

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**

March 2025 Newsletter

**Community United Methodist Church of Kenilworth**

*A Faith Community Ignited by God's Love*

### **MARCH 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Prayer Meetings will resume on April 23, 2025

**March 3, 2025** Start of Metro-Highlands Day of Prayer (30 minutes) - every first Monday of the month at 12 noon up to Dec. Meeting, ID: 891 0777 3540 - Password: 375980

**March 5, 2025** Ashes to Go @ 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. on the Church Lawn

**March 5, 2025** Ash Wednesday Worship Service @ 7:00 p.m., in person and online, use the Sunday Zoom ID: 620 488 505

**March 9, 2025** Start of Daylight Savings Time

**March 10, 2025** "Easter Code: A Lenten Devotion", Monday to Friday at 7:00 p.m., use Zoom ID: 749 308 740

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

**March 16, 2025** Council Board Meeting after worship

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

**March 22, 2025** Meadowlands District Healing Service, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, Arcola UMC, 52 So. Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ

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

**March 30, 2025** Youth Sunday, 10:30 a.m.



# Pastor's Page



*"Jesus saved us,  
not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy,  
Titus 3:5*

Dear Ignite UMC Family and Friends,

As February came to a close, we were challenged to love radically, just as Jesus loves us. In March, we celebrate Lent—not as a time of sadness, but as a joyful reflection on God's redemptive plan for humanity through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:4-5 reminds us, "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ..."

Let us embark on a courageous faith journey, allowing God's work to transform us as we live out Jesus' teachings and become vessels of God's justice and mercy. Micah 6:8 asks, "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

As we celebrate Women's History Month, may we find inspiration in the stories of women from the Bible and our society, encouraging us to pursue equality and show love to all. Galatians 3:28 reminds us, "You are all one in Christ Jesus."

Finally, let us reflect on Titus 3:5: "He saved us... because of his mercy..." May we continue to be thankful for God's redeeming grace. May God's truth and love empower us to keep the faith.

Blessings,  
Pastor Roeline "Wee" Ramirez



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Elaine Puma
- 6 Alex Diaz
- 6 Luz Agudelo
- 7 Chase Robert Caffrey
- 7 Janie Delos Reyes Tran
- 8 Kier Lim
- 11 Cindy Perro
- 12 Marilyn Pagan
- 13 Sandra Trapani
- 15 Rose Duelly
- 15 Ellen Jeremias
- 15 Amara Giop Ramirez
- 17 Andrea Zevallos-Valles
- 19 Guy Anthony Francis
- 22 Matthew Forti



*"Hope your birthday is filled with love, laughter, and lots of birthday cake!"*

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Pastor Don Knott and Elba Martinez
- 15 Ernie and Ching Salvador



*"Cheers to another year of wonderful moments together. Happy anniversary!"*

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## ONE SENTENCE SERMONS

Submitted by Almeta Morris

- 1. Be Fishers of Men... You catch 'em, He'll clean 'em.
- 2. A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.
- 3. Don't put a question mark where God put a period.
- 4. Forbidden fruits create many jams.
- 5. Exercise daily. Walk with the Lord!

- 6. Give God what's right, not what's left.
- 7. Give Satan an inch and he'll be a ruler.
- 8. God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.
- 9. God loves all, but probably prefers "fruits of the spirit" over "religious nuts."
- 10. God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.
- 11. Having tooth decay? Brush up on your Bible!
- 12. He who angers you, controls you!
- 13. He who is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else.
- 14. He who kneels before God can stand before anyone!
- 15. Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory capacity.
- 16. Never give the devil a ride. He will always want to drive.
- 17. Nothing ruins the truth like stretching it.
- 18. "Pray" is a four-letter word that you can say anywhere.
- 19. Prayer - Don't give God instructions - just report for duty!
- 20. The Will of God will never take you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.
- 21. This church is "Prayer Conditioned."
- 22. Watch your step carefully! Everyone else does!
- 23. We don't change the message, the message changes us.
- 24. Wisdom has two parts:
  - a. Having a lot to say.
  - b. Not saying it.
- 25. Worry is the darkroom in which "negatives" are developed.

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**"Bloom beautifully wherever God has planted you, and you will be blessed."**

**SOMEONE CARES: PASS IT ON**  
From GUIDEPOSTS February 2018

**COOKIE CHAIN**

Last year I decided to do one nice thing a day for Lent. I braided my sister's hair, talked to strangers in the elevator, and reached out to old friends. But I'm still amazed by what happened with the Tim Tams. I've been obsessed with the chocolate-covered cookies since a coworker brought them back from Australia. They're now sold in the United States, and they are delicious dipped in tea.

I decided to pass along a package to three people: a new colleague, a friend who lives far away, and an author I work with frequently.

The author loved them! She left me a voice mail saying she found them at a store near her. I was surprised to hear that she'd also given Tim Tams to three people. She had continued the chain without even knowing it. I guess we're lucky our friends didn't give up sweets for Lent!

*~Diana Aydin, Senior Editor*

**40 BLESSINGS**

Last year I wanted to offer time and intentional appreciation during Lent instead of forgoing chocolate or sweets. Something simple enough to continue all 40 days.

I made a list of 40 people who make my life better and handwrote a note to each of them. My wonderful sister. A friend who mows my yard because I have chronic back pain. My mother. A friend who faithfully prays for me. My veterinarian, who helps me care for my aging German shepherd. The baggers at my favorite grocery store. "You came to mind as I was counting my blessings," I wrote. "I just wanted to write to tell you how much I appreciate you. You really bless my life!"

So many people said they were touched by being remembered out of the blue that Lenten season.

But I'm thankful for their kindness all year.

*~Laura Garrett, Fuquay Varina, NC*

**IN THE BAG**

I teach sixth grade Sunday school. Last winter, we discussed how we honor the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness with Lenten sacrifice. Some kids joked about giving up homework or talking to a sibling. But most had good ideas, like giving up their cell phone or taking on extra chores.

I gave up the Facebook app. I also wanted to add something. I was tired of seeing garbage in the beautiful creeks and woods in my neighborhood, so I decided to carry an extra plastic bag when I walked my dog to gather it up.

Ash Wednesday arrived, and I forgot my bag. I'd now have to come back, I thought. But just five minutes later, I saw a big kitchen garbage bag that was caught on some bushes ahead of me. It was not only a bigger bag than I'd originally planned to use, but still folded and without holes.

That bag was almost full when I saw a pile of bottles in a creek, likely washed in by a storm. *I guess I'll bring a large bag tomorrow.* Then I saw another bag – it too turned out to be just the right size.

On the way home, I thanked God for his sense of humor in getting Lent started off on the right foot. I never forgot a bag again.

*~Kristina Herriott, Germantown, Maryland*

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"We may sometime wonder, *If Jesus offers me his peace, why don't I have more of it?...* If someone gives us a gift, we have to put out our hands to receive it. If our hands are busy and filled with other things, we won't be able to hold what we're offered."

*~James Banks, pastor and author of Peace through Prayer: Rest and Restoration for Your Soul*

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women met Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The program was entitled "History-Making Black Americans Everyone Should Know." Pledge forms were made available along with return address labels for sending out our Secret Pal cards.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a bag lunch; Pastor Roe will be our hostess. All women are invited.

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## COMMUNITY CARE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry served 15 families from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 providing both food and non-food items, and distributed six 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, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Donations of pasta and/or pasta sauce would be very much appreciated.

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## THE TREASURE SHOP

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

addition to Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. However, it was closed on the March 1<sup>st</sup> weekend due to accommodate plumbing repairs.

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!

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## FROM 199 PROMISES OF GOD

1. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

~Ezekiel 36-27

2. Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

~I John 4: 7- 8

3. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. ~Matthew 6:33

4. And all things, whatsoever ye ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

~Matthew 21:22

5. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that he shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

~2 Peter 1:8



# 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:** Lily (Granddaughter of Pastor Don), James F., Cindee, Bob W., Betty S., Faith S., Mary and Greg Rogers, Cathy, Gianna, Bev (Mom Grace's friend) Bob Mier, Diana, Laura, Janet C., Jun V., 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, Gerliz Anne M., Judy, Jen & Binny (Norma's co-workers), Ricky O., Scott W., Rob. W., Tom & Shiela, Kathy S., Crissy, Rachel, Gloria C., *Sue*

**FOR COMFORT:** Pagan's Family for the passing of our beloved brother William "Bill" Pagan, Pastor Roeline's Family for the passing of her uncle, Herminio Sacdalan. Ching Salvador Family for the passing of her sister-in-law, Pastor's Nova's Family for the passing of one of her nieces.

**FOR SAFE TRAVEL:** Gracielle and Kaia Grace Restrepo

**FOR GUIDANCE & PROVISION:** Mary O., Abuela B., Drew & Gracielle R. fam, Vercillie F., Analyn, Robin. T, Mary Ellen, Dee K., John D., Puma fam., Betsy DC' & parents, Karen W., A. Restrepo Fam, Fuquay Fam, Opacity Fam, Margaret N., 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., 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



**FOR WISDOM & COMPASSION IN LEADERSHIP:** Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, UMC clergies and church leaders. US President, Government cabinets, and leaders.

**SPECIAL INTENTION FOR THIS MONTH:** Courage, compassion, and provision for all women and their families. Peace and unity in the country. Jobs for all who needs.

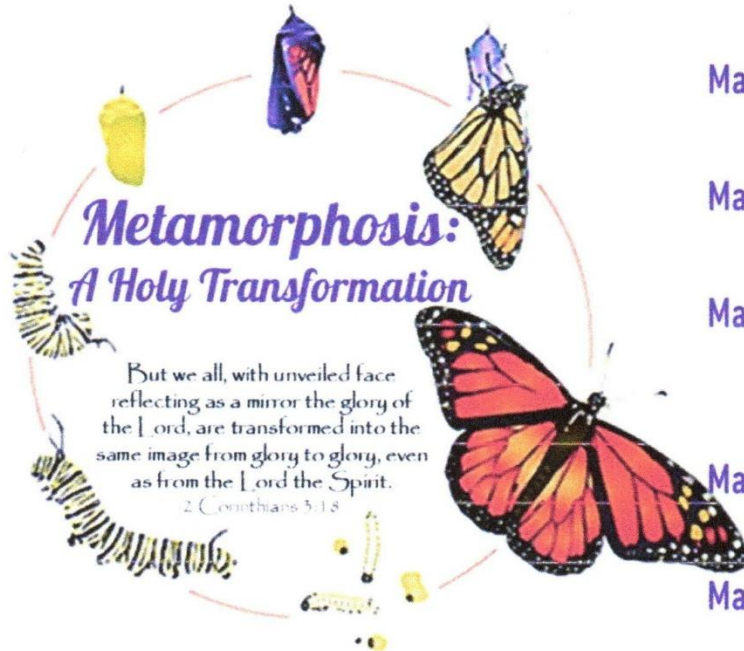
**For additional prayer requests, pastoral care and services, please contact Pastor Roeline**

Text: 973-282-6237

email: ramirezroeline@gmail.com

Voicemail: 908 276-1956

igniteumckenilworth@gmail.com



March 2 - Embracing the Clouds  
Luke 9:28-36

March 9 - Overcoming the Test  
Luke 4:1-13

March 16 - Being Resurrected  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
Luke 13: 31-35

March 23 - Cultivating to Bear Fruit  
Luke 13:6-9

March 30 - The Journey to Being Found  
Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

## LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

From All God's Creatures, Sept.-Oct. 2022

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

~John 1:5 (ESV)

CRASH! What was that? My wife and I were startled by a loud noise outside our cabin in the Rocky Mountains. Having recently moved to the area, we were unfamiliar with its night sounds. Bumps in the night are one thing. But this was no ordinary bump!

Following the crash, I quickly grabbed my flashlight and cautiously went to peer our the window of the back door. Thirty inches away were two shining eyes looking directly back at me! This was one of the largest black bears I had ever seen. It was a frightful few seconds, but it rapidly turned into an exciting event, as my wife and I scrambled for our cameras to take pictures and videos of our wonderful, wild, woolly caller. We were in bear country, and he was looking in the trash cans at each cabin.

Many years earlier, during another bear encounter in the Great Smoky Mountains, I had learned that bears roaming in the darkness want to get away from me and my bright light as fast as possible. This bear was no exception, and he fled the harmless beam of my flashlight very quickly. I certainly pose no threat to a very large (and hungry!) bear, but he doesn't know that when I'm hidden behind the powerful electric torch in my hand.

It always amazes me that darkness never overcomes light, but light always overcomes darkness. A tiny candle in a dark room can brighten even the gloomiest corner. Jesus is the light of the world; He is my light, my

protector, and my shield. In scary life situations, reading aloud from Psalms calms my fears and illuminates God's truth. I have called on the light of God's Word many times to chase off the "bears in the darkness."

*Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

~Brenda Benedetto

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## IRISH BLESSINGS

1. May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields, and, until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.
2. May the leprechauns dance over your bed and bring you sweet dreams.
3. May the roof above us never fall in. And may the friends gathered below it never fall out.
4. May you have love that never ends, lots of money, and lots of friends. Health be yours, whatever you do, and may God send many blessings to you!
5. May peace and plenty bless your world with a joy that long endures and may all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours.

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!**

From the Desk of Ginny Johnston & Dan Crisci

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March 2025

Dear Friends,

Greetings! We are writing to let you know about our upcoming **Canticles for Life AIDS Benefit Concerts** next month. The need for this music ministry continues, with many in the New Jersey community impacted by HIV/AIDS and related issues. This year's concerts, presented by Triad Arts Ensemble in partnership with two area churches, will take place on Saturday and Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> (flyer enclosed).

Ginny will be conducting the **Triad Vocal Ensemble**, with Dan returning as accompanist. The Vocal Ensemble will feature traditional anthems, pop arrangements and the premiere of a beautiful new work, "Can You Come to the River?" with music by Dan set to a text by our friend, artist and writer Gretchen Hill. **Dan's Jazz Trio**, with bassist Bob Funesti and drummer Dan DeRienzo, will perform Dan's original compositions. We are also so happy to welcome **Broadway performer Richard Todd Adams**, with accompanist Brian Walters, to sing a set of inspiring Broadway favorites. As always, panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display, and representatives from the three benefitting charities will share about their work and impact.

Tickets are not required to attend, but donations will be accepted at each concert. If you can't attend one of the concerts in-person, you can tune in to the April 6<sup>th</sup> concert via a livestream on our YouTube channel or watch the video of the livestream later. You can even donate while watching! For more info, to see past videos and photos, and to donate online, visit **[www.CanticlesforLife.org](http://www.CanticlesforLife.org)**. You can also connect with us at [facebook.com/triadvocalensemble](https://www.facebook.com/triadvocalensemble) or by email at [ginjohnston8@gmail.com](mailto:ginjohnston8@gmail.com) or [dcrisci88@gmail.com](mailto:dcrisci88@gmail.com).

Since 1997, the *Canticles* concerts have raised over \$212,000 for the AIDS Resource Foundation for Children, the AIDS Memorial Quilt New Jersey Chapter, and EDGE New Jersey (formerly New Jersey AIDS Services). We hope you can join us for this musical celebration of hope, love, and awareness.

With our warmest wishes,  
Ginny & Dan



TRIAD ARTS ENSEMBLE  
PRESENTS THE 2025



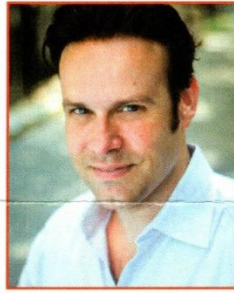
a musical journey and celebration of  
the human spirit through song

# Canticles for Life

## AIDS Benefit Concerts



Dan Crisci Jazz Trio



Richard Todd Adams  
*Broadway Performer*



Triad Vocal Ensemble

**Saturday, April 5 at 7:30 PM**

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
767 Prospect St., Maplewood, NJ

**Sunday, April 6 at 4:00 PM**

St. Martin's Episcopal Church  
1350 Washington Valley Road, Bridgewater, NJ

This performance will be live-streamed via a  
YouTube link on our website home page:

[CanticlesforLife.org](https://www.CanticlesforLife.org)

**Please join us for an effervescent musical mix  
of choral, jazz and Broadway favorites!**

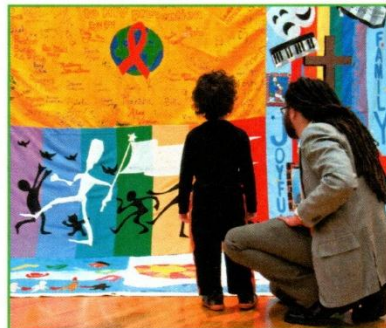


Scan the QR code  
to learn more  
about our artists.

All concert proceeds to benefit:

The AIDS Resource Foundation for Children  
EDGE New Jersey  
AIDS Memorial Quilt—New Jersey Chapter

To make a donation securely online,  
and for more information, visit  
[CanticlesforLife.org/donate](https://www.CanticlesforLife.org/donate)



Free-Will Offerings  
at each concert

Cash, Checks (payable to  
Triad Arts Ensemble) and  
Credit Cards accepted

AIDS Memorial Quilt Panels  
will be on display





**Tickets are no longer required to attend.**  
Free will offerings will be accepted at each concert.

If you would like to support the **Canticles for Life** concert series **ahead** of the performances, here is one way to help:

**You can make a contribution online  
with a credit card or by check.**

Visit [CanticlesforLife.org/donate](https://CanticlesforLife.org/donate)  
for secure online payments.

or

Complete the form below and mail your check to:  
Triad Arts Ensemble, 129 Oakview Ave, Maplewood NJ 07040.




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## 2025 **Canticles for Life** Donation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we would like to make a contribution.

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Scan our QR code with your mobile device  
to connect with our donation page.  
Make your secure credit card donation.**

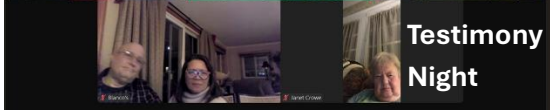



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*Thank you for your support!*

For further concert information, visit the website or call Triad Arts Ensemble at 973-763-5481.

# JANUARY 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



# Saint Patrick's Day

March 17th

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



BLARNEY

GOLD

LUCK

CHARM

GREEN

MARCH

CLOVER

IRELAND

PARADE

DANCE

ISLE

RAINBOW

DUBLIN

LEPRECHAUN

SHAMROCK

EMERALD

LIMERICK

