

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
September 2025 Newsletter
Community United Methodist Church of Kenilworth
A Faith Community Ignited by God's Love

SEPTEMBER 2025 EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES, 10:30 a.m.

Adult and Youth Sunday School 9:30 a.m

Pastor Don's Bible Study on Facebook Live, Fridays at 9:00 a.m.

Treasure Shop open Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Prayer Meetings, Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom ID 749 308 740

September 1, 2025 Labor Day

September 2, 2025 Metro-Highlands Day of Prayer (half hour at 12:00 noon)

September 13, 2025 Lunch on the Lawn, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Food, games, music, worship, school supplies, blood pressure check)

September 14, 2025 Grandparents' Sunday

September 18, 2025 Community Food Pantry, 4:00 p.m.

September 25, 2025 Council Meeting via Zoom 7:00 p.m.

September 25, 2025 Circuit Rider, 11:00 a.m. at Fellowship Hall

September 26, 2025 3 M's Gathering (Music, Movements, & Meditation),
In-Person at Ignite UMC Fellowship Hall, Zoom Meeting ID 201 699 6704

Bible Beginners Class - open for all in person and via Zoom, Meeting ID 749 308 740,
Sept. 16 & 30. Oct. 14 & 28, Nov. 11 & 25 @ 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.



Pastor's Page

"For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." – Psalm 100:5 (NIV)

Dear Beloved Church Family and Friends,

As we turn the calendar to **September**, I hope and pray your **summer season** was one of joy, rest, and renewal. Whether you traveled, served, spent quality time with family, or simply took a much-needed break—know that you were in our prayers. **God has been faithful** through every moment, and He continues to guide us into this new season.

September offers us a fresh start. A new school year begins, ministries resume, and the pace of life often shifts. As we celebrate Labor Day, let us thank all the workers making our country moving forward and let us give thanks to all volunteers in our church for their love for service unto God. Together, let us labor to **refocus our hearts on God's calling** and **step forward** with renewed commitment and joy.

As church family, we will be celebrating the **faithfulness of God through every generation**. His love has carried us, sustained us, and will continue to lead us. What a joy it is to be part of a church that spans generations—young and old worshiping together, learning together, and growing in faith together. Therefore, we look forward to honoring the grandparents in our community—those who have walked before us in faith and continue to bless us with their wisdom, prayers, and presence. May we be a church where **every generation is celebrated**, and where we pass on the legacy of God's love.

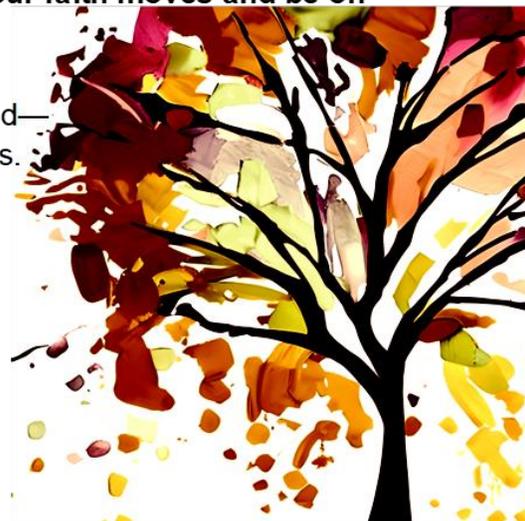
Moreover, as we move forward, let us continue to be intentional with our relationship with God and one another. Whether you are new to the faith, exploring spiritual questions, or seasoned in the church, you are invited to join our **Bible classes, small groups, and inclusive worship** designed to help you connect, grow, and feel at home. Check out the whole newsletter for upcoming activities.

Lastly, this fall, we are challenging every member of our church family to become more **active participants in God's mission**. Ask yourself: *How can I give of my time? Where can I use my gifts? How can I be generous with my resources?* There is a place for **your time, your talent, and your treasure**—and every contribution matters in the Kingdom of God. **Let our faith moves and be on fire for God's glory!**

Let's move forward with gratitude and faith, trusting our unchanging God—whose love spans generations and whose mission continues through us. I'm hopeful and excited for what this new season will bring.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Roeline "Wee" Ramirez



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jerrah Viuya
- 4 Catrina Fitzsimmons
- 6 Margaret Nunez
- 9 Dan Crisci
- 10 Daniel Nunez
- 10 Noah Valez
- 10 Alice Valez
- 18 Rev. Nova Vitug-Thomas
- 19 Stephanie Poranski
- 19 Jen Wilson
- 20 Elisa Lim
- 22 Valentina Sosa
- 23 Roy Jeremias
- 25 Todd Francis
- 26 Kayla Woolridge



“Your birthday is the first day of another 365-day journey. Be the shining thread in the beautiful tapestry of the world to make this year the best ever. Happy Birthday!”

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 William and Rose Duelly
- 17 Lee and Gigi Blanco
- 29 James and Sharon Santiago



“A marriage anniversary is a celebration of love, trust, and partnership. May your love continue to grow. Happy Anniversary!”

THE UP SIDE

From GUIDEPOSTS, Feb/Mar 2023

- 1. “One day, you will look back and see that all along, you were blooming. All along, Jesus was stirring something in your heart

that would grow like a garden all around you when you were least expecting it.”

~Morgan Harper Nichols, actor and writer

- 2. “What keeps me younger than springtime is that I’m still learning, I’m still growing. I’ve got experience, but I’ve got a beginner’s mind, and that’s a blessing.”

~84-year-old saxophonist Charles Lloyd, who released three albums last year

- 3. “I always thought one of two things could happen when you take a shot – you make it or you miss it. If you can give yourself the freedom to fail, it builds your confidence and you can play with total enjoyment.”

~Julius Erving, NBA great

- 4. “The ‘success’ parts of life look good to others, but the best parts are actually the simple, daily experiences. This is true whether you’re an actor or a teacher or a waitress. I know because I’ve been all three.”

~Lauren Graham, from the book In Conclusion, Don’t Worry About It

- 5. “You were born with value. You were born with worth. There isn’t anything that anyone or anything can do to take that value away. Nobody can hurt you so much that you’re not valuable. No illness can take away your value in this world.”

~Elizabeth Smart, who was abducted and abused for nine months as a child and is now a child safety activist and advocate for sexual assault victims

- 6. “My view is simple: I believe that God is love. Period. End of story. For love runs through everyone and everything.”

~Willie Nelson, country music star.

JAILBIRDS

From All God's Creatures, July/August 2021

You were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

~I Corinthians 6:20 (NIV)

When my two escape-artist dogs got out of the fence and took off while I was at work, they were picked up by the county animal control. They both had tags and collars and were micro chipped, but they would be spending the night in dog jail until I could pick them up the next morning.

At first, all I could be was grateful they were safe and had not gotten picked up by a stranger or hit by a car. Then I worried they would have to spend the night in a cell. After all the money spent on fencing, premium beds, and food I cooked for them every night, they still took off into a world of danger, leaving safety and love in their rear view.

The next day, I paid their bail. And even though it was apparent I had done everything I could to contain them, I was penalized for letting my dogs run free. They came as the animal control officer commented how obedient and well cared for they were. Tails wagging and joyful, they hopped in the back seat as if they'd had a glorious adventure. They never realized the danger they had escaped or that someone had paid the price for their safety. They didn't realize they had caused any problem at all.

We do this, too. We break from the safety of home, family, church, good health choices, or any choice that serves our best and highest interests. Then, when someone has our back and God covers us in protection, we return as if nothing happened, happily blind to

all the ways we have been covered and blessed. Even when we do not realize how precious we are to God, He loves us through our adventures and constantly wants to give us a way back to His arms.

God, thank You for always loving me back to You. Amen.

~Devon O'Day

EXCELLENCE

From Prayers and Promises for Women

Finally, my brothers and sisters, always think about what is true. Think about what is noble, right and pure. Think about what is lovely and worthy of respect. If anything is excellent or worthy of praise think about those kinds of things.

~Philippians 4:8 NIRV

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

~2 Peter 1:3 NLT

The answer is, if you eat or drink, or if you do anything, do it all for the glory of God.

~I Corinthians 10:31 NCV

Father, I know you don't need me, but I pray you will use me. I want to achieve great things in your name. I'm excited about the purpose you have given me, and I want to serve you and bring you glory. Plant your Word in my heart and empower me with the ability to reflect your goodness and your excellence in everything you ask me to do.

In which areas would you like to be excellent for God?

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Welcome back to a new UMW year. The United Methodist Women will meet on Wednesday, September 10th, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a bag lunch. Dessert will be provided.

COMMUNITY CARE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry served 21 families on Thursday, July 17th, 2025 providing both food and non-food items and 6 Pet Smart Gift Cards to those who have pets. 19 families were served on Thursday, August 21st, 2025 and 7 Pet Smart Gift cards were given.

We again thank all those whose generous support makes it possible for us to continue this mission.

Our next distribution date will be on Thursday, September 18th, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

THE TREASURE SHOP

The Treasure Shop is open on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Bag day for clothing will continue on the second Saturday of the month.

Thanks to all those who visited us during the summer, both to purchase and to donate. It was good seeing you.

FAITH

From Prayer and Promises for Women

Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him glory.

~Peter 1:21 NLT

“Because your faith is much too small. What I’m about to tell you is true. If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, it is enough. You can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there.’ And it will move. Nothing is impossible for you.”

~Matthew 17:20 NIRV

The important thing is faith – the kind of faith that works through love.

~Galations 5:6 NCV

Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

~Hebrews 11:1 NIV

All powerful God, nothing is beyond your ability, no matter how audacious. And no matter how simple, no sincere prayer is unworthy of your consideration. You delight in answering our faithful prayers. I ask you for a heart filled to overflowing with faith that will not doubt your response.

What gives you faith and hope in Jesus?

“I am grateful, and my gratitude makes me joyful.

~Henry Winkler, 79, actor

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

FOR PEACE: Across the US, Middle East, Europe, and other parts of the world that are in chaos.

FOR HEALING & STRENGTH: Jayson C., Aidan, Bob W., Beverly A., Faith Scott, Mary Oels, Mary Catherine R., Greg R., Laura, Barbara H., Janet C., Tony S., James F., Sue, Charles, Eileen, Cyndee, Cathy P., Jun V., Barbara L., Boyet J., Brenda G., Edna R., Ofelia, Raissa S., Theresa, Pastor Don, Elba M., Al B., Terri, Gerliz A. M., Judy, Jen & Binny, Ricky O., Scott W., Rob. W., Tom & Shiela, Kathy S., Crissy, Pastor Heme., Miriam S., John (brother of Kathleen), Susan Frey., Patrick, Elmer D.R., Jen, Mari, Ciera, David, Carol, Frank, Lou B.,

FOR STRENGTH FOR NEW BABIES: Theo, Zion Mark, Luke, Julianna and all newborn babies

FOR CONCEIVING A CHILD: Mr. & Mrs. M., and all couples who are having a difficulty in pregnancy

FOR GUIDANCE & STRENGTH: Mary Ellen, Ms. Dee, Mary O., Abuela B., Drew & Gracielle R. fam, Vercillie F., Kluivert F., Fam., Anlyn, Mary Ellen, John D., Puma fam., Betsy DC's parents, Karen W., A. Restrepo Fam, Fuquay Fam, Opacity Fam, Margaret N. and children, 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., 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., Yvette & Justin, Kollory Fam., Abigail., Rich W., Duelly Fam., Ramirez Fam., Salvador Fam., Stephen N., Linda Sosa Fam., Edit Fam., Charis & James, Malcolm Fam., Fabian & Nattali, Mayra S. & Fam., Blanco Fam., Kevin C., Ana Patrick, Maria Silva R. fam., Kluivert F. and family., Maria M., Linda B., Kathie B., Lim Family, Kathleen, Lorraine S. Robin T.,

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

SPECIAL INTENTION FOR THIS MONTH: Teacher, students, and guardians for 2025-2026 School Year. All grandparents

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

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**IGNITE COMMUNITY UMC
& NEW HOPE
RESTORATION CHURCH**
HOST
**LUNCH
ON THE LAWN**
Saturday 9/13/25 10am - 2pm
455 Blvd.
Kenilworth, NJ
FREE BLOOD
PRESSURE
CHECKS
FREE FOOD &
DRINKS
SCHOOL
SUPPLIES
MUSIC
AND
GAMES
*While Supplies Last



**Bible Beginners Class -
open for all
in person and via Zoom:
Zoom Meeting ID:
749 308 740
(Sept 16 & 30, Oct 14 & 28,
Nov. 11 & 25 @ 7 to 8pm.)**

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Welcome back, dear student,
To a year so bright and new.
With lessons, laughs, and stories,
And dreams we'll see come true.

Summer's breeze has danced through
your dreams.
Now, we're ready to chase
new themes.
With pencils poised and minds
set free,
Together we'll write our own history.

With minds wide open, eyes
so bright,
We'll learn and grow, take
soaring flight.
Welcome back, let's make it true,
This year's adventure begins with you.

SEPTEMBER BLESSINGS

A Simple Prayer:

"Lord, bless this school year, grant us wisdom, guidance, and strength to learn and grow."

A Blessing for Students:

"May your minds be open to learning, your hearts filled with kindness, and your spirits be strong throughout the year."

A Blessing for Teachers:

"May your classroom be filled with joy and your students inspired to learn."

SEPTEMBER QUOTES

1. HELLO SEPTEMBER

"September skies are a reminder that every day is a fresh start filled with opportunities."
~Unknown

2. "Happily we bask in this warm September sun, which illuminates all creatures."
~Henry David Thoreau

3. "September tries its best to have us forget summer."
~Bernard Williams

4. WELCOME SEPTEMBER

New month, new chapter, new page, and new wishes.
May the month give you courage, strength, confidence, patience, self-love, and inner peace.
May every day in September fill your days with hope, love, sunshine, and energy. Let there be joy, fun, and laughter.

5. "September shows us how beautiful it is to let things go."
~Unknown

6. I HOPE THIS FALL BRINGS YOU...

The courage to start fresh
Resilience to fight against the odds
Kindness that warms people's hearts
Wisdom to find the right direction
Strength to keep moving forward
~OurMindfulLife.com

7. "Autumn is a second spring where every leaf is a flower."
~Alblert Camus

8. "When you are reluctant to change, think of the beauty of autumn,"
~V V Brown

PUDDLES IN THE PARKING LOT
From All God's Creatures, July/August 2023

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shalt you not know it? I will even make ... rivers in the desert.
~Isaiah 43:19 (NKIV)

I sat in the grocery-store parking lot feeling the weight of a recent loss. My father's passing had ushered in an extended estrangement from family with whom I had been very close. Grief changes things. It impacts so many areas of life – some in ways we can anticipate and others in ways we don't see coming.

Everything I had tried to bring about reconciliation had failed. Others had intervened. Mature Christians had become involved but all were rebuffed. Now, it seemed clear, there would just be this sad, indefinite separation, and I had no recourse but to wait on the Lord. But, how? How would I fend off hopelessness and believe He would make a way through this seemingly impossible divide?

Just then a sparrow flew past my windshield and landed in a puddle in the next parking space. It danced, flapped its wings, and hopped from one end of the transitory pool to the other, clearly enjoying an impromptu cooling dip. It had been such a dry stretch; I imagined the bird must be thrilled for this unexpected reprieve.

And then I knew. God was reminding me that just as surely as He makes puddles in the parking lot so He makes streams in the desert and finds a way when there is no way. This puddle wasn't there yesterday, but here it appeared, as far as the sparrow knew, out of

nowhere. I smiled at the tiny joyful creature that reminded me where I would find my hope – in the One who makes a way where there is no way, in the One who is the way.

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God.
~Luke 12:6 (ESV)
By Stanley Roeleveld

PRAYERS ARE PRECIOUS JEWELS
From Grace for the Moment, Vol. I by Max Lucado

The Lord sees the good people and listens to their prayers.
I Peter 3:12

You and I live in a loud world. To get someone's attention is no easy task. He must be willing to set everything aside to listen: turn down the radio, turn away from the monitor, turn the corner of the page and set down the book. When someone is willing to silence everything else so he can hear us clearly, it is a privilege. A rare privilege, indeed.

[Your] prayers are honored [in heaven] as precious jewels. Purified and empowered, the words rise in a delightful fragrance to our Lord. Your words do not stop until they reach the very throne of God.

Your prayer on earth activates God's power in heaven, and "God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven."

Your prayers move God to change the world. You may not understand the mystery of prayer. You don't need to. But this much is clear: Actions in heaven begin when someone prays on earth.

HELLO SEPTEMBER

Some people think that beauty
Equals a good look. But a
Pretty face is just the surface.
The real beauty lies inside
Everyone. Kindness and smiles
Melt hearts. And when you
Believe in yourself and know you're
Enough, the light you
Radiate will touch everyone around.

OurMindfulLife.com

TEACHERS AND DOORS

The most common quote about teachers and doors is a Chinese proverb: "Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself." This quote highlights the role of a teacher as a guide or facilitator, while ultimately emphasizing that learning and personal growth are the responsibility of the individual student.

Here's the breakdown of the quote's meaning:

Teachers open the door:

Teachers can provide knowledge, skills, and opportunities. They can create an environment conducive to learning and guide students on their educational journey.

You must enter by yourself:

While teachers can provide the tools and

direction, it is the individual student who must actively engage with the learning process, apply themselves, and take the necessary steps to learn and grow.

This quote is a reminder that education is not a passive process. It requires active participation and effort on the part of the learner. Teachers can provide the foundation, but it is up to each student to build upon it.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FOR STUDENTS

1. "Strive for progress, not perfection."
~Unknown
2. "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."
~Nelson Mandela
3. "Your background does not determine your future."
~Unknown
4. "Don't be afraid to give up the good to go for the great."
~John D. Rockefeller,
August 4, 2016
5. "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."
~Eleanor Roosevelt
6. "Your education is a dress rehearsal for a life that is yours to lead."
~Nora Ephron
7. "Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful."
~Albert Schweitzer
8. "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."
~C.S. Lewis

JULY & AUGUST 2025 MEMORIES



VBS
2025

LABOR DAY

Labor Day is a federal holiday in the United States, celebrated on the first Monday of September, honoring the American labor movement and the contributions of workers to the country's strength, prosperity, and well-being. This year Labor Day falls on Monday, September 1st. It's also widely recognized as the unofficial end of summer, many enjoying barbecues, picnics, and other outdoor activities.

Here's a more detailed look:

Why do we celebrate Labor Day?

- The holiday was created to recognize the achievements of American workers.
- It commemorates the labor movement which fought for better working conditions, fair wages, and safer workplaces.
- It's a day for rest, relaxation, and celebrating the contributions of workers.

What are some common Labor Day traditions?

- Many people enjoy outdoor activities like barbecues, picnics, and swimming.
- It's a popular time for travel and last-minute summer vacations.
- Some view it as the end of the summer season, with many schools starting the day after.

Key figures in the history of Labor Day:

- **Peter J. McGuire:** Generally credited with suggesting the idea of a day to honor workers, though there's some debate.
- **Matthew Maguire:** Another contender for the founder of Labor Day, with some evidence suggesting he proposed the holiday in 1882.
- **President Grover Cleveland:** Signed the bill into law, making Labor Day a federal holiday in 1884.

LABOR DAY QUOTES

1. Here's to all the moms out there. Because when it comes to labor, they're the experts. Happy Labor Day!
2. "I'm not lazy. I'm on energy-saving mode." (A playful take on not wanting to do anything on a day off.)
3. "May your grill be hot and your worries be few. Happy Labor Day!" (Relating to the common Labor Day activity of barbecuing.)
4. "I'm not sure what's tighter, my jeans or my schedule. Happy Labor Day!" (Lighthearted comment busy schedules people have, and the relief on the day off.)
5. "I'm not sure what's longer, my to-do list or my Labor Day weekend. Happy Labor Day!" (A funny, self-aware comment on the holiday's purpose.)
6. "Today is Labor Day, which means I can finally start my vacation." (A playful way to acknowledge the day off after a busy week.)
7. "Happy Labor Day! May your burgers be big and your chores be small." (A lighthearted wish for a relaxing day.)
8. "I love Labor Day! What other day do you get to celebrate work without actually doing any?"
9. "Happy Labor Day, or as I call it, Happy The Kids Will Be Back in School Soon Day."
10. "Trying to enjoy this Labor Day and not think about how the next holiday is Thanksgiving."

Labor Day Word Search Puzzle

Find the hidden words related to Labor Day in the grid below



**HAPPY
LABOR
DAY**



- TRADE
- SKILL
- UNITY
- PROUD
- HAPPY
- HONOR
- FIRES
- PARTY
- SERVE
- SOLID
- GROUP
- FIGHT
- EQUAL
- SALTY
- SHINE
- SHARE
- FORCE
- TRUST

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

