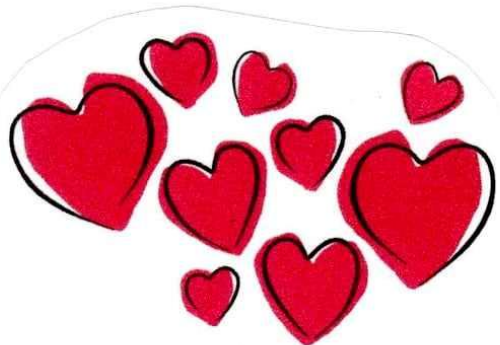


Community United Methodist Church of Kenilworth
455 Boulevard, Kenilworth, New Jersey 07033
Church phone: 908-276-1956
Pastor Roeline Ramirez 973-282-6237
Rev. Heme Ares, Pastor Emeritus
Pastor Don Knott, Retired Elder
Rev. Dr. Baktha Kumar, Counseling Pastor



The Circuit Rider
February 2025 Newsletter
Community United Methodist Church of Kenilworth
A Faith Community Ignited by God's Love

FEBRUARY 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 via Zoom every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., ID 747 308 740

February - Black History Month

February 12, 2025 United Methodist Women, 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

February 14, 2025 Valentine's Day

February 16, 2025 Blessing of the Married Couples during worship

February 16, 2025 Council Board Meeting after Worship Service

February 17, 2025 Presidents' Day

February 20, 2025 Community Food Pantry, 4:00 p.m.

February 23, 2025 "Love Talks: A Gathering for Youth and Young Adult, 4:00 p.m.
(tentative date)

February 27, 2025 Circuit Rider, 11:00 a.m. at Fellowship Hall

February 28, 2025 3M's (Music, Movements, & Meditations), 7:00 p.m.
in person and on Zoom ID 201 699 6704



Pastor's Page

"Be devoted to one another in love..."

Romans 12:10a

Dear Ignite UMC family and friends,

I was so blessed with your presence, time, prayer, and support as we celebrated the church's 7th merger anniversary and my 50th birthday in January. The joy in my heart strengthened me more to continue the journey of faith and service with joy.

As we step into the month of February, let us continue to shine through Christ's light, guiding to focus ourselves on Jesus' teaching of love. I invite you to start your February by reflecting on a passage from Romans 12:9-13 that challenges us to embody the love of Christ in our everyday lives.

Apostle Paul calls us to love genuinely, to hate what is evil, and to cling to what is good. He reminds us that love is not just a feeling but an action—one that is sincere and rooted in God's truth. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to show this very love in tangible ways, whether through acts of kindness, forgiveness, or radical hospitality. To **"be devoted to one another in love"** is a call to treat each other as family, to value one another deeply, and to serve one another with joy. Therefore, I encourage you to take time this month and beyond to connect with those around you, to people you know and to the strangers. Serve without expecting anything in return and cultivate a spirit of unity and peace within our community. As we strive to show the real love to one another, let us be reminded that even in the midst of challenges, our commitment to love and to serve remains our calling. Especially in this season, radical hospitality is a powerful way to show God's love. Whether it's opening our home, sharing a meal, or simply offering a kind word, these small acts of kindness reflect the heart of God to a world that desperately needs it. **Our church is called to display this kind of love.**

As we go through February, may we hold fast to these teachings and to other teachings of God's love for **the Love of God talks** and needed to be heard. Let us listen to what the LOVE will say for us to know how to live out the love of Christ in a way that transforms our hearts, our relationships, and our community.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Roeline "Wee" Ramirez



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Gloria Cenizal
- 2 Mary Catherine Rogers
- 14 Austin Silva
- 15 Janet Crowe
- 23 Ching Salvadore
- 24 Dustin Crisci
- 25 Jane Silva
- 28 Luz Restrepo



“On your special day, may all your wishes come true. Happy Birthday!”

DESPITE, NOT BECAUSE
From Upper Room, March-April 2024

Give thanks in all circumstances.
~I Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

I have often heard it said that “God will never give us more than we can handle.” Yet, there are times when this is simply not true, and such statements ring hollow. Perhaps the biblical passages that are used to promote this idea have been misinterpreted. For example, I Corinthians 10:13 is a verse commonly cited, but it is about temptation rather than suffering.

Passages like I Thessalonians 5:16-18 and James 1:2 tell us to rejoice always. But being told to rejoice when we have lost a loved one or are facing a life-altering health diagnosis can seem cruel. The command to rejoice in our suffering, however, is about rejoicing in Jesus *despite* our circumstances, not *because of* our circumstances. What a difference that understanding can make when trials come! It is much easier to rejoice in Jesus and what he has done for us than to rejoice in the difficulties we face.

Understanding these passages better has helped me lift my gaze from very difficult circumstances to God, who is with us every step of the way, offering hope, joy, and encouragement in the midst of life’s most troublesome times.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Is my gaze focused on God or on
my circumstances?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for being with us in our suffering. Help us to rejoice in you *despite* our circumstances, *not because of* them. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

~Bronwym Ashton Winch
(Queensland, Australia)

COURTESY

From Prayers and Promises for Women

Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to built them up. For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written:

“The insults of those who insult you
fallen on me.”

~Romans 15: 2-3 NIV

Welcome strangers, because some who have done this have welcomed angels without knowing it.

~Hebrews 13:2 NCV

Remind God’s people to obey rulers and authorities. Remind them to be ready to do what is good. Tell them not to speak evil things against anyone. Remind them to live in peace. They must consider the needs of others. They must always be gentle toward everyone.

Titus 3:1-2 NIRV

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women were unable to meet in January due to snow and icy weather. Hopefully, their next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 12th at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. This meeting will be our Pledge Month.

All women are invited. Please bring a bag lunch; Janet Crowe will be our hostess.

COMMUNITY CARE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry served 13 families from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 16th, 2025 providing both food and non-food items, and distributing eight Pet Smart Gift Cards to those who have pets. Thanks to all for helping us to continue this mission. We appreciate your generosity.

Our next distribution date will be the Thursday, February 20th, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Donations of cereal would be greatly appreciated for this month.

THE TREASURE SHOP

The Treasure Shop is now open on the second Friday of the month in addition to Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

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 week.

It's always good to see both new and familiar faces at the Treasure Shop. Thanks so much for visiting!

YOUR ARE GOD'S MASTERPIECE...

...started in His heart,
formed by His hands,
and offered as a gift to the world.
Much more than a work in progress...
you're His good work.
What He started in you
will gloriously unfold for a lifetime.
He sees beauty in you
because you're made in His image
and redeemed by His love.
It's true.
God says you are...
created, chosen, cherished,
celebrated...
His forever.

MOTIVATIONAL THOUGHTS

1. No one ever injured their eyesight by looking on the bright side.
2. Let your hopes, not your hurts, shape your future.
3. Accept what is, let go of what was, and have faith in what will be.

199 PROMISES OF GOD

It's often easy to get weighed down with the disappointments and challenges of life. Without realizing it, our hearts become heavy and our hope for a fulfilling life turns sour.

In His kindness, God has provided uplifting promises of help and encouragement for His children within the pages of His Word, the Bible. Whatever our needs, we can find in scripture the principles we need to address the issues we face.

This collection of Bible verses is the perfect everyday pick-me-up. We hope that it (this book) will be an encouragement to you as you read.

All scripture is taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

1. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
~John 3:16

2. For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon thy dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring.
~Isaiah 44:3

3. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.
~John 15:15

4. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
~Proverbs 3:26

5. Sing unto the Lord, praise ye the Lord: for he hath delivered the soul of the poor from the hand of evildoers.
~Jeremiah 20:13

6. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless

them that curse you, do good to them that hurt you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven; for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.
~Matthew 5:44-45

7. And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.
~Isaiah 32:17

8. The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me; they mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.
~Psalm 138:8

9. For the Lord your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.
~Deuteronomy 20:4

10. Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth; and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies.
~Psalm 41:1-2

11. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved by my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.
John 14:21

12. For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord.
Jeremiah 30:17

13. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.
~Romans 6:14

14. By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honour, and life.
~Proverbs 22:4



PRAYER REQUESTS

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



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

FOR HEALING & STRENGTH: Betty S., Faith S., Mary and Greg Rogers, Hermeng S. Nancy L., Cathy, Gianna, Bev (Mom Grace's friend) Bob Mier, Rev. Kumar, Diana, Laura, James F., Janet C., Greg, Beverly, 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: Mary O., Abuela B., Drew & Gracielle R. fam, Vercillie F., Anayn, Robin. T, Mary Ellen, Dee K., John D., Puma fam., 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., Linda Sosa Fam., Edit Fam., Fabian & Nattali, Mayra S. & Fam., Marie M.G., Blanco Fam., Kevin c., Will & Ann Dougherty, Pastor Annie W.

FOR WISDOM and COMPASSION 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. All Government leaders, officers, and staff.

SPECIAL INTENTION FOR THIS MONTH: Faithful and joyful partnership to Married Couples. Protection and provision to immigrant families.



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

Text: 973-282-6237

Voicemail: 908 276-1956

email: ramirezroeline@gmail.com

igniteumckenilworth@gmail.com



Join us this February 2025

Feb. 2 - The Sound of Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Feb. 9 - The Work of Love

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

Feb. 16 - The Blessings of Love

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

Feb. 23 - The Challenge of Love

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Luke 6:27-38

Youth and Young Adult Love Talks

Gathering in February.

For inquiries: email igniteumckenilworth@gmail.com

HISTORY.COM: VALENTINE'S DAY

Did you know that nearly 150 million cards are exchanged each Valentine's Day? Or that more than 40,000 Americans are employed at chocolate companies? Explore these Valentine's Day facts about cards, chocolate, flowers, and candy, the hallmarks of St. Valentine's Day.

BE MINE

1. 112,185 marriages were performed in Nevada during 2008. So many couples "tied the knot" in the Silver State that it ranked fourth nationally in marriages, even though its total population that year among states was 35th.

2. Men and women in northeastern states generally have a higher median age at first marriage than the national average. In Massachusetts, for example, women were a median age of 27.4 years old and men 29.1 years of age at first marriage. States where people typically marry young include Utah, where women were a median of 21.9 years and men, 23.9 years.

CANDY IS DANDY

1. 3,467 Number of confectionery and nut stores in the United States in 2004. Often referred to as candy stores, they are among the best sources of sweets for Valentine's Day.

2. The per capita consumption of candy by Americans in 2005 was 25.7 pounds. Candy consumption has actually declined over the last few years; in 1997, each American gobbled or savored more than 27 pounds of candy a year.

FLOWERS

1. The combined wholesale value of domestically produced cut flowers in 2005 for all flower-producing operations with \$100,000

or more in sales was \$397 million. Among states, California was the leading producer, alone accounting for nearly three-quarters of this amount (\$289 million).

2. The combined wholesale value of domestically produced cut roses in 2005 for all operations with \$100,000 or more in sales was \$39 million. Among all types of cut flowers, roses were third in receipts (\$39 million) to lilies (\$76.9 million), and tulips (\$39.1 million).

3. There were 21,667 florists nationwide in 2004. These businesses employed 109,915 people.

JEWELRY

There were 28,772 jewelry stores in the United States in 2004. Jewelry stores offer engagement, wedding, and other rings to lovers of all ages. In February 2006, these stores sold \$2.6 billion worth of merchandise. (This figure has not been adjusted for seasonal variation, holiday, or trading day differences in price changes.) The merchandise at these locations could well have been produced at one of the nation's 1,864 jewelry manufacturing establishments. The manufacture of jewelry was a \$9 billion industry in 2004.

VALENTINE QUOTES

1. "All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt." ~*Charles M. Schulz*
2. "There is only one happiness in life: to love and be loved." ~*George Sand*
3. "Never above you. Never below you. Always beside you." ~*Walter Winchell*
4. "Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get – only what you are expecting to give – which is everything." ~*Katherine Hepburn*

PRAYING BOLDLY
From The Upper Room March-April 2025

Read Matthew 18:1-5

*Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."
~Matthew 18:3 (NIV)*

Our young daughter was tucked into bed, covers up to her chin. After a song, I asked her the same question we post every evening. "What do you want to pray about?"

She paused, lips pursed together, forehead furrowed in thought. Her sweet toddler voice responded, "I want to ask God to make unicorns real."

In the hardships of daily life, it's not difficult to lose our joyful, trusting, wide-eyed faith. But as for children, why wouldn't they ask God for anything? If God can heal the sick, raise the dead, and create the planets in outer space, surely God can make unicorns real! And if my daughter has faith enough to pray for that, I want a childlike faith to ask God for big, bold things, too.

We all experience times when our faith feels small, when we haven't dared to hope that God can bring healing or reconciliation or fulfillment. Even then, God is still the God of the impossible. So let's take a page from the children among us and start asking God for the big, seemingly impossible things.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
Today I will pray boldly.

Prayer: Dear God, inspire our doubting hearts to believe and trust you with childlike faith. Give us audacity to pray boldly. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Gretchen Schloesser (Arizona, USA)

WAVING AT THE WINDOW
From The Upper Room, March-April 2024

Read Revelation 9:14-21

*Here I am! I stand at the door and knock.
~Revelation 3:20 (NIV)*

I always had the duty of dropping our kids off at daycare, which is more emotionally difficult than my husband's duty of picking them up. My children didn't like being left, and many mornings were filled with tears. It also didn't help that our daycare was right across town from where I worked, so I was inevitably always in a rush.

One morning, I was hurrying out of daycare to my car, when something caught my eye. In a window facing the parking lot stood my two-year-old waving excitedly at me. It was a sweet gesture and just what I needed. I told everyone at work how sweet my son was.

The next morning, when dropping my son off, I mentioned to the teacher how my son had made me smile the day before. She kindly told me that he does that every morning and had been doing so for months. My heart sank. I never missed his wave after that.

This experience made me wonder how many times I have missed signs of God's love because I was too rushed to notice. Praise the Lord, we are loved by a God who is patient and whose love never ends.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
I will look for glimpses of God's
God's love for me today.

Prayer: Dear God, forgive us when we don't notice all the ways you love us. Thank you for patiently waiting on us and loving us unconditionally. Amen.

Rebecah L. Callen (Texas, USA)

AN INNER SEARCH
Written by Walter Sosnosky, 2018

Is the past a truth or is it what we construed?
Do we sort and file full or half truths?
The direction we have taken, has it been true?
When you stand in front of your creator, what do you think the creator will do?

HIGH SCHOOL 1966
Written by Walter Sosnosky

Do you remember the days when
We wrote on paper with a pen?
When days seemed so very long
And not most of us knew right from wrong?
Ah, the days of yesteryear
Filled with memories we hold so dear.
Not always have we stayed in touch
So reunions we welcome very much.

SOME VALENTINE FACTS

1. The symbol of roses traces back to a mix-up in the 18th century.
According to Time.com, the concept of flowers having different meanings dates back to the 18th century when Lady Montagu sent a series of letters from Turkey to her home in England describing the Turkish flower language known as *sélam*. She misinterpreted it to mean that every flower symbolizes a different sentiment used to send love letters. Though this wasn't exactly true, the concept

spread throughout society with the publication of a dictionary for the language of flowers in 1819. In turn, sales of roses (a perceived symbol of love and beauty) skyrocketed in the 19th century.

2. The term "lovebirds" isn't just a figure of speech.

"Lovebirds" is commonly used to describe two people who are very much in love, especially around Valentine's Day. But did you know that the taxonomic origin of this figure of speech is more literal than its everyday use? The word is also the common name for *Agapornis birds*, native to Africa. The brightly colored parrots mate for life, travel in pairs, and even feed each other – similar to couples you might see when going out to eat on Valentine's Day.

3. Valentine's Day is one of the most popular days to get engaged.

According to a survey from Wedding Wire, Valentine's Day was the most popular day in 2020. This matches up with plenty of other surveys which have found that February 14, Christmas, and New Year's are all dates that people love to pop the question.

PRESIDENTIAL QUOTES

1. "Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom."
~Thomas Jefferson
2. "It is far better to be alone, than to be in bad company."
~George Washington
3. "Leave nothing for tomorrow which can be done today."
~Abraham Lincoln
4. "It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed."
~Theodore Roosevelt

FOUR MORE HABITS THAT WILL IMPROVE YOUR LIFE

READING

Reading daily builds up your knowledge, transforming your mind. Benefits of consistent reading are:

1. Improve vocabulary
2. Learn new skills
3. Improve current skills
4. Expand overall knowledge
5. Improve storytelling skills

WRITING

Writing daily is a great way to improve one of the most essential skills we all need to develop.

Writing is necessary for:

1. Communication
2. Business
3. Marketing
4. Persuasion
5. Expanding thoughts and ideas
6. Documenting events and experiences

GRATITUDE

Being grateful on a daily basis greatly improves your overall outlook and emotional state. You begin to see things in a better light, seeing the positives in negative experiences and not taking anything for granted. Emotionally, you feel lighter and less frustrated with your daily struggles and challenges.

MEDITATION

A great way to relax and let go is by meditating. With at least 15-25 minutes of daily meditation you will gain many benefits. Some of the benefits are:

1. Increased awareness
2. Increased focus and memory
3. Increased intuition
4. Greater emotional regulation
5. Higher stress tolerance

~From Trusted Books

HOW WE SURVIVE

From All God's Creatures, September-October 2023

*I am sending you out like sheep among wolves.
Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and
as innocent as doves.
~Matthew 10:16 (NIV)*

That's the biggest cat I've ever seen. Or so I thought when I saw it trot up a neighbor's driveway profiled against white concrete. As I drew closer, I noticed something odd. *Hmm*, I thought, Red Riding Hood-style, *What a large tail you have, dear Kitty.* Then a few steps closer. *And what long legs you have.* Closer still, *And what a long nose you have.*

This was no cat. It was a red fox, ambling through a residential neighborhood as casually as a mom with a stroller. He trotted onto the lawn, then sat, catlike, studying the landscape. I stood still to observe.

How on earth could a fox survive here? I wondered. Our town is small but active. Cars, bikes, and scooters buzz the streets. Lawns are well tended, leaving little cover and less prey. Short of an inner city, could there be a worse environment for these elusive creatures?

Doubting that anyone would believe my report, I slowly reached for my cell phone to get a picture. Catching my slight movement, Mr. Fox turned and bounded into a hedgerow. So that's how he does it. He survives by being a fox.

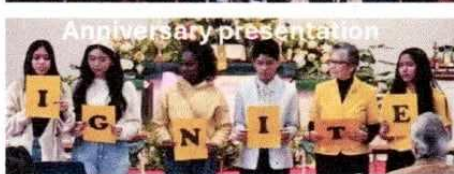
People of faith inhabit an unlikely environment, too. Doubt is everywhere, and many are hostile to belief in a benevolent Creator. How do we survive? By being people of faith. By trusting God and loving others. By being who we were created to be.

Some were indeed skeptical of my fox sighting, but no matter. I know what I saw. And a few days later, I saw him again, crossing the walking path and poking his way into a thicket. He lives by stealth, just as I live by faith.

***Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him;
but the just shall live by his faith.***
Habakkuk 2:4 (NKJV)

~Lawrence W. Wilson

JANUARY 2025 HIGHLIGHTS





LOVE STORY

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

ADORE
CARE
CARESS
DATE
DEAR
DESIRE
DEVOTED
ENGAGE
FANCY
FAVOR
FERVOR
FIANCE
FOND
HAPPY
HEART
HUG
KIND
KISS
MATE
ROMANCE
SWEET
TREASURE

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

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.
Find and circle each word.

