

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**  
**January 2026 Newsletter**  
**Ignite Community United Methodist Church of Kenilworth**  
*A Faith Community Ignited by God's Love*

**JANUARY 2026 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.

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

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

January 1, 2026 Happy New Year!

January 13, and 27, 2026 Bible Beginner's Class, 6:00 p.m.

January 14, 2026 United Methodist Women, 11:00 a.m.

January 15, 2026 Council Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom ID 740 308 740

January 15, 2026 Community Food Pantry, 4:00 p.m.

January 25, 2026 8<sup>th</sup> Church Merger Anniversary, 10:30 p.m.

January 29, 2026 Circuit Rider, 11:00 in Fellowship Hall

January 30, 2026 3 M's Gathering (Music, Meditation, & Movement), 7:00 p.m. in person and via Zoom ID 749 308 740



# Pastor's Page

*"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"*  
Isaiah 6:8

Dear Church Family and Friends,

As we step into a new year, our hearts are filled with gratitude and praise. We pause to say **thank you God for 2025. Thank you** for your prayers, generous support, and faithfulness. Whether you served faithfully, gave sacrificially, prayed consistently, or encouraged us from near or far, you were part of what God did. Together, we truly **teamed up to be the light of Jesus Christ in the world**, and through God's grace, that light shone brightly.

*Because you prayed, lives were touched. Because you supported, ministry moved forward.  
Because you served and gave, hope was shared. Because of you, God is glorified!*

As we look ahead to **2026**, we do so with expectation, courage, and joy—trusting that God is not finished yet. We believe He is calling us to go deeper, reach wider, and shine brighter. Are you **Ready to Get Set and Go for J.O.Y.?** Yes, **Go for J.O.Y. - Jesus. Others. Yourself.**

When we put **Jesus** first, our hearts align with His mission. When we love and serve **Others**, we reflect His compassion in real and meaningful ways. And when we care for **Yourself**, you are strengthened to walk faithfully and joyfully in God's calling.

Scripture reminds us of the beauty of this mission:

*"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"* — **Romans 10:15**

**God is still calling and sending His people. Will you say, "Here am I. Send me"?** I hope you are raising your hands and ready to move your feet to extend God's love to many. As we move into 2026, may we joyfully follow Jesus and continue to share the Good News—not only with our words, but through lives marked by good deeds, kindness, and grace.

I lovingly challenge you in this new year to continue the faith:

- **Pray faithfully** — believing God for greater things
- **Support generously** — standing with us in love and unity
- **Serve joyfully** — using your gifts wherever God leads
- **Worship wholeheartedly** — honoring God in every season
- **Give cheerfully** — trusting God to multiply every gift
- **Share boldly** — the Good News of Jesus and acts of love



May **2026** be a year filled with renewed hope, deepened faith, and shining light. Thank you for walking alongside us as partners in ministry. Together, let us **Go for J.O.Y.** and continue to shine as the light of Jesus Christ through God's amazing grace.

*Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Roeline "Wee" Ramirez*



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Mayra Santana
- 3 Gerald Carino
- 9 Beverly Alexis
- 11 Gracielle Landayan Restrepo
- 11 Andres Restrepo
- 14 Jay Viuya
- 16 Guy Ethan Francis
- 16 Amiro Giop Ramirez
- 17 Dale Sinkowitz
- 18 Elsie Hudzik
- 19 Marty Koenig
- 22 Linda Sosa
- 25 Debbi Clayton
- 26 Sophie Restrepo
- 26 Ethan Restrepo
- 28 Pastor Roeline Ramirez
- 28 Malcolm Valles
- 31 Rony Jazmin Valles
- 31 Yvette Carvallo



*"May your year ahead be as fresh and hopeful as the January snow, full of surprises and joy. Happy Birthday!"*

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



- 15 Amer and Pastor Roeline Ramirez

*"Here's to another year of sharing sunsets and dreams. Together, you make beautiful memories. Happy Anniversary!"*

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## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony." ~Mahatma Gandhi

## BITS OF HUMOR

Submitted by Almeta Morris

1. My recipe for upside-down cake is super easy:
  1. Make a cake.
  2. While carrying it, trip over the dog.

### 2. THE PAINT BUCKET

Hank got a job as a road line painter. He painted five miles on the first day, two miles on the second day, but just one on the third day.

"Hank...WHAT'S GOING ON?! You get worse and worse EVERY DAY!" yelled his boss.

"Well, I don't know what to do about it! The bucket gets further and further away every day..." replied Hank.

### 3. TYPICAL WOMAN'S MAGAZINE

1. Page 9: How to lose weight fast!
2. Page 18: You're beautiful the way you are!
3. Page: 34: Cake Recipes

4. At the first sign of spring, the state flower can be seen blooming on every roadside.



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## GOOD ADVICE

1. Trust in the **LORD** with all your heart and lean not on your own **UNDERSTANDING**. ~Proverbs 3:5
2. Let your *Smile* change the *World* but don't let the *World* change your *Smile*.

I CHOOSE...  
to live by choice,  
not by chance;  
to make changes,  
not excuses;  
to be motivated,  
not manipulated;  
to be useful, not used;  
to excel, not compete.  
I choose self-esteem,  
not self pity.  
I choose to listen  
to my inner voice,  
not the random  
opinion of others.

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**A SERMON FOR YOU  
IN A SENTENCE OR TWO**  
By William A. Leier

1. To avoid criticism: Say nothing, do nothing, be nothing.
2. God no longer lives in a tabernacle. He dwells in the heart of every believer.
3. Give God what He asks, and receive all that He promises.
4. The difference between yesterday and tomorrow is today.
5. If your Christianity is worth having, it is worth sharing.
6. People seldom improve when they have no model but themselves to copy.

**SPIRIT LIFTING**

From GUIDEPOSTS, June/July 2024

If God is for us, who can be against us?  
~Romans 8:31 (NKJV)

That sunny afternoon, I felt the urge to go to the park and set up my easel to do some painting. But as an amateur with no training, I was worried. What if people in the park saw my artwork, then snickered or made ugly comments? Yet, off I went, seeking a secluded area.

Leaving my car, I saw a middle-aged man in a three-piece suit entering the park, concealing something under his jacket. He looked around, then walked out onto the grass and whipped out a small colorful kite. He smiled as he began running, unfurling the kite into the air.

I chuckled as I watched. Maybe this fellow had just given a sales pitch and been told to go fly a kite.

Whatever the man's reasons for flying a kite at his age in business attire, I approved. Then it occurred to me – he didn't *need* anyone's approval to fly his kite. Nor did I require anyone's permission to paint in public. I smiled to myself as I set up my easel and paints. The truth was that God was with me, so what did it matter who wasn't?

*Lord, whenever you lead,  
let me follow.*

Written by Sandra Clifton

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women met on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. The program presented was "History and True Meaning of the Christmas Tree."

The women received names of their Secret Pals for the 2026 year. Their Secret Pals for 2025 were:

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Charlie B. Fuquay | Janet Crowe    |
| Emily Fuquay         |                |
| 2. Henry David Nunez | Elsie Hudzik   |
| 3. Amara Ramirez     | Norma Ares     |
| Amiro Ramirez        |                |
| 4. Luisa Restrepo    | Beverly Alexis |
| Lucianna Restrepo    |                |
| 5. Sophia Restrepo   | Margeret Nunez |
| 6. Cairy Pablo Silva | Robin Tarullo  |
| Ali Silva            |                |
| Austin Silva         |                |
| 7. Jerrah Thea Viuya | Mel Freda      |

The next meeting will be on January 14, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Bring a bag lunch; dessert will be provided. All women are welcome join us.

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### COMMUNITY CARE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry provided food and non-food items for 26 families on Thursday, December 16, 2025, and 8 Pet Smart Gift Cards were given to those who have pets.

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

As always, thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. It is truly appreciated.

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### THE TREASURE SHOP

The Treasure Shop is open on Saturdays from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. as the weather permits. Bag Day for shirts and pants continues on the second Saturday of the month. We continue to receive new items every week. Thank you to all who come to donate and all who come to shop. We look forward to seeing you!

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### JANUARY BLESSINGS

#### Happy New Year to all!

We pray that your month of January is blessed and that you have...

Comfort on difficult days.  
Smiles when sadness intrudes.  
Rainbows to follow the clouds.  
Sunsets to warm your heart.  
Laughter to kiss your lips.  
Friendships that are true.  
Beauty for your eyes to see.  
Faith so that you can believe.  
Confidence for when you doubt.  
Patience to wait for the truth.  
Courage to know yourself.  
Love to complete your life.

May the New Year bring you happiness, peace, and prosperity, and be filled with joy, laughter, and success.



# PRAYER REQUESTS

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

**FOR PEACE:** Countries that in war

**FOR HEALING & STRENGTH:** Jane R., Cathy P., Joe, Carl, Ptr. Annie, Eileen, Cyndee, 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, 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.,

**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., Kluivert 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. IGNITE COMMUNITY UMC LEADERS

**SPECIAL INTENTION FOR THIS MONTH:** Ignite Community UMC Merger Anniversary Celebration

**FOR ADDITIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS, PASTORAL CARE AND SERVICES, PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR ROELINE**



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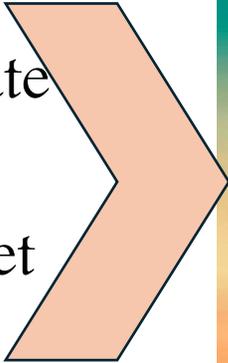
igniteumckenilworth@gmail.com

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**You, your family, & friends are invited!!!**

Together, let's celebrate and Go for J.O.Y!

We would like to meet you all in person.



You can also join via Zoom Meeting

ID: 620 488 505

**IGNITE**  
COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF KENILWORTH

**8<sup>TH</sup> CHURCH MERGER ANNIVERSARY**

199 years of Springfield Emanuel UMC  
114 years of Community UMC

**Go for J. O. Y.**  
(Jesus, Others, Yourself)

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"  
Romans 10:15

**Rev. David LeDuc**  
Guest Speaker

**January 25, 2026 @ 10:30 AM**  
455 Blvd., Kenilworth, NJ 07033  
igniteumckenilworth@gmail.com  
igniteumc.com

## THE TRAIN OF LIFE

From an email sent by Ursula Hartwig

Life is like a journey on a train... With its stations... With changes of routes... And with accidents! At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel on our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone.

As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant. Our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of our life.

Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize that they vacated their seats! Which is very sad when you think about it.

This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all the passengers... requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way – love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to leave our seat empty – we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you a joyful journey this year on the train of life. Reap success and give lots of love. More importantly, give thanks for the journey! Lastly, I thank you for being one of the passengers on my train!

## BRING OUT THE EAGLES

When the “storms of life”  
Gather darkly ahead,  
I think of these wonderful words  
I once read...

And I say to myself  
As threatening clouds hover,  
“Don't fold up your wings  
And run for cover.”

But like the eagle,  
Spread wide your wings  
And soar far above  
The troubles life brings.

For the eagle knows  
That the higher he flies,  
The more tranquil and brighter  
Become the skies.

And there is nothing in life  
We were ever asked to bear  
That we can't soar above  
On the wings of prayer.

And in looking back over  
The storm you passed through,  
You'll find you gained strength  
And new courage, too

For in facing life's storms  
With an eagles' wings,  
You can fly far above  
Earth's small, petty things.

Written by Helen Steiner Rice

## THE UP SIDE

From GUIDEPOSTS, June/July 2024

1. When we help other people, we establish an experience or a connection with them – but we also remind ourselves of the value that we bring to the world. ~Dr. Vivek Murphy, U.S. Surgeon General, on how to combat the public health epidemic of loneliness in this country

2. “The people who make a difference are not the ones with credentials, but the ones with the concern.” ~Max Lucado

3. “You cannot forgive without grace, and grace is not something you can demand. You can only sweep out the chamber of your soul and be ready to receive it when it comes.” ~Mirabai Starr, author

4. “The point of life is connection – with God, with your own hearts, and with the people God puts in our distinctive corner of the world.” ~from *Untangle Your Emotions: Naming What You Feel and Knowing What To Do About It*, by Jennie Allen

5. “Happiness is not about having the best of everything, but the ability to make the best of everything.” ~Brianna Wiest, author

6. “Joy is a journey. But you know it’s something that you must consciously do. Make yourself happy. In the midst of all of it, remain hopeful. Never give up.” ~Ruby Bridges, civil rights activist

7. “God has a plan in the storms of life, but we don’t always know what it is. That’s the part that requires faith. We reach for a plan, but Jesus offers his hand instead of a map.” ~Bonnie Gray, writer

8. “The number one question I would urge

you to ask is this: *What is it that you know now or have done now that you wish you’d known or done 10 years ago?*”

~Chip Conley, author of *Learning to Love Midlife*, on what people should ask themselves to prepare for the second half of their lives

9. “God can’t bless who you pretend to be. He can only bless who you really are.”

~Michael Todd, lead pastor of Transformation Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma

10. “The only way that I’ve gotten this far is with my spiritual faith and being able to take time out to pray. You see the miracles, and that’s inspiration and fuel to keep it going.” Owen Stefani, singer-songwriter, on how she handles her busy schedule

11. “*You don’t have to be blooming to be growing.* It was so simple but remains true and encouraging for me to remember even now: God is still at work in us, even in the seasons when we don’t see the blooms we long for.” ~Ruth Chou Simons, author and speaker, on a realization she had while gardening during a difficult time in her life.

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## NEW YEAR QUOTES

1. “There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind.” ~C.S. Lewis, author

2. “This is a new beginning. And things will change.” ~Taylor Swift

3. “In the New Year, never forget to thank your past years because they enabled you to reach today! Without the stairs of the past, you cannot arrive at the future.” ~Mehmet Murat Ildan

4. “Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.” ~Oprah Winfrey

## JANUARY QUOTES

### On new beginnings and fresh starts

1. "The magic in new beginnings is truly the most powerful of them all." ~*Josiyah Martin*
2. "January is the perfect time to start all over again. Changing energies and deserting old moods." ~*Charmaine J. Forde*
3. "The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written." ~*Unknown*
4. "The best time for new beginnings is now - January is the perfect reminder." ~*Unknown*

### On reflection and the future

1. "January is the perfect time to reflect on the past, appreciate the present, and look toward the future." ~*Unknown*
2. "January is the threshold to new possibilities; dare to step forward and embrace the unknown." ~*A.D. Posey*
3. "In January, let go of the old; welcome in the new; and cherish the possibilities that lie ahead." ~*Unknown*
4. "Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man." ~*Benjamin Franklin*

### On winter's beauty

1. "January paints in colors of pearl and poetry." ~*Unknown*
2. "The poetry of January is written in frost and starlight." ~*Unknown*
3. "January whispers promises of spring in winter's ear." ~*Unknown*

## GRACE

### From Prayers and Promises for Women

From his fullness we have all received,  
grace upon grace.  
John 1:16 NRSV

God gives us even more grace,  
as the Scripture says,  
"God is against the proud,  
but he gives grace to the humble."  
James 4:6 NCV

Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.  
Romans 5:14 NLT

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this, it is a gift from God.  
Ephesians 2:8 NLT

*God, how do I begin to thank you for your grace? By definition, I am unworthy, and I daily prove this to be true. Impossibly, you love me no matter what I do, and I don't even have to ask. Before I even know it, it's already given. I am overwhelmed by Your grace. Thank you.*

*What does God's grace look like in your life?*

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May the new year bless you with health, wealth, peace, joy and happiness. Let your dreams take flight in 2026!  
**Happy New Year!**

# DECEMBER 2025 MEMORIES



IGNITE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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iPhonehelenmiller

## I AM THE NEW YEAR

Bible Illustrator

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.

All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination.

All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant you when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped for but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have – these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, "Behold, I make all things new."

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### RECIPE FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Anonymous

Take twelve fine, full-grown months, see that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancor and hate, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short,

see that these months are freed from all the past – have them fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time. Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot this way) but prepare one day at a time.

Into each day, put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest), hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad dressing – don't do it), prayer, meditation, and one well-selected resolution. Put in about one teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.

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### A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

**Come, Holy Spirit,**

Spirit of the Risen Christ, be with us this month and always.

Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter.

Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier.

May this new year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us.

A time of welcoming your graces and gifts,

A time of forgiving freely and unconditionally,

A time for growing in virtue and goodness.

**Come, Holy Spirit,**

Be with us this month and always. **Amen.**

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"Approach the New Year with resolve to find the opportunities hidden in each new day." ~Michael Josephson

# Happy New Year!

AULD LANG SYNE

BABY

BALL

BALLOONS

CALENDAR

CELEBRATION

CHAMPAGNE

CLOCK

CONFETTI

COUNTDOWN

DANCING

DECEMBER

EVE

FATHER TIME

FIRECRACKER

FIRST

FLUTE

GAMES



GOWN

HAPPY

HAT

HOURGLASS

INVITATION

JANUARY

KISS

MIDNIGHT

MUSIC

NOISE MAKER

PARTY

RESOLUTION

SPARKLER

STREAMER

TIMES SQUARE

TOAST

TRADITION

TUXEDO

VOW

YEAR