

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

February 2026 Newsletter

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

February 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, 5:30 p.m.

February 1, 2026 8th Church Merger Anniversary, 10:30 p.m.

February 2, 2026 ½ Hour Prayer w/Clergy & Laity, 12:00 noon,
Zoom ID 891 0777 3540, PW 375980

February 3, 2026 Bible Beginner's Class, 6:00 p.m. in person at
Fellowship Hall & via Zoom ID 749 308 740

February 8, 2026 Service of Holy Communion

February 11, 2026 United Methodist Women, 11:00 a.m.

February 14, 2026 Valentine's Day

February 19, 2026 Community Food Pantry, 4:00 p.m.

February 26, 2026 Circuit Rider, 11:00 in Fellowship Hall

February 26, 2026 Council Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom



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,

A joyful and love-filled blessing to you all!

I hope and pray that you and your loved ones remained safe during the significant snowstorm we experienced in January. Moments like these—and the many challenges unfolding in our nation and world—remind us how fragile life can feel and how deeply we need one another. In such times, we are called to hold fast to our faith and continue loving one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

From the recent Church Merger celebration, I would like to say thank you for your prayers, faithful support, and joyful presence—whether in person, online, or in spirit. Together we praise God for our 8th merger anniversary, honoring the 199 years of Springfield Emanuel and 114 years of Community United Methodist Church of Kenilworth. God has carried us all through generations for a purpose that continues to unfold today.

Because of this shared history and God's ongoing work among us, we stand as Ignite Community United Methodist Church of Kenilworth. We are united in faith. We are called to **"Go for J.O.Y."—reaching out for Jesus, Others, and Yourself**. This is more than a motto; it is our way of living out the gospel together.

As we now in month of February, we are reminded that love stands at the center of our Christian calling. This season invites us to be intentional—loving more deeply, serving more generously, and witnessing more boldly in our daily lives.

As we go for J.O.Y., we are called to **Love Boldly**. The church comes alive when faith is practiced beyond words. Our worship extends beyond hymns and fellowship; our true offering is not only what we place on the altar, but the love we share with God and with all of God's creation.

In a world marked by division, fear, and uncertainty, this bold love is urgently needed. It is not a passive love or a private faith, but a courageous love that moves beyond comfort and responds to the real needs of real people. **Don't be afraid to love.**

This love does not begin with us—it flows from God and through us to the world. Scripture reminds us, *"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God"* (1 John 4:7). Indeed,

Now is the time. May we **live boldly, love courageously, and go for J.O.Y.**—together, grounded in faith, hope, and love.

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



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Gloria Cenizal
- 2 Mary Catherine Rogers
- 14 Austin Silva
- 15 Janet Crowe
- 18 Maria Moncada
- 23 Ching Salvador
- 24 Dustin Crisci
- 25 Jane Silva
- 28 Luz Restrepo



"May this special day bring you endless happiness and unforgettable memories. Happy Birthday!"

THANK YOU...

For all the cards, calls, and get well wishes for my speedy recovery.

Jane Reilly

A NEW ADDRESS

Please update your directory. There is a new address for Margaret Nunez:

24B Medford Road
Whiting, NJ 08759

SEEN ON A SIGN AT SPRINGFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"The ten commandments are NOT multiple choice." ~God

FOOD IS MEDICINE

From healthycurehub

1. **Garlic** is good for the immune system.
2. **Bananas** are good for the nerves.
3. **Sweet potatoes** are good for the digestion.
4. **Walnuts** are good for the memory.
5. **Oranges** are good for the skin.
6. **Kale** is good for the bones.
7. **Pineapple** is good for the joints.
8. **Chia seeds** are good for the heart.
9. **Peppers** are good for the metabolism.
10. **Mushrooms** are good for the immune system.
11. **Tomatoes** are good for the blood.
12. **Blueberries** are good for the brain.

Submitted by a Circuit Rider reader

FEBRUARY BLESSINGS

- F**aithfully move forward.
- E**njoy time with your loved ones.
- B**reathe. Just breathe.
- R**elax and enjoy some down time.
- U**tilize all new opportunities
- A**wesome things are on their way.
- R**elease all stress and anxiety.
- Y**ou will be blessed this month.

GUIDANCE

From Prayer and Promises for Women

Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.
Psalm 25:5 NIV

Wise people can also listen and learn;
even they can find good advice in
these words.
Proverbs 1:5 NCV

We can make our plans,
but the Lord determines our steps.
Proverbs 16:9 NLT

Those who are led by the Spirit of God
are children of God.
Romans 8:14 NIRV

*God, how wonderful it is to follow you!
I don't have to know where I'm going or
worry about leading anyone on the wrong
path. There is such freedom in knowing that
you know exactly where I need to go, and you
will do everything necessary to get me there.
Help me follow you willingly, so that anyone
looking at me for direction will not miss you
either.*

*Is there anything God
can help guide you in today?*

THE UP SIDE

From GUIDEPOSTS, October 2025

1. "Sometimes grace is louder than outrage.
Sometimes you change the world not by
kicking through the front door, but by holding
it open for the next person." ~Al Roker,

Today show cohost, from the commencement
address he gave to the Siena College's Class
of 2025

2. "If you can take something that feels as
mundane as cooking every evening and find
the sacred tucked into that, then you're going
to find it when you do the laundry, when
you're driving to work, when you're dealing
with a difficult situation."

~Aarti Sequeira, chef and TV personality

3. "Life is hard – of course it is. Things go
wrong. People can be awful to us, or good
ones get taken. Or both. And yet how
precious it is, this gift of days we're given."

~Suzy Welch, writer, professor, and speaker

4. "Christ's peace is... a gift that is meant for
all, a gift that brings new life. Let us pray for
his peace, with reconciliation, forgiveness, and
the courage to turn the page and start anew."

~Pope Leo XIV

5. "Take a 'Worth Pause' today. Find a quiet
moment to close your eyes, take a deep breath
and reflect on one quality you love about
yourself." ~from Instant Personality: 365 ways
to Become 1% Better Every Day, by Kristen Butler

6. "I am up most mornings at 4:30 or 5, and
the first thing I do is to try to get reanchored to
my faith by reading the Bible or perhaps a
book of devotions and reflecting a bit on that.
If I get started that way, it's easier not to get
knocked off my course by something that
comes at me a couple of hours later." ~Francis
B. Collins, geneticist, physician and former director of
the National Institutes of Health

7. "Sometimes we can only find our true
direction when we let the wind of change
carry us." ~Mimi Novic, author

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women met on Wednesday, January 8, 2026 in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. The program presented was "A Tribute to Lidia Bastianich and the late Grandma Ermina." Thanks to Toni Sosnosky for hosting our meeting with a delicious lasagna.

The next meeting will be on February 11 at 11:00 a.m. In the event that the weather makes it unsafe for us to meet in person, we will meet on Zoom. If we can meet in person, Janet Crowe will be the hostess. Please bring a bag lunch; dessert will be provided. All women are welcome join us.

COMMUNITY CARE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry provided food and non-food items for 18 families on Thursday, January 15th, 2026.

We appreciate your donations that enable us to continue to provide for families in need. 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! Without your support, this mission could not continue.



Happy Valentine's Day!

THE TREASURE SHOP

The Treasure Shop is open on Saturdays from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. Cheers to Mary Ellen Paxton and those who worked with her on January 24th to keep the Treasure Shop open when the temperature dropped to 11 degrees!

Bag Day for shirts and pants continues on the second Saturday of the month. We continue to receive new items every week. Thanks to those who come to donate and to those who come to shop. We look forward to seeing you!

HELLO FEBRUARY

New month, new day, new life.
May this month bring you happiness, peace,
love, an abundance of blessings,
satisfaction, and victory.

May God fill your life with
happiness beyond material possessions, and
may all the desires of your heart
be granted.

May God bless you, your family,
and your loved ones
all the days of your life. Amen

From Kelly's Treehouse

"Even if we don't have everything we want, there is always at least one thing we can thank God for. Another day, another breath, the beauty of creation – the list goes on." ~Anitha Abraham, writer



PRAYER REQUESTS



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

FOR HEALING & STRENGTH: Bob & Karen W., Bill L., Jane R., Amy N., Cathy P., Joe, Carl, Linda S., Ptr. Annie, Eileen, Cyndee, Lobianco Family, Ellen J., Joy, Dee K, Robert, Barbara L., Tom & Shiela M., Aidan, 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. Dr. Subnani and her son, Kirk.,

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. IGNITE COMMUNITY UMC LEADERS. Local Ethnic Churches and pastors.

SPECIAL INTENTION FOR THIS MONTH: Immigrant Families. To Love Boldy

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



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How are the Children?

By Pastor Annie Williams

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14

Where are the children? Over 69 million children are living below poverty in 40 of the most riches countries according to 2021 UNICEF report. Child abuse is a growing concern introduced by socio-economic issues and political upheaval. Scripture reminds all people of conscience, that responsibility towards the weak and vulnerable is a call to action.

The sick, homeless, widow and orphans have a special place in the kingdom of God. "Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless: maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked" Psalm 82:3. The church instructs to respect the dignity of all creation, those who embrace Christ teachings will become "children of light". Indeed, every conceived child is a blessing and not a burden or mistake. Anyone who has ever held a baby knows how their laughter brings joy to our hearts. They are to be nurtured holistically. All faith traditions recognize the importance of instilling spiritual and moral values in every generation for that continuum of a healthy productive world in which to live. The goal – to raise children with the necessary building blocks in order to strive for higher power. The effects of neglect stifle their full potential putting them at a disadvantage throughout life.

In Greco-Roman times, children were viewed as property, abandoned often killed as unwanted. Jesus wept, these practices were condemned by the early church as sinful. No wonder He sought such love for the innocence of the "little one".

Friends, as people of faith we continue the way of the cross. Proud to stand for fairness and love for the stranger among us.

This is what Jesus expects from us today. "...be bold and courageous; do not be afraid; do not be discouraged..." (Joshua 1:9).

We are called in these difficult times, to protect the welfare of children around the world by modelling Jesus. How? Speak out, write about it or simply pray to our Lord for guidance. Let us continue to live in Hope!

SPIRIT LIFTING

From GUIDEPOSTS, October 2025

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ.

~Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

Before we adopted our first rescue, I'd always dismissed statements such as "rescue dogs make the best pets" or "they seem more grateful."

Then Winston joined our family. He was a freckle-faced spaniel with curly ears and a tail that waved like a flag in a parade. Winston enthusiastically received anything and anyone. I'd toss him a paper towel roll, and he'd act like it was Christmas. A plastic bottle to roll around the yard? Coolest thing ever.

I said to my husband, "It's true about rescues. Winston does seem more grateful. I think he remembers before he was adopted, when he was hungry, sick and abandoned. He doesn't take anything for granted."

Turns out, Winston and I have a lot in common. I too was hungry, sick and abandoned. God fed me spiritually, healed my soul, and welcomed me into his family. It's only fitting, then, that I live a life of gratitude.

I can almost imagine the angels looking down and saying, "Rescued humans make the best people. They just seem more grateful."

Lord, let me never forget how you adopted me. May I be ever grateful for the good and perfect gifts you bless me with every day. Amen.

~Lori Thatcher

VALENTINE DAY QUOTES

1. "Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get – only with what you are expecting to give." ~*Katherine Hepburn*

2. "It is a curious thought, but it is only when you see people looking ridiculous that you realize just how much you love them." ~*Agatha Christie*

3. "The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved; loved for ourselves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves." ~*Victor Hugo*

4. "Where there is love, there is life." ~*Mahatma Gandhi*

5. "Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place." ~*Zora Neale Hurston*

6. "Nobody has ever measured, even poets, how much a heart can hold." ~*Zelda Fitzgerald*

7. "Have enough courage to trust love one more time and always one more time." ~*Maya Angelou*

8. "Love does not consist of gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction." ~*Antoine De Saint-Exupery*

9. "Never love anyone who treats you like you're ordinary." ~*Oscar Wilde*

10. "Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down." ~*Oprah Winfrey*

**MYSTERIOUS WAYS
MORE THAN COINCIDENCE
From GUIDEPOSTS, Oct./Nov. 2025**

One morning during my daily devotions, I found myself singing a particular scripture over and over: "Fear thou not, for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Was there some kind of message for me in this verse from Isaiah 41? As I pondered its words, I got the strongest sense that God was telling me something was going to happen and that I didn't have to be afraid.

That afternoon, a friend of our 21-year-old daughter, Angie, called from Portland, Oregon, to tell us that Angie had been feeling extremely ill all day. Our daughter had recently moved to Portland, a 13-hour drive from where we lived in California. I felt close to panic at being so far away from her, too far to help when she needed me most.

Then I remembered the calming words that had come to me that morning. I shared the verse with my husband, Norm. "I wonder if this was what the Lord was preparing me for," I said. Norm and I prayed and waited for news. A few hours later, Angie's friend called back to report that our daughter had grown progressively weaker, with dizziness and vomiting. By evening, she was in the hospital, undergoing tests. It was after midnight when the doctor telephoned. He informed us that Angie had appendicitis and would need surgery right away. Norm and I waited again. Finally, the doctor called with an update. Although Angie's appendix had been ready to burst, the operation had been a success.

The best news came when the phone rang the next day. It was Angie! "Don't worry, Mom. I'm doing fine," she said. "You know, I had the nicest visitor this morning."

A woman had introduced herself as a volunteer and walked into Angie's hospital room carrying a basketful of cards and roses. She'd handed Angie a long-stemmed red rose and one of the cards.

"I opened the card, and the message inside was just what I needed to hear." Angie said. "Let me read it to you. 'Fear thou not...'"

"...for I am with thee." I said, chiming in with the rest of Isaiah 41:10, the same verse that had been placed in my heart the day before by the Lord, who watched over my daughter better than I could.

Written by Judie Phillips,
Woodland, Washington

**EIGHT PHRASES THAT WILL
MAKE YOU BETTER IN 2026**

1. You aren't stuck, you are just afraid of change.
2. You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great.
3. Nothing changes if nothing changes.
4. Don't just exist, live.
5. Love doesn't hurt you. Someone who doesn't know how to love hurts you.
6. Your perspective can be your power or your prison.
7. Life doesn't have to be perfect to be wonderful.
8. Your life is as good as your mindset.

Submitted by a Circuit Rider reader

JANUARY 2026 & Church Anniversary MEMORIES



Valentine's Day

Word Search

Name: _____

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

Word list:

AFFECTION
CRAZY
CUPID
DATE
EMBRACE

FLOWERS
FRIENDSHIP
HEART
HUG
KISS

LIKE
LOVE
ROMANTIC
SWEETHEART
VALENTINE

