



*United Methodist Church
of
Lake Ronkonkoma*

Good News

JANUARY 2021

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

Abby Preziosi,
Administrative Assistant

Dr. Rex Enderlin,
Choir Director

Heather Edwards-Wilson,
Youth Choir Director &
Organist

WELCOME!

Welcome Abby Preziosi, our new Administrative Assistant

Happy New Year everyone! As we wished Cathy Mitchell farewell in December, the Lord has blessed us with a wonderful candidate to fill the open position of Administrative Assistant. Abby Preziosi will start on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 9:00 am. Abby has enjoyed a career in the Sachem School District as a Senior Office Assistant. She is extremely qualified to handle the duties of the job. She is an active member at the Parish of the Holy Cross in Nesconset. She is also our neighbor living in Lake Ronkonkoma. Please welcome her into our church family and wish her well.

The office days and hours will remain the same: Monday-Thursday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

May God continue to bless us and sustain us in the New Year.

Sincerely,

Liza Wright and members of SPPRC

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.



Greetings from the Education work area!

We have celebrated the birth of Jesus. Love, faith, hope and salvation are ours through Him. This is the good news to keep in our hearts and share especially with our children. The news of a vaccine fills us with hope that our current situation will improve in 2021. Hopefully soon we can gather together. In the meantime though, there are also many grim news stories of the virus counts rising as well as our national death rates. We all need to continue to be careful and listen to the medical community. Our Bishop closed the churches even during our Christmas holiday to keep us safe. Our children are aware of all these changes and have had to make many adjustments on how they go to school and live their daily lives. Now, more than ever, they need their faith just as we all do. I am grateful to our Sunday school teachers, Children's choir director, Confirmation teacher and coordinator, and all those who have presented a Children's message during our Cyber services. We have been able to reach out to our children and make sure that they know that they are a part of the story of Jesus in our church. As was mentioned in past Good News articles, we would evaluate our virtual programs in the hope of returning to in person classes in January. Due to the present situation, we will continue with virtual classes at least until the end of March. At that time we will then re-evaluate again with the hopes of being able to gather in person. Please pray for our children and the leaders of their virtual groups. You are invited to join the Sunday school classes with your children. If you need more information about how to do so, please contact our church office. In these difficult times our faith can grow. We can spread the light of Christ and find comfort in His gifts of love, faith, hope and salvation. Thank God for those who share this good news with our children each week. May we all be children at heart who nurture our faith and let it grow.

Sue Preddice
Chair, Education Committee

Lections

January 3
Epiphany Sunday

Isa 60:1-6
Ps 72:1-7, 10-14
(UMH 795)
Eph 3:1-12
Matt 2:1-12

January 10
Baptism of the Lord

Gen 1:1-5
Ps 29 (UMH 761)
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 17
Second Sunday
after the Epiphany

1 Sam 3:1-10 (11-20)
Ps 139: 1-6, 13-18
(UMH 854)
1 Cor 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 24
Third Sunday
after the Epiphany

Jon 3:1-5, 10
Ps 62:5-12 (UMH 787)
1 Cor 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 31
Fourth Sunday
after the Epiphany

Deut 18:15-20
Ps 111 (UMH 832)
1 Cor 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

*Christmas Eve Candlelight
Online Service
December 24, 2020*

*Come, THOU
LONG
EXPECTED
Jesus*

*Hope,
PEACE,
JOY,
LOVE*

*Merry
Christmas*

*From Miss
Allissa to
UMCLR*

The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma



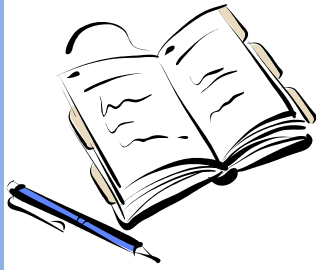
Dear Cathy,

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the hard work you have done over the past 12 years to keep the United Methodist Church of Lake Ronkonkoma running like a well-oiled machine. You have always been there for us, and remember we will always be here for you.

May God bless you as you begin a new chapter in your life! May you always enjoy the blessing you so richly deserve!

Love,

Your Family and Friends at UMCLR



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



Official 225th Anniversary logo

Bicenquasquigenary Celebration

September 19, 2021

Save the date!

More exciting information to follow

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



From then...

Until now...

Have a safe
and healthy
2021!



WKS

Things To Ponder in January...

*If you are interested in having a Zoom discussion,
please contact the church office at 631-588-5856.*

- Where in your life have you most felt like yourself this past year?
- What have been the greatest challenges you've overcome?
- What can you acknowledge about yourself and your strengths?
- What is it time to let go of in your life?
- What is it time to forgive yourself for?
- What is it time to forgive others for?
- What are the old patterns that it's time to release?



Happy New Year 2021! Your Board of Trustees is looking forward to another productive year thanks to the hard work of our members, and the generous donations of time and money from our congregation.

2021 Proposed Projects:

Painting Steeple

New Sign for church

Estimates for solar panels for church complex, Parish Hall & Thrift Shop

Estimates for new phone and internet system

Estimates for new key-card entry system

Estimates for central air conditioning church complex

Re-evaluating all maintenance contracts

Updating 2020 rental agreements

Moving forward with the sale of Smith Street property

I know it sounds like a lot of proposed projects, but if we can accomplish one half of them with your financial support and prayers, we can truly say the Trustees had a great 2021. Of course, everything we are planning is subject to the Covid 19 pandemic being quickly and safely eradicated. When that happens, we can get back-hopefully-to a “new normal” that allows us to re-open our church and to become the beacon of light the United Methodist Church of Lake Ronkonkoma has always been to our neighbors and congregation for 225 years.

Your Board of Trustees hopes that everyone who is medically cleared for vaccines should get a flu shot. Not only are you protecting yourself against the influenza virus, but others around you.

December accomplishments include removing and storing the Baker Hall and Office air conditioners and putting out the parking lot markers used in snow removal.

Now, a bit of bad news... Our lawyer, Neil Levinbook, was informed by the Elite Cell Tower attorney, John Coughlin, that Elite is no longer interested in putting a cell tower on our church property. After years of trying to get a response from Elite, they sent us a new contract in late November that was totally unacceptable to our lawyer. He sent the contract back with updates that better protected the church, and that is when Elite said no. The Five Corners cell service area without a tower on our property is still not properly covered. At this point, we believe it best to sit and wait.

The Trustees and the Church Council have both voted to sell the Smith Street property, and to use the proceeds for some of the above-mentioned projects. There are still many bridges to cross before the land can be sold. Please stay informed.

The Trustees would appreciate donations of salt for our walkways during this winter season. Thank you in advance for your donations.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact your Board of Trustees at trustees@umclr.com or call the church office at (631) 588-5856.

Praying for a bright and prosperous 2021.

In God's service,
Respectfully submitted by:

Walter Schroeder – Keith Bowes
&
The Board of Trustees

Martha's Place Thrift Shop



We hope everyone had a great Christmas and is looking forward to a wonderful New Year. The Shop will reopen after the holidays, on January 8.

I had an interesting conversation with a very nice lady who came to the food pantry. She asked if she could find a Christmas tree at our Thrift Shop, but she didn't know when we are open. This happened when I was helping Soon at the church pantry, so I took her into the shop.

We had no trees, but she looked around and she found a Christmas runner for a table, a great looking Santa Claus and then found a small ceramic Christmas Tree to put on the table. She may have had something else to add to the scene, but that I may never know. I do know that she was happy to be able to deliver the items to an elderly couple who had no family in the area. She asked me how much for the 3 items and I said "No cost, Merry Christmas." and then I saw her tear up a little.



That is the beauty of our Thrift Shop; to help people who need help in so many different ways.

In God's service,
Marilee Drisgula and all volunteers

Martha's Place
Thrift Shop

631-981-9749

Hours:

Fridays
10 am - 2 pm

Saturdays
10 am - 2 pm



JANUARY 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.

1	William Otto	22	John Paynter
1	Rex Enderlin	22	Amanda Graf
3	Harry Roseen	23	Jennie Olivotti
5	April Paul	24	Ilona Torraca
7	Joyce McVeigh	26	Christine Paynter
8	Marilee Drisgula	26	Bill Paul
9	Ralph Pearl	26	Richard Schoenemann
14	Diane June	31	Jarrel Guerrero
15	Tracy Pearl		



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the lovely gifts and all the well wishes as I begin my new life of retirement. It is difficult to express just how much I have loved my time with you. It has been such a joy and a true blessing in my life. I will miss all of you so much! May God bless you always.

With love,

Cathy

Grand Fall Auction September 18, 2021

12 Noon

Viewing At 11:00 AM

Make-an-Offer / Yard Sale 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)



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 at 7:00 pm
in Fellowship Hall

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

UMC/LR AUCTION 2021 PLEDGE SHEET

Your Name: _____ Phone Number _____

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

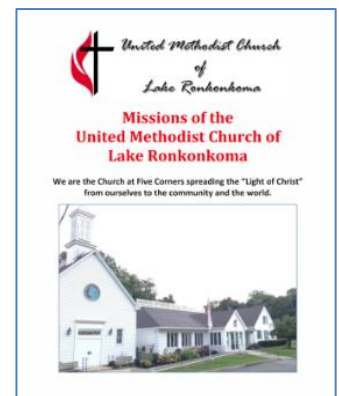
Auction is scheduled for September 18th. All pledge sheets MUST be returned for cataloging by September 5th. Leave your completed sheets in the auction mailbox sooner rather than later.

Please bring pledged items to the church on Friday, September 17th for labeling unless other arrangements are made. ANY ITEMS BROUGHT AFTER THE PLEDGE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE AUCTIONED. NO EXCEPTIONS!



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

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.



***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"*

Forest Gump and St. Peter



When Forest Gump died, he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter said, "Welcome, Forest. We've heard a lot about you." He continued, "Unfortunately, it's getting pretty crowded up here and we find that we now have to give people an entrance examination before we let them in."

"Okay," said Forest. "I hope it's not too hard. I've already been through a test. My momma used to say, 'Life is like a final exam. It's hard.'"

"Yes, Forest, I know. But this test is only three questions. Here they are."

- 1) Which two days of the week begin with the letter "T"?
- 2) How many seconds are in a year?
- 3) What is God's first name?

"Well, sir," said Forest, "The first one is easy. Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'? Today and Tomorrow."

St. Peter looked surprised and said, "Well, that wasn't the answer I was looking for, but you have a point. I give you credit for that answer."

"The next question," said Forest, "How many seconds are in a year? Twelve."

"Twelve?" said St. Peter, surprised and confused.

"Yes, sir. January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd ..."

St. Peter interrupted him. "I see what you mean. I'll have to give you credit for that one, too."

"And the last question," said Forest, "What is God's first name? It's Andy."

"Andy?" said St. Peter, in shock. "How did you come up with 'Andy'?"

"I learned it in church. We used to sing about it." Forest broke into song, "Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me, Andy tells me I am His own."

St. Peter opened the gate to heaven and said, "Run, Forest, Run!"

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	William Otto
Church Email	Cathy@umclr.com	Financial Secretaries	Angelique Sinclair
Church Website	umclr.com		Bernice Waleski
Resident Bishop	Rev. Thomas Bickerton	Stewardship	Warren Ferry
		Worship	(Needed)
District Superintendent	Rev. Julia Yeon-Hee Yim	Lay Servant Coordinator	(Needed)
		Education	Sue Preddice
Pastor	Rev. Dr. Constance Y. Pak	Sunday School Superintendent	Tammy Edwards-Wilson
		Youth Coordinator	Wendy Duffy
CHURCH STAFF:		Missions, Evangelism & Nurture	Soon Bowes
Administrative Assistant	Abby Preziosi	Martha's Place Thrift Shop	Marilee Drisgula
Nursery School Director	Filomena Thomas	Soup Kitchen Representative	Linda Lee
Chancel Choir Director	Rex Enderlin	UMM Representatives	Dennis Subbiondo
Organist	Heather Edwards-Wilson	UMW Representatives	(Needed)
Children's Choir Director	Heather Edwards-Wilson	Church Historian	Walter Schroeder
		Comm. & Tech.	(Needed)
Church Council	Debra Schild	Disaster Prep. & Response	Warren Ferry
Staff Parish Pastor Relations	Liza Wright	Good News Editor	Abby Preziosi
Lay Leader	Marilee Drisgula	Circulation	Leslie Ann Alessi
	Angelique Sinclair		
Lay Members to Conference	Michael Zukowski		

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