

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

January 2025 Newsletter

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

JANUARY 2025 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 2nd Friday and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Prayer Meetings every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., Zoom ID 747 308 740

January 8, 2025 Prayer Meetings resume Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

January 9, 2025 United Methodist Women, 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

January 17, 2025 A Night of Light and Testimonies, 7:00 p.m. in

Fellowship Hall, in person and online on Zoom ID 749 308 740

January 19, 2025 Inauguration of 2025 Church Officers

January 23, 2025 Community Food Pantry, 4:00 p.m.

January 25, 2025 7th Church Merger Anniversary Clean-up & Preparation

January 26, 2025 7th Church Merger Anniversary, 10:30 a.m.

January 26, 2025 When the Golden Light Shines: A Night of Music and Inspiration, 4:00 p.m.
in person and on Zoom ID 620 488 505

January 30, 2025 Circuit Rider, 11:00 a.m. at Fellowship Hall

January 31, 2025 3M's (Music, Movements, & Meditations), 7:00 p.m.
in person and on Zoom ID 201 699 6704



Pastor's Page

*"... let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:16*

Beloved family and friends,

A BLESSED AND HAPPY 2025!!!

The year 2024 was a blast because we joined and grew together in Christ. Through your generous giving, faithful prayers, spirit of volunteerism, and powerful presence, we have endured and victoriously finished 2024 through God's grace.

I would love to hear your testimonies of God's faithfulness in your life. Your stories are like light that needed to shine for others to be inspired and walk on the path God created for all those who put their trust in Him. For that, the Ignite UMC leaders prayerfully envisioned a theme for us to live this 2025.

"Let the LIGHT shine: Together, let's shine for God's glory."

In this, we will serve and worship God to let the community know our identity as children of God, continue our growing physical and spiritual bond to work together for God's glory, and make our faith relevant to one another and to the world.

It will not be easy, but we have experienced God's amazing grace and guidance throughout the years. Therefore, I challenged you to step up with your faith. Let the light of Christ in you shine by giving your time, talent, treasure, and ideas for the church's work, giving glory to God.

May our light join together and make it as bright as the morning sun shining to all and for all.

Love and prayers,

Pastor Roeline "Wee" Ramirez

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Gerald Carino
- 9 Beverly Alexis
- 11 Gracielle Landayan Restrepo
- 11 Andres Restrepo
- 14 Jay Viuya
- 16 Guy Ethan Francis
- 16 Amiro Glop Famirez
- 17 Dale Sinkowitz
- 18 Elsie Hudzik
- 18 Marty Koenig
- 22 Linda Sosa
- 25 Debbi Clayton
- 26 Sophie Restrepo
- 26 Ethan Restrepo
- 28 Pastor Roeline Ramirez
- 28 Malcolm Valles
- 31 Ronyu Jazmin Valles
- 31 Yvette Carvallo



"May this year bring you endless joy, incredible adventures, and success in all your endeavors. Happy Birthday!"

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Amer and Pastor Roeline Ramirez

"Happy Anniversary! May God continue to bless you and keep you happy."



JANUARY

*"The first month of the year,
A perfect time to start all over again,
Changing energies and deserting old
moods,
New beginnings, new attitudes."
~Charmaine J. Forde*

HELLO JANUARY

*Journey of a thousand miles
Always starts somewhere,
Nothing will be achieved
Unless you take
Action. Momentum will.
Repeated efforts will take
You further than expected.*

From [OurMindfull Life.com](http://OurMindfullLife.com)

JANUARY QUOTES

1. "In the New Year, never forget to thank your past years because they enabled you to reach today! Without the stairs of the past you cannot arrive at the future!"
~*Mehmet Murat Ildan*
2. "New month, new intentions, new goals, new love, new light, and new beginnings."
~*April Mae Monterrosa*
3. "We will open the book, its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."
~*Edith Lovejoy Pierce*
4. "Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right." ~*Oprah*

**MYSTERIOUS WAYS
MORE THAN COINCIDENCE**
From **GUIDEPOSTS** November 2009

“What do you regret most, Beverly,” one of my friends in our Christmas caroling group asked me at our church meeting. I’d just joined that year and we were bonding, talking about things we wished we might have done differently in our lives.

There wasn’t much that I would change. I believe everything happens for a reason. But there was one thing. “It may be silly...” I said.

My grandmother and grandfather were like my other set of parents. Often after school I would walk over to their house and sit in my favorite chair in their living room. The chair always fascinated me – even though its striped upholstery was faded and it had nicks here and there in its wooden legs and arms. The arms were carved with ornate circles that I liked to trace with my fingers. Sitting in that chair, I felt safe. I would relax, have a snack, and chat with Grandma and Grandpa until my parents came home.

After my grandparents died, that chair was passed down to me. I brought it to my new home when I married.

Years later, however, my husband and I found ourselves in tough times. We wanted to buy a swing set for our two young sons, so we held a yard sale. I knew of one item that would definitely sell well: my grandparents’ antique chair. It killed me, but I wanted to make the kids happy. The chair fetched a nice price, and we were able to buy the swing set. But when we moved out of town the following year, I felt like I’d left a part of my family behind. I felt that way now, even after all this time.

“That was...” I thought about how old the boys were now “...twenty-two years ago,” I recalled. “And even though it’s been so long, I still think about my grandparents’ chair.”

Two of the ladies looked at each other with obvious amazement. “Beverly,” one of them said, “there’s something you should see.”

At their urging, I went downstairs to the church basement. It was almost like walking into my grandparents’ living room. There, sitting in front of me, was my chair, the striped lining, the carved circles in the armrests... even the nicks and dents I knew so well.

~By Beverly Palmer, Whittier, California

COURAGE
From **Prayers and Promises for Women**

Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.

Ephesians 6:10-11 NIV

Be alert. Continue strong in faith. Have courage, and be strong. Do everything in love.
I Corinthians 16:13-14 NCV

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid. You are with me.
Your shepherd’s rod and staff comfort me.
Psalm 23:4

“This is my command – be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”
Joshua 1:9 NIT

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women met on December 11th, 2024 in Fellowship Hall. The meeting opened with a prayer. The program was entitled "Why Santa's Reindeer are Female," and was followed by a reading of the Christmas Story as written in Luke 2:4-14. The women were given new names for their Secret Pals for the new year, 2025. Their Secret Pals for 2024 were:

1. Luke and Matthew Forti Robin Tarullo
2. Charlie B. and Emily Fuquay Jane Reilly
3. Henry David Nunez Margaret Nunez
4. Amara and Amiro Ramirez Elsie Hudzik
5. Luisa and Lucianna Restrepo
 Evelyn Schenack and Janet Crowe
6. Sophia Restrepo Mel Freda
7. Cairy, Ali, and Austin Silva Janet Crowe
8. Carter and Aubrey Wilson Beverly Alexis
9. Jerrah Thea Viuya Ellen Jeremias

After their meeting, the women enjoyed lunch at the Huck Finn Diner.

The first meeting of the new year will be held on Thursday, January 9th at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a bag lunch. Dessert will be provided by Jane Reilly. 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, December 18st, 2024, providing both food and non-food items and Acme gift cards, and greeting cards from Pastor Roeline. The 8 Pet Smart cards given, 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.

We again thank you so much for your donations to this mission. A special thank you goes to Gigi Blanco who provided the Acme gift cards for our December distribution. Her donation made it possible for the food pantry to provide Acme gift cards for both November and December.

Our next distribution date will be on January 16th, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Donations of breakfast cereal would be appreciated.

THE TREASURE SHOP

We will be returning to our regular hours in January, 2025, opening on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The Treasure Shop will also be open on the second Friday of the month, January 10th from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

We look forward to seeing familiar and new faces in the New Year and thank all who have visited to purchase and/or donate items during the 2024 year. Thanks so much for visiting!

**MAY YOUR HEART BE LIGHT, YOUR
DAYS BE BRIGHT, AND YOUR YEAR
BE JUST RIGHT.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
HAPPY 2025!**

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Let's pray for you. Send your prayer concerns & thanksgiving)

PRAYER REQUESTS: (Let's pray for you. Send your prayer concerns & thanksgiving)

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

FOR HEALING & STRENGTH: Nancy Lau, Cathy, Gianna, Bev (Mom Grace's friend) Bob Mier, Rev. Kumar, Diana, Laura, James F., Reden C., Janet C., Mary O., Greg, 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., Terri, Lori S, Gerliz Anne M., Judy, Bobot, Jen & Binny (co-workers of Norma A), Ricky O., Scott W., Rob. W., Tom & Shiela, Kathy S.

FOR GUIDANCE & PROVISION: Abuela B., Drew & Gracielle R. & baby Kaia, Jackie, Vercillie F., Analy, Robin. T, Mary Ellen, Dee K., Elaine Puma & her husband., Betsy DC' parents, Bob W & Karen, A. Restrepo Fam, Fuquay Fam, Opacity Fam, Margaret N., 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, 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, Pastor Annie W.

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. Government Transition in January.

For additional prayer requests, pastoral care and services, please contact Pastor Roeline

Text: 973-282-6237

email: ramirezroeline@gmail.com

Voicemail: 908 276-1956

igniteumckenilworth@gmail.com



You are Cordially Invited!

Ignite UMC 7th Merger Anniversary

Let the Light Shine: Together, Let's Shine for God's Glory

Guest Speaker: Rev. Adrian Mendoza

January 26, 2025

Worship Service @ 10:30 am

Luncheon Fellowship @ 12:00 pm

When the Golden Light Shines:

A Night of Music and Testimonies

January 26, 2025 @ 4 pm

Light Dinner @ 5:30 pm

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.: 8 FACTS **From The Old Farmer's Almanac, 2020**

The civil rights leader, born this month, is honored this month.

1. He was born Michael King, Jr. on January 15, 1929.
2. King entered college at the age of 15. He skipped grades 9 and 12 before enrolling at Morehouse College, the alma mater of his father and maternal grandfather, in 1944.
3. Although he was the son, grandson, and great-grandson of Baptist ministers, he was considering becoming a doctor or a lawyer instead. He later decided that the Bible had "many profound truths which one cannot escape" and entered the Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, graduating with a PhD at the age of 25.
4. He got a C in public speaking during his first year in seminary, but in his final year, King was receiving straight A's and had become valedictorian of his class.
5. When he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, he was the youngest person to do so, at age 35. (Malala Youisafzai now holds that record, winning the 2014 prize at age 17.)
6. He was jailed 29 times, often on such trumped up charges as driving 30 miles per hour in a 25-mile zone in Alabama in 1956.
7. In a speech in April 3, 1968, he told the audience: "I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land." He was assassinated the next day.

8. He is the only person born in the United States whose birthday is a federal holiday. (George Washington was born before the United States came to be.) In 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill that named the third Monday in January as the holiday observance "Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday."

DECEMBER HUMOR

See answers below.

1. What often falls in the winter but never gets hurt?
2. Who was the snow man's favorite relative?
3. What can you catch in December with your eyes closed?
4. Why did the boy only wear one snow boot?
5. What did the snowman have for breakfast?
6. What do bees do in New York during December?
7. What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?
8. Where do snowmen keep their money?

ANSWERS:

1. Snow
2. Aunt Arctica
3. A cold
4. There was only a 50% chance of snow.
5. Frosted Snowflakes
6. Put on their yellow jackets
7. Frostbite
8. In a snow bank

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES FOR THE NEW YEAR

1. What is the single **BEST** thing that happened in the past year?
2. What's the most **Challenging** thing that happened in the past year?
3. What is your biggest **Learn** from the past year?
4. What **Milestones** were achieved?
5. What is the **Kindest** thing you did in the past year?
6. How can you **Positively** impact someone's life this coming year?
7. What is **One Thing** you can change that will make a **BIG** change in your attitude?
8. What will you do this year, that is for "you"?
9. What are 3 traits that you cherish about each member of your family?
10. How can you ensure you will spend quality time with each family member this year?

~From TwinParenthood.com

HABITS THAT WILL IMPROVE YOUR LIFE

EXERCISE

Walking, running, swimming, yoga,
weightlifting, and sports

Exercising is one of the most beneficial habits you can commit to. Some of the benefits are:

1. Better sleep
2. Weight management
3. Increase in energy
4. Reduce stress
5. Improved heart health
6. Improved brain health

PLAN YOUR DAYS

Planning out your day is an effective way to follow through on the important tasks that need to get done. You're able to manage your time better when all your tasks are placed on an organized time frame.

1. Making a "to do" list
2. Creating a schedule
3. Prioritizing tasks from least to most important
4. Setting a clear structure
5. Having realistic deadlines
5. Leaving room for unexpected events

WAKING UP EARLY

"Early bird gets the worm", they don't say that for nothing. For those with a competitive spirit, waking up early gives you a head start and extra hours to add more activities to your day. Waking up early also gives you more time to accomplish the tasks that you need to complete for the day.

ART/CREATIVITY

We all have that creative talent that is waiting to be brought out. Making this a habit can be a very satisfying experience and for some, it can become a career. There are many ways you can express yourself and be creative. Some of the ways are through: Dancing, sports, painting, writing, cooking, coding/web design, communication, and movies.

~From Trusted Books

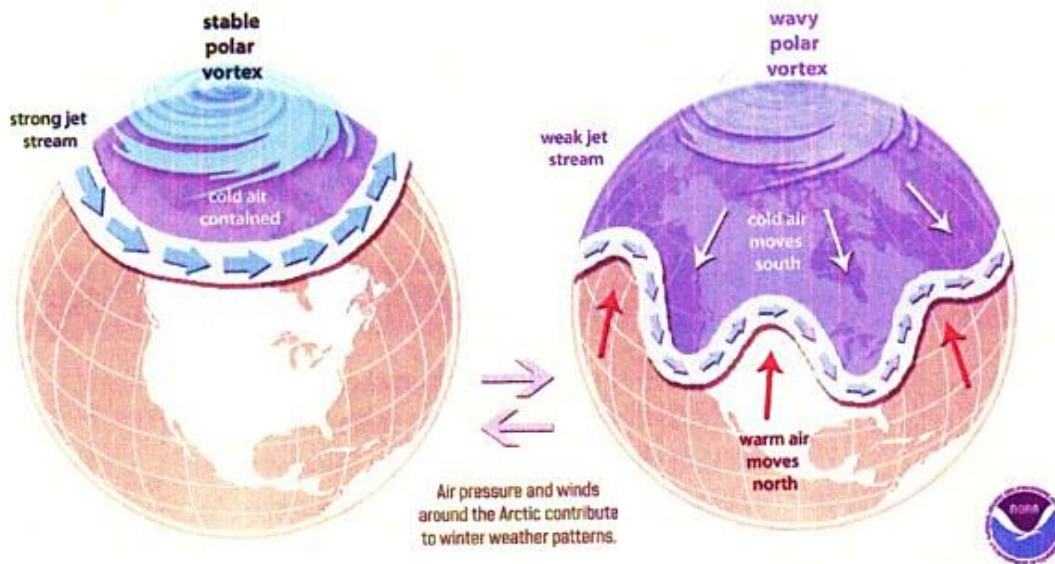
Look for 4 more habits in the February issue.

A Glimpse of December 2024



Praise be to God for the year 2024!
God is with us for 2025 and beyond!

WHAT IS THE POLAR VORTEX?



WHAT IS THE POLAR VORTEX?

From The Old Farmer's Almanac 2020

January often brings cold weather. Sometimes this is due to the polar vortex, which is a fast-flowing jet stream of air that circles the North Pole in the Upper parts of the stratosphere about 20 miles above Earth's surface. (This changing back and forth of the polar vortex's strength is referred to as the Arctic oscillation.) When the polar vortex is strong, it keeps most of the frigid Arctic air in the polar region, resulting in mild winter temperatures in the middle latitudes of the eastern United States and in northern Europe and Asia. But when the polar vortex weakens, the once-trapped cold air can meander and push southward, bringing polar temperatures and extreme winter weather into the United States.

Under normal winter conditions, the polar vortex is strong enough to keep the coldest air bottled up in the north (map on the left above), but in recent winters we have seen exceptionally mild temperatures at times in the far north.. This happens when the Arctic jet stream weakens and "wobbles," allowing the polar vortex to descend southward (map on the right above).

The triggers that lead to these warming events remain unknown, but one theory that is gaining prominence blames the rapid diminishing of Arctic sea ice. With the Arctic warming more than twice as fast as the rest of the globe, the amount of Arctic sea ice cover is plummeting.

As a result, recent climate research suggests that without the ice cover to act as a blanket, more heat escapes from the oceans, warming the air above. Ultimately, researchers found that this relatively warmer air interacts with and weakens the winds over the Arctic, allowing frigid polar air to more easily escape to southerly places like Chicago and Boston. It's important to note, however, that these cold blasts do not mean that Earth is cooling. In fact, it is the warming of the planet that is causing these cold disruptions, displacing Arctic air that often stays put over the Arctic. Despite these cold periods, most of Earth still experiences warmer-than-average temperatures in any given month, and 9 of the 10 warmest years on record for Earth as a whole have come in the past 10 years.

ANCHORED
From The Upper Room, March-April 2024

READ Psalm 46:1-11

*We have this hope as an anchor for the soul,
firm and secure.*

~Hebrews 6:19 (NIV)

My husband, Mike, and I were visiting a nearby town for our routine eye examinations. As we looked at the array of new frames, Mike suddenly fainted, hitting his head on the floor. Although he came around fairly quickly, he was clearly shaken and had a huge bump on his head. We called an ambulance and made our way to the hospital.

As we waited in a crowded corridor, I found myself wondering where God was. *Why had this happened? What damage had been done?* If only I could feel God's peace instead of feeling stressed.

Then something came to mind from the devotional I had read that morning. To be honest, I couldn't remember many details; but I knew it was something about anchors: how St. Paul was tossed around in a ship at sea and how God holds us secure in the storms of life. How appropriate!

I felt that God was saying to me, "I am holding you. You are anchored." I kept repeating this to myself through the time of anxious waiting at the hospital. I didn't feel a warm glow of peace, but I knew that we were in God's hands. We were anchored.

Mike was and is okay. I give thanks for

God's faithfulness and for God's word that still speaks to us today.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
I am anchored in God's love.

Prayer: Thank you, faithful God, that when the storms of life shake our security, you hold us and never let us go. Amen.

Submitted by April McIntyre (England, United Kingdom)

Every day
we are given a thousand moments...
A thousand opportunities to learn, to
grow, to choose...
Thus, in as many of those moments
as you possibly can each day,

CHOOSE WISELY

Choose understanding and calmness
rather than anger...
Gratitude rather than envy...
Compassion rather than judgment...
Awareness rather than denial...
Loving thoughts, words, and actions
over those that have the power to hurt...

And in this way, moment by moment by
moment, we shall create harmony, healing,
and peace within ourselves...
and for each other.

~Christine Joy Adams

New Year's Word Search

J A N U A R Y F R I E N A C E
F R I E N D S Y A S R I L A H
N E Y S E R T I E M O W B L C
B S I L Y F A E N E I Y A E O
N O C R N V N V E Y D L B N U
A L D C L O C K L T I E Y D N
R U V E W M I D N I G H T A T
V T O A S T W S N O L Y I R D
G I A N I N G S E V E U A R O
C O N F E T T I T M I N G S W
R N O L C E L E B R A T I O N
A J A N U E L V E I M K E R A
Y P A R T Y H A A P Y S E V W
N E W Y E A R C L O K S O R Y
S H A P P Y E B A L L R E S O

BABY
BALL
CALENDAR
CELEBRATION
CLOCK
CONFETTI
COUNTDOWN
EVE

FAMILY
FRIENDS
HAPPY
JANUARY
MIDNIGHT
NEW YEAR
NOISEMAKER
PARTY

RESOLUTION
TOAST

