

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

December 2024 Newsletter

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

DECEMBER 2024 EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES, 10:30 a.m.

Adult and Youth Sunday School after Sunday worship

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.

ESL Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

December 4, 11, 18, 2024 Prayer Meeting: Advent Devotion Night, 7:00 p.m.

December 8, 2024 Council Board Meeting

December 8, 2024 Borough Christmas Tree Lighting, 6:30 p.m.

December 11, 2024 United Methodist Women, 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

December 19, 2024 Community Food Pantry, 4:00 p.m.

December 22, 2024 Church Christmas Party after worship

December 22, 2024 Simbang Gabi at 3:00 p.m. at Wesley UMC,
sponsored by UMC Filipino Caucus

December 22, 2024 3M's Gathering (Music, Meditation, Movements), 7:00 p.m.

December 24, 2024 Christmas Eve

December 27, 2024 (Friday) Circuit Rider, 11:00 a.m. at Fellowship Hall



Pastor's Page

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:11

My Beloved Church Family and Friends,

As we move from the season of Thanksgiving into the season of Advent, we are invited to reflect on the deep connection between gratitude and hope. Thanksgiving has provided us with an opportunity to pause, giving thanks for the overflowing blessings we have received and acknowledging the goodness of God in our lives. It is also a moment that we gave thanks to the pain, hurt, brokenness struggles, chaos that we able to overcome or endure through God's strength, provisions. and mercy. What a joy that this season brings when we gathered with family, friends, and community, celebrating both the abundance of life, overcoming struggles, and the faithfulness of God.

Now, as Advent begins, we turn our hearts toward anticipation and preparation. Advent is more than a celebration of amazing Christmas decorations. It is a season of waiting and hope, as we look forward to the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ – the reason of the season. It is a time to prepare our hearts to receive the gift of God's presence anew. Just as we gave thanks for God's blessings, so too we give thanks as we eagerly await His coming, longing for the peace, joy, and love that only Jesus can bring.

Let us carry the spirit of gratitude from Thanksgiving into this holy season of Advent, allowing it to shape our waiting. Join us as we cultivate and meditate on the symbols of Christmas in our very own Jesse Tree – An Advent Journey. Let us journey together and see how God's plan of salvation brings true hope, peace, love, and joy. As we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth, may we renew our commitment to live out God's love in the world.

Wishing you a blessed transition into this holy season. Merry Christmas!!!

A - Await faithfully for the return of the Messiah for His
D - Divine love lived among people and saved us all,
V - Valued each sinner, forgiven, and made new in Him
E - Empowered each believer to do good and be good, and
N - Nourished us with amazing and overflowing provision.
T - Thank Him and celebrate for the promise of God is fulfilled in Him

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Roeline "Wee" Ramirez



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Elmer Delos Reyes
- 5 Robin Tarullo
- 5 Karen Woods
- 8 Norma Ares
- 12 Rachel Diaz
- 13 Melinda Lim
- 14 Irene Powell
- 20 Jane Reilly
- 21 Charlotte Jacobs
- 25 Janielle Viuhya
- 26 John Drescher



"Wishing you a birthday as magical as the holidays! May your December be filled with love, joy, and all your favorite things. Happy birthday!"

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS WE REMEMBER...

*an act of kindness,
laughter shared,
a word of encouragement.*

*It's the warm memories
of special moments
gathered day by day
that we carry with us
in our hearts.*

"We all have a choice in every difficult situation in life. We can become either bitter or better." ~submitted by *GUIDEPOSTS* reader Corina Zalace of Niceville, Florida, who has undergone 82 surgeries since being diagnosed with polio

THE MASTER WEAVER'S PLAN

Author Unknown

My life is but a weaving
Between the Lord and me;
I may not choose the colors -
He knows what they should be.

For He can view the pattern
Upon the upper side,
While I can see it only
On this, the underside.

Sometimes He weaves in sorrow,
Which seems so strange to me;
But I will trust his judgement
And work on faithfully.

'Tis He who fills the shuttle,
And He knows what is best;
So I shall weave in earnest,
And leave to Him the rest.

Not 'til the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Shall GOD unroll the canvas
And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needed
In the Weaver's skillful hand,
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.

Submitted by Toni Sosnosky

"Watch the sunrise. Watch the sunset. How does that make you feel? Does it make you feel big or tiny? Because there's something good about feeling both."

~singer Amy Grant

From *GUIDEPOSTS*, November 2009



ALL I HAVE TO DO IS DREAM

By Kimberly Elkins Editor

Nineteen-year-old Felice Scaduto was working as an elevator operator at the Schroeder Hotel in Milwaukee when musician Boudleaux Bryant stepped into her elevator. Felice recognized him immediately - from a dream she's had when she was eight. In the dream, she and Boudleaux were dancing to "our song," as she later told it, and she'd been looking for him ever since. On September 5th, in 1945, just five days after they met, they married.

And so one of the great country music and pop song writing teams was born. Boudleaux memorialized their miracle meeting by penning "All I Have to Do Is Dream," one of their many songs recorded by the Everly Brothers, this one in 1958. The heartfelt tribute to the couple's love hit No. 1 on multiple *Billboard* charts simultaneously. The Bryants would go on to write more than 6,000 songs together before Boudleaux died in 1987, some 1,500 of which were recorded by artists such as Roy Orbison, Tony Bennett and

Charley Pride. The couple's biggest hits include "Rocky Top," "Bye Bye Love," and "Wake Up Little Susie." They were inducted into both the Songwriters Hall of Fame and Country Music Hall of Fame. The Bryants' enduring partnership in love and music shows amazing things are possible when you follow your dreams.

~From *GUIDEPOSTS* April/May 2024

WHAT REMINDS YOU OF CHRISTMAS?

A holly wreath hung on the door,
Or presents strewn across the floor,
Tall Christmas tree with baubles bright,
Which fills our hearts with such delight.

Carols sung out in the snow,
A snowman built with eyes aglow.
Crackers pulled, a song to sing,
Candles lit, and bells that ring.

Roasted turkey, which tastes divine,
Rich fruit cake, with an iced design,
No, the most important reminder of all,
Is the birth of a babe in an Ox's stall.

CHRISTMAS QUOTES

1. "Christmas isn't a season. It's a feeling."
~Edna Ferber
2. "My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?" ~Bob Hope

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women met on November 13th, 2024 in Fellowship Hall. The meeting opened with a prayer and scriptures from 1 Chronicles 16:34 and Colossians 3:15. The program was entitled "10 Ways to Practice Gratitude." The women brought in their Thank offerings for the 2024 year. They wrote notes for 4 hats and 9 scarves that Jane will be sending to Seamam's Institute Church for their Christmas at Sea Program. They also gave Toni 4 scarves, 12 blankets, and 143 pairs of text mitts that she will be donating to Kathy for our veterans. Lunch and fellowship followed.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11th at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. They will be going to lunch at the Huck Finn Diner after their meeting. All women are invited.

COMMUNITY CARE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry served 18 families from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 21st, 2024 providing both food and non-food items and Acme gift cards. Pet Smart gift cards, which are not included in the food pantry budget, are donated each month by three of the women to help provide for our clients' animals.

Thank you so much for your donations this mission. We really

thanks goes to Gigi Blanco who has already provided the Acme gift cards for our December distribution. Her donation has made it possible for us to provide Acme gift cards for both November and December.

Our next distribution date will be on December 19th, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

THE TREASURE SHOP

In addition to our regular hours, the Treasure Shop will continue to be open for the special Christmas bazaar on Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. However, we will be closed on Friday, November 29th, the day after Thanksgiving, and on December 20th, the Friday before Christmas.

We welcome all who come to shop and we thank all those who have donated so many different items. Visitors can find something new every Saturday.

The Treasure Shop staff enjoys seeing new and familiar faces each week. Thanks so much for visiting!

CONTENTMENT

From Prayers and Promises for Women

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:12-13 NIV

PRAYER REQUESTS:

(Let's pray for you. Let us pray for one another)

FOR SAFE PREGNANCY: Samantha M., Janielle V., Chandni J., & all women who carry life in their womb

FOR HEALING & STRENGTH: Rev. Kumar, Diana, Laura, James F., Reden C., Janet C., Mary O., Beverly, Diana, Bob W., Jun Viuya, Barbara, Jen, Boyet J, Brenda G, Mr. Meredith, Charles, Eileen, Edna R, Ofelia, Raissa S., Theresa, Bryan., Pastor Don, Elba, Sal, Pat, Al B., Gareth A., Jason, Erik Lim, Terri, John Karlovitch, Lori S, Gerliz Anne M., Bill, Judy, Bobot, Jen & Binny (co-workers of Norma A), Ricky O., Scott W., Rob. W., Tom & Shiela

FOR PEACE & UNITY: Across the world

FOR GUIDANCE & PROVISION: Abuela B., Drew & Gracielle R. & baby Kaia, Jackie, Vercillie F., Analyn, Robin. T, Mary Ellen, Cathy, Dee K., Elaine Puma & her husband., Betsy DC' parents, Bob W & Karen, A. Restrepo Fam, Fuquay Fam, \ Opacity Fam, Nunez Fam, Silva Fam,, Yen & Will, Viuya Fam, Janielle & Gerald, Adrian M, Reden & Gloria C., 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., Francis Fam, Vallez Fam, Jeremias Fam, Freda Fam, Crissi & Johnston Fam, Cindy P., Phil L., Marty K., Lori Strubble, Stephanie P., Pagan Fam., Kollory Fam., Abigail., Rich W.,., Duelly Fam., Ramirez Fam., Salvador Fam., Stephen N., Peterson Fam., Linda Sosa Fam., Jessie R., Edit Fam., Fabian & Nattali, Mayra Santana & Fam., Marie M.G., Blanco Fam., Kevin., Will and Ann Dougherty

FOR WISDOM in LEADERSHIP: Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Rev. DS. Williams III, Pastor Roeline, Ignite UMC Leaders, GNJ Annual Conference staff, pastors, deacons, leaders, Kenilworth Mayor Linda and Council members, Men & Women in service. Government officers and staff. School teachers and staff

SPECIAL INTENTION FOR THIS MONTH: Families and individuals who are celebrating holidays with a heavy heart.

FOR PRAYER CONCERNS AND PASTORAL CARE, PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR ROELINE

Text message: 973-282-6237

Church Landline: 908 276-1956

email: ramirezroeline@gmail.com

igniteumckenilworth@gmail.com



**Christmas Eve
Worship Service
December 24, 2024
@7pm**

The Jesse Tree
*An Advent
Journey*

Join us in person at 455 Blvd., Kenilworth, NJ. Or join us via **Sunday Worship Zoom ID: 620 488 505**

* **Zoom Link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/620488505>

Facebook Account (Ignite Umc Kenilworth) Link: <https://www.facebook.com/igniteumc.kenilworth.7/>

FROM THE FISHWRAPPER

December 19, 2023

1. THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS

The message of Christmas is that the visible material world is bound to the invisible spiritual world.

2. GIFTS

May you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope, and the peace of His love at Christmas and always.

3. "I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year." ~*Charles Dickens*

4. What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.

5. May peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through!

6. THOUGHTS TO PONDER

A little child,
a shining star,
a stable rude
the door ajar.
Yet in that place,
so crude, forlorn,
the Hope of all the
world was born.

7. The first Christmas was pretty simple — it's okay if yours is, too.

8. ADDING TO CHRISTMAS

Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that he gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him.

The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life. ~*Corrie Ten Boom*

9. "For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child himself."

~*Charles Dickens*

CHRISTMAS FACTS AND TRIVIA

From *The Farmer's 2020 Almanac*,
Robert B. Thomas, Founded in 1792

Why do we decorate trees?

Decorated trees were used in winter celebrations long before the advent of Christianity. Plants and trees that remained green all year had a special significance for people who lived in cold winter climates.

Ancient people hung evergreen boughs over their doors and windows. Some believed that evergreens kept witches, ghosts, evil spirits, and illness away.

Romans decorated evergreen trees with trinkets and topped them with an image of their sun god. Druid sorcerers hung golden apples and lit candles on oak trees to celebrate the winter solstice.

Christian Christmas celebrations did indeed begin using the evergreen as a symbol about 400 years ago in Germany. This Christmas practice spread to most of northern Europe by the 19th century.

Who made the first Christmas Card?

People used to write their own cards. The first Christmas card design is thought to have been printed in England in 1843. Wood engravers of the time often produced prints with religious themes, but this was the first time anyone produced these prints in quantity and sold them (1,000 copies in London). The design was of a family party, beneath which were the words "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You." In the mid 19th century in the United States, the owner of a variety store in Albany, New York, produced a card carrying Christmas greeting from "Pease's Great Variety Store in the Temple of Fancy."

READER SHARES LESSONS LEARNED OVER SIX DECADES

Note from the editor: In November I had to replace my refrigerator, a Kenmore purchased in the mid 1990's. I almost missed this article which was held on the side by a magnet. I thought it was worth sharing.

Dear Ann Landers: I would like to share with you what I have learned from age 16 through 80. I hope you will find my observations of value and perhaps share them with your readers. And thank you, Ann, for your diligence over the years.

– **K.S. hargave**, Fishkill, N.Y.

Dear K.S. Bhargava: What a splendid blueprint of a life well lived. I am sure my readers will learn from it. Here it is:

Live, Learn and Tell

At age 16, I learned that mothers always know best, and sometimes fathers know best, too.

At age 20, I learned that crime doesn't pay, even if it is well done.

At age 25, I learned that a new baby keeps the mother from having an eight-hour day and the father from having an eight-hour night.

At age 30, I learned that strength is the charm of a man and charm is the strength of a woman.

At age 35, I learned that the future is not what you inherit but what you create.

At age 40, I learned that the secret of happy living is not to do what you LIKE but to like what you do.

At age 45, I learned that life is 10 percent

what happens to you and 90 percent how you respond to it.

At age 50, I learned that a dog is man's best friend and man's dogma can be his worst enemy.

At age 55, I learned that little decisions should be made with the head and big decisions with my heart.

At age 60, I learned that you can give without loving, but you can never love without giving.

At age 65, I learned that to enjoy a long life, one should eat what he wants after he has eaten what he should.

At age 70, I learned that life is not a matter of holding good cards, but playing a poor hand well.

At age 75, I learned that as long as you think you are green, you will continue to grow, and as soon as you think you are ripe, you are rotten.

At age 80, I learned that to love and be loved is the greatest joy.

TODAY I WILL REMEMBER...

I am loved! Ephesians 2:4

I am a conqueror! Romans 8:37

God will give me strength to take every
NEGATIVE thought captive! 2 Corinthians 10:5

I have everything I need! Psalms 23:1

I am clothed with strength and dignity.
Proverbs 25:1



*Come Celebrate the Season
in song with*

*The Chansonettes of Westfield
Friends & Family Concert*

Sunday, December 8th, 2024

2:00 pm

*Located in the Chapel of the Presbyterian Church of Westfield
(enter by way of the doors by the parking lot in back of the church)*

****no admission fee****

*Free Will offering to benefit
The church's Agape Food Program*



**PINE
CONES**

They're little treasures
that drop from the trees and
wait like new friends to be found.
Pine cones show us that
we are all different, all beautiful,
and all perfect in our
imperfection.

From Tarika, 2020

DON'T GIVE UP

Author Unknown

When things go wrong as
they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging
seems all uphill,
When funds are low
and debts are high,
And you want to smile
but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing
you down a bit,
Rest, if you must,
but don't you quit.

"Don't think about what others
have. Think about what you have to
give others." ~Submitted
by *GUIDEPOSTS* reader Mary Ann
Stauffer of Boyertown, Pennsylvania

A VERBAL MEDITATION

Anonymous

In my following post I'm going to take
you away from today's chaos, violence, and
hate. It's a poem titled "To Every Thing There
Is a Season." This verse is from the book of
Ecclesiastes in The King James version of the
Bible.

To every thing there is a season, and a time to
every purpose under heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that
which is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones, and a time to
gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from
embracing;
A time to get, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate;
a time of war, and a time of peace.

The words of this poem may sound
familiar to some people of grey hair and
wrinkled brow. A folk singer of the early 50's
put this poem to music as a message of the
times.

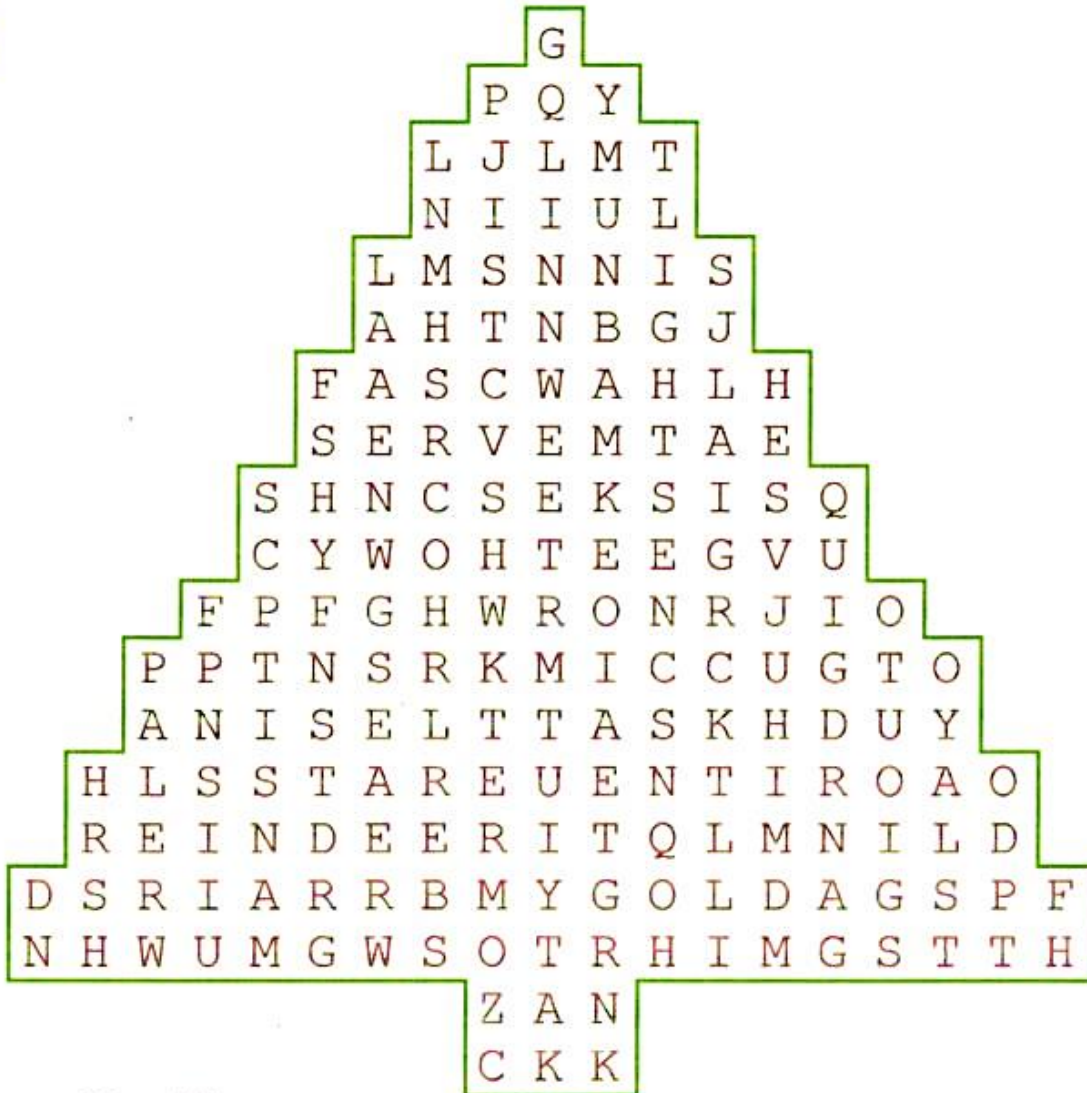
Submitted by Toni Sosnosky

"Prayer isn't to remind God what
your problems are; prayer is to remind
your problems who God is."
~from *60 Seconds for Jesus* by Father Jim Sichko

Christmas

Word Search

Name: _____



Word list:

CAROL
CHESTNUT
CHRIST
CHRISTMAS
FAMILY
GREETINGS

HAPPY
JINGLE
LIGHTS
NATIVITY
REINDEER
RUDOLPH

SING
SLEIGH
SNOWMAN
STAR
STOCKING
WINTER

Some Memories of our November 2024

