

Ignite 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 Kamar, Counseling Pastor



The Circuit Rider



December 2025 Newsletter

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

DECEMBER 2025 EVENTS

Adult and Youth Sunday School @ 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship Services @ 10:30 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.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting, See the Advent Bible Study Schedule, ID 749 308 740

ESL Classes (Free), Mondays, 6:30 p.m.

December 1, 2025 Meadowlands Day of Prayer, 12:00 noon, Zoom ID 8910773540, PW 375980

December 3, 10, 17, 22, 2025 Advent Bible Study, 7:00 in person and via Zoom

Dec. 3-Parsonage; Dec. 10-Pastor Ares at 58 Country Club Lane, Springfield; Dec. 17-Trinity UMC, 1428 Main St., Rahway; Dec. 22-Blanco's, 53 Lake Drive, Stanhope

December 5, 2025 Kenilworth Tree Lighting, 7:00 p.m.

December 6, 2025 Meadowlands District Christmas Party, 2:00-4:00 p.m., at

Arcola Korean UMC, 52 S. Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ 07652

December 10, 2025 United Methodist Women, 11:00 a.m.

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

December 21, 2025 UMC Filipino Caucus Simbang Gabi, 4:00 p.m., The Church of Good Shepherd, 326 New Bridge Road, Bergenfield, NJ 0762D

December 24, 2025 Joint Christmas Eve Worship with Trinity UMC, 7:00 p.m. (Ignite Church)

December 30, 2025 Circuit Rider, 11:00 in Fellowship Hall

December 31, 2025 Joint New Year's Eve Worship with Trinity, 7:00 p.m., (Trinity Church)





Pastor's Page



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

John 1:5

Dear Beloved Church Family and Friends,

As we move from Thanksgiving into Advent, I'm thinking about how quickly our hearts shift—from giving thanks for all we have to waiting with hope for all God is still doing. **Thanksgiving** reminds us of God's goodness behind us, but **Advent** reminds us of God's promises ahead of us. And the good news is this: **every promise finds its “Yes” in Jesus.**

Advent is a season for all of us—kids, teens, adults, and seniors—to pause and remember that God has never forgotten His people. Long ago, **God promised a Savior**, and that promise came true in Jesus. He is the One who brings light when life feels dark, peace when the world feels loud, and hope when our hearts feel heavy. He is still doing that today.

As we step into this wonderful season, I want to invite you—and all of us—to celebrate in a way that really reflects who Jesus is.

- Let's be **faithful**, making room in our hearts and homes for Him.
- Let's be **generous**, not just with gifts, but with kindness and love to all people.
- Let's be **empowered**, remembering God gives each of us something important to offer.
- And let's be **excited**, because we get to be part of sharing God's promise with the world.

This Advent, may we watch for Christ Jesus with open eyes and open hearts, knowing He is already at work around us. **Live, Praise, Worship, Serve, Give Thanks, Celebrate, and Wait with Hope!**

I'm grateful for each of you, and I'm excited to walk through this Advent season together. May the hope of Christ fill your home, your heart, and your days ahead.

May the **hope, peace, love & joy** of Christ fill your home, may His peace warm your heart, and may His light guide your days. Merry Christmas, dear family and friends!

Yours in Christ,
Roeline “Wee Ramirez
Your Pastor



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Elmer Delos Reyes
- 5 Robin Tarullo
- 5 Karen Woods
- 8 Norma Ares
- 12 Rachel Diaz
- 13 Melinda Lim
- 14 Irene Powell
- 15 James Zhu
- 20 Jane Reilly
- 21 Charlotte Jacobs
- 25 Janielle Viuya
- 26 John Drescher



*"May joy and laughter fill your way,
a birthday as a sunny day. Wishing you
happiness, dreams coming true, a year full
of blessings, all meant for you!"*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

May this Christmas bring
happiness into our homes, peace within
our lives, and Jesus into our hearts.
Help us remember this season is about
the birth of your son and his love for
us. We ask for you to humble our
hearts and bless us this Christmas.

14 HEALING FOODS

- 1. **Turmeric and Black Pepper**
Anti-inflammatory, gut and joint support.
Add to tea, curries, warm milk
- 2. **Ginger**
Digestion, nausea relief, reduces pain.
Add to hot water, stir-fries, smoothies

3. **Garlic**

Immunity, heart health.
Crush and add to oil, soups, sauces

4. **Cinnamon**

Balances blood sugar.
Add to coffee, oats, fruit

5. **Honey (Raw)**

Anti-bacterial, sore throat.
Mix with lemon water, drizzle on toast

6. **Berries**

Anti-aging, brain and heart.
Smoothies, snack

7. **Yogurt/Probiotics**

Gut microbiome support.
*Eat it plain, with toppings, in smoothies or
salads*

8. **Chia and Flax Seeds**

Omega-3, hormone balance, constipation
relief. *Use in smoothies or yogurt*

9. **Bone Broth**

Gut lining repair, collagen.
Sip or add to soups/rice

10. **Olive Oil**

Heart health and reduces inflammation.
Salad dressings, drizzle after cooking

11. **Lemon**

Vitamin C, detox.
Warm lemon water, add to meals

12. **Black Cumin Seeds**

Anti-inflammatory, supports metabolism
Sprinkle on veggies or breads

13. **Green Tea**

Antioxidants, metabolism support
1-2 cups a day

14. **Moringa**

Iron and nutrient powerhouse
Powder in smoothies or soup

HAPPY DECEMBER!

May this month be filled with
God's blessings. May your days be filled
with peace and joy.

GENEROSITY
From Prayers and Promises for Women

Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.

Deuteronomy 15:10 NIV

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give. You shouldn't give if you don't want to. You shouldn't give if you are forced to. God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 NIRV

If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord – and he will repay you!

Proverbs 19:17 NLT

You are so generous, Lord! When I give generously, your blessings pour back to me. Not only does your joy fill my heart, but you replace what I give away. Though I know this to be true, I confess I don't always want to give. Don't let those selfish impulses win! Move me to share all that's mine. It is more than I can hold anyway.

How do you feel when you share with others?

"Blessed is he who has learned to admire, but not envy, to follow but not imitate, to praise but not flatter, and to lead but not manipulate."

~William Arthur Ward

"You will be blessed the moment you realize you already are.

~Bryant McGill

1. "Upstoppable just means you have the courage to take one more step."

~Anthony Robles, NCAA champion wrestler born without his right leg

2. "God is greater than any high or low. And he's there unconditionally. So [I'm] just leaning on him, not just in this season but in any season of life."

~Jalen Hurts, Philadelphia Eagles quarterback and Super Bowl MVP

3. "I make a point to appreciate all the little things in my life. I go out and smell the air after a good, hard rain. I reread passages from my favorite books. I hold the little treasures that somebody special gave me. These small actions help remind me that there are so many great, glorious pieces of good in the world."

~Dolly Parton

4. "You are not a drop in the entire ocean; you are the entire ocean inside a drop. Uniquely made, there's only one you. Love yourself. Don't give up – do your thing."

~Part of an announcement made by a NYC subway conductor to train passengers

5. "'To begin' simply refers to the first part. The first step, the first action, the first intention. Not the perfect one, not the right one, not the one someone else took, just the first."

~Lisa Keefauver, on processing grief and not needing to have it all figured out

6. "I'd rather be kind than right." *~Vince Gill, country musician, on how he makes his 25-year marriage to singer Amy Grant work*

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women met on Wednesday, November, 2025 in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. The program presented was "My Imperfect Perfect Thanksgiving ." Thanks to Norma Ares for providing delicious desserts.

The next meeting will be on December, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. The women will go to the Huck Finn diner for their end of the year lunch after the meeting. All women are invited.

COMMUNITY CARE FOOD PANTRY

On Thursday, November 20, 2025 the Food Pantry provided food and non-food items. Acme gift cards were given to 23 families, thanks to a very generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous. Nine Pet Smart Gift Cards were given to those who have pets. Thank you to our Church Family for a generous donation to the food pantry this month.

A reminder of items needed on a regular basis: canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, tomato sauce, canned tuna/chicken, beans, and rice. Financial donations are always welcomed!

Thank you all so much for your kindness and generosity throughout this past year. It is truly appreciated.

Peace in your world.

Joy all year through.

Love now and always.

THE TREASURE SHOP

The Treasure Shop is open on Saturdays from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. Bag Day for shirts and pants continues on the second Saturday of the month.

The November 15th Craft/Holiday Bazaar was a great success. Unique and wonderful items were available for shoppers. Thank you to everyone who helped in every aspect. Can't wait until next year!

Thanks to all who have volunteered, shopped, and donated at the Treasure Shop during the year to make this such a successful, thriving mission. We hope that we continue to see you all in 2026!

CHANSONETTES OF WESTFIELD

present

"Let's All Celebrate"

Holiday Music from Around the World

Sunday, December 7th at 2:00 p.m.

The Chapel at

Westfield Presbyterian Church

140 Mountain Avenue

Enter from back parking lot

Free Will Offering will benefit
the Agape Food Pantry

"Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts."
~Janice Maeditere

"It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air."
~W.T. Ellis



PRAYER REQUESTS

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

FOR HEALING & STRENGTH: Lobianco Family, Ellen J., Joy, Dee K, Robert, Barbara L., Tom & Shiela M., Aidan, Bob W., Beverly A., Mary Catherine R., Laura, Barbara H., Janet C., Tony S., James F., Sue, Charles, Eileen, Cyndee, Cathy P., Jun V., 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., Kathy S., Crissy, Pastor Heme., Miriam S., Susan F., Patrick, Elmer D.R., Jen, Mari, Ciera, David, Carol, Frank, Lou B., Jose R., Jose Jr. R., Natalie W.,

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

FOR JOB - Kluivert F., Mayra S., Kevin C.

FOR NEW APARTMENT: Kevin C., Mary Catherine R.,

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

FOR GUIDANCE & STRENGTH: Mary Ellen, Mary O., Abuela B., Drew & Gracielle R. fam, Vercillie F., Owen F., Fam., Analyn, Mary Ellen, John D., Puma fam., Betsy DC's parents, Karen W., A. Restrepo Fam, Fuquay Fam, Opacity Fam, Margaret N. & 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 S., 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., Ana Patrick, Maria Silva R. fam., Kluivert F. and family., Maria M., Linda B., Kathie B. , Lim Family, Kathleen, Lorraine S. Jayson C., Justin W., Faith S.,

FOR WISDOM, COMPASSION, AND MERCY IN LEADERSHIP: Government and Religious leaders.

SPECIAL INTENTION FOR THIS MONTH: Smooth transition as the result of local election.

More church leaders and volunteers to commit. Joyful and meaningful holiday celebrations for all.



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



WISHING YOU
AN ABUNDANTLY
BLESSED HOLIDAY
SEASON!

FROM THE FULLNESS OF
GRACE WE HAVE ALL
RECEIVED ONE BLESSING
AFTER ANOTHER.

JOHN 1:16

CHRISTMAS

Written by Walter Sosnowsky, 2019

Once again Christmas is upon us.
With it comes the excitement, the dread, and the stress.

The days before us collapse. How could Christmas be so close; it was a month ago yesterday, or so it seems. Now let me see, I sent the cards, I wrapped the gifts, the turkey is in the fridge with all the rest, stuffing, sweet potatoes, and pumpkin pie.

Is there anything I missed about Christmas? I missed the importance of CHRIST in Christmas, the son of GOD who brought peace and love, was born on Christmas day. The warmth and glow that fills our hearts and souls is a blessing that CHRIST bestowed. We reach out to our fellow man in need, a warm coat to wear, a hot meal to eat, and shelter for a good night's sleep. These things we do are what CHRIST did.

My message to you this Christmas day – celebrate with family and friends, enjoy the feast that makes your belly ache, but most of all, remember to keep CHRIST in CHRISTmas.

Peace on earth, good will to all, until we meet again.

CHRISTMAS WISH

I wish for the hungry to be fed,
For the tired to be rested.
I wish for the broken to be whole.
I wish for those whose hearts are full of hate to be filled with love.
I wish for the poor to have means for all their needs.
I wish that black, white, brown, Christian, Muslim, Atheist, and Jew love one another as brothers do.
I wish for the guns, cannons, and bombs to be still.

All these wishes can come true if we have the will to do.

To all, may GOD's light shine upon you with peace and love.

Merry Christmas,

Written by Walter Sosnowsky, 2020

AT YEAR'S END

Written by Walter Sosnowsky, 2014

At year's end it's time to reflect on the year gone by, not on world events but on your events, actions that you did or did not take.

Did you tell your family that you loved them? Did you respect your neighbors and friends? Were you part of the solution or part of the problem? Did you take an active part in the electoral process to elect responsible leadership? This is not a lecture, but an insight into daily living.

The following is a philosophy of life –
"Anyone can achieve their fullest potential. Who we are may be predetermined. The path we follow is always of our own choosing. We should never allow our fears or the expectations of others to set the frontiers of our destiny. Your destiny cannot be changed, but it can be challenged. Every man is born as many men and dies as a single one."

Moving forward into 2026, seize the opportunities before you, embrace the joys of life, and above all, to thine own self be true.

May the New Year bring Peace and understanding throughout the world.

"The darkness of the whole world cannot swallow the glowing of a candle."

~Robert Atlinger

EXPRESSIONS OF STRESS

1. You! Off my planet.
2. Not the brightest crayons in the box now, are we?
3. Errors have been made. Others will be blamed.
4. I'm not crazy; I've just been in a very bad mood for thirty years.
5. Sarcasm is just one more service we offer.
6. Whatever kind of look you were going for, you missed.
7. I'm just working here until a good fast-food job opens up.
8. Stress is when you wake up screaming, and you realize you weren't asleep.
9. Can I trade this job for what's behind door #2?
10. Chaos, panic, and disorder – my work here is done.
11. Is it time for your medication or mine?
12. I'm not tense; just terribly, terribly alert.

“If you are distressed by anything external, the pain is not due to the thing itself but to your own estimate of it; and this you have the power to revoke at any moment.

~*Marcus Aurelius*

From The Fishwrapper, May 7, 2025

ONE BLESSED NIGHT

On a journey from afar
Only guided by a star
Was Mary the Virgin bride
Traveling with Joseph by her side

To Bethlehem they were heading
But no room were they getting
For the baby to be born
Oh so early in the morn

They came upon a peaceful manger
where the animals held no danger
and through the miracle of birth
Jesus Christ came unto this earth

To this day there is celebration
Throughout every God-enriched nation
To remember the birth of our Savior
One blessed night a manger.

By: Robin Zelaya

WELCOME DECEMBER BLESSINGS for the final Month of the year

“May the month ahead sprinkle your spirit with the joyous of blessings and mother nature's purity, and blanket and warm your heart with an abundance of peace, hope, love, good health, prosperity and happiness. May you embrace the spirit of giving with kindness, compassion, inspiration, and encouragement.

May you be full of hope and promise of the wondrous blessings yet to come...”

From inspire *Positive* soul sensations (IPSS)

GOD'S CHRISTMAS TREE

Some people, when a Christmas tree they see,
may only think it's just a tree
with shining lights and a star so bright
and pretty colors that gleam in the night.

But to me it's so much more
than lights and stars and ornaments galore.
For when a Christmas tree I see,
this is what it means to me.

At the top is a star shining so bright,
like the one that shone that first Christmas night,
or an Angel, like those who to the shepherds
did sing "Glory to God..." for the newborn King.

The tree, made of wood,
with its branches spread wide
is like the cross upon which our Savior died.
It's color, evergreen, means the everlasting
which can be yours if you will just ask Him.

It's lights, shining so pretty and bright,
are like "the light of the World",
God's son, Jesus Christ.
Like pieces of tinsel, too many to count,
are God's unending mercies – they freely abound.

The ornaments are a bright crimson red
like great drops of blood that for you He shed.
Garland, gracefully wrapped around the tree,
is like God's grace which wraps you and me.

The gifts under the tree are as nice as can be,
but the greatest gift ever is Jesus, you see,
for he came to this earth to die on a tree
so you and I from sin might be free.

So give Him your heart and happy you will be,
that His gift of life has made you free.
How pretty are these wonderful trees,
but none are as beautiful as
God's Christmas Tree.

*Merry Christmas!!!
Elizabeth Gill*

THE LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS

Poinsettia

The Poinsettia is the flower
of that holy night,
inspired by a brilliant star
blessed in heavenly sight.

Over Christ in a manger
the star of Bethlehem shone
while Mother Earth created
a flowering star of her own.

The many pointed petals
so soft in snowy white
surround a golden center
like a star shining bright.

Then later when Christ died,
the white petals turned to red,
in honor of our Lord
and the blood He shed.

So at Christmas remember
how the Poinsettia came to be...
Through the birth and death of Christ
we would live eternally.

THE SYMBOLISM AND TRADITION BEHIND THE ADVENT WREATH

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism
tied to the Christmas season. The circle of the wreath,
which has no beginning and no end, symbolizes the
eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the
everlasting life we find in Christ. The wreath itself,
which is made of various kinds of evergreens, signifies
continuous life.

Even the individual evergreens that make up
the wreath have their own meanings of faith:

- Laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering
- Pine, holly, and yew signify immortality
- Cedar signifies strength and healing
- Pine cones that decorate the wreath symbolize life and resurrection.

The wreath as a whole is meant to remind us
of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise
of everlasting life to us through Christ.

NOVEMBER MEMORIES



GIVE THANKS FOR THE LORD IS GOOD!

THE CHRISTMAS TOWEL

At first glance, one looks at a kitchen towel and thinks "Wow, a towel... I need a new one, the old ones are getting stained and worn." Have we ever stopped to think that for years, the towel has NOT just been used in the kitchen, but for a variety of reasons?

Take, for example, the mother who wipes the tears of a little child to sooth the physical and emotional hurt; the physician who binds the wounds of a bleeding patient; the woman in her home, wiping her hands as she moves from task to task; the weary traveler who wipes his sweated brow. Some other examples would be the manager of a boxer who throws in the towel to save the life of his protégé, or the man wiping the grease off his hands as he fixes the old car.

Notwithstanding all of the above examples, perhaps the most significant use of the towel was about two thousand years ago when our beloved Brother took an ordinary towel in his hands and washed and dried the feet of his disciples only hours before his crucifixion. Sure the towel is a handy item with a myriad of uses, but it also has a deep symbolic meaning when seen in the hands of the Savior as he serves those around Him.

May we always remember to serve others as the Savior taught us to do. Have a wonderful holiday season filled with the love of the Savior.

'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house,

Not a person was praying, not one in the house.

The Bible was left on the shelf without care,
No one dare thought Jesus Christ would come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed.
Not once ever kneeling or bowing their head.
And Mom in the rocking chair, babe in her lap,
Was watching the Late Show as I took a nap.
When out of the East there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,

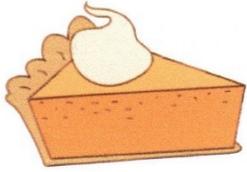
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.
The light on His face made me cover my head,
It was Jesus returning – just like He's said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,

I cried when I saw him in spite of myself.
In the Book of Life which He held in His hand,
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name,
When He said, "It's not there" my head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love,
He gathered to take to His Father above.
With those who were ready He rose without sound,
While the others were left all standing around.
I fell to my knees, but it was too late,
I had waited too long, and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight,
Oh, if only I'd known that this was the night!
In the words of His poem the meaning is clear,
The coming of Jesus is now drawing near.
There's only one life, and when comes the last call,
We'll find that the Bible was true, after all!

Gratitude Word Search

Name: _____



Things to be Thankful for



Word list:

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------|--------|----------|
| ANIMALS | HEALTH | MOM | SIGHT |
| DAD | HEARING | MUSIC | SMELL |
| FAMILY | HEART | NATURE | STARS |
| FLOWERS | HOME | RAIN | SUNSHINE |
| GRANDPARENTS | LAUGHTER | SCHOOL | TEACHER |

