



The United Methodist Church of Lake Ronkonkoma

Good News

February 2024

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

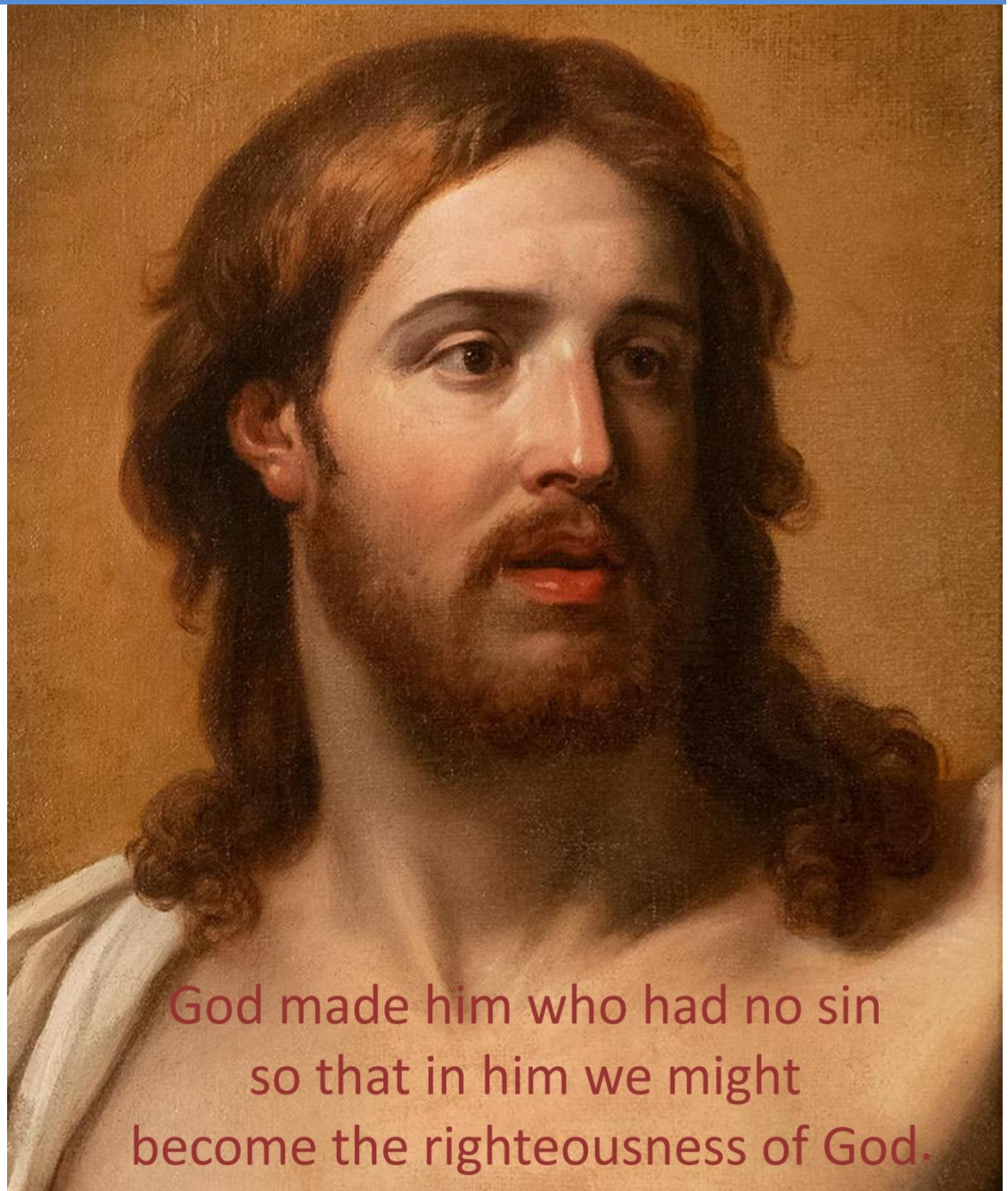
Rev. Karen A. Burger,
Pastor

Filomena Thomas,
Nursery School Director

Abby Preziosi,
Administrative
Assistant

Dr. Rex Enderlin,
Choir Director

Heather Edwards-
Wilson,
Youth Choir Director &
Organist



God made him who had no sin
so that in him we might
become the righteousness of God.

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 Members and Friends of UMC of Lake Ronkonkoma:

This month we enter into the season of Lent. We have the unique situation of Ash Wednesday falling on Valentine's Day! This may seem incongruous: a day when we celebrate romantic love and a day of penitence when we take inventory of our sins and ask for God's help to turn from them. Yet what is it that motivates us to observe Ash Wednesday and to live in such a way that is pleasing to God? It is love. It is God's love for us in Jesus Christ and our love returned to God. We love God because God first loved us. God sought us out. God rescued us from the pits of despair. God healed us and helped us when we were sick or afraid. God uplifted us by the love that will not let us go. God changed our lives and our destiny through God's Son, Jesus. So, in that spirit of love for the God who loves us, I encourage you to come out on Ash Wednesday to show your love for God.

In addition, we will have Sunday morning Lenten services and Thursday evening Soup and Services with the churches of our Cooperative Parish. Last year they were on Wednesdays and this was hard for those participating in our choir and Confirmation classes. This year we have an opportune night for all to take part. We will be sending out the locations which will rotate between churches. It's really a beautiful opportunity for fellowship and extra inspiration during the week.

As you enter the season of Lent, consider adding in extra worship time as part of your devotion to God. May God deepen our faith and service in this holy season of preparation for Easter.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Karen Burger

Lections

February 4
5th Sunday after the
Epiphany

Isa 40:21-31
Ps 147:1-11 (UMH 859)
1 Cor 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 4
Transfiguration
Sunday

2 Kings 2:1-12
Ps 50:1-6 (UMH 783)
2 Cor 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 18
1st Sunday in Lent

Gen 9:8-17
Ps 25:1-10 (UMH 756)
1 Pet 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

February 25
2nd Sunday in Lent

Gen 17:1-7, 15-16
Ps 22:23-31 (UMH 752)
Rom 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

Ash Wednesday Service

February 14th 7:00 PM

Meaningful Worship
&
Fellowship for all

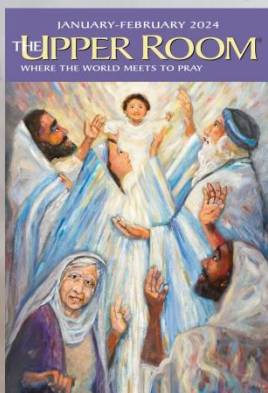
The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma



Virtual Prayer Meeting

Every Wednesday 8:00 AM

Please email the Pastor at
revburger51@gmail.com
for the link



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.

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 - 7:30 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.



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

Martha's Place Thrift Shop

February will be a busy month at Martha's Place!



We have seen little of winter so far this year, but our customers are still purchasing our excellent assortment of winter jackets, coats, gloves, scarves, and footwear. You will also find an outstanding assortment of spring clothing for the entire family.



We are well stocked with a large assortment of Valentine's Day merchandise. Stop in and check it out!



Saint Patrick's day is coming in a few weeks, and we have a variety of clothing and merchandise to help you celebrate the day.

We continue to be blessed by our new friends and customers who like to browse in our shop, and they almost always find something that appeals to them.

Many thanks for the donations of clothing and other items that you contribute to our shop.

As always, we remain truly thankful for all our faithful volunteers.

In God's service,
Marilee Drisgula and all our volunteers



Martha's Place



Winter Clothing
Housewares
Jewelry - Keepsakes

&
Valentine's Day &
Saint Patrick's Day

Merchandise

Open

Monday - Tuesday - Friday - Saturday
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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Baptism Sunday

December 31, 2023



Cash James Skippon



The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma



Please notify the church office of any telephone number, address or email address changes so that we may update our files.

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



Little Angels Music Class

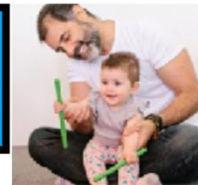


Sing! Dance!

Pray! Play!



Friday
February 9, 2024
6:15 PM



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The UMM had a very enjoyable time serving the December coffee hour. When we get together, we love to cook and were excited to offer a buffet for December.

We will be starting a new Bible study for our retreat which is coming up the first weekend of March and hope to continue it with our monthly meetings.

God Bless,
Dennis Subbiondo
George Doukas

A scenic photograph of a blue wooden gazebo on a rocky shore at sunset. The gazebo has a dark roof and a staircase leading down to the water. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.


UMMM
UNITED METHODIST MEN
Retreat
Camp Quinipet - Shelter Island
March 1-3 2024
For more information
Call the Church Office at:
(631) 588-5856

E D U C A T I O N

Greetings from the Education Work Area,

February has become a month of celebrating love. It brings to mind the Bible readings of Matthew 22:36-40: "Teacher which commandment in law is the greatest? 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with 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."

Those of us working with the youngest members of our church family celebrate the opportunity to share our faith and love of God with them. Our Sunday school children are learning lessons based on the themes and the sermon that is heard in church by their parents on Sunday morning. It is our hope that you will invite them to share what they did in class with you. We also enjoy seeing them participate in our children's choir and partake of the Pastor's Children's message during the beginning of our Worship Service when they attend church.

We now have seven youths in our confirmation class. We will be suspending Confirmation class on Wednesday evening and will hold class on Sunday mornings. It is very important that all attend. The curriculum works better when there is a group to experience it. We are excited that our class has grown and the confirmation team is working hard to help them achieve the goals of the program.

Our Youth group has been meeting on alternate Wednesday evenings according to the calendar. They have also branched out and have participated in activities with our Cooperative Parish churches. They had fun bowling on January 21st and the next event is ice skating in Port Jefferson on February 18. The Long Island East Retreat is scheduled for April 12-14 at Quinipet. All confirmands and youth should take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Mark your calendars!

Lent and the Easter holiday will soon be upon us and we will share the meaning of the season with our young people. We are blessed to be able to work with them and share our love of God, and love them all in the process.

Please let us know if you would like to work with our young people. We would love to have you join us!

Sue Preddice, Education Chair

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UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Our next meeting will be Monday, March 11 – 7:00 p.m.

SPRING RETREAT WILL BE APRIL 26, 27, 28!!!!
Camp Quinipet, Shelter Island

\$75 deposit is due now! Please!

May 20 – Tessa’s Tea Party – 7:00 p.m.

June 10 – To be announced . . .

Thank you to Ellie S. & Stacey T. They will be our new Co-Vice Presidents!

Thank you all for your support and fellowship.
Tessa T. & Barb C.

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Soup Sunday IX

February 11, 2024

(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 background illustration of a library with wooden bookshelves filled with colorful books. In the center, there is a book cover for 'Etched in Sand' by Regina Calcaterra. The cover features a young girl sitting on a beach, looking down at the sand. Text on the cover includes 'NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER', 'Etched in Sand', 'A True Story of Five Siblings Who Survived an Unspeakeable Childhood on Long Island', and 'Written and Read by REGINA CALCATERRA'.

Join us for our next
Book Discussion
Monday,
February 12, 2024
at 2pm at the Church

We will be discussing
“Etched in Sand”
by Regina Calcaterra

Regina Calcaterra is a successful lawyer, New York State official, and activist. Her painful early life, however, was quite different. Regina and her four siblings survived an abusive and painful childhood only to find themselves faced with the challenges of the foster-care system and intermittent homelessness in the shadows of Manhattan and the Hamptons.

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GAME NIGHT

Friday February 16, 2024
7:00 PM

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



Sunday
February 18, 2024

UMM
UNITED METHODIST MEN
**FELLOWSHIP
BREAKFAST**

7:30 AM

The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma

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Baptism Sunday

January 14, 2024



Jordyn Grace Almonaitis



The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma



R N N O T E S



Heart Health Month



February is Heart or Love Month. Good Heart Health enables us to move freely, think clearly and explore life to the fullness. Below are some simple steps that will help keep your heart healthy and you feeling happy:



Eat healthy.



Become more active.



Stay at a healthy weight.



Quit smoking and stay away from secondhand smoke.



Control your cholesterol and blood pressure.



Drink alcohol only in moderation.



Manage stress.

What really will improve your Heart Happiness is helping others. Remember that God holds your heart and happiness next to his!

Happy and Healthy Heart Love Month.

Helen Morley

FINANCE COMMITTEE 2024 MESSAGE



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As we head into 2024, we take a look back into our UMCLR 2023 financials and what do we find? We find a positive turn around in our financial position! Although still not a zero balance position, these results indicate that our faithful parishioners heard last year's request, faced reality and heeded our call for financial help.

Our net loss for 2023 is \$12,222, as opposed to our 2022 net loss of \$31,647. Our "offering" income, from 2022 to 2023 increased by \$9,576 and our total income increased by \$15,298. Our total "expenses" decreased by \$5,125 for the same period. These figures should only get better, as we still have some minor income additions from Fund Raiser accounts to incorporate. If we can maintain this positive momentum and focus, we could be in a positive financial position within a few years. This, then, would be our first equal cash flow position in over ten years. Now, what does this mean to you:

- ✓ Each of us must focus on minimizing all church expenses, all the time.
- ✓ We must continue to support the Thrift Shop, Nursery School and all our Fund Raisers throughout the year.
- ✓ Each family should re-evaluate their financial donation position and consider increasing it. If we continue to receive an average of 50 envelopes a week, an increased donation of \$4 per week, from each envelope, would go a long way in helping achieve our balance target. Some cannot do this; others can do even more. Please consider what you can do.
- ✓ Hopefully, each UMCLR parishioner and friend will continue to help our 2024 Stewardship Program and faithfully give.

Your Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee and Church Council thank you for your 2023 and 2024 contributions. As we are just beginning to achieve UMCLR financial liquidity, we challenge all church members to continue to give as much as they can in 2024. Please understand our concerns, issues, realities and continue to help us face our financial responsibilities. Please continue your prayers and do whatever you can to help. Thank you and

GOD SPEED!

Your 2024 Finance Committee

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Transfiguration Quiz

1. Jesus went up on a high mountain to pray and took three of His disciples with Him. Which three disciples were with Jesus?

- a. Peter, John and Judas
- b. Peter, John and James
- c. Peter, Thomas and James
- d. Thomas, John and James

2. While Jesus was praying, which remarkable change occurred?

- a. Jesus was enveloped within a pillar of fire, but was not harmed.
- b. A halo was seen glowing brightly above Jesus' head.
- c. Jesus was enveloped within a burning bush, but was not harmed.
- d. The appearance of Jesus' face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

3. Which two Old Testament prophets appeared with Jesus during the transfiguration?

- a. Elijah and Elisha
- b. Moses and Isaiah
- c. Moses and Samuel
- d. Moses and Elijah

4. A cloud appeared and enveloped them. A voice spoke from the cloud saying,

- a. "This is my son, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire."
- b. "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"
- c. "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word from the mouth of God."

5. What did one of the disciples offer to do for Jesus and the two prophets?

- a. Bring water from the stream.
- b. Share a loaf of bread with them.
- c. Make comfortable beds from sagebrush.
- d. Put up shelters.

6. In which gospels does the Transfiguration of Jesus occur?

- a. Matthew and John
- b. Luke & John
- c. Matthew & Mark
- d. Mark & John
- e. All of them

1. b, 2. d, 3. d, 4. b, 5. d, 6. c

S A I N T V A L E N T I N E

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, St. 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. The saint we celebrate on Valentine’s Day is St. Valentine of Rome.

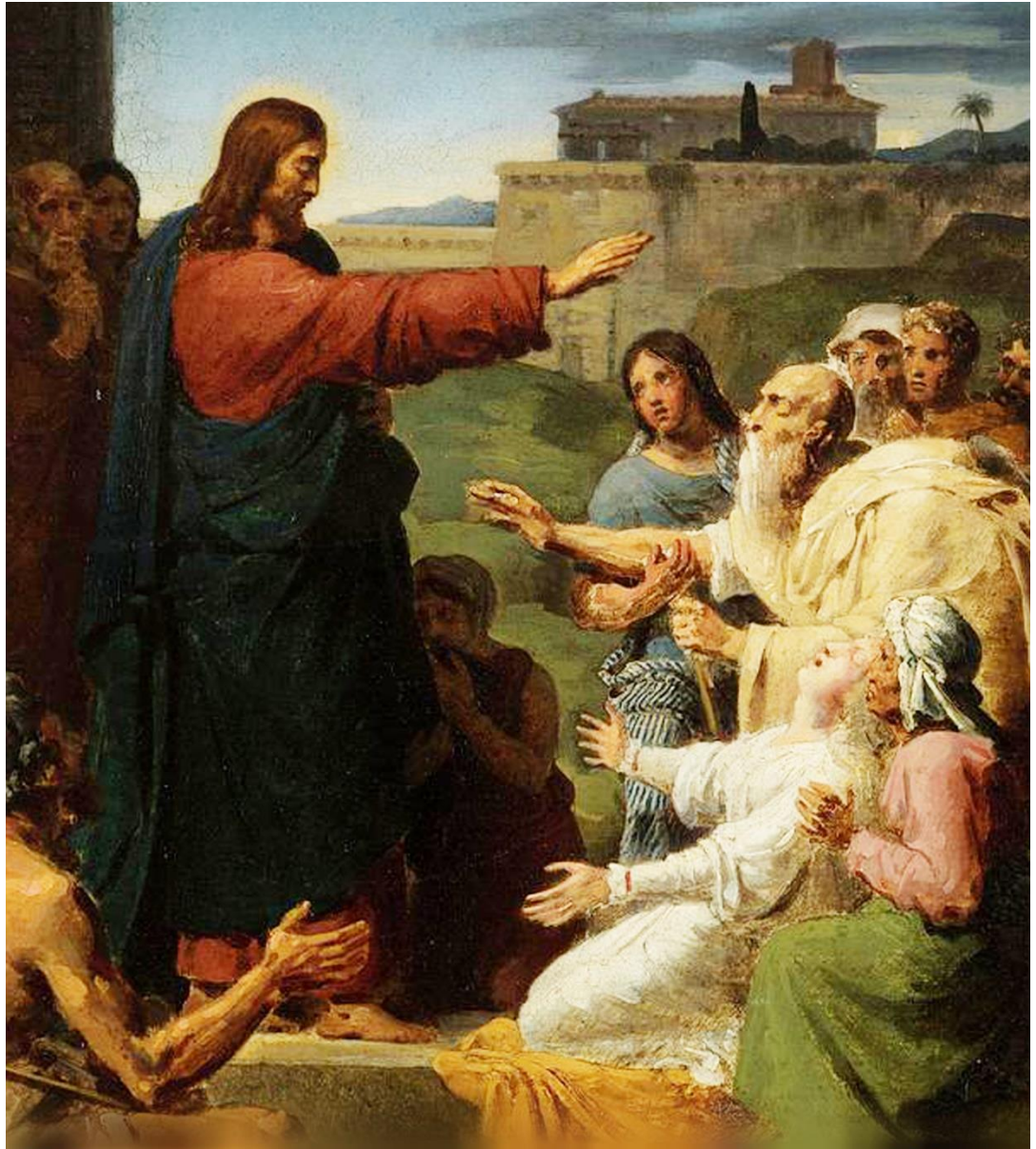
I S A I A H



21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded?
22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. 23 He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. 24 No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff. 25 "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. 27 Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God"? 28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. 29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40: 21-31

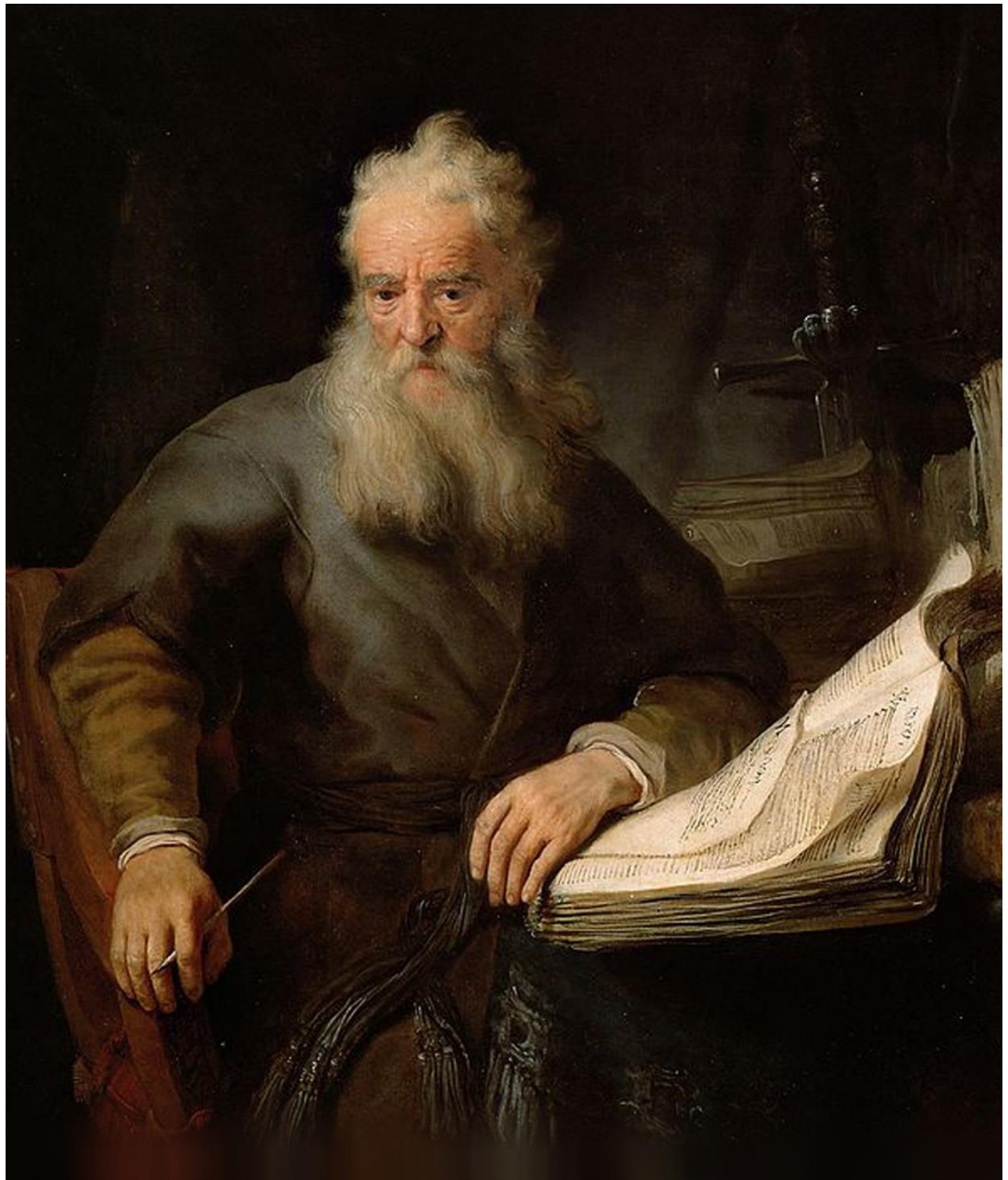
M A R K



29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. 30 Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. 31 So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. 32 That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. 33 The whole town gathered at the door, 34 and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place 35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. 36 Simon and his companions went to look for him, 37 and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" 38 Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." 39 So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

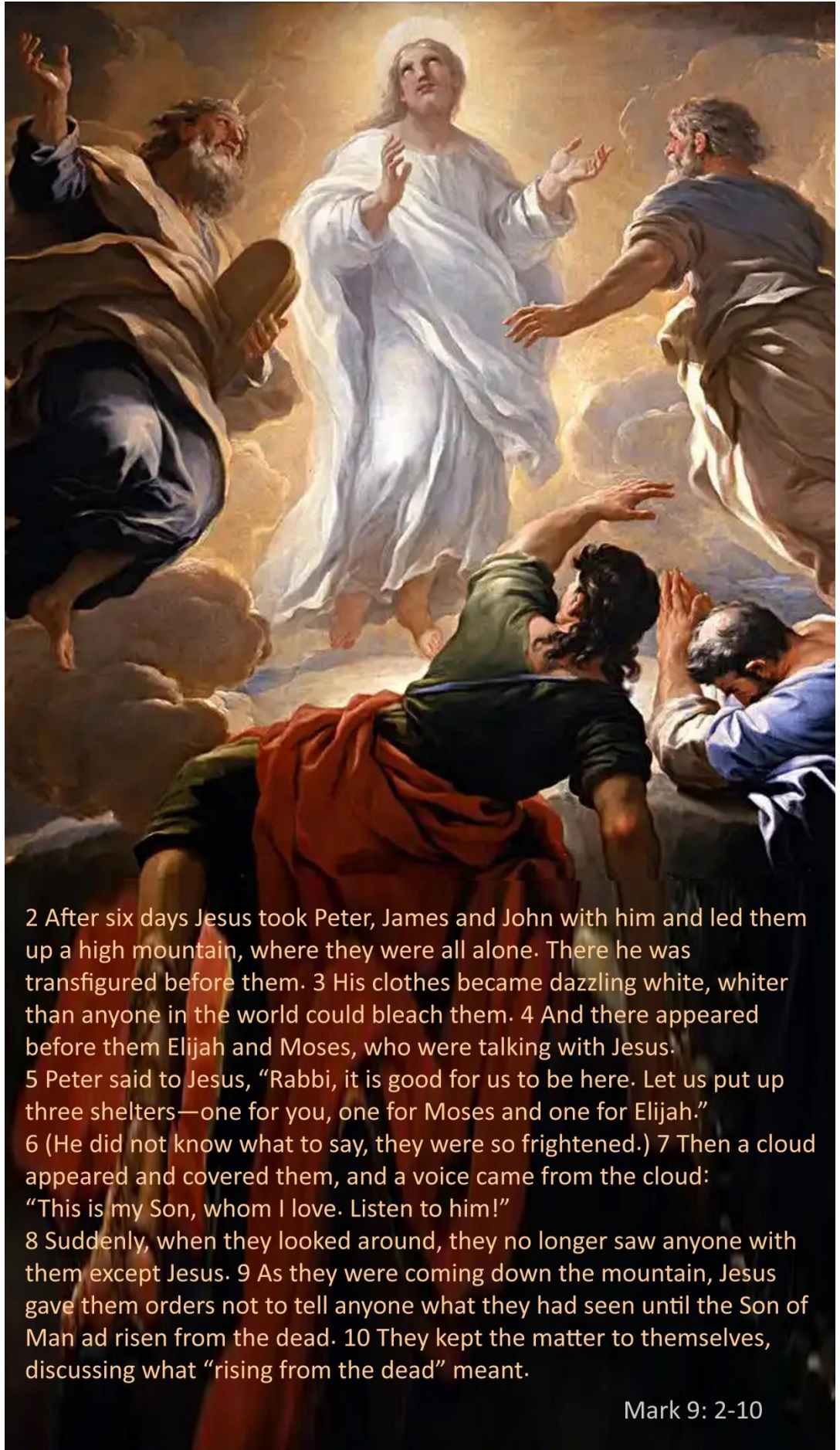
Mark 1: 29-39

2 C O R I N T H I A N S



4 Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. 2 Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

M A R K



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!” 8 Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. 9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. 10 They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what “rising from the dead” meant.

Mark 9: 2-10

JOEL



1 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming. It is close at hand—2 a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was in ancient times nor ever will be in ages to come. 3 Before them fire devours, behind them a flame blazes. Before them the land is like the garden of Eden, behind them, a desert waste—nothing escapes them. 12 “Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” 13 Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. 14 Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing—grain offerings and drink offerings for the Lord your God. 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. 16 Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. 17 Let the priests, who minister before the Lord, weep between the portico and the altar. Let them say, “Spare your people, Lord. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

Joel 2: 1-3 & 12-17

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1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. 5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. 6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. 7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. 14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. 15 Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. 16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

Psalm 51: 1-17

2 C O R I N T H I A N S



1 As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. 2 For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. 3 We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. 4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; 5 in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; 6 in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; 7 in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; 8 through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; 9 known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; 10 sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything. 11 We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. 2 Corinthians 6: 1-11

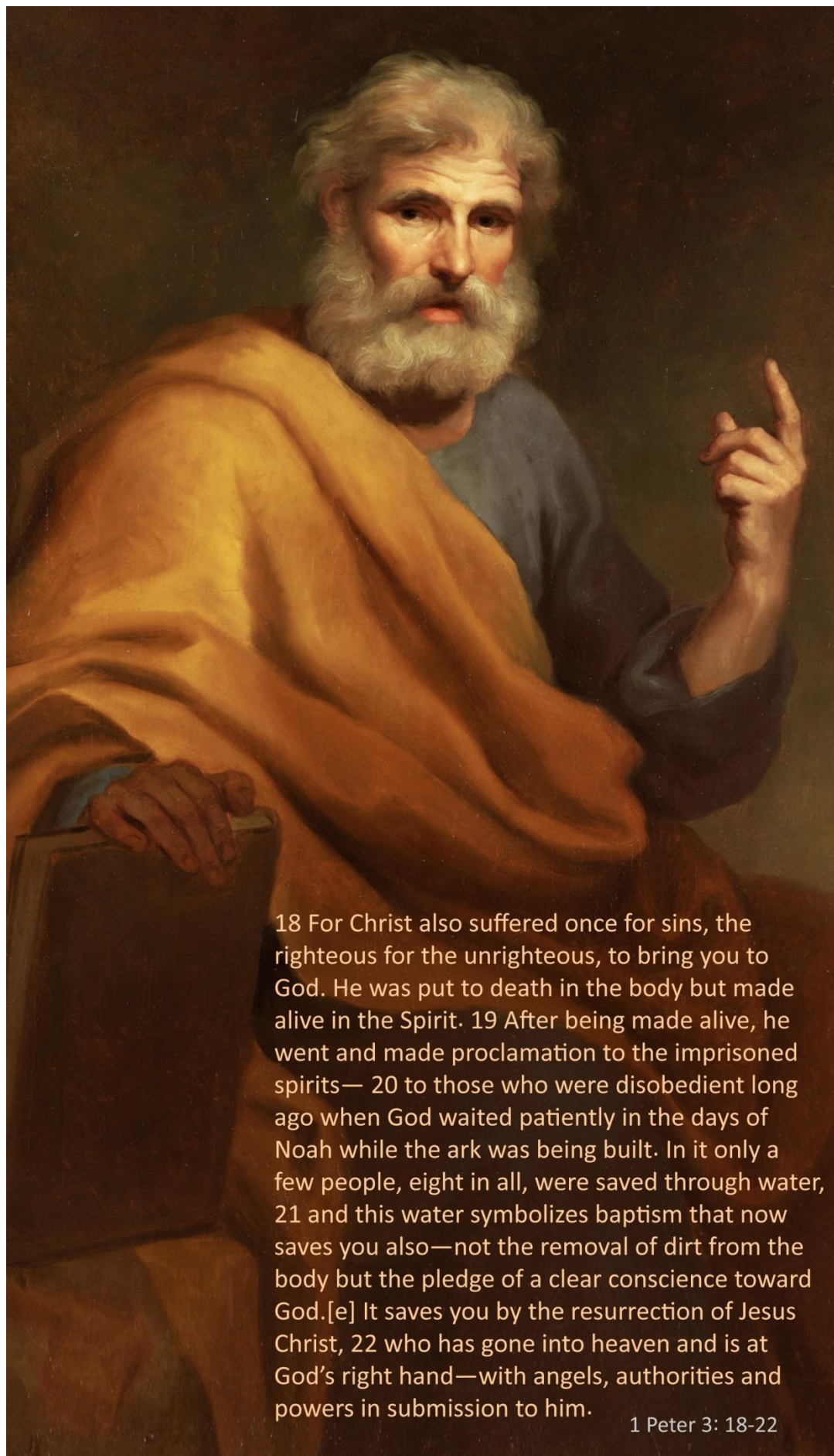
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1. "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Prayer 5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 16 "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6: 1-6 & 16-21

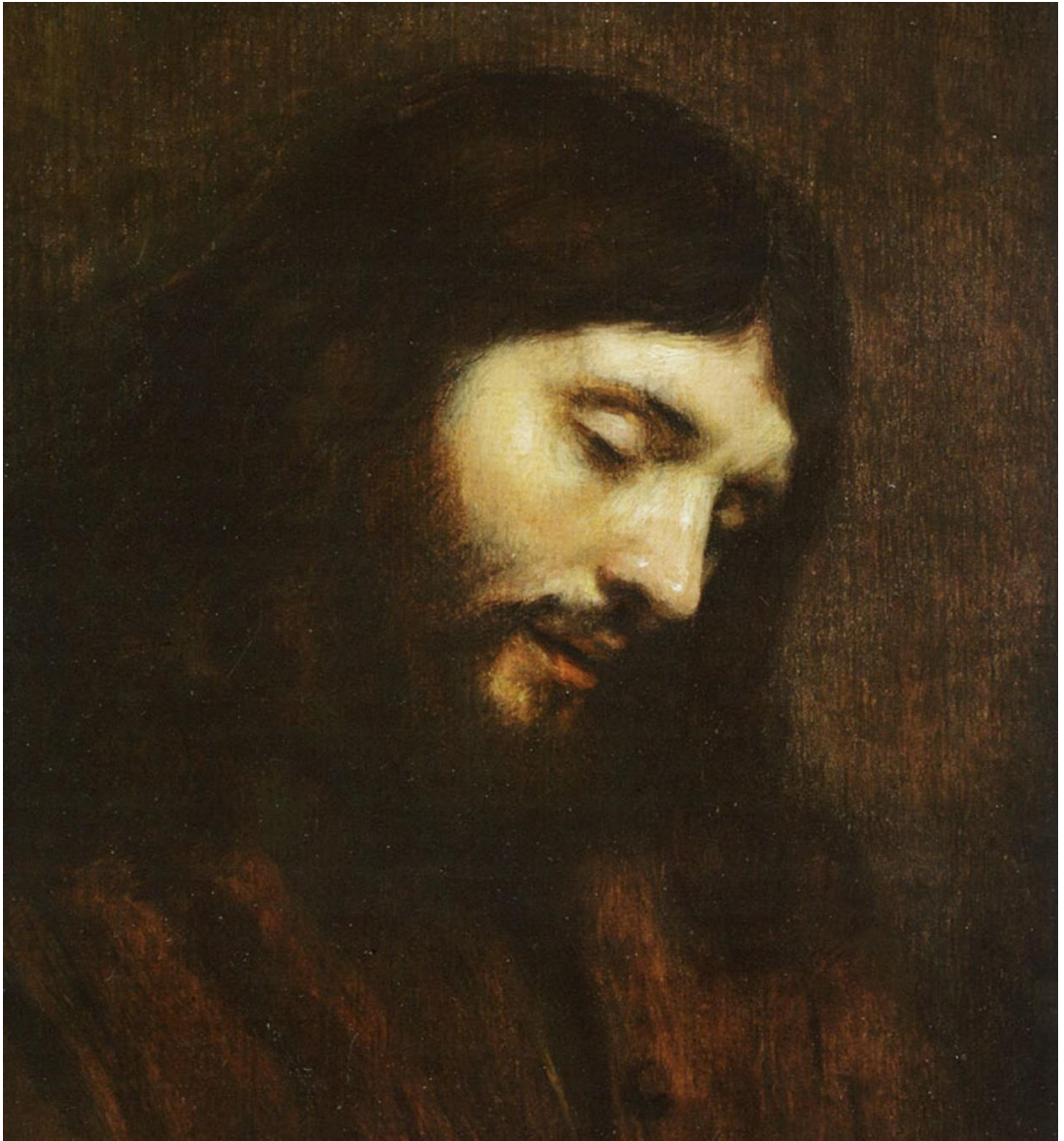
1 P E T E R



18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. 19 After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— 20 to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God.[e] It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

1 Peter 3: 18-22

M A R K



31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. 32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." 34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save their life[b] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? 37 Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Mark 8: 31-38

ROMANS



13 It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. 14 For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, 15 because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. 16 Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. 17 As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not. 18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 19 Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. 20 Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. 22 This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." 23 The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, 24 but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. 25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Romans 4: 13-25

M A R K



9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven:

“You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, 13 and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. Jesus Announces the Good News 14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

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February Worship Schedule

February 4th 9:30 AM

Communion Sunday

“The God Who Heals and Renews”

February 11th 9:30 AM

Transfiguration Sunday

“The Dazzling Light of Christ”

February 14th 7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday

February 18th 9:30 AM

First Sunday of Lent

“Jesus in the Wilderness”

February 25th 9:30 AM

Second Sunday of Lent

“Where True Life is Found”

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Candlemas

February 2, 2024



Candlemas, commemorates 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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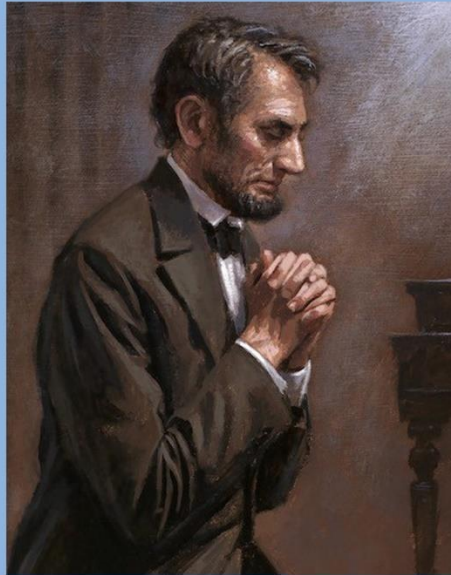
George Washington's Prayer for the United States



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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Abraham 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.

Church Leaders

Sue Preddice



It has been a blessing for me and my family to be members of this church. My parents were active members in their church and provided me with countless examples of faith and service. I have fond memories of attending Sunday School in the church they grew up in when we lived in Queens. Later we moved to New Hyde Park and joined the Community Congregational church where I was confirmed. Phil and I met in Potsdam College. We moved to Ronkonkoma when we got our first jobs as music teachers in Commack. We began coming to church here when we started our family. We were happy to find a church full of young families and elders that all worked together. The welcoming atmosphere made it easy to become a part of it all. We became official members in 1980. I joined the Chancel Choir and am still a proud member. Over the years I became involved in the children's music and education programs and taught for 8 years in our Nursery school. I also served as SPRC chairman. I am currently on the Nursery School Committee, Missions and Evangelism Committee and chair the Education Committee. I have been blessed to serve with many faithful and dedicated members of this church. They have helped me grow in faith and have inspired me to continue to serve with a grateful heart. I am grateful for the opportunities my children had growing up here in this church. They were part of a large youth group, sang in the children and youth choirs, participated in the Christmas Pageants and were all confirmed here. I am proud that my granddaughter Abigail was confirmed here in May. I am thrilled that two more of my granddaughters are now working toward that goal. Our church family continues to work hard to nurture our faith and share it through service to our community and I am proud to be a part of it!

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Cooperative Parish
Lenten
Soup Suppers & Services

Thursdays

February March

22 - 29 7- 14- 21

Soup Supper

6:00 PM

&

Service

7:00 PM

Watch for Announcements
on Locations

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After the Storm

Night! And the storm has ceased raging,
And the stars come out, one by one,
And we look about at last to see
What the wind and the snow have done.

Dark! Save the lights above us,
And the flow from the lamp-light within,
And a prayer goes up to the God above
For his saving ourselves and kin.

Cold! And we hug tight our clothing,
And we think of the warmth left behind,
But a moment we linger, then turn back,
For inside is best, to our mind.

How, in this cold can God's creatures
Still exist and proclaim "God is Love"
When there's hunger and need all around us
And there seems no help from above.

God; wilt Thou reach out and save us,
Help us realize in Thee is our light,
All our problems and cares cast upon Thee
Knowing Thou, only Thou, doest right.

Alice Hawkins Coleman 2/10/1935

H I S T O R Y

**History Comes Alive
At The
United Methodist Church of Lake Ronkonkoma**



**The
School House
at
Five Corners**

The schoolhouse was a 2-room building built in 1800 to serve the Lake Grove and Lake Ronkonkoma communities.

By February 1812, there were only twelve families who jointly paid the salary of teacher Elijah Terry.

The local Methodists helped support the teacher who could train their children to read the Bible.

As part of his salary, Mr. Terry boarded with the families of his students.

The schoolhouse at 5 corners served as the school until a new school was built on the corner of Hawkins Avenue and School Street

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Leap Year

During his time in Egypt, Julius Caesar became convinced of the superiority of the Egyptian solar calendar, which featured 365 days.

Caesar made one important modification: instead of relying on the stars, he would simply add a day to every fourth year. It was decided that day would fall in the second month of the year—thus Leap Day was born.

The Julian Calendar took effect on January 1st, 45 B.C.

It is believed that there have been approximately 512 Leap Days to date.

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Holy Week Service Schedule



Palm Sunday

March 24th 9:30 AM



Maundy Thursday

March 28th 7:00 PM



Good Friday

March 29th 7:00 PM



Easter Sunday

March 31st 9:30 AM

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Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Saturday
March 16, 2024
5:00 PM



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

Tickets available or call (631) 588-5856

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

A decorative border of various national flags surrounding the text. The flags include those of Spain, Italy, USA, Denmark, Finland, Turkey, Japan, Norway, Russia, Canada, France, Germany, India, UK, Ireland, Israel, Hungary, Sweden, Norway, Greece, China, France, Czech Republic, Australia, South Africa, Germany, Tunisia, Ukraine, Chile, Belgium, Denmark, and Argentina.

INTERNATIONAL DINNER FUNDRAISER

Saturday, May 4, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m.

AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF LAKE RONKONKOMA

792 HAWKINS AVENUE
LAKE GROVE, NEW YORK 11755

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF INTERNATIONAL DELIGHTS

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE UMCLR AND MISSIONS

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR!
\$22.00 FOR ADULTS - \$10.00 AGES 5-14 - UNDER 5 FREE

Includes: Dinner + Dessert + Beverage

For further information please call the Church Office at (631) 588-5856




Breakfast with the Bunny

Saturday March 23, 2024
9:30 AM

Pancakes - Bacon
Orange Juice - Apple Juice
Coffee (For the young at heart)

\$10.00 Per Person

The United Methodist Church of Lake Ronkonkoma
For more information call: (631) 588-5856

Reservation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of Guests: Children: _____ Adults: _____

\$10.00 Per Person

CHECKS MADE OUT TO UMCLR ATTN: BUNNY BREAKFAST & CASH ACCEPTED

Please mail completed form with your payment to:
UMCLR Attn. Breakfast with the Bunny 792 Hawkins Ave. Lake Grove, NY 11755

Or Email to: abby@umclr.com Attn. Breakfast with the Bunny

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Easter Fair

Saturday + Sunday
March 23 & 24, 2024
9am - 12pm
Easter
Merchandise

Hertlin Hall
United Methodist Church of Lake Ronkonkoma



Spring Festival & Flower Sale

United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma
"5 Corners"
792 Hawkins Avenue, Lake Grove, NY
Saturday, May 11, 2024
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
(Rain Date May 18, 2024)
Food - Flowers - Vendors - Fun
For More Information & Flower Order Form Visit
WWW.UMCLR.COM

Tessa's Tea Party

United
Women
In Faith

Monday
May 20, 2024
7PM

Please bring your
own cup!

The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma



Youth Programs Available

Sunday School

Youth Choir

United Methodist Youth

Confirmation Class

For more information on our Youth Programs call:
(631) 588-5856

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Grand Fall Auction

September 14, 2024

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)



SAUERBRATEN DINNER

SPONSORED BY THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

NOVEMBER 2, 2024

6:00 PM



TICKET PRICES:

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

For Tickets Call The Church Office At: (631) 588-5856

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Christmas Festival & Sale

United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma

"5 Corners"

792 Hawkins Avenue, Lake Grove, NY

Friday, November 29, 2024

Saturday, November 30, 2024

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Food - Vendors - Crafts - Fun

For More Information & Vendor Forms, Please Visit

WWW.UACLR.COM



Breakfast With Santa!

Saturday

November 30, 2024

9:30 AM



Pancakes - Bacon
Orange Juice - Apple Juice
Coffee (For the young at heart)



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Youth in 6th – 12th Grades

Wednesdays 6:30 – 7:30

(Twice per month)

Meeting dates:

2024

January 10th and 24th

February 7th and 28th

March 6th and 20th

April 3rd and 17th

May 8th and 22nd

June 5th

Advisors:

Wendy Duffy and Jennie Olivotti

United Methodist Church of Lake Ronkonkoma

Chancel Choir

has openings in

ALL SECTIONS

*Come join in the fun
and music-making*

For more information
Call (631)588-5856

*Choir Director
Dr. Rex Enderlin*



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@umcdr.com		Bernice Waleski
Church Website	umcdr.com	Stewardship	Warren Ferry
Resident Bishop	Rev. Thomas Bickerton	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 Council	Sue Campbell	Church Historian	Walter Schroeder
Staff Parish Pastor Relations	Liza Wright	Comm. & Tech.	Andrew Sinclair
Lay Leader	Marilee Drisgula	Disaster Prep. & Response	Warren Ferry
Lay Members to Conference	Michael Zukowski		

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