event also include your name and tel # and if you can deliver it.

We have yarn available for those who would like to create a shawl or lap robe. Call Priscilla Schlegel 631-667-8252 or Marlene Downing 631-242-8740 and we will arrange for you to get the yarn. Suggested sizes are: rectangular shawls, 19" x 69" or 14" x 70", triangular shawls 65"W x 32" center, Lap robes 36" X 42". Please do not put fringe on any pieces. We have received a large variety of knitting needles. Contact Priscilla or Marlene if you could use them.

We appreciate and thank all of you who support this ministry with your time, talents and gifts. Please remember to include all those who have received these gifts of God's love in your prayers.

To my church family, I do not know how to begin to say thank you for all of your cards and prayers. It seems whenever I was having a down day along came the mailman with a get well wish! It's been a long year for me but your many prayers have helped me through the bad times as well as the good! Please keep them coming as I still have quite some time to go with my recovery and at times the pain is unbearable! The surgeon tells me I'll be swinging my golf clubs by late spring, happy days ahead! Love to all my church family, Alice E. Haff.

Trustees Report

The Trustees have been working hard to maintain our Church properties and assets. Hopefully you have all seen many of the improvements that have been made to the Education Building.

- In December the old drafty, broken windows in Fellowship Hall have been replaced with new, insulated, energy efficient windows. In addition to being an improvement visual, they will also help us to save on heating and cooling costs.
- Improvements to the Office Area of the Education Building making the area much brighter and more welcoming for visitors.
 - Other cost saving improvements include the LED Lighting installed in the offices and hallways.
 - Fresh paint job
 - Refinished wood floors

- Ceramic tile on the landings
- Reorganizing the space we were able to make more room in the food pantry and Doris' Office which will make it much easier on the staff and volunteers who work in these areas.

Church Financial Update

As many of you may know this year the church needs \$5,150 per week through envelope giving to meet the day to day obligations of running the church.

January is always a challenging month. This year was no different. The first Sunday of the year was actually New Year's Day. On another Sunday there was winter weather. On another Sunday it was iffy.

There is some good news here. Our average weekly giving has increased with each passing Sunday. Two weeks ago the weekly envelope giving was averaging \$4180. Last Sunday that average increased to \$4,308 per Sunday. We are headed in the right direction.

The bottom line is this. If we were on schedule we would have received \$25,750 to date. We have actually received \$21,342 a shortfall of \$4,408.

We thank you for all your prayerful support of our ministry.

This reporting of the financial facts comes to you from the Church Council.

Your 2017 Pledge Envelopes are available in the Narthex if you have not already picked yours up. If you have not already made your pledge for 2017, you may do so at this time. Electronic giving is available. Please contact Phyllis Keegan, bookkeeper for further information at 631-661-5151, ext 202 or at babylonumc@yahoo.com

11am offerings - February-April 2017



**Come join us for a new time of fellowship,
fun, and spiritual growth on Sundays at 11am!!
Located in the Sunday School Chapel,
unless otherwise indicated. All are welcome!**

February 5: Bible 101

February 12: A Heart to Heart

How is your soul? This is my story...

February 19: Love Feast

February 26: Fellowship and Art - Love Theme

(We will also introduce two Lenten projects)

March 5: The Wesleyan Tradition

March 12: Our Family Tree - Catholics, Protestants and...

March 19: What is "Authentic" worship?

March 26: Field Trip! (to be determined)

April 2: Hymn-Sing with Rev. Ken White! (in the sanctuary)

April 9: Palm Sunday (no offering)

April 16: Easter (no offering)

April 23: Kite Flying! (outside, of course!)
April 30: Prayer and Meditation Workshop (outside)



UMW

Welcome to 2017!! And what an exciting time it is for our church. Look around to see the improvements that have been made, and keep an eye out for those still in the planning stages. Notice all the activities and events that are available where you can attend, learn, and meet other church members. Attend an 11 am Sunday discussion group, sign up for the Taste of Home, join the choir or the book club or the prayer shawl ministry, prepare a tasty food for the Food Sale, help with planning the Tea at Two, assemble a Church World Service kit, etc. etc. And of course, the UMW always welcomes new members.

February:

- *Sunday the 5th - UMW Food Sale - All are invited to contribute food and help
- *Monday the 13th - Tea Planning Meeting @ 7 pm in the church Library

March:

- *March will be UMW month replacing October this year.
- *Ushers are needed for the 9:30 worship service
- *Exec board meeting on the 8th
- *UMW Coffee Hour on the 12th
- *General Meeting luncheon on the 14th @ 12:30.
Anna is hostess and Priscilla has the program

Book Club

The Book of Joy ~ The Dalai Lama & Desmond Tutu
Church Library - 6:30 p.m., Wed. , Feb.8th

*Flowers for February ~ Miriam Circle ~ Flowers for March ~ Esther Circle
Flowers for April ~ Anna Circle*



Missions and Outreach Committee

2nd Annual Taste of Home

February 12, 2017

2:00pm—5:00pm



Chefs: FREE Sous Chefs: \$10 Tasters: \$20

Location: Fellowship Hall

Babylon United Methodist Church

Chefs, Sous Chefs and Tasters are all **NEEDED**



For Reservations or more information please contact:

Carol—(631) 671-4533

or

Church Office—(631) 661-5151

**COME ONE – COME ALL
SHROVE TUESDAY
FAT TUESDAY
PANCAKE TUESDAY**

Call it whatever you like, it is the day before Ash Wednesday which is the beginning of the 40 days of Lent.

We will be serving wonderful homemade pancakes with several chefs at the griddles

TIME: 5:30PM TO 7:00PM

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRAURY 28, 2017

PLACE: FELLOWSHIP HALL

PRICE: \$5.00 Adults \$1:00 Children under 10

We ask that you please make a reservation so we may plan for the right amount of these delicious pancakes,

We want to make sure we have enough for everyone.

Please fill in the bottom of this page and place it in the offering plate or call the church office 631-661-5151 with your reservation by February 24th

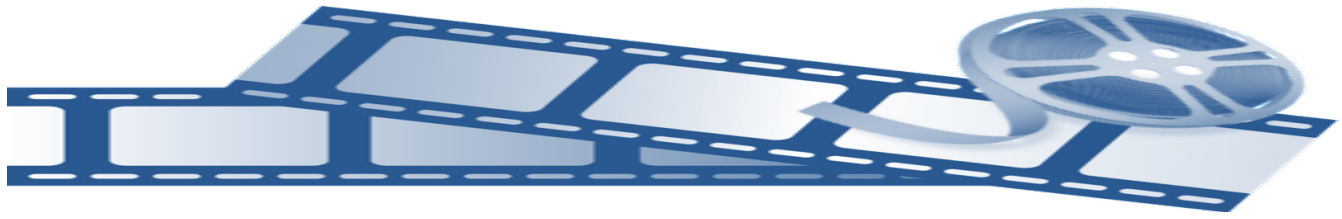
NAME _____

PHONE _____

FOR PANCAKE DINNER: ADULTS ____ CHILDREN ____

Could you help with: Set Up – Tuesday Afternoon @ 4:00pm ____

Serve @ 5:15 ____ Clean Up ____



The United Methodist Church

Babylon

Spring Movie Night

Join your church family in watching

A Heart Transformed Can Change the World

**Friday, March 31th, 2017
at 7:00 pm**

The festivities will be held
in Fellowship Hall Theater
at 21 James Street

Everyone is welcome

Free Admission

Free Popcorn

Bring you lounge chair (optional)

Sponsored by the Education Committee



Babylon United Methodist Church is looking to create a Business Directory

It will be BUMC's version of the "Yellow Pages" or "Angie's List"

Depending on participation, we are looking to have the Business Directory available in print and possibly our Church website – www.babylonumc.org

If you are interested in including your business in the directory, please complete the following information and return to the church office:

Your Name		
Name of Your Business		
Business Address		
Business Phone Number		
Email Address		
Website/LinkedIn Profile		
Industry		
Description of Your Business and List of Services		

If you have any questions, please email Peter Owh (peterowh@msn.com), Sue Macaluso (sueslav@optonline.net) , or Katie Schrader (ktocs88@gmail.com)