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

April 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. Sunday School after Luncheon Fellowship 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 will resume on April 23rd at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom and Facebook Live Easter Code Lenten Devotion - Monday-Friday, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom ID 749 308 740 ESL Class - Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice for Easter - Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

April 1, 2025 **April Fool's Day** United Methodist Women, 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall April 9, 2025 April 13, 2025 Palm Sunday Church Service, 10:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m. in person and via April 17, 2025 Zoom ID 620 488 505 Good Friday Service, `1:00 p.m. in person and via April 18, 2025 Zoom ID 620 488 505 April 17, 2025 Community Food Pantry, 4:00 p.m. April 18, 2025 Good Friday Service, 1:00 p.m. in person and via Zoom 620 488 505 Free Breakfast for the Community, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. April 20, 2025 April 20, 2025 Easter Worship Service, 10:30 in person and via Zoom 620 488 505

April 22, 2025 Earth Day

April 24, 2025 Circuit Rider, 11:00 a.m. at Fellowship Hall

April 26, 2025 Meadowlands District Conference, 10:00 a.m., Chatham UMC, 460 Main Street, Chatham, NJ 07928

April 27, 2025 Membership and Confirmation Class Orientation, right after worship

Pastor's Page

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

Dear Ignite UMC Family and Friends,

As we dive into this season of Lent, we're invited to focus on the most incredible act of love ever shown to humanity: Jesus on the cross. His sacrifice wasn't just a moment in history; it was a powerful statement of God's love for you and for me. This Lent, let's pause and ask ourselves—do we really know Jesus who gave it all for us?

Take time each day to dive into God's Word. Let it be your guide through this season, helping you see Jesus in a deeper way. In the cross, we find both the weight of sin and the glory of redemption—a love so deep, it changes everything.

But Lent isn't just about reflection—it's about action. Let Jesus' love moves you to act with kindness, patience, and generosity toward others. When we live out that love, we reflect Jesus in the world around us. In our genuine good deeds and compassionate words, we let the world sees Jesus alive in us – Christ has risen!

And as we walk through this season, let's also look forward with excitement to Resurrection Day. The cross leads us to Easter, where we celebrate the ultimate victory—Jesus defeating death and giving us new life. That hope should fill us with joy and purpose every single day.

So, let this Lent be a season of growth, love, and anticipation. Let's know Jesus more deeply and live out His love in everything we do, eagerly awaiting the celebration of His resurrection.

Christ's sacrifice, a love so great and deep,
Reminding us, God's grace, in our hearts we keep.
Open hearts, to Him we run and weep,
Surrendering all to Almighty, a faith we leap.
Shepherd He is, who saves and protects us - His sheep.



Blessings, Pastor Roeline "Wee" Ramirez

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Nathan Crisci
- 7 Peter Tran
- 8 Pastor Don Knott
- 13 Nice Diaz
- 16 Rachel Ronan
- 17 Rev. Hemesias Ares
- 20 Reden Cenizal
- 21 Titus Ares
- 22 Sharon Santiago
- 26 Deanna King

"May this birthday be a new beginning of a life filled with positivity, good health, and prosperity. Happy birthday."

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Fernando and Melinda Lim
- 20 Reden and Gloria Cenizal
- 30 Bryan and Rachel Ronan

"Congratulations on your anniversary. May your love for each other grow as tall as the mountains and as deep as the ocean. Happy anniversary."

GOOD MORNING

Heavenly Father, Thank you for waking me up this morning and sending Your angels to guard me while I slept. I ask that You give me a heart to love people like You do. Teach me to pray for them without judgement. In Jesus' name. Amen

Canticles for Life

AIDS Benefit Concert



Saturday, April 5 at 7:30 PM St. Joseph Catholic Church 767 Prospect Street 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: Canticles for Life.org

Please check the March issue of your Circuit Rider for the complete flyer.

APRIL QUOTES

1. "Spring adds new life and new beauty to all that is." ~Jessica Harrelson

2. "Some old-fashioned things like fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat." ~Laura Ingalls Wilder.

HAPPY DOLPHIN From All God's Creatures September/October 2022

He will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy. ~Job 8:11 (NIV)

I was enjoying an afternoon at Stegried & Roy's Secret Garden in Las Vegas. The famous white tigers and white lions are the stars, but I wandered over to the dolphin exhibit first. Standing with excited families, I watched as keepers interacted with several dolphins, including a darling young one.

Heading to the underground viewing area afterward, I stood next to a huge window with two women and a small boy. We quietly strained our eyes through the milky glass, waiting for the dolphins to swim near us. In an instant, that same baby dolphin darted in front of our window. The boy waved his little hands, and immediately the baby dolphin circled back. We laughed as that three-foottall minion "stood" upright directly in front of the boy, flippers out in front of him and mouth opened in a smile. The baby then swooped from side to side, spun around, and tipped back on his tail. He had eyes only for that boy and stayed directly in front of him. While we applauded, baby dolphin continued to perform his entire repertoire of tricks, eventually swimming away to join the other - but not before looking back with a sideways grin.

Our group looked at each other in amazement. Are dolphins typically that interested in humans on the other side of the glass? We shared photos, still in awe of that special moment.

As I remembered that young entertainer the rest of the day, I laughed. Stress can be an ugly beast that brings heaviness to the spirit, and I'd had loads of it as I headed into that conservation area. But seeing that animated dolphin interact with a human on such a personal level had lifted the weight. God gives us laughter to relieve those dark feelings, and that perfectly timed protégé was His gift.

Walk of faith: Look around for the unexpected today. Laugh with a friend. Find an animal to hug. Smile at a stranger. Let joy find its way to you soul.

~Twila Bennett

SWEET SALUTE From GUIDEPOSTS Oct./Nov. 2024

I was having lunch with my 15-year-old brother, Nathan, at a diner. Although 10 years apart in age, we are close and like to hang out. The waitress brought our food, and Nathan prayed over it. I'd just take a bite when an elderly gentleman got up from an adjacent table and approached us. "I noticed that the two of you prayed before eating, and that encouraged me," he said. "I love to see young people prioritizing faith."

We told him how grateful we were for his kind words. Then I noticed his hat. He was a World War II veteran. "Thank you for your service, sir," I said. "Our dad is a veteran, too."

We talked for a few minutes about his service and our dad's before the man sat back down. . Quietly, I asked our waitress to bring a dessert to the man's table and put it on our bill. When the huge slice of apple pie arrived, he gave Nathan and me a little salute with his fork and said, "Thank you. And tell your dad I said he did a great job with you two." It made our day, and when we told our dad, it made his day, too. Making two veterans smile... sweet!

~Jordan Sonntag, Terre Haute, Indiana

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women met Wednesday, March 12th at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The program was entitled "Women Who Have Influenced Our Lives." The group talked about women who were important in their lives. Interestingly, mothers were most often mentioned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8th, 2025 in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a bag lunch; Elsie Hudzik will be our hostess. All women are invited.

COMMUNITY CARE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry served 16 families from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 20th, 2025 providing both food and non-food items, and distributed six Pet Smart Gift Cards to those who have pets. We appreciate your generous support of this mission.

Our next distribution date will be the Thursday, April 17th, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

THE TREASURE SHOP

The Treasure Shop is open on the second Friday of the month in addition to Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Donations of canned vegetables and canned fruit would be greatly appreciated.

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!

THE UP SIDE From GUIDEPOSTS, Feb./Mar. 2025

1. "I still go to bed every night with a smile on my face, gratitude in my heart and love in my soul." ~Sister Jean, 105, beloved chaplain for the Loyola University Chicago men's basketball team

2. "We tend to get so submerged by the noise in life that we forget to stop, be grateful. Soon you'll see your whole day suffused by God's presence, and it won't seem very noisy at all." ~*Father James Martin, Jesuit writer*

3. "What's the worst that can happen? You make a mistake. You learn. Mistakes can be the best thing in the world." *Carol Rockmore, stylist and designer*

4. "Don't dig up in doubt what you planted in faith. Be patient enough to see it through."~Kelly Rowland, singer and actor

5. "God didn't remove the Red Sea... He parted it. Sometimes God doesn't remove our problems; he makes a way through them." ~Jenessa Wait, artist and speaker

6. "Don't let people's compliments go to your head, and don't let their criticisms go to your heart." ~*Lysa Terkhurst, author*



PRAYER REQUESTS



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

FOR SAFE PREGNANCY & THANKSGIVING FOR NEW BABY: Charis M.C., Samantha M.C., Janielle V.

FOR HEALING & STRENGTH: Mary Catherine R., Tony S., Gloria C., Sylvanna, James F., Sue, 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, Pastor Hemi A.

FOR COMFORT & PROVISION: Affected by Tornadoes/Fire/Storm in the Midwest and other parts of the country Cirilka Yulh Family, William Pagan Family, and all families who are in the season of grieving.



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, Ana Patrick,

FOR WISDOM, COMPASSION, AND MERCY IN LEADERSHIP: The US President, all the leaders of our country. Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, UMC clergies, and church leaders.

SPECIAL INTENTION FOR THIS MONTH: Peace in the country and the world. Jobs for all who need it. Care for the earth. 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

You & your family are invited to Sunday Worship Service @ 10:30 am "The Lavish Scent of Love" - John 12:1-8 "What the Lord Needs from Us" - Luke 19:28-40 *Easter Sunday Service - "When Weeping Turned into Joy" -John 20:1-18 "Have you Seen the Lord?" - John 20:19-31 Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:00 pm "As We Gather at the Table and Pray" **Good Friday Service @ 1:00 pm** "Jesus on the Cross" 7 Words = 7 Speakers See you at 455 Blvd., Kenilworth, NJ For inquiries: email us at igniteumckenilworth@gmail.com

CREATIVITY From Prayers and Promises for Women

Lord, you have made many things; with your wisdom you made them all. The earth is full or your riches. *Psalm 104:24 NCV*

We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. *Ephesians 2:10 NLT*

The Lord has filled him with the Spirit of God. He has filled him with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge, and with all kinds of skill. *Exodus 35:31 NIRV*

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. Romans 12:6 NIV

Lord, you made the world so beautiful, interesting, and exciting. You made people so unique and lovable, work so rewarding, and play so much fun. Please help me appreciate your creation and recognize that you have given me the ability to be creative as well. I want to use my creativity for your glory.

How can you use your creativity for God?

THE UP SIDE From GUIDEPOSTS, Dec.-Jan. 2025

1. "I always practice with the kids what I practice in my own life: Have a positive attitude, be thankful, try to help others." ~*Peter Westbrook, 1984 Olymic fencingt bronze medal winner, whose foundation*

teaches fencing and life skills to underserved kids in New York City

2. "Every moment (God) gives us is extraordinary. Good moments become good memories. And bad moments, if viewed from the right perspective, become good lessons." ~*Tim Timberlake, pastor and author*

3. "I believe God guides us using our circumstances. Just a I pay attention to the subtle cues that my dogs use to guide my steps, so I must also listen to God to know the best path." *~Michael Hingson, author of Live Like a Guide Dog: True Stories From a Blind Man and His Dogs About Being Brave, Overcoming Adversity and Moving Forward in Faith*

4. "This scale can only give you a numerical reflection of your relationship with gravity. That is it. It cannot measure beauty, talent, purpose, possibility, strength, love, or character." ~sign above a scale posted on instagram by Mary Claire Have, M.D.

5. "I want (my kids) to have fun... but I also want them to feel that magic of what their faith means to them... to go out, look up at the stars, and imagine that star long, long ago." ~Savannah Guthrie, Today show co-anchor, on her Christmas traditions

6. "Stop obsessing over the 'lasts.' Be ready to greet the firsts and the yet-unseen nexts that are coming around the bend. Look alive – they'll be here any minute now." ~*Maggie Smith, poet*

7. "The most sophisticated and intelligent people I know are the ones willing to challenge their thinking and admit there's more to learn."

~Brad Meltzer, novelist and nonfiction writer

PERSEVERANCE From The Upper Room, March-April 2024

Jesus cried, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem!... How often I wanted to gather your people together, just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings." ~Matthew 23:37 (CEB)

As a young Christian, I committed myself to making the world better first through nursing, then child advocacy, and finally through ministry. Now at the end of eighth decade, I feel sad that I might die without seeing more of what I had envisioned as the reign of God. I still see injustice all around me. The COVID pandemic revealed global inequities; democracy threatened around the world; war or threat of war is often present; common civility seems to be in decline.

Jesus had similar feelings of disappointment as he gazed at his beloved Jerusalem. Yet despite warnings from some Pharisees and the threat of death, he did not let this deter him from continuing his healing work.

Seeing Jesus as an example of courage, perseverance, and purpose has given me renewed hope that I can still make a difference in my community by remembering my neighbors – near and far – a persons God calls me to love. I pray each day for the strength and courage to do just that.

> THOUGHT FOR THE DAY Jesus is my guide for how I live my life.

Prayer: Holy One, like a mothering hen, keep us safe in your care as we seek to share your love. Amen.

Judy Thomas (Maryland, USA)

QUIET MOMENTS From The Upper Room, May-June 2023

Sun and moon, praise God! All of you bright stars, praise God! ~Psalm 148:3 (CEB)

Sunrise walks are an important spiritual and physical exercise for me. Sometimes I wake before dawn with the sense the Creator has something to show me. And I'm never disappointed as I step out under fathomless stars and into the calm, pre-dawn air.

Often I give voice to the spontaneous and heartfelt prayer of thanksgiving that rises within me. I understand how the beauty and magnitude of God's creation could elicit the psalmist's cry: "Sun and moon, praise God! All of you bright stars, praise God!" When a guiding star or clear crescent moon adorns the night sky, I'm especially glad to have been invited to witness God's handiwork.

In the stillness of these early-morning moments, I sense God's presence. I become aware of the calm that surrounds me in this place on this planet at this hour, and I'm grateful to God for leading me to this moment. With my soul stilled, I give praise and ask for guidance in my Christian walk.

> THOUGHT FOR THE DAY When my soul is still, I become receptive to God's presence.

Prayer: Thank you, God, for quiet moments in the beauty of your creation. Open our hearts to your promptings to be still before you. Amen.

~Joann Wilson (Nebraska, USA)

SPIRIT LIFTING From GUIDEPOSTS, Feb./Mar. 2025

As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning." ~Luke 9:29 (NIV)

We received a visit from a police officer this afternoon. I was pretty sure I hadn't committed a crime but was surprised nonetheless to open the door and learn why the officer was standing there.

He held back a grin and said he had a random question: Had I seen a peacock in the area?

Henry, as my daughter dubbed him (the peacock, not the officer), had loitered in our yard several times over the past two weeks. Brilliantly colored in teals and blues, the feathery renegade was hard to miss against the woods at the read of our property. He wasn't shy either, coming close to peek in our sunroom windows on his path from yard to yard.

Henry couldn't help but show his brightness. He simply lived as Jesus created him. And it showed.

Those sightings of my feathered friend prompted me to seek the beauty of my Savior's presence this Easter season.

Jesus, give me eyes to see the radiance of your hard-to-miss presence.

Written by Erin Keeley Marshall

DELIGHT From Prayers and Promises for Women

When I received your words, I ate them. They filled me with joy. My heart took delight in them. Lord God who rules over all, I belong to you. ~Jeremiah 15:16 (NIRV)

My God, I want to do what you want. Your teachings are in my heart. ~Psalm 40:8 (NCV)

> Your laws are my treasure; they are my heart's delight. ~Psalm 119:111 (NLT)

Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. ~Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

God of the universe, how is it that I matter to you? I think of my mark here – how small and insignificant – and it just astonishes me that you count me so precious. The significance you give me by caring so deeply inspires me to live a life of greater meaning. Your delight in me is unexplainable, and I am so grateful.

How hard is it for you to fathom God's incredible delight in you?

WELCOME MAGNIFICENT APRIL

May the month ahead bring you an abundance of...

Blissful blessings. Splendid surprises. Good friends. Great memories, and Unexpected miracles.

MORE FROM <u>199 PROMISES OF GOD</u> from the King James Version of the Bible

1. Though he fall, he shall not utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. $\sim Psalm 37:24$

2. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee. \sim *Isaiah* 54:10

3. I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. $\sim Acts \ 20:35$

4. Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God. ~*Ecclesiastes 5:19*

5. The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, and to the soul that seeketh him. \sim Lamentations 3:25

6. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. ~*Matthew 21:22*

7. For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ~ 2 Peter 1:8

8. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. $\sim Psalm$ 23:4

PEACE OF MIND IS A BLANKET THAT PURRS

BY Pat Brady

1. Peace of mind is a blanket that purrs.

2. Peace of mind is your parents laughing out loud in the kitchen.

3. Peace of mind is pajamas still warm from the dryer.

4. Peace of mind is a good stretch.

5. Peace of mind is a back yard sparkling with lightning bugs.

6. Peace of mind is hearing the voice you hoped for.

7. Peace of mind is finding your house right where you left it.

8. Peace of mind is knowing your guardian angel is there.

9. Peace of mind is the combined odor of eggs, bacon, toothpaste, oranges, coffee, bread, newspapers, and aftershave.

10. Peace of mind is finding one more present under the Christmas tree.

11. Peace of mind is seeing your momma wave as you leave for school.

12. Peace of mind is knowing if you don't like the season, there's a new one right around the corner.

13. Peace of mind is knowing you've still got what it takes.

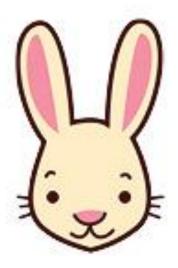
14. Peace of mind is knowing a shortcut.

15. Peace of mind is finding everything just the way you left it the night before.

NOTE: From the book cover blurb: Pat Brady submitted his first cartoon strip in 1984 to a newspaper when he was eleven years old. He has become one of America's most respected cartoonists. <u>Peace of Mind Is A Blanket That</u> <u>Purrs</u> is a warm and charming gift book that reminds us of the securities that we all find in the small things of life.

Submitted by Jane Reilly

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



Easter Day Word Hunt

х	к	0	J	Е	L	L	Y	в	Е	A	Ν	s	L	С
R	۷	D	С	s	Ν	J	х	٧	υ	т	т	Ρ	w	н
х	Ρ	۷	J	Ν	G	L	н	Y	к	н	٧	R	v	0
Р	в	в	Ν	w	Y	0	Ν	s	D	A	G	1	Е	С
Е	т	А	R	0	С	Е	D	А	М	Ν	z	Ν	D	0
s	G	G	Е	F	х	U	F	R	W	R	А	G	Α	L
х	в	н	М	Р	Е	F	М	Е	z	F	٦I	С	R	Α
G	А	Y	E	z	0	Y	Q	Т	Q	Ζ	А	т	А	т
U	s	Q	к	D	А	Ν	т	s	х	U	۷	F	Р	Е
w	к	U	T	z	С	Ν	T	A	в	F	L	1	w	W
х	Е	L	Ν	Α	Е	U	Р	Е	U	0	н	Е	R	х
Ν	т	к	R	D	D	в	Y	С	w	к	s	U	С	Y
Y	Ρ	R	I	R	А	Q	J	Е	L	Е	R	A	Ν	м
т	0	D	0	L	Q	Y	R	в	0	D	Y	s	J	т
т	D	s	к	С	1	н	С	в	Y	T.	s	L	F	н

BASKET BUNNY CANDY

CARROT

CHOCOLATE

DAFFODIL

EASTER EGGS FLOWER HUNT

DECORATE

JELLYBEANS

PARADE

SPRING SUNDAY



March 2025 Highlights







0



Was live God will take care of you, through ev'ry day, o'er all the way; He will take care of you, God will take care of you.



















Amara

gigi blanco

Danielle Blanco





