

Community United Methodist Church of Kenilworth
455 Boulevard, Kenilworth, New Jersey 07033
Church phone: 908-276-1956
Pastor Roeline Ramirez 973-282-6237
Rev. Heme Ares, Pastor Emeritus
Pastor Don Knott, Retired Elder
Rev. Dr. Baktha Kumar, Counseling Pastor



The Circuit Rider

May 2024 Newsletter

Community United Methodist Church of Kenilworth
A Faith Community Ignited by God's Love

MAY 2024 EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES, 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Don's Bible Study on Facebook Live, Fridays at 9:00 a.m.

Treasure Shop open Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Prayer Meetings via Zoom every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

ESL Class Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Adult and Youth Sunday School after Sunday worship

Confirmation Class via Zoom May 1, 9, 23, and 29, 2024 at 8:00 p.m.

May 2, 2024 Kenilworth Interfaith National Day of Prayer via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.,
Meeting ID 315 393 411, One tap mobile +13126266799, 315303411# US (Chicago)

May 8, 2024 UMW Fellowship, 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

May 12, 2024 Mother's Day

May 16, 2024 Community Care Food Pantry, 4:00 p.m.

May 19, 2024 Pentecost Sunday - Kenilworth Street Fair

May 19-21, 2024 GNJ Annual Conference at Wildwood

May 27, 2024 Memorial Day

May 30, 2024 Circuit Rider, 11:00 a.m. at Fellowship Hall



Pastor's Page

"...in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."
Romans 12:5

My Beloved Church Family and Friends,

Have you taken a moment to appreciate the vibrant colors of the blooming flowers and the refreshing sight of the lush green leaves around your area? As I gazed at the plants and trees, I could not help but notice how everything was interconnected, from the tips of the flowers and leaves to the branches, trunk, and roots. Then, I remember Jesus saying He is the vine, and we are the branches. It means that I am connected to you. Indeed, we are connected to each other through Christ Jesus. Together, **we are belonged to the family of God**. In the family of God, our unique feature and skill, combined with passion and commitment to serve God and His creations, creates a beautiful tapestry that gives warm love and comfort to all and creates space for growth.

As we celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May, let us take a moment to reflect on the special bond we share. Despite coming from different mothers, we are all shaped by the loving hands of our Creator. We should also consider how our connection with others can inspire and bring them closer to Jesus. Are we genuinely connected to the divine? Moreover, does our connection align with God's mission to transform the world? These are vital questions to consider as we celebrate this day of love and connection.

We are bound together, you and I, and we are all connected to each other and to God. It's crucial that we don't let anything come in between us or interfere with our connection. Let's work together, support each other, show love, and do good for one another, always keeping in mind the glory of God. Remember, I am here for you. Ignite UMC Family is here for you.

I am connected to you and we are connected to each other. Look around. Bring those whose connections are lost unto God. Look around and create creative ways for others to connect with God and us. Together, let us make the connection grow in Christ Jesus.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Roeline "Wee" Ramirez



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Mario Fiorillo
- 8 Tony Sosnosky
- 20 Drew Restrepo
- 27 Edith Koerner
- 28 Tanith Viuya
- 31 Emily Fuquay



"Wishing you a day filled with happiness and a year filled with joy. Happy birthday!"

MAY ANNIVERSARIES



- 1 Peter and Janie Tran
- 4 Elmer and Siony Delos Reyes
- 13 Roy and Ellen Jeremias
- 20 Dan Crisci and Ginny Johnston
- 20 Michael and Mel Freda
- 22 Jay and Tanith Viuya
- 27 Andres and Luz Restrepo

"May you celebrate many more years of togetherness with your love getting stronger and stronger with each passing day. Happy anniversary!"

**GOOD MORNING
Happy May**

**A GOOD LIFE is when you
ASSUME nothing
DO more
SMILE often
DREAM big
LAUGH a lot
and realize how blessed you are,
whatever you have.**

God bless you! Always!

DAILY ENCOURAGEMENT FOR YOUR SOUL

From Mornings With Jesus, January/February 2023

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.

Psalm 16:6 NIV

Sometimes I struggle with the gap between my expectations and my reality. I don't know exactly what I imagined my forties would look like, but I often find myself thinking, *I sure didn't think they'd look like this!* If I'm not careful, I can spiral into a perpetual state of discontentment.

My attitude began to change, however, when I came across the words of David in Psalm 16. For the first time, I thought about our house that often feels too small for our four growing children and thought, *The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places.* I considered my career that has taken twists and turns I tried desperately to avoid and repeated the poetic prayer in my heart: *The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places.* I pictured our bank accounts (too small), my waistline (too big), my kitchen, (too messy), and my hair (too straight). Everything that didn't measure up to my expectations was finally viewed through the words of Psalm 16, and I realized that the boundary lines *have fallen for me in pleasant places!*

Now, when I feel those old familiar thoughts of negativity creeping into my mind, I remember to thank Jesus for all the pleasant places He has put into my life. By letting go of my expectations, embracing the reality of my circumstances, and trusting Jesus, I know each boundary is just right.

By Emily E. Ryan

FAITH STEP: *List the areas of your life you feel are too "something." Then cross each one out and write: "Just right!" beside it.*

A SPECIAL PRIZE

By Cindy Lee (England, United Kingdom)

**The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of God endures forever.**

~Isaiah 40:8 (NIV)

“Well done! You can choose a prize.”
I told my student after he won our spelling game. I had collected a variety of treats to offer as prizes for our educational games. Among the prizes were pencils, notebooks, and second-hand books that the school didn’t need any more. I couldn’t bear to throw away the outdated books or send them to a charity shop when I knew our own students desperately needed educational resources themselves.

Excitedly, my young student rummaged through the bag. He picked out an illustrated children’s Bible, and his eyes lit up. He carried it with him, showing it to everyone. He seemed fascinated by the illustrations and stories. During break time, he asked if he could take the Bible outside with him and read it in the gazebo. He normally spent his break racing around the playground, but he spent this one absorbed in his reading,

This second-hand children’s Bible might have been forgotten on a shelf. Instead, it became a young boy’s precious prize and a witness to others.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

I will take time to appreciate
God’s word today.

Prayer: Loving Father, thank you for giving us your holy word. Teach us to appreciate it. Amen.

From The Upper Room, May-June 2023

FROM POEMS ON FRIENDSHIP,

A book given to Janet on her birthday.
Thank you, Jane.

1. NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

By John Donne

No man is an island,
Entire of itself,
Every man is a piece of the continent
As part of the main.
If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less.
As well as if a manor of thy friend’s
Or of thine own were:
Any man’s death diminishes me,
Because I am involved in mankind,
And therefore never send to know for whom
the bell tolls.
It tolls for thee.

2. THE ARROW AND THE SONG

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

I shot an arrow in the air,
It fell to earth, I know not where;
For, so swiftly it flew, the sight
Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air,
It fell to earth, I know not where;
For who has sight so keen and strong,
That it can follow the flight of song?

Long, long afterward, in an oak
I found the arrow, still unbroke;
And the song, from beginning to end,
I found again in the heart of a friend.

“There are friends, there is
family, and then there are friends that
become family.” ~Unknown

PRAYER REQUESTS

FOR HEALING: Victims of calamities, Jen, Cathy, Lauren, Boyet J., Bobot G., Hermie S., Soyoun, Brenda G., Zoe Holkar, Beverly A's Brother, Margaret (friend of Doris), Charles, Eileen, Cyndee, Edna R., Jessie R., Luisa's grandmother, Ofelia., Raissa S., Amy., Theresa, Bryan., Primo Santos, Teresita, Miguel K.,

THANKSGIVING: Yael M (successful operation and healing)

FOR PEACE: Middle East Crisis, Eastern Europe Crisis,

FOR COMFORT, STRENGTH, AND BLESSINGS: Victims of various calamities, Drew and Gracielle R. & their baby Kaia, Robin. T, Mary Oels, Mary Ellen, Dee K., Elaine Puma & her husband, Pastor Don & Elba, Evelyn S., Betsy DC & her parents, Bob and Karen, A. Restrepo Fam, Fuquay Fam, Opacity Fam, Nunez Fam, Silva Fam,, Yen & Will, Viuya Fam, Janielle & Gerald, Adrian M, Al Bowman., Blanco Fam, Reden & Gloria Cenizal Fam., Jane R., Ms. Toni, Kathleen E., Levine fam, Janet H. & Mom Grace, Drew & Gracielle R., Mary Rogers, Faith S., Mr. Tony S & Fam, Caffrey fam, Ptr Heme Ares & Norma Fam, Rachel R. Fam., James & Sharon S., Dale S., Luz A., Luisa & Lucianna R., Wilson Fam, Francis Fam, Vallez Fam, Jeremias Fam, Freda Fam, Crissi & Johnston Fam, Cindy P., Vercillie F., Phil L., Marty K., Lori Strubble, Stephanie P., Pagan Fam., Kollory Fam., Abigail., Rich W.,, Duely Fam., Ramirez Fam., Salvador Fam., Stephen N., Peterson Fam.,

FOR WISDOM & GUIDANCE: NJSLA exams for Elem & Final Weeks for College Students

FOR UNITY AND WISDOM: UMC General Conference*Apr 23-May 3*Charlotte, NC

FOR PROTECTION AND WISDOM: Ignite UMC Leaders, GNJ Annual Conference staff, pastors, deacons, leaders, Kenilworth Mayor Linda and Council members, Men & women in service. Government officers and staff.



For your prayer concerns and pastoral care, please contact Pastor Roeline.

Text or call at 973-282-6237

email: ramirezroeline@gmail.com igniteumckenilworth@gmail.com

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women met on April 10th in Fellowship Hall. The program was entitled "Think Twice Before Killing Spiders," a nod to Earth Day on April 22, 2024. A productive discussion followed. We are working to provide support for our Kenilworth veterans at Christmas. During the April 21st Sunday service, Pastor Roe requested monetary donations and donations of travel size shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, etc. to help us with this mission; please coordinate with Toni Sosnoski. Thanks to all who help us in any way you can.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 8, 2024. Lunch and fellowship will follow our business meeting. Toni Sosnosky and Beverly Alexis will be hosting as we celebrate Toni's birthday. All women are welcome to join us. Zoom will be available for those who are unable to attend in person.

COMMUNITY CARE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry served 10 families from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15th, providing food and non-food items and again providing six Pet Smart Gift Cards for those who have pets.

Our next distribution date will be on May 16, 2024. Monetary donations and food and non-food donations are greatly appreciated. We thank you, in advance, for your generous support of these ministries. You are keeping us going!

THE TREASURE SHOP

The Treasure Shop is open on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We welcome all who come to shop and/or to donate items. We always look forward to seeing you.

FROM YOUR LIPS...

By Marlene Thornton, Exeter, Ontario

Teaching and taking care of my family kept fears about my breast cancer treatment under control during the day, but one night they overwhelmed me. The surgery was approaching and I couldn't relax in bed. Finally my husband reached over to me in the dark.

"It will be alright, Marlene," he said. "Just you wait and see." He laid his hand on my back, patting me gently. It didn't drive away my fears entirely, but knowing Rick was there for me sure helped.

The night before the surgery I found it especially hard to stay positive. *What if I die?* I thought, curled up under the covers.

I tried to pray, but the words just wouldn't come. Then I felt a touch on my shoulder - warm, firm, reassuring. *Rick*. I rolled over to thank my sweet husband for always being there for me. But he was on the far side of the bed, fast asleep!

Yet I still felt that comforting hand on my shoulder. A deep peace flooded over me, washing my fears away. I didn't feel anxious now; I felt tired. I fell into a sound sleep - the best I'd gotten in weeks.

I woke the next morning with anticipation, but not dread. God was with me. My fear was no match for that. Today, seven years later, I am healthy and cancer-free. Sometimes I still worry - about my children, my husband's job, my aging father's health.

But whenever these concerns threaten to keep me awake, I remember that angel's touch on my shoulder. And surrender all my

cares to God, who is always close at hand.

~From Angels on Earth, Sept/Oct 2009

HE MAKES WINDS HIS MESSENGERS

By Debby Busse, McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania

My elderly parents lived with me, and we were on a tight budget. Even the necessities came under scrutiny. On one trip to the drugstore for toothpaste, a package of angel greeting cards caught my eye. They were twenty dollars, a real luxury in my book. I walked away from them, and then went back.

There was something comforting about the way their faces looked at me. I wish I could take that comfort home, I thought. Something told me those cards were meant to be mine. Still, I berated myself as I handed over my cash at the register. Had I made a mistake? Would we have to do without something more important?

Outside in the parking lot, I stuck my keys in the car door. A twenty-dollar bill rustled in the wind on the ground. No one else was in sight. The wind picked up, but the bill stayed put, gliding around at my feet. Finally, I bent over and picked it up. I invited the angels who paid for my new greeting cards to please come home with me and my parents. No matter what our budget, angels would make sure we were provided for - body and soul.

~From Angels on Earth, Sept/Oct 2009

"May there always be an angel by your side."

Blessing

WORDS OF WISDOM

Wise advice from the Book of Proverbs

LOVE

Proverbs 3:3 Let love and faithfulness be a part of you
Proverbs 10:12 Love covers every wrong

DISCIPLINE

Proverbs 12:1 Those who love discipline love to learn
Proverbs 10:17 Accepting discipline leads to life

WORK

Proverbs 14:23 Hard work leads to a reward
Proverbs 22:29 The one who works with excellence serves kings

FRIENDS

Proverbs 22:11 Good friendships depend on one's attitude
Proverbs 27:9 Good advice from friends is sweet

KINDNESS

Proverbs 11:17 Kindness brings blessings and keeps away troubles
Proverbs 19:17 Kindness to the poor will be rewarded

GOSSIP

Proverbs 16:28 A person who gossips breaks up friendships
Without gossip a quarrel soon ends

QUARRELING

Proverbs 13:10 Pride leads to quarrels; the wise take advice
Proverbs 20:3 Avoiding a fight is a mark of honor

SIN

Proverbs 5:22 The bad habits of sin get one all tangled up
Proverbs 22:4 The hearts of the proud and snobbish are sinful

ENEMIES

Proverbs 24:17 Do not be happy when your enemy fails
Proverbs 25:21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food

RICHEs AND WEALTH

Proverbs 23:4 Do not wear yourself out to become rich
Proverbs 27:24 Money and things won't last forever

You may not have everything you want in life, but if you have
Faith
to get you through,
Family
to help you through, and
Friends
to hold onto,
then you have everything you need.
Amen.

MY SHADOW
From The Upper Room, May-June 2023

*I am with you always, to the very end
of the age.*

~Matthew 28:20 (NIV)

Running has always been part of my life. Even now that I am a senior citizen, God still blesses me with the ability to run three or four times a week and occasionally participate in a race. On sunny days I notice my shadow running with me. However, on cloudy days my shadow is nowhere to be seen. I am left to run on my own.

We can think about God's presence or absence in our lives in a similar way. When life is great, we are happy, the world is wonderful, and we feel that God has blessed us. When health problems, marriage troubles, job loss, or financial hardships arise, we may ask, "Where are you, God? Why aren't you here with me?"

But even when we cannot perceive it, God is here with us 365 days a year, caring for us and watching over us, no matter what we are experiencing. And God will be there with us until the end of our life's race.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

God is with me always

Prayer: Dear God, help us to remember that you are always with us and that you will see us through each day. We pray as Jesus taught us, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

(Matthew 6:9-13, NIV). Amen

~Ron Lutz (Ohio, USA)

A SYMPHONY OF FROGS

By Devon O'Day

*Then I heard every creature in heaven and
on earth and under the earth and on the sea,
and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits
on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor
and glory and power, for ever and ever!"*

~Revelation 5:13

I have a chair sitting alone in my backyard that beckons me every evening. One summer night, I felt God's urge to really listen to the sounds. There were cicadas and crickets, my farm animals making their usual sounds at their feed buckets, and my dogs making zoomies in the backyard. But above all the usual sounds I expected, I heard frogs. Now, I've heard frogs before, but on this special night I paid attention. The deep bass of the bullfrog was echoed by sopranos in the trees. The alto and tenor sections of other frog species added more voices. Then together they would crescendo and add sounds of instruments that built to a full-on symphony.

Do you know the thing I noticed most? These varying species of frogs, who were spaced all around me in places I could not see, were singing in the same key. They may be in trees or on logs or by the pond, but they sang in a musical arrangement that made beautiful music. They were not reading a score, but they began and ended in rhythm, and I felt this piece moving me from deep within my heart. When I listen to the sound of God in my own spirit, it blesses me, brings my blood pressure down, and gives me a feeling of euphoria I can't explain except that it brings me to the connection of praise all living creation has with its Creator. That is my peace place.

Walk of Faith: *This week, take the time one evening or early morning to listen to the symphony of nature's sounds.*

From All God's Creatures, July/August 2023

A Glimpse of APRIL 2024



MESSAGE IN SONG BY IGNITE UMC MEN



YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME



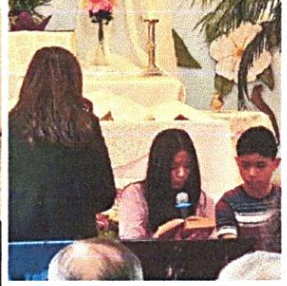
READING OF THE SCRIPTURE



TIME OF SHARING



Fellowship



Stay strong in painting your HOPE in JESUS for the world to see. This empowering hope is like a light that breaks the world's darkness. Have FAITH in the HOLY SPIRIT to complete the picture in the hearts of all God's creations. They, too, will soon start painting HOPE for all.



Luncheon Fellowship and Remembering Elaine Oshust



Holy Communion



Worship Through Nature



Women's Group



Planting in front of the church

MOTHER

Written by Walter Sosnosky, 2014

The following is a poem tribute to our Mothers here and our Mothers who are in heaven.

The dew that glistens off a morning rose
The vibrant colors of a rainbow
The golden warmth of a sunny day
The sweet air after a summer's rain
The beauty of a cloudless night
When the moon glows a pearl white and the stars are diamond like
All this beauty I spoke cannot compare with a Mother's love.

To all who are blessed to be with their Mothers on this special day, hug her tight; tell her, her love and care showed you the way that made you the person you are today. For us whose Mother is in a heavenly way, give her a spiritual hug and say Happy Mother's Day. As tears are falling from my eyes, I must stop writing now.
GOD bless all, mother and child.

TO ALL THE MOTHERS

Written by Walter Sosnosky, 2014

To all the Mothers who grace the face of our green planet, I wrote the following tribute:

MOTHER

Among GOD's wondrous gifts is the gift of Motherhood. So happy with this gift, he bestowed it upon all of his creations even to the deliverer of Jesus Christ, Mother Mary. The title Mother, no other word in the English language conjures up a sense of well-being and warmth. In its speaking, the word Mother defines absolute love with no qualification and

is unyielding. We address all that is beautiful in nature and life-giving as Mother Nature, the force of creation. So it is with our Mother whose life's love we, her children.

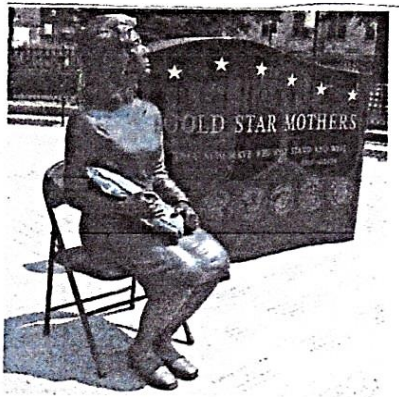
From our first breath, she was there holding us, protecting us and, through childhood, she was there to calm our fears. She taught us right from wrong. When we slipped and fell, Mom was there to make us well. As we grew from girl to woman, boy to man, Mom was there with her guiding hand.

Mother was there from kindergarten's first day, our high school graduation day, and the tears of joy on our wedding day.

A COLLECTION OF BIBLE VERSES

From the book, 100 Promises of God

1. But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. ~Corinthians 2:9
2. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. ~Ephesians 2:8
3. For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper. He shall spare the poor and needy and shall save the souls of the needy. ~Psalm 72:12-13
4. Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. ~Romans 10:17
5. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and they right hand shall save me. ~Psalm 138:7



American Gold Star Mothers

GOLD STAR MOTHERS

Written by Walter Sosnosky, 2021

On Sunday, May 9th (2021), the Margaret J. Horan Gold Star Mothers Memorial was unveiled. How appropriate it was to be done on Mother's Day. The Memorial is a project initiated by Amando "Chick" Gabella. Chick is a 100-year-old Sleepy Hollow, New York resident, a decorated WWII veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor. The committee charged with raising the funds necessary for the Memorial's commission announced the successful conclusion of the campaign at Chick Gabella's 100th birthday celebration on January 1, 2021. The campaign was in partnership with The Historical Society of Sleepy Hollow Gold Star Mothers. The following is the story of these courageous patriotic women.

Whenever one of our military dies in defense of our nation, it fills our hearts with sadness. The aching hearts surge through all at the grave site as Taps is played and our hero is lowered to eternal rest. Friends and guests console the mother and promise their prayers.

The mother, now alone at home, cannot stop her tears. Her love, her life, her baby is gone, a sadness that lasts a lifetime.

Gold Star Mother's Day in the United States

is observed on the last Sunday of September each year. This organization came into being in 1928. These are mothers of lost ones in WWI. The commission was to console others who lost their sons and daughters. It slowly expanded to providing care and directions for assistance from the military. They also visit returning military members who are recuperating in hospitals from their wounds received in combat.

The American Gold Star Mothers is a non-profit organization and has a congressional charter Title 36§211 United States Code. All these services they provide are by all volunteers, all who have suffered the loss of a child.

I wrote this article because I think you should know that there are hard-working women out there who put love, care, and patriotism above self. A legacy to their lost heroes, son and daughters whose heavenly hearts fill with joy.

Please take a moment and say a prayer for these selfless patriots.

THE UP SIDE

From Guideposts, June 2009

1. "Throughout my illnesses, I prayed. My prayer was not answered because I lived; my prayer was answered because I felt better able to cope with my sickness." ~*Rabbi David J. Wolpe, cancer survivor and author of Why Faith Matters*

2. "I'm an optimist. It keeps me going. I believe in the potential good." ~*screen legend Robert Redford who has been acting and directing for 50 years*

Happy Mothers Day



APPRECIATION

- BEAUTIFUL
- BREAKFAST
- CANDY
- CHARMING
- COMFORT
- DEVOTED
- FLOWERS
- FORGIVING
- GIFTS

GUIDANCE

- HUGS
- JEWELRY
- JOY
- KISSES
- LAUGHTER
- LOVE
- MATERNAL

MOM

- MOTHER
- NURTURE
- PERFUME
- PROTECTIVE
- SHARE
- TELEPHONE
- TENDER

THE BEST

- WARM
- WISE

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.