



*United Methodist Church
of
Lake Ronkonkoma*

Good News

February 2023

Printed Color Copy: \$2.00 Donation

United Methodist
Church of Lake
Ronkonkoma

792 Hawkins Avenue
Lake Grove, NY 11755

631-588-5856

www.umclr.com

Church Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday
9 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Nursery School
631-467-9601

Thrift Shop
631-981-9749

Staff

Rev. Karen A. Burger,
Pastor

Filomena Thomas,
Nursery School
Director

Abby Preziosi,
Administrative
Assistant

Dr. Rex Enderlin,
Choir Director

Heather Edwards-
Wilson,
Youth Choir Director &
Organist



My command is this:
Love each other
as I have loved you.

John 15: 12

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.



Dear Friends at UMCLR,

February is a month when we focus on the heart. It is American Heart Month, when we raise awareness of a heart healthy lifestyle that supports our physical heart, including getting exercise, adequate rest and eating healthy. It is also the month of St. Valentine's Day so we see a lot of heart decorations around us and may have to resist the temptation to overindulge in chocolate.

What if we think of February as "God's Heart Month?" The month when we focus on God's heart of love for us and how we can respond with love for God? "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) God's love in Christ provides a model for the love we share with the world, love that includes, shows compassion, is forgiving, is kind, is healing and transformational.

St. Valentine is an example of someone who bravely showed love for others. During a time when new marriages became illegal in Rome because Emperor Claudius thought it would deter his efforts to recruit soldiers and distract existing soldiers from their job, Valentine, a priest, performed weddings in defiance of this ruling. He even paid for this decision with his life, and after he was executed he was buried on February 14. It is for this reason that he is often associated with romantic love today; he literally died to perform marriages during a time when they were illegal in Rome. But our Valentine's Day traditions extend beyond the romantic and it is common for friends and family members to give Valentine cards, gifts, and chocolates to one another.

Love comes in many forms, and Paul wrote in his First Letter to the Church at Corinth that it is the greatest of the spiritual gifts. The mark of a Christian is love, and so is the mark of a true church. Love "holds no record of wrongs," (1 Corinthians 13: 5). It is all about building up the other and not oneself. It is about wanting the best for others. God's love is the source of our human love, and so we give God thanks and praise when love abounds. Healthy love does not seek to control but to cooperatively work for the good of all. Healthy love is not possessive or self-centered; healthy love is generous. Healthy love values relationship over power and wealth.

There is a beautiful story that Valentine, while in jail, developed a friendship with a young blind girl named Julia, who was the daughter of the jailer. He taught her and encouraged her and helped her heal from bullying she had received. When he was sentenced to die, he wrote her a last note encouraging her to stay close to Christ and signed it "From your Valentine." This is the spiritual source of the tradition of writing notes of love on Valentine's day.

As a congregation, may we observe "God's Heart Month" and share love in Christ with one another. May we continue to embody a "healthy body of Christ, making disciples for the transformation of the world." (excerpt from New York Conference Mission statement.)

In Christ's Service,

Rev. Karen A. Burger, Pastor

Lections

February 5
5th Sunday after the
Epiphany

Isa 58:1-9a (9b-12)
Ps 112:1-9 (10)
(UMH 833)
1 Cor 2:1-12 (13-16)
Matt 5:13-20

February 12
6th Sunday after the
Epiphany

Deut 30:15-20
Ps 119:1-8 (UMH 840)
1 Cor 3:1-9
Matt 2:1-12

February 19
Transfiguration
Sunday

Exod 24:12-18
Ps 99 (UMH 819)
2 Pet 1:16-21
Matt 17:1-9

February 26
1st Sunday in Lent

Gen 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Ps 32 (UMH 766)
Rom 5:12-19
Matt 4:1-11

Ash Wednesday Service

February 22nd

7:30 PM

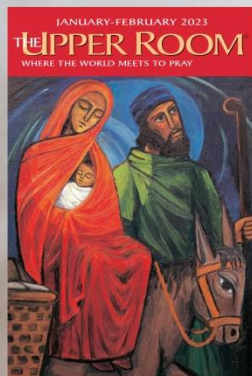
Meaningful Worship
&
Fellowship for all

The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma

Pray with us . . .

Virtual Prayer Meeting

Every Wednesday 8:00 AM



Come join us as we discuss the Upper Room reading for that Wednesday, and continue our prayers for those who are in need. This is a wonderful way to focus on your communication with God and become closer to members of your church family, as they share their thoughts, praises, petitions, prayers and faith.



zoom

Meeting ID:
858 8602 0997
Passcode:
011880

The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma

Ongoing
Missions:

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 - 7:00 pm
Thursdays - 6:00 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tuesdays - 6:30 &
8:30 p.m.
Fridays - 8:00 p.m.

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



Soup Sunday VII

February 5, 2023

(After Worship Service)

**Choose Your Favorites
From Many
Delicious Varieties
On Sale**

Pre-order & Take Home
Enjoy!

Sponsored by: The Missions, Evangelization & Nurture Committee

A large, dense pile of various canned food items, including soups, beans, and vegetables, in various colors and brands. The cans are stacked and overlapping, creating a textured, colorful background. The text is overlaid on this background in a white, cursive font.

*Food Pantry
Open
Tuesday
February 7 & 21, 2023
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM*

H A P P Y B I R T H D A Y

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.

- 7 Jessica Alessi**
- 7 Jean McNeill**
- 9 Cheryl Otto**
- 10 Helen Mulvihill**
- 15 Sue Sprague**
- 15 Conner Tracey**
- 19 Gregory Olivotti, Jr.**
- 22 Sharon Corvaia**
- 22 Barbara Brown**
- 23 Rev. Karen Burger**
- 24 Janet Baumann**
- 24 Tessa Tom**



The "Sacred" Pretzel



The pretzel's legendary origins date back over 1,400 years. It was around 610 AD when legend says that a monk who lived in a monastery in Northern Italy or Southern France handed out baked pieces of leftover bread twisted together to resemble crossed arms, which was at that time a traditional prayer pose. The monk called them pretiola, which is Latin for "little rewards." He also claimed that the three-holed pretiola represented the Holy Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. During the Middle Ages, monks gave away pretzels to the poor as a religious symbol that additionally provided sustenance. Because of this, the pretzel caught on as a sign of fulfillment, good fortune and prosperity. Pretzels are also associated with Lent, as they do not contain eggs or dairy and are thus ideal for fasting.

Martha's Place Thrift Shop

Martha's Place

Thrift Shop

631-981-9749

Hours:

Mondays
10 am - 2 pm

Tuesdays
10 am - 2 pm

Fridays
10 am - 2 pm

Saturdays
10 am - 2 pm

WOW, can it be February already? Where has the time gone? Time as usual, just keeps marching on!

First, I would like to thank you and our community for all the marvelous donations which keep our Thrift Shop alive and thriving! Also, I want to thank all our amazing volunteers who give of their time and energy to keep our shop open and stocked with constantly updated merchandise! Many thanks to Dorothy who is a wizard at staging the items for sale.

St. Valentine's Day will be here before you know it and we have many items available for you to check out including some lovely jewelry. We are open Monday-Tuesday-Friday-Saturday from 10 AM - 2 PM. Stop in, look around, and say hello!

In God's service,
Marilee Drisgula and all volunteers



Martha's Place
Winter Clothing
Housewares
Jewelery - Keepsakes
&
**Valentine's Day
Merchandise**
Open
Monday - Tuesday - Friday - Saturday
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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Upcoming Opportunities: Long Island East District
(Get inspired! Bring back ideas for our church!)

Laity Convocation

February 4, 2023 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Virtual Event for Laity with our Bishop
"Harnessing Your God-Given Gifts for the Future of The Church"

Bishop's Day on the District

February 6, 2023 - 7 p.m.

Bible Korean Church, Dix Hills

Disciple to Disciple Training Opportunity

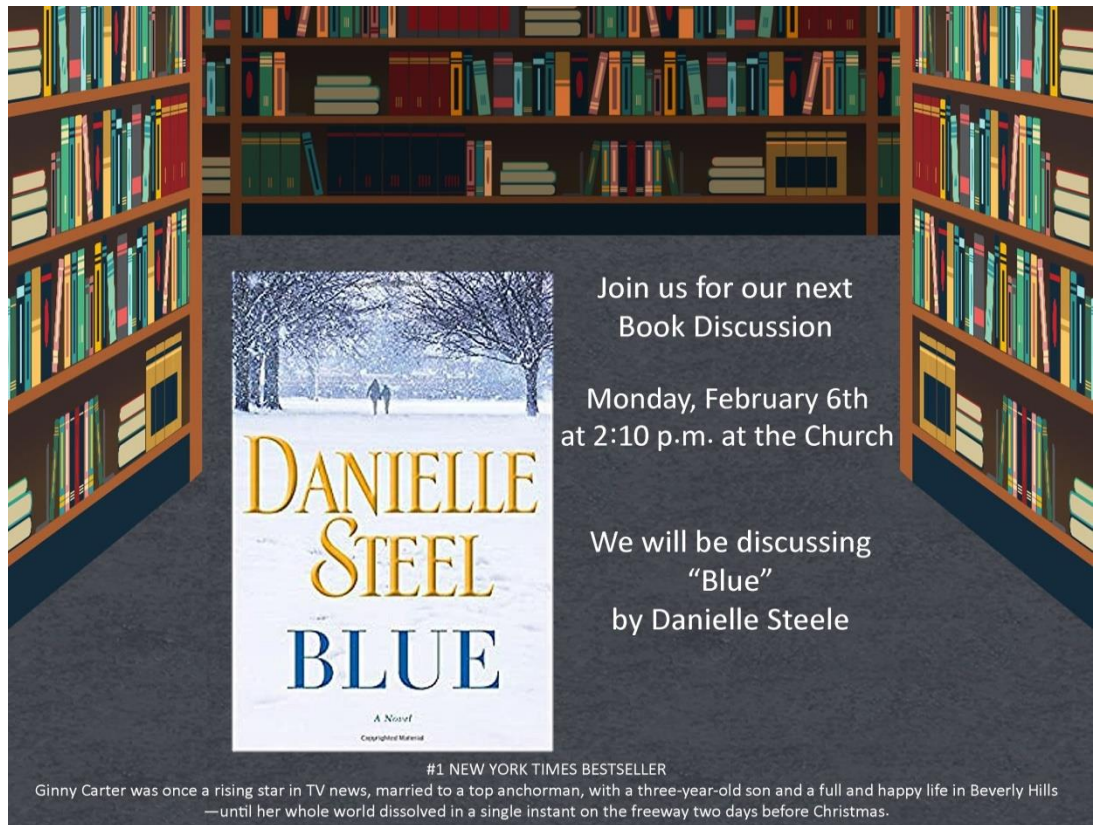
February 11, 2023 - 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Hicksville UMC

Workshops for Trustees, Finance and SPPRC committees and on topics pertaining to church life, including missions and disaster relief, safety in the sanctuary, evangelism, web presence.

For registration information, contact our church office at (631) 588-5856 or Pastor Burger

No cost. Only benefits!



Join us for our next
Book Discussion

Monday, February 6th
at 2:10 p.m. at the Church

We will be discussing
"Blue"
by Danielle Steele

DANIELLE STEEL
BLUE
A Novel
Copyrighted Material

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Ginny Carter was once a rising star in TV news, married to a top anchorman, with a three-year-old son and a full and happy life in Beverly Hills —until her whole world dissolved in a single instant on the freeway two days before Christmas.

GAME NIGHT

Friday, February 17, 2023
7:00 PM

Enjoy a game of your choice or play one of ours.
Come, laugh, and have fun.

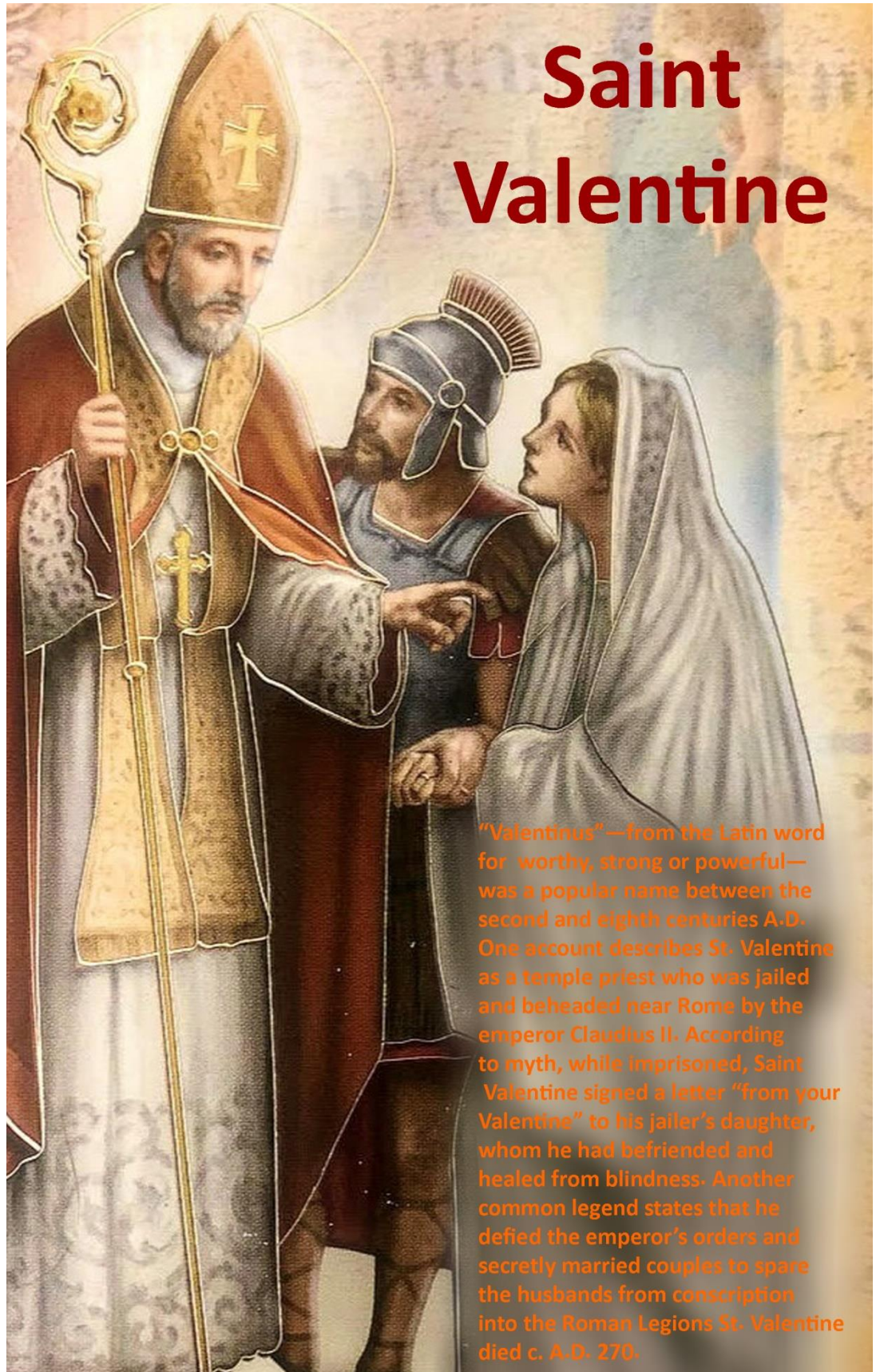
CPR-AED BASIC FIRST AID TRAINING

Saturday
February 18, 2023
10:00 AM

\$20 Per Person - 12 People Per Class

To sign up: Call the Church Office at (631) 588-5856

Saint Valentine



"Valentinus"—from the Latin word for worthy, strong or powerful—was a popular name between the second and eighth centuries A.D. One account describes St. Valentine as a temple priest who was jailed and beheaded near Rome by the emperor Claudius II. According to myth, while imprisoned, Saint Valentine signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and healed from blindness. Another common legend states that he defied the emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from conscription into the Roman Legions. St. Valentine died c. A.D. 270.



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Sunday
February 19, 2023

UMM
UNITED METHODIST MEN

**FELLOWSHIP
BREAKFAST**

7:30 AM

The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma



UMM
UNITED METHODIST MEN

Retreat

March 24-26, 2023

For more information
Call the Church Office at
(631) 588-5856

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The United Methodist men are looking forward to a wonderful new year with lots of good work and fellowship; we would like to invite any men of the church who would be interested in joining our Christ centered group to please do so.

Trifolds are in the narthex for those interested in seeing what our group is based on.

In God's Service,
Dennis Subbiondo, President



Monday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m. we will meet for a program about prayer. Leaders: Trish Hayward and Barb Colucci.

Looking ahead:

March 13 meeting – guest speaker KMS Native Plants – Gardening

April – Retreat

May 15 – Tessa's Tea Party

June 12

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Who: All women invited

What: Weekend retreat

Where: Shelter Island, Camp Quinipet

When: Friday afternoon – April 21

Saturday – April 22

Sunday morning – April 23

Please reserve your spot before March 30! Deposit \$50, check made out to Lk Ronk UM Church

Please let Sue Sprague or Tessa Tom know if you will be staying all weekend or just Saturday. Final cost TBD, depends on how many attend.

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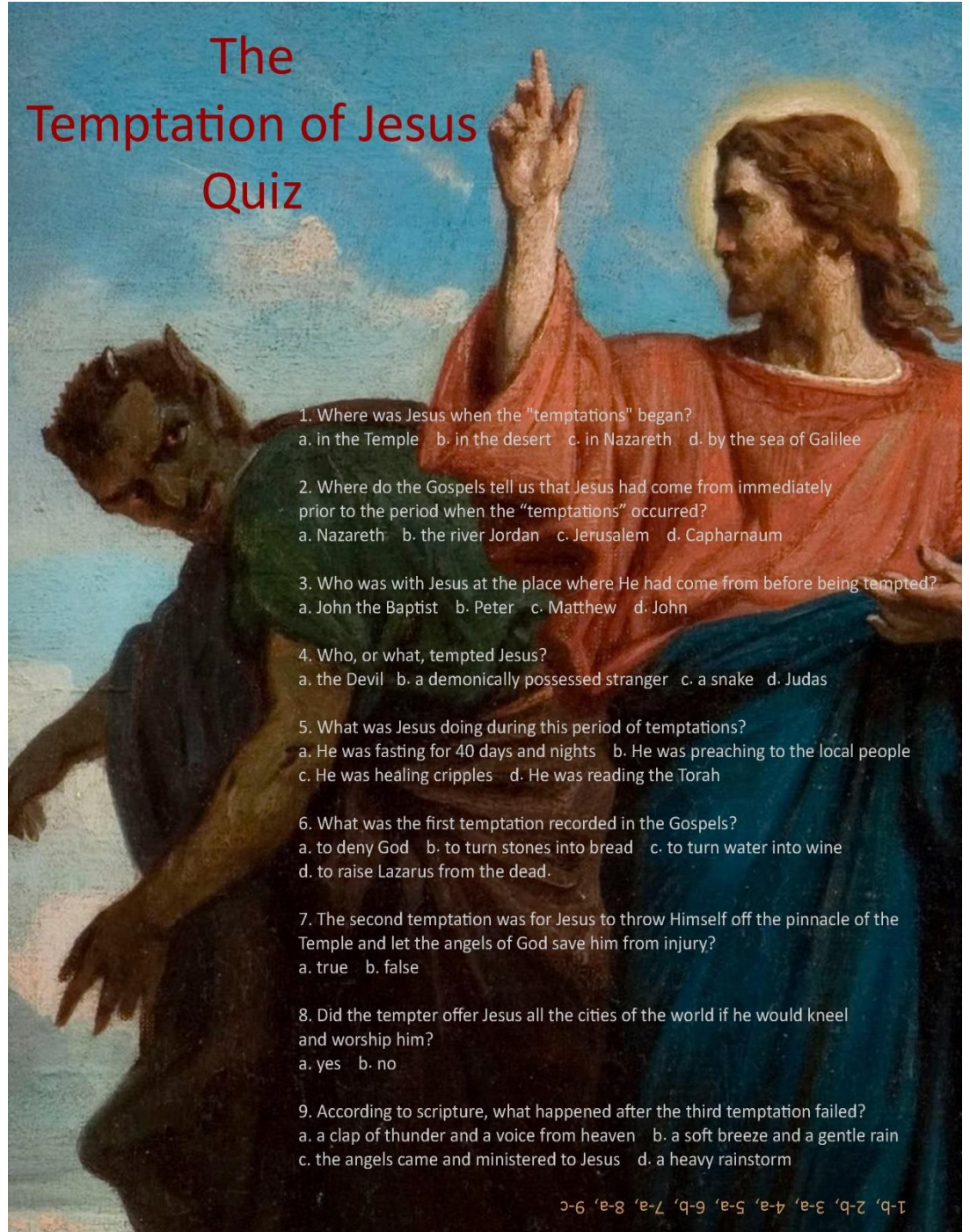
Lent Quiz

1. What does the term 'Lent,' mean?
a. sacrifice b. time c. spring d. all of the above
2. How were ashes imposed in the early church?
a. the shape of a cross was drawn on the forehead
b. ashes were sprinkled over the head
3. Why do people give things up for Lent?
a. to follow the example of Jesus' 40-day fast
b. to help focus on prayer and devotions
c. all of the above.
4. What snack food has significance during Lent?
a. chocolate b. pretzels c. popcorn d. all of the above
5. Why does Lent last 40 days?
a. to represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness
b. to recall the 40 days and nights the earth was flooded in the Old Testament
c. to remind us of the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert
6. True or false? Sundays are not counted in the 40 days of Lent.
a. true b. false
7. When does Lent Start?
a. 1st Sunday in February b. Ash Wednesday c. Transfiguration Sunday
8. When does Lent End?
a. Easter Sunday b. Palm Sunday c. Maundy Thursday d. Good Friday
9. What is the official color of Lent?
a. white b. blue c. green d. purple

1-c, 2-b, 3-c, 4-b, 5-a, 6-a, 7-b, 8-d, 9-d

The winter season is upon us once again and your Board of Trustees would appreciate donations of salt and ice melt for our walkways. Thank you in advance for your donations.

The Temptation of Jesus Quiz



1. Where was Jesus when the "temptations" began?
a. in the Temple b. in the desert c. in Nazareth d. by the sea of Galilee
2. Where do the Gospels tell us that Jesus had come from immediately prior to the period when the "temptations" occurred?
a. Nazareth b. the river Jordan c. Jerusalem d. Capharnaum
3. Who was with Jesus at the place where He had come from before being tempted?
a. John the Baptist b. Peter c. Matthew d. John
4. Who, or what, tempted Jesus?
a. the Devil b. a demonically possessed stranger c. a snake d. Judas
5. What was Jesus doing during this period of temptations?
a. He was fasting for 40 days and nights b. He was preaching to the local people
c. He was healing cripples d. He was reading the Torah
6. What was the first temptation recorded in the Gospels?
a. to deny God b. to turn stones into bread c. to turn water into wine
d. to raise Lazarus from the dead.
7. The second temptation was for Jesus to throw Himself off the pinnacle of the Temple and let the angels of God save him from injury?
a. true b. false
8. Did the tempter offer Jesus all the cities of the world if he would kneel and worship him?
a. yes b. no
9. According to scripture, what happened after the third temptation failed?
a. a clap of thunder and a voice from heaven b. a soft breeze and a gentle rain
c. the angels came and ministered to Jesus d. a heavy rainstorm

1-b, 2-b, 3-a, 4-a, 5-a, 6-b, 7-a, 8-a, 9-c

The penitential season of Lent is a season of the Church year which commemorates the forty days Jesus fasted and prayed in the wilderness before he began his public ministry.

Lent is a very personal time, so The United Methodist Church does not have official guidelines on how individuals should observe Lent via a fast or in any other way. Some choose to give up a certain food, however a spirit of fasting can include restriction of luxuries such as television watching, shopping and spending time on the computer. We can give away clothing or possessions to those in need, give our time by volunteering or we can pray more often alone or with family members.

FINANCIAL



FINANCE COMMITTEE MESSAGE

Our 2022 Finance Committee had an extremely taxing year, fraught with concerns and problems, old and new challenges and a forward looking negative financial projection that will require constant close monitoring and the establishment and realization of new norms. In looking back, some of our challenges during 2022, with looks to the future, are delineated herein:

- ❖ Issued a target plan for 2022 with a **\$30,000 deficit** hoping it **would energize savings in expenses, increases in stewardship giving and fuel new ideas for fund raising. Our actual year end figure was a deficit of \$31,930.** This will mark our finishing in a negative position 6 of the past 9 years, with the COVID PPP funding we were given, accounting for 2 of the positive position years.
- ❖ This year, 2023, the Finance Committee issued a target plan/budget with a **deficit of \$7,500. To achieve this major plan reduction, Finance (1) assessed and estimated all income and expense categories, (2) challenged our membership offerings to increase closer to their 2019 levels, (3) challenged each committee and group to increase their fund raising activities and/or give more money to our general fund and (4) anticipated solar panel electricity savings for the entire year.**
- ❖ Illustrated and shared our financial picture, looking into the future with loss positions, which identified **various financial sources supporting current church activities which would have to be utilized for current expenses and would thus be zeroed out by around the year 2026.** Then, to continue operations as we know them, we would have to go back to families whose loved ones have left bequests to our church for specific reasons and ask them to change the specifics to help sustain church operating activities and to keep our UMCLR doors open.

U P D A T E

- ❖ Realized a financial transition for a new Pastor and a new co-op structure with another United Methodist Church wherein we are sharing specific Pastoral expenses, which will net a **slight positive financial position** for us.
- ❖ Fostered a “deep dive” financial look into the Nursery School, which resides on our property, to ensure its current financial viability and the maintaining of a positive position moving forward. With a concerted effort by the Nursery School, **current plans sustain a positive financial position**, which will continue to be reviewed.
- ❖ **Continuously challenged our Church Council leadership to initiate changes in our operating posture** to recoup a positive financial position moving forward. Initiated discussions with Stewardship leadership to help decide on a 2023 Stewardship campaign to increase congregational financial awareness and to stimulate increased giving.

Our Finance Committee is a talented, spirited, faithful group of parishioners whose primary focus and concern is our UMCLR financial stability. As Finance leaders, they constantly issue clear, concise, timely and accurate financial accounts and reports along with a dialogue apropos their conclusions, projections and recommendations. Even though the answers aren't always positive, kudos to our entire Finance Committee for a difficult job well done and for spiriting us into the future with fortitude and promise. **We all hope and pray you understand our current financials, face the realities and heed our call for help. Thank you.**

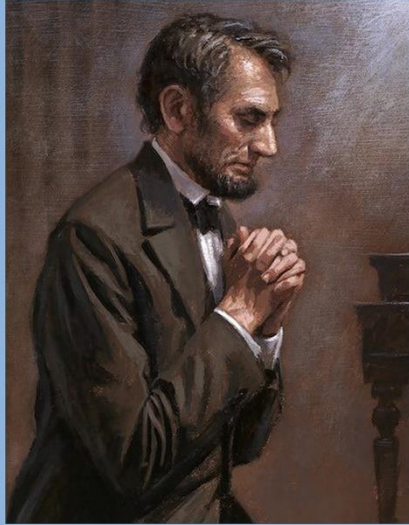
GOD SPEED!



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Lincoln's Birthday – February 12

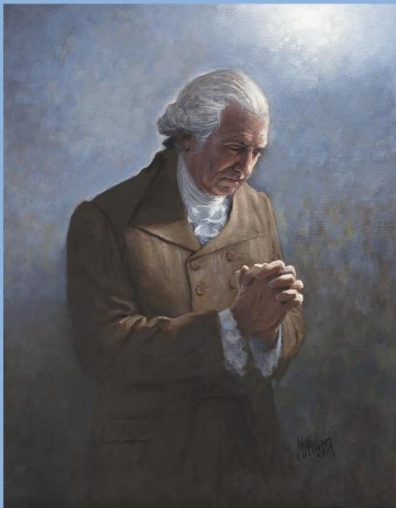
Lincoln's Prayer for the United States



Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech You that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Your favor and glad to do Your will. Bless our land with honorable ministry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people, the multitude brought here out of many kindreds and tongues. Endow with Your spirit of wisdom those whom in Your name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to Your law we may show forth Your praise among the nations of the earth. In time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in You to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Washington's Birthday – February 22

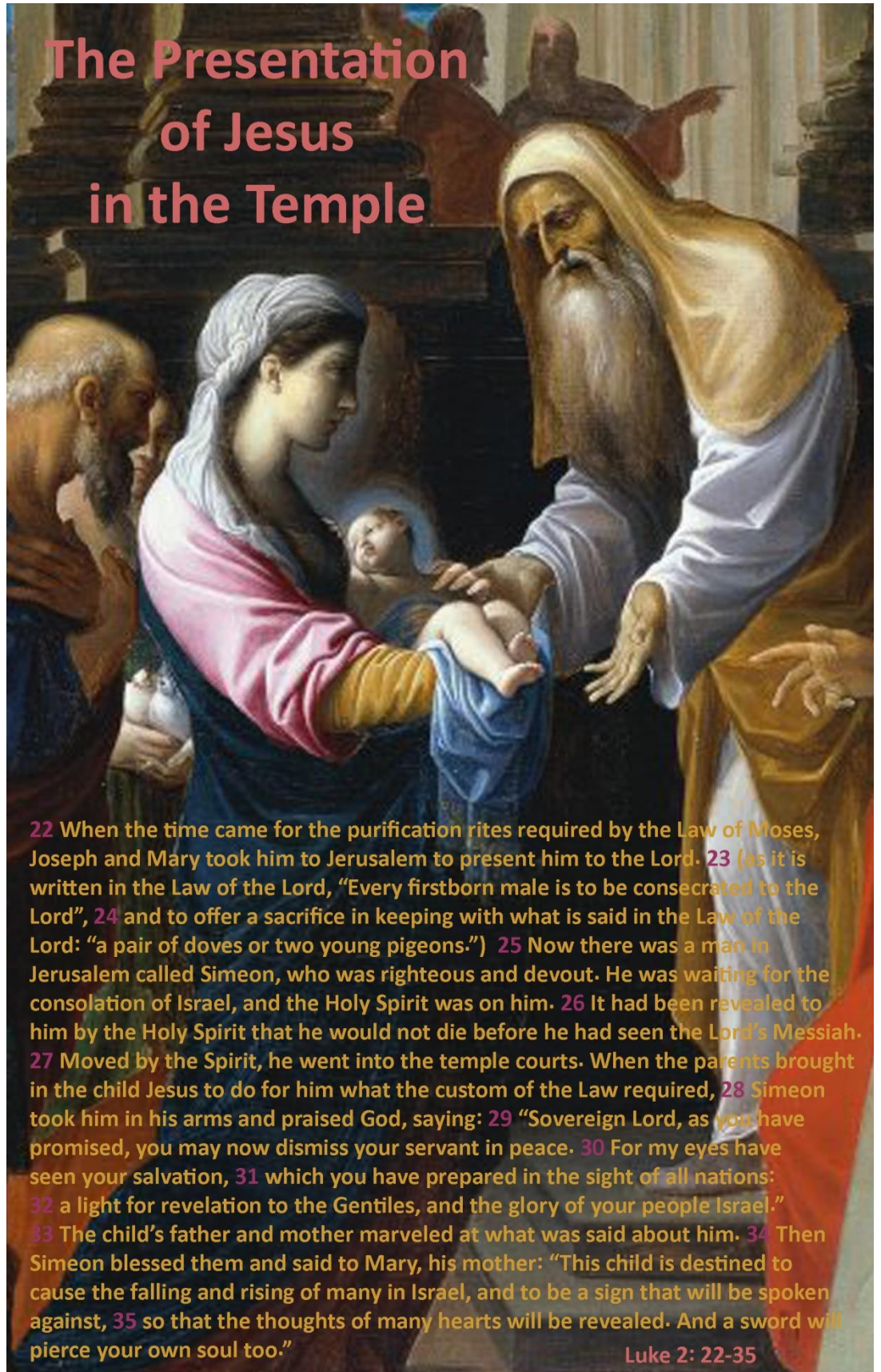
Washington's Prayer for the United States



Almighty God: We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government, and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow-citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple



22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. **23** (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”, **24** and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”) **25** Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. **26** It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. **27** Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, **28** Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: **29** “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. **30** For my eyes have seen your salvation, **31** which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: **32** a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.” **33** The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. **34** Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, **35** so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own heart too.”

Luke 2: 22-35

Almighty and ever living God, we humbly pray that, as your Only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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Candlemas - Ground Hog Day

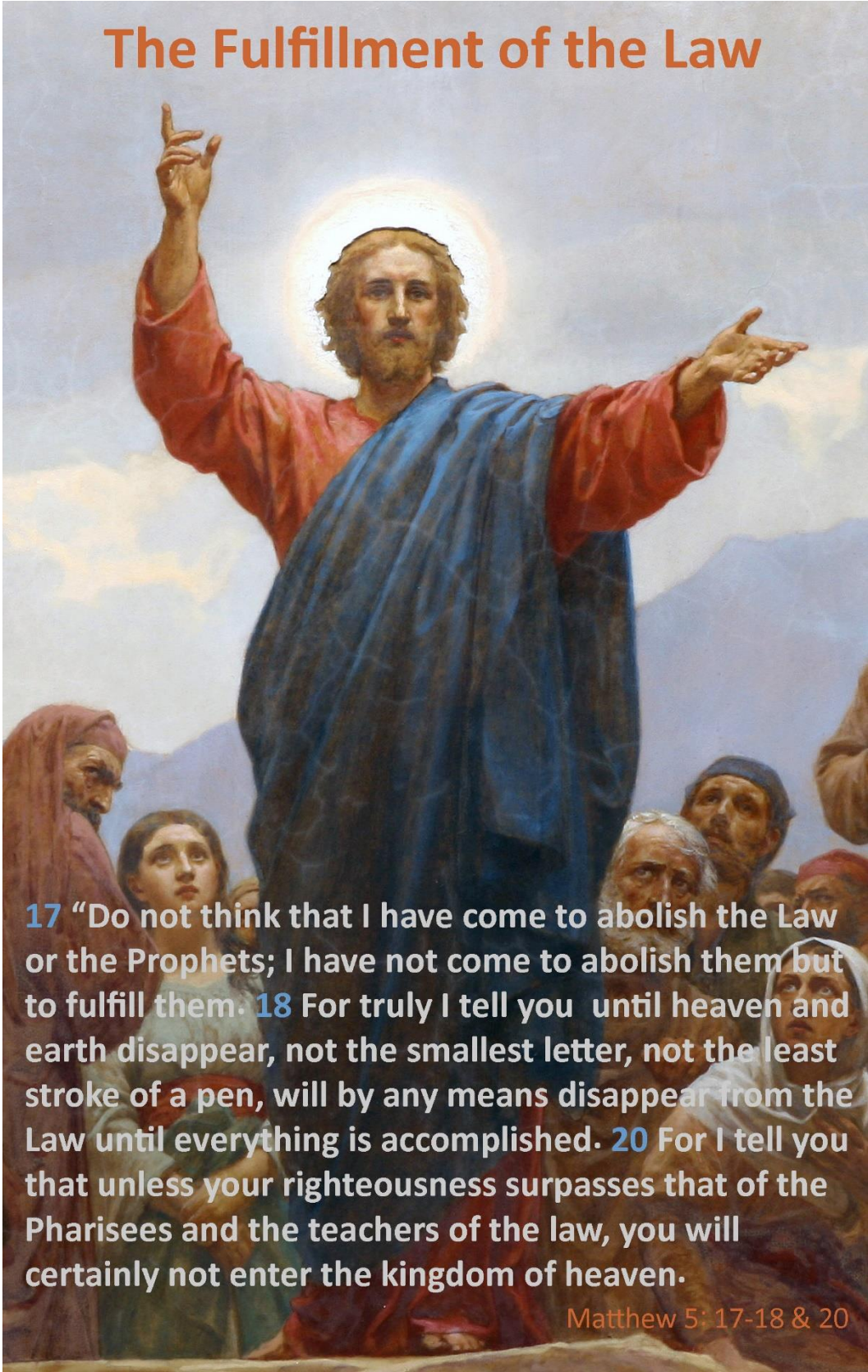


Candlemas is a Christian holiday commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem. On Candlemas, many Christians (including some Methodists) bring their candles to their local church, where they are blessed. These candles serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the World. Since 1774 Candlemas is always celebrated the earliest on February 2nd and at the latest on February 8th except if this Sunday happens to be the last Sunday before Lent. The custom of blessing candles eventually found its way to Germany. The Germans believed that if the sun appeared on Candlemas, a hedgehog would cast a shadow, making a "second winter", This superstition is the origin for the modern American festival of Groundhog Day, as many of Pennsylvania's early settlers were German.



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The Fulfillment of the Law



17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. **18** For truly I tell you until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. **20** For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5: 17-18 & 20

I want the whole Christ for my Savior, the whole Bible for my book, the whole church for my fellowship, and the whole world for my mission field.

John Wesley

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The Faithful Few

For some time I have been thinking
Of something I'd really like to do
Put in rhyme a little poem
About those folks, the faithful few.

So this cold and windy morning
Though the winter sun is bright
With pen in hand I sit here thinking
Of the lines that I should write.

All my life I've been a churchman
And have had a chance to observe
That among the many members
Some seem very glad to serve.

Always ready always cheerful
Looking for something to do.
For the Church and for the kingdom
Such I call the faithful few.

In the days when Christ the Savior
Walked this earth as now we do
Often he had many followers
Toward the end a very few.

At our Savior's crucifixion
When he died upon the cross
There remained just a few. . .
Heartbroken to mourn their loss. . .

Many years have passed since those days
Men have tried to do their part
But without the faithful (few)
The church would surely have lost heart

To my brother, sister members
This is my advice to you
Life is short, use the time wisely
Join hands with the faithful few.

Morris M. Hawkins
1954

**"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."
*Helen Keller***

CORNER



Follow Me

by Rev. Karen Burger

Follow Me
Open your heart.
Follow Me
Play your part.
Follow me
In healing art.
In My Name,
demons and shadows
Depart!

Follow me,
Down dusty lane.
Follow me,
To the heart of pain.
Follow me,
In the shopping mall.
Follow me,
Heed my call.

Let go of what does not
serve me.
Let go of pride: like you
deserve me.
Let in my grace,
My gift of favor.
Let me love you,
Now and forever.

The vineyard is ripe,
The laborers few.
Let me show you what to do.
Gather them in from near and far.
Show them who they really are:
Children of the Heavenly King!
Teach them to turn to me
For everything.

Teach them the ways of peace and love,

Abiding gifts of the Heavenly Dove.
Leaving false gifts behind,
For the true love they will find.
Something deeper, something better,
Divine love bears no fetter --
Only a gentle yoke,
Much better...
Meant to steer and to guide
Away from perils from the other side.
Follow me,
You won't regret,
The wonderful changed life,
You will get!

There are people who are hungry,
Looking for a meal.
There are people who are lonely,
God knows how they feel.
There are people who are lost,
In dark alleyways.
Reach out and help them;
You will be amazed!

There are children to teach,
Youth to reach,
Lessons to share,
Sermons to preach,
Meals to be made,
Clothing to share,
Blankets to comfort,
Burdens to bear.

Follow me
And you will see...
My Face everywhere.

"Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

T R A N S F I G U R A T I O N

Transfiguration Sunday



17 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. 4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." 5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. 7 But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." 8 When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. 9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Matthew 17: 1-9

More on the Transfiguration

² After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁶ (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) ⁷ Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

Mark 9: 2-7

NOTES

A February Message from SPPRC

Throughout the journey of our lives, we communicate love in different ways and with different levels of intensity depending on the person who is receiving our love. As Christians, love is at the heart of our beliefs.

Because of that, we should strive to show love in its highest form—*agape* love—as Jesus told us to do. After all, it's through love that we allow God to abide in us (1 John 4:12). And it's through love that we make ourselves known to the world as Christ's disciples (John 13:35).

In February, please show your love, gratitude and appreciation to our Pastor Karen Burger and our staff, Abby who runs our office and assists our Pastor, and Rex and Heather who through musical talents enhance our worship experience. Also, Phil Armstrong for keeping our church clean and sanitized.

In His Love,
Liza Wright and SPPRC 2023 members

Greetings from the Education Work Area,

February is upon us! Hopefully our New Year's resolutions are still intact! February is a short month with a holiday right in the middle that celebrates love. As Christians our hearts are warmed all year by the knowledge that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son" John 3:16. What did Jesus teach us? Matthew 22:36, "Teacher which commandment in the law is the greatest? 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'"

I am grateful for our church family and the work we all do to act upon our love for God and each other. I am especially grateful for our teachers and leaders who faithfully come out each week to teach our children. They are an example of living the two great commandments referenced in Matthew. Our work area is looking to add more teachers. It is labor of love. Please consider joining us.

1 John 4:7-8 "Beloved let us love one another, because love is from God: everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God for God is love."

Sue Preddice, Education Chair

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BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Thursday Book Group Starting a New Book - February 9th Sign up sheet in Hertlin Hall

The Thursday Book Group that meets at 2:00 p.m. will start on a new book discussion. Pastor Burger will lead a discussion on “**A Light on the Corner: Discovering the Sacred in the Everyday**” by her friend and colleague, Rev. Andrea Raynor.

Rev. Raynor is an ordained Elder in our New York Annual Conference. She is currently a Chaplain to the Rye, NY Fire Department and devoting her time to writing and to spiritual counseling/grief counseling. She also served as a Chaplain to the Morgue at Ground Zero after 9-11. In addition to time spent serving local congregations, she has also served in hospice ministry at Greenwich Hospital. Rev. Raynor currently resides with her family in Rye, New York and has her Charge Conference membership at Asbury Crestwood United Methodist Church in Tuckahoe, NY which is served by Rev. Jason Radmacher. What a blessing she is as a speaker and a writer and a comforting, caring counselor. God uses her ministry in many ways. Rev. Burger teamed up with Rev. Raynor on several occasions to offer ministry in Mamaroneck, where Rev. Raynor served as Associate Pastor under Rev. Bill Shillady several decades ago.

You can order the book on Amazon, Barnes and Noble and other online sellers. There is a signup sheet in Hertlin Hall to join this discussion. Each chapter is an essay with an example from Rev. Raynor’s experience of finding the Presence of God in daily life. She has other wonderful books as well. Once you read one, you will want to read them all! To learn more about her and all of her books, visit revandrearaynor.com **Plan to join us on February 9th and subsequent Thursdays.** Thank you to Rev. Sandy Koppmann who along with Marilyn Becht led our last book discussion as part of her ministry in retirement! We are so grateful.

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Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Saturday
March 11, 2023
5:00 PM

Adults & Youth \$20.00
Children under 12 \$17.00
Children under 5 *Free*

(Eat in or Take out)

Tickets Available or Call (631) 588-5856

*The United Methodist Church
Of Lake Ronkonkoma at "5 Corners"
792 Hawkins Avenue, Lake Grove*



International Dinner

Saturday
April 29, 2023
5:00 PM

Bring the entire family

The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma



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Breakfast
with the **Bunny**

Saturday April 1, 2023
9:30 AM
Pancakes - Bacon
Orange Juice - Apple Juice
Coffee (For the young at heart)

The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma

For More Information call: 631 588-5856



**United Methodist
Nursery School**



**CHILDREN'S
ART
SHOW**

Saturday
April 29th 10AM-1PM

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Spring Festival & Flower Sale

United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma

"5 Corners"

792 Hawkins Avenue, Lake Grove, NY

Saturday, May 13, 2023

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

(Rain date: May 20, 2023)

Food - Flowers - Vendors - Fun

For More Information & Flower Order Form Visit

WWW.UMCLR.COM

EXTRA



- * Coming in February 2023
- * Easy access to Fellowship Hall
- * Stairlift installation
- * Certified to highest standards
- * More information to come

"I just love my stairlift! I had real difficulties climbing stairs, but now I just sit in comfort on the stairlift, no more problems."

...Satisfied customer

The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma

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Grand Fall Auction

September 9, 2023

12 Noon

Viewing At 11:00 AM

Make An Offer At 9:00 AM

Hundreds of interesting items!

Rain or Shine!

Bring a chair & a sense of adventure

Food & Beverages Available

United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma
792 Hawkins Avenue, Lake Grove (At 5 Corners)



UMC/LR AUCTION 2023 PLEDGE SHEET

Your Name: _____ Phone Number _____

Item description (brief, but with all pertinent information)	Approx. value (if known)	Reserve (optional)	Receipt Y/N

Auction is scheduled for September 9th. All pledge sheets MUST be returned for cataloging by August 26th.
Leave your completed sheets in the auction mailbox sooner than later.

Please bring pledged items to the church on Friday, September 8th for labeling unless other arrangements are made.
ANY ITEMS BROUGHT AFTER THE PLEDGE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE AUCTIONED. NO EXCEPTIONS!

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Save the date

GODSPELL



"Prepare ye the way of the Lord!"



Sunday

April 30, 2023

*The United Methodist Church
Of Lake Ronkonkoma*

GOOD NEWS



UMCLR Gamenight

January 20, 2023



The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma

Available Now! The Good News In Color!



**To subscribe, call the Church Office at
(631) 588-5856
or pick up your copy in Hertlin Hall**

A fee of \$2.00 per issue will be charged to pay for printing. Postage extra.

Church Leaders

Susan Campbell

For the past year I have had the honor of being Chairperson of our Church Council. I grew up attending the UMC in Herkimer, which is a small town in central New York. My husband Rich is a Long Island guy so we ended up buying a house in Farmingville. We began attending the UMCLR in 2001 when our daughter Jennifer was four and our son Andrew was one. Both Andrew and Jennifer were baptized and confirmed at the UMCLR.



In 2001 Jennifer was in her first Christmas Pageant. It wasn't until 2003 that Andrew made his Christmas Pageant debut. As our children grew, they attended Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Jennifer sang in the choir and participated in Wednesday evening children's programs. The youth leaders helped our children learn what it means to be a Christian and to help them grow and develop on their own faith journeys.

When we first started attending the UMCLR, Rich and I weren't involved in too many aspects of church life. One day, we were invited to help unload and sell pumpkins and by doing this we got to know more people at the church. Over time, we became more involved and I served on the Education, Nursery School and Finance Committees.



To this day our family has been actively involved in unloading pumpkins, moving things for the auction, carrying tables and chairs, etc. In 2019, I was elected Vice Chair of the Church Council with Debra Schild as Chairperson. I was mentored by Debra for three years and in 2022 I was elected chairperson of the Church Council. I am hoping to continue working with everyone at our church as we move toward our mission of "Spreading the light of Christ from ourselves to the community and the world."

Lending a hand and my serving on committees has allowed our family to become better acquainted with other church members and has enhanced our sense of belonging to the UMCLR. My family and I are truly blessed to be a part of the UMCLR and it has been an integral part of our lives.

Church Office	(631) 588-5856	Board of Trustees	Keith Bowes
Church FAX	(631) 588-0753	Endowment	Sharon Millard
Nursery School	(631) 467-9601	Memorials	Janet Baumann
Martha's Place Thrift Shop	(631) 981-9749	Finance	William Otto
Parsonage	(631) 585-4968	Financial Secretaries	Angelique Sinclair
Church Email	abby@umclr.com		Bernice Waleski
Church Website	umclr.com		Warren Ferry
Resident Bishop	Rev. Thomas Bickerton	Stewardship	(Needed)
		Worship	(Needed)
District Superintendent	Rev. Julia Yeon-Hee Yim	Lay Servant Coordinator	(Needed)
Pastor	Rev. Karen A. Burger	Education	Sue Preddice
CHURCH STAFF:		Sunday School Superintendent	Sharon Corvaia
Administrative Assistant	Abby Preziosi	Youth Coordinator	Wendy Duffy
Nursery School Director	Filomena Thomas	Missions, Evangelism & Nurture	Soon Bowes
Chancel Choir Director	Rex Enderlin	Martha's Place Thrift Shop	Marilee Drisgula
Organist	Heather Edwards-Wilson	UMM Representative	Dennis Subbiondo
Children's Choir Director	Heather Edwards-Wilson	UWF Representative	Barbara Colucci
		Church Historian	Walter Schroeder
		Comm. & Tech.	Andrew Sinclair
		Disaster Prep. & Response	Warren Ferry
Church Council	Sue Campbell		
Staff Parish Pastor Relations	Liza Wright		
Lay Leader	Marilee Drisgula		
	Angelique Sinclair		
Lay Members to Conference	Michael Zukowski		

The United Methodist Church
of Lake Ronkonkoma
792 Hawkins Avenue
Lake Grove, NY 11755