



*United Methodist Church
of
Lake Ronkonkoma*

Good News

DECEMBER 2020

United Methodist Church
of Lake Ronkonkoma

792 Hawkins Avenue
Lake Grove, NY 11755

631-588-5856

www.umclr.com

Church Office Hours –
Monday – Thursday
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Nursery School –
631-467-9601

Thrift Shop –
631-981-9749

Staff

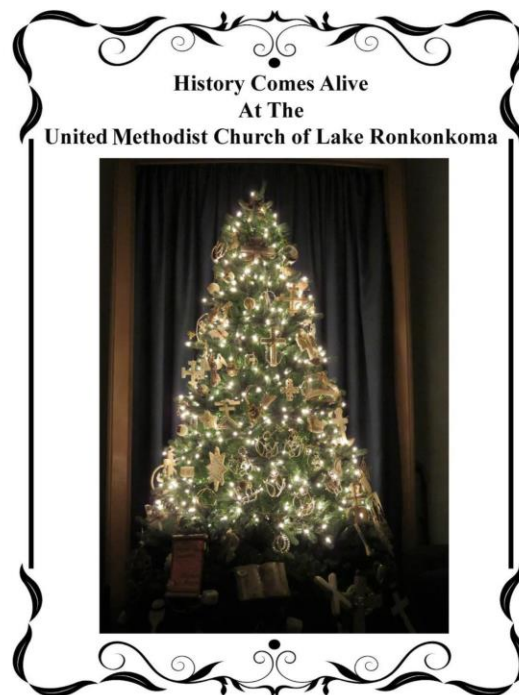
Rev. Dr. Constance Pak,
Pastor

Filomena Thomas,
Nursery School Director

Cathy Mitchell,
Administrative Assistant

Dr. Rex Enderlin,
Choir Director

Heather Edwards-Wilson,
Youth Choir Director &
Organist



THE CHRISMON TREE



Chrismons are inspirational ornaments made from Christian symbols (a contraction for Christ and monogram). In November 1982 Rose Young led a Chrismon workshop at our church. Rose became interested in Chrismons while attending a study group on the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Rose wrote, "I visualized the Christmas tree in our sanctuary shouting the message of Christ, the Bible and the Church to everyone! The Holy Spirit was very evidently at work here".

Every year since then, the Chrismon Tree has been a source of beauty and inspiration to our church family.

Portions taken from: Highlights of our Heritage by Robert C. Van Horn

VISION STATEMENT
OF THE NY ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

The New York Annual Conference through the grace of God embodies the beloved community of hope, building up a healthy body of Christ, with heart-warmed United Methodists in mission for the transformation of the world.

MISSION STATEMENT
OF THE NY ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

We strive to share God's love by creating safe places where all are accepted and welcomed, connecting the needs of people to the presence of God, and transforming the world through Christ.

VISION STATEMENT
OF THE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
OF LAKE
RONKONKOMA

We are the church at Five Corners spreading the "Light of Christ" from ourselves to the community and the world.

Christmas Poinsettias are coming!

This Christmas may be different than previous ones, but we still want to fill our Sanctuary with beautiful flowers to welcome baby Jesus into our hearts.

****This year we have only ordered 40 plants, so please get your order in ASAP****

Please call/email Cathy Mitchell at the Church office (631-588-5856 / cathy@umclr.com) with your order.

Cost is **still only** \$13.00 per plant - please put UMCLR Flower Fund on your check's memo line or include a note w/ your offering.



Order deadline is Sunday, December 6.



You can arrange pickup of your plant(s) with the Church Office on December 21 - 23, 2020.

If you have any questions, please call Heather DeSanto at 631-764-1416


CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER


PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____ Telephone # _____

In Memory of _____ from _____

In Memory of _____ from _____

In Honor of _____ from _____

In Honor of _____ from _____

Poinsettias ordered _____ at \$13.00 each = \$ _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Envelope # _____



Lectons

December 6
Second Sunday
of Advent

Isa 40:1-11
Ps 85:1-2, 8-13
(UMH 806)
2 Pet 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 13
Third Sunday
of Advent

Isa 61:1-4, 8-11
Ps 126 (UMH 847)
1 Thess 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20
Fourth Sunday
of Advent

2 Sam 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:47-55
(UMH 199)
Rom 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 27
First Sunday after
Christmas Day

Isa 61:10-62:3
Ps 148 (UMH 861)
Gal 4:4-7
Luke 2:22 - 40



PUMPKIN PATCH 2020 WRAP-UP

As promised, we wanted to update all on the Pumpkin Patch 2020. In a nutshell, we had an amazing, unanticipated, wonderfully blessed year. We started out not sure we would have the sale. Pumpkins were delayed and we were setting a deadline New Mexico wasn't assuring us they could meet. We ended up realizing we don't need extra weeks of sales, just some good solid ones. Lake Ronkonkoma UMC is blessed with a community who waited - who wanted to wait. The appreciation and patience expressed from the community was a welcome sentiment.

We exceeded the sales for 2020 vs 2019 by \$58.58 and were blessed to send a check to the folks in New Mexico for \$11,136.23 while earning \$5,559.77, as well as an additional \$190 in straight donation for the church. All this in 2 ½ weeks – almost ½ the normal selling season. This will influence our sales timeframe for next year.

We added two new members to the Pumpkin Posse and officially welcomed another cause he was just always there already 😊. Ray Becht is officially a Posse member and we gave a warm welcome to Tina Filiberto and Soon Bowes as our newest members.

We'd like to share the letter below that we received from the folks in New Mexico. This little leap of faith served and it served well.

Finally, we finished the season with a Zoom meeting for all volunteers and gathered a good amount of ways to make the season even better i.e. better contact messaging, second chances box for "turning" pumpkins that still offer seeds, selfie station, increased signage for various needs, etc., etc.

"And He saith unto them, because of your little faith: for verily I say unto you, if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

- Matthew 17:20

Until next time - be well, be safe and watch all around you to stay exactly that way through these unexplainable times. God bless!

Stacey, Jill, Ileana, Tessa, Ray, Bernice, Beth Ann, Tina, Soon and Barbara

Letter from the folks in New Mexico:

Dear Partners,

At the beginning of the shipping season it seemed that we would never be able to repay the line of credit we used for the 2020 Pumpkin growing season. So many of our partners passed on doing a patch in 2020 due to the virus.

A combination of a pumpkin shortage in most parts of the country and you, the remaining group of dedicated and patient partners, produced record sales at your individual locations. Many of you have experienced a significant increase in sales. We know some of your organizations are also struggling, we hope this helps.

So many small businesses, like ourselves, are in trouble. Some are even losing their businesses that took a lifetime to build. This has been a difficult year for all of us, we are extremely grateful to have survived. Please share this story and my Thanks to all Coordinators and volunteers.

Thanks,

Richard Hamby

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

These names are offered each month. It is an opportunity to extend to our friends and loved ones the love of Christ on these special days and to express our thanks for the gift of their presence in our midst.

If you would like to be on our birthday list, please call the church office at (631) 588-5856 and we will gladly add your name.



- 2 Regina Eger
- 3 Gunner Teigland
- 4 Eleanor Subbiondo
- 8 Eileen Torraca
- 11 Sofia Pearl
- 12 Amanda Martocello
- 18 Kathy Smith
- 18 Christine Pfeil
- 18 Samuel Tom
- 25 Paul Eger
- 25 Soon Bowes
- 31 Krista Teigland

Martha's Place Thrift Shop

Martha's Place
Thrift Shop

631-981-9749

Hours:

Fridays
10am - 2pm

Saturdays
10am - 2pm



We hope you have a very good Christmas this year during this nasty virus, so please be mindful you are saving lives by wearing your mask when out and about!!!

Just a reminder we take no donations in December because we will still be going through all the donations that you so graciously have given us to date.

Opening on the Friday and Saturday has been a gift to our Church to help with our funds. Hopefully we will be back to normal in 2021 when all is clear.

In God's service,
Marilee Drisgula and all volunteers

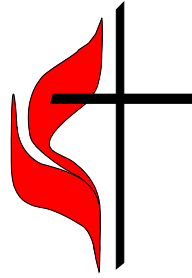
It's Christmas At Martha's Place! Thrift Shop



Christmas Merchandise - Winter Clothing - Housewares Arriving Daily



Open Friday & Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Your Board of Trustees had an exceptionally productive year thanks to the hard work of our members, and the generous donations of time and money from our congregation.

Projects Completed in 2020:

Baker Hall painted by AA members free of charge.
PSEG replaced all outdoor parking lot pole lighting free of charge.
New wood floor installed in Sanctuary.
New carpet installed in narthex.
New carpet aisle runner installed in Sanctuary.
New one-way arrows painted in parking lot.
Fence repaired on Lido Blvd. side of property.
Dead tree removed next to Thrift Shop.
Successful Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner.
Hired new sexton Phil Armstrong.
New Utica National Insurance company policy for 2020/2021.

2021 Proposed Projects:

New Sign for church
Re-evaluating all maintenance contracts
Updating 2020 rental agreements
Sale of Smith Street property

The Trustees are truly blessed to have Quinn Vollgraff, Jim Pennise and Rex Enderlin, who are always available for repairs. We would like to thank John & Donna Stein for the wonderful job they did coordinating this year's successful Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner. Also, thank you to all those who helped install the new wood floor in our Sanctuary. Rex Enderlin, Charlie Bornschein, Jerry June, Ray Becht, Henry Tom and others too numerous to mention. Without their support the job would not have been completed successfully. Thank you to Keith Bowes for being Co-chairman, Jill Holmes for being our Secretary, John Stein for being our Treasurer, Marilee Drisgula for representing the Trustees at Nursery School Meetings, and Diane Hatton who represented us with Loaves and Fishes, our soup kitchen.

We would also like to recognize the commitment of our Re-opening Task Force for the amazing job they did to get our church opened under the CDC, NYS, and NYAC regulations. Thank you, Debra Schild, Walter Schroeder and Pastor Pak.

We also hired a new sexton, Phil Armstrong, who through his regular job at the Sachem School District, is well versed in keeping our church buildings clean and sanitized.

Finally, we would like to remember our brother Trustee Doug Filipowich who passed away on January 17, 2020. Doug was always there for repairs at our Church, Parsonage or if a fellow congregant was in need. He will truly be missed.

The Trustee members for the Class of 2022 and 2023 will be:

Cheryl Alejandro	2022
John Stein	2023
Rex Enderlin	2023
Walter Schroeder	2023

Praying for a bright and prosperous 2021.

In God's service,

Respectfully submitted by:

Walter Schroeder
&
The Board of Trustees

My Beloved Congregation!

There are no words to express my deep gratitude to each and every one of you for your monetary gifts from the Pastor's Appreciation month. I felt your caring, love and support, and it means a lot to me. Your gift will be well used for the good purposes. Thank you millions from the bottom of my heart!



Shalom & Blessings,
Pastor Constance



Veterans Sunday

November 8, 2020



God Bless



Our Veterans



The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma



Young People's Service

November 15, 2020



The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma



Our Beloved Cathy Mitchell, Administrative Assistant, is Retiring

Cathy has been our Administrative Assistant in the church office for over eleven (11) years. She has decided to embark on the next phase of her life and is planning to retire at year's end. Cathy is always jovial, kind, compassionate and gracious in her dealings with all people. She is extremely efficient, conscientious and proficient in the performance of all her job duties. During this pandemic shutdown, she continued her exemplary performance working from home and kept up with all office operations. She is the smiling face and friendly voice that is so often the critical first impression of our UMCLR. She is invaluable to our Pastor and always willing to assist committee chairpersons, parishioners and the general public. She is going to be very difficult to replace and will be sorely missed. She has graciously offered to assist us with the transition of a new Administrative Assistant. As a body of Christ, we would like to extend to her our appreciation for her dedicated and faithful service to our UMCLR. Due to COVID restrictions, a farewell gathering is not safe. However, I am sure she would appreciate any notes or cards wishing her and her family well for this next chapter in her life.

Mrs. Catherine Mitchell
4 Walnut Street
Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

Also, if you know anyone that would be interested in the Administrative Assistant position, then have them contact me at lizawright@optonline.net.

Sincerely,
Liza Wright and all SPPRC members



If you know someone who may be comforted by a beautiful prayer shawl, please contact the church office at 631-588-5856.



Baptism Sunday


November 22, 2020



Donald Charles Braccioldieta III




The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma



United Methodist Church
of
Lake Ronkonkoma

**Missions of the
United Methodist Church of
Lake Ronkonkoma**

We are the Church at Five Corners spreading the "Light of Christ"
from ourselves to the community and the world.



The Mission Book has been updated!
Please call the church office at
631-588-5856 to request a copy.
Emailed or hard copies are available.



Ongoing Missions:

Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen of the UMCLR is closed until further notice.

The Food Pantry is open on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month (except holidays) from 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Support Groups:

Narcotics Anonymous
Mondays at 7:00 pm
in Fellowship Hall

Please call our church office at 631-588-5856 for further information.

Administrative Assistant (P/T) Needed for the Church Office

The United Methodist Church of Lake Ronkonkoma is seeking an Administrative Assistant and we need your help. I would like everyone to spread the word so we can get some viable candidates. This position requires:

- Good organizational and communication skills;
- Professional conduct and the ability to handle confidential information;
- Assist the Pastor, Committee Chairpersons, Parishioners and the Public;
- In addition, must be efficient with the computer.

Once trained, this individual has to be self-sufficient and confident to prioritize tasks to ensure completion. The work schedule is Monday to Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm September to June and Monday to Thursday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm July to August. The annual salary is \$18,750 based on 1,250 hours work/\$15hr. The office will be closed for thirteen (13) holidays. There is paid sick and vacation to be accrued. Please direct all candidates to contact me or send me their resume to lizawright@optonline.net.

Please pray we can fill this position with a viable candidate before year-end. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,
Liza Wright and SPPRC Members

Join us for our next Book Discussion on January 11 at 7:00 p.m.

We will be discussing “The Tea Chest” by Heidi Chiavaroli

"Captivating from the first page. I couldn't read this novel fast enough, and yet the beautiful writing compelled me to slow down and experience every line. Dual tales of courage, love, and freedom proved even more poignant for being woven together as one. Steeped in timeless truths and served with skill, *“The Tea Chest”* is sure to be savored by all who read it."

— JOCELYN GREEN, CHRISTY AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF *“BETWEEN TWO SHORES”*

"Chiavaroli has masterfully weaved a timeless tale that kept me turning pages far into the night...and reminded me of the gentle truth that identity and worth are found in the eyes of Jesus."

— TARA JOHNSON, AUTHOR OF *“WHERE DANDELIONS BLOOM”*

GOOD

NEWS

Church Office	(631) 588-5856	Board of Trustees	Walter Schroeder
Church FAX	(631) 588-0753		Keith Bowes
Nursery School	(631) 467-9601	Endowment	Sharon Millard
Martha's Place Thrift Shop	(631) 981-9749	Memorials	Janet Baumann
Parsonage	(631) 585-4968	Finance	(Needed)
Church Email	Cathy@umclr.com	Financial Secretaries	Angelique Sinclair
Church Website	umclr.com		Bernice Waleski
Resident Bishop	Rev. Thomas Bickerton	Stewardship	Warren Ferry
District Superintendent	Rev. Julia Yeon-Hee Yim	Worship	Heather DeSanto
Pastor	Rev. Dr. Constance Y. Pak	Lay Servant Coordinator	Heather DeSanto
CHURCH STAFF:		Education	Sue Preddice
Administrative Assistant	Cathy Mitchell	Sunday School Superintendent	Tammy Edwards-Wilson
Nursery School Director	Filomena Thomas	Youth Coordinator	Wendy Duffy
Chancel Choir Director	Rex Enderlin	Missions, Evangelism & Nurture	Soon Bowes
Organist	Heather Edwards-Wilson	Martha's Place Thrift Shop	Marilee Drisgula
Children's Choir Director	Heather Edwards-Wilson	Soup Kitchen Representative	Diane Hatton
		UMM Representatives	Keith Bowes
			Dennis Subbiondo
Church Council	Debra Schild	UMW Representatives	(Needed)
Staff Parish Pastor Relations	Liza Wright	Church Historian	Walter Schroeder
Lay Leader	Marilyn Becht	Comm. & Tech.	(Needed)
	Angelique Sinclair	Disaster Prep. & Response	Warren Ferry
Lay Members to Conference	Diane Hatton	Good News Editor	Cathy Mitchell
	Bill Wahl	Circulation	Leslie Ann Alessi

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