

Ignite 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 Kamar, Counseling Pastor



The Circuit Rider

March 2026 Newsletter

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

March 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.; Bag Day on 2nd Saturday

Lenten Devotion, Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom ID 749 308 740,

(Note: March 10, 24, and 26 will be at 6:00 p.m.)

Free ESL Classes, Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice, 9:15 Sundays

March 2, 2026 Prayer Meeting for Laity & Clergy, Zoom ID 891 0777 3540,
Password: 123456

March 8, 2026 Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 10, 2026 Bible Beginner's Class, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom and in person

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

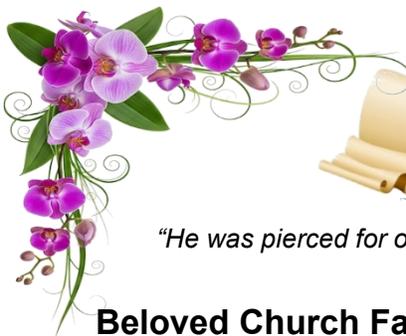
March 19, 2026 Community Food Pantry, 4:00 p.m.

March 26, 2026 Council Board Meeting @ 7:30 via Zoom ID 749 308 740

March 29, 2026 Palm Sunday

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

March 28, 2026 Palm Sunday



Pastor's Page



"He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." – Isaiah 53:5

Beloved Church Family and Friends,

How was your month of love? I truly hope you had meaningful opportunities to both experience and share God's love in meaningful and life-giving ways.

Now, in this month of March, we journey through the Lenten season under the theme *"Ashes to Life."* During this sacred time, I invite each of us to reflect on our brokenness and the hope that Jesus offers. Lent reminds us of our fragility, the reality of death, and the weight of sin. Yet it also directs our hearts toward God's enduring promise of life, restoration, and renewal—made possible through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

This movement from ashes to life is powerfully revealed in the story of the **Samaritan woman at the well** (John 4). She came burdened by shame and isolation—considered unworthy and pushed to the margins—her life marked by the ashes of judgment and exclusion. Yet Jesus met her exactly where she was. In His presence, her past no longer defined her, and what seemed lowly and forgotten became the very place where grace gave birth to new life. The one once overlooked became a bold witness, inviting others to "come and see." From the ashes of rejection flowed the living water of faith, courage, and testimony—reminding us that no one is too broken or too far gone to be transformed into a vessel of God's redeeming love.

This Lent, let us follow her example by intentionally deepening our relationship with God and with one another. Set aside meaningful time for prayer, Scripture, reflection, and acts of service, and remain rooted in the fellowship of believers. May these sacred practices shape not only your Lenten journey but also the days beyond Resurrection Sunday—forming lasting habits that transform ordinary moments into daily encounters with God's sustaining grace.

May this season become your own journey from ashes to life. May God's Spirit awaken within you fresh hope, abiding joy, and steadfast courage, and may your life shine as a living testimony of His mercy and love. I look forward to hearing about your faith journey and how it draws you ever deeper into communion with Him. Blessings!

- C** – Christ bore our ashes and shame
- R** – Redeeming us through His loving sacrifice
- O** – Out of death flows new life here and beyond
- S** – Salvation through Him blooms from brokenness
- S** – Spirit renews, raising us to hope and eternal life



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

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Elaine Puma
- 6 Alec Diaz
- 6 Luz Agudelo
- 7 Chase Robert Caffrey
- 7 Janie Delos Reyes Tran
- 8 Kier Lim
- 11 Cindy Perro
- 11 Kevin Cruz
- 12 Marilyn Pagan
- 13 Sandra Trapani
- 15 Rose Duelly
- 15 Ellen Jeremias
- 15 Amara Giop Ramirez
- 17 Andrea Zevallos-Valles
- 19 Guy Anthony Francis
- 22 Matthew Forti
- 28 Zion Mark Viuya-Carino
- 31 Diego Santana



"Hope your day is filled with love, laughter, and lots of birthday cake. Happy birthday!"

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Pastor Don Knott and Elba Martinez
- 15 Ernie and Ching Salvador



"Love is not about how many days, months, or years you have been together. Love is about how much you love each other every single day. Happy anniversary!"

IRISH BLESSINGS

TRADITIONAL BLESSINGS

1. May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of His hand."
2. "May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow, and may trouble avoid you wherever you go."
3. "May your home always be too small to hold all your friends."
4. "May the roof above us never fall in, and may the friends gathered below it never fall out."

BLESSINGS FOR HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

1. May you live as long as you want, and never want as long as you live.
2. May the best day of your past be the worst day of your future."
3. May your pockets be heavy and your heart be light, may good luck pursue you each morning and night."
4. "God and his ange;s close to hand, friends and family their love impart, and Irish blessings in your heart."

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women met on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. The program presented was "Years-Long Elks Journey Teaches Elks Scholars the Value of Service and Community" from the Dec. 2025/Jan. 2026 issue of The Elks Magazine.

The next meeting will be on March 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. 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 24 families on Thursday, February 18th, 2026. Thank you to Gladys, Toni, and Pastor Roe for working to pack and deliver the bags.

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 welcome!

We thank all those who continue to support this mission with their donations of food and non-food items, and their financial donations. You are keeping this mission going!

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. 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!

MARCH BLESSINGS

Welcome, March.
Sweet spring is almost here!

As we step into the new month of March, may God shower us with blessings of good health, happiness, and prosperity.

May we make the most of each day, cherish our loved ones, and spread kindness wherever we go.

Wishing you all a blessed and fruitful March ahead.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Life has no remote control -get up and change it by yourself.



PRAYER REQUESTS



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

FOR PEACE: Middle East Situation

FOR HEALING & STRENGTH: Cathy P., Bob W., Bill L., Jane R., Amy N., 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., Susan F., Patrick, Jen, Mari, Ciera, David, Carol, Frank, Lou B., Jose 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 SAFE CHILD DELIVERY: Krishia J (Pastor Wee's niece) **FOR JOB:** Kluivert F

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.**

SPECIAL INTENTION FOR THIS MONTH: Immigrant Families. All women for this women's month.

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



LENT AND EASTER
IGNITE COMMUNITY UMC FAMILY
 455 BLVD., RENILWORTH, NJ
 INVITES YOU TO JOIN

- *HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE -**
 APR. 2 @ 7 PM - JOINT SERVICE WITH
 TRINITY UMC IN RAHWAY (1428 MAIN ST)
- *GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**
 APR. 3 @ 1 PM IGNITE COMMUNITY UMC
- *EASTER COMPLIMENTARY
 BREAKFAST FOR FIRST
 RESPONDERS AND THE
 COMMUNITY**
 APR. 5 @ 9 AM - 10 AM
- *EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE**
 APR. 5 @ 10:30 AM

Lenten Devotion
 February 18 - April 5

From
 Ashes to Life

Mondays - Fridays @ 7:00 PM
 (NOTE: March 10, March 24, and March 26
 we will meet at 6:00 PM)

🙏 **Join us for evening prayer via
 Zoom Meeting ID: 749 308 740**

TRIAD ARTS ENSEMBLE
PRESENTS THE 2026



a musical journey and celebration of
the human spirit through song

Canticles for Life

AIDS Benefit Concerts



Mad Agnes



Dan Crisci Jazz Trio



Triad Vocal Ensemble

Saturday, March 28 at 7:30 PM

St. Joseph Catholic Church
767 Prospect St., Maplewood, NJ

Sunday, March 29 at 4:00 PM

St. Martin's Episcopal Church
1350 Washington Valley Road, Bridgewater, NJ

This performance will be live-streamed via a
YouTube link on our website home page:
CanticlesforLife.org

**Please join us for a musical mix of
choral, jazz and modern folk!**



Scan the QR code
to learn more
about our artists.

All concert proceeds to benefit:

The AIDS Resource Foundation for Children
EDGE New Jersey
AIDS Memorial Quilt—New Jersey Chapter

To make a donation securely online,
and for more information, visit
CanticlesforLife.org/donate



Free-Will Offerings
at each concert

Cash, Checks (payable to
Triad Arts Ensemble) and
online Donations accepted

AIDS Memorial Quilt Panels
will be on display



MORE IRISH BLESSINGS

WITTY AND SHORT IRISH BLESSINGS

1. "For every storm there is a rainbow."
2. "May the most you wish for be the least you get."
3. "A good laugh and a long sleep are the two best cures."
4. "May there be rain at your funeral."
(Considered a good omen)

BLESSINGS FOR LOVE AND PROTECTION

1. "May God grant you always a sunbeam to warm you, a moonbeam to charm you, a sheltering angel so nothing can harm you."
2. "May you be poor in misfortunes and rich in blessings."
3. "May the luck of the Irish lead to happiest heights, and the highway you travel be lined with lights."
4. "May you see your children's children."

THE MEANING OF THE SHAMROCK A Symbol of Ireland and Irish Heritage

The shamrock is the most common 3-leaf clover native to the beautiful Emerald Isle. The majestic shamrock was chosen as the national symbol of Ireland because Saint Patrick used the 3-leafed clover to teach the holy Trinity to the pagan celts. The celts understood the significance of the shamrock forming a triad because they believed three

was a mystical number. The Trinity or Trinity Knot is the idea that God is really three-in-one: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit.

As a result of the close connection between the shamrock and Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, the shamrock is deeply ingrained in Irish culture.

WHAT DOES THE WORD SHAMROCK MEAN?

The word shamrock can be traced back to the Irish word seamrog or seamair og, meaning "little clover". The tradition of wearing a shamrock on St. Patrick's day can be traced back to the early 1700's. The Irish have long considered shamrocks as good-luck symbols and today people of many other nationalities also believe they bring good luck. In Ireland, shamrocks are traditionally worn at weddings for good luck, They are often tucked in a bouquet or used as filler with a boutonier.

Maybe good things really do come in three?

There is an old Irish Blessing... For each petal on the shamrock, this brings a wish your way. Good health, good luck, and happiness for you today and every day.

IRISH HUMOR

1. What is a leprechaun's favorite time of day? Golden hour.
2. Why did the leprechaun turn down a bowl of soup? He already had a pot of gold.
3. What kind of spells do leprechauns use? Lucky charms

FEBRUARY 2026 MEMORIES



ST. PATRICK'S DAY
Written by Walter Sosnosky, 2020

No more joyful people can be found than the Irish. Their joyful welcomes and philosophy on life are always on a high note. This attitude and outlook of positivity is amazing.

The Irish people have endured such pain and tragedy over the centuries from their English oppressors who nearly starved them to death. During the potato famine many Irish died, and had to resort to eating grass to survive.

The Irish indentured servant worked side by side with the African slaves. They toiled until death. Some of you who may not be aware of what an indentured servant is, an indentured servant signs a contract to work for its sponsor until the debt is paid. Many of these Irish indentured servants were sold without their permission and many of them died before they satisfied their commitment.

During the 1800's through the 1900's, the Irish worked their way into the main stream but there was still prejudice that existed. Many local politicians used Irish immigrants to help them get elected. To reward these Irish immigrants who could not read or write, they appointed them police officers. Through the years in law enforcement the Irish became the vocal point and the bench mark for law enforcement throughout our country. Irish Americans filled so many facets of the American life it is too numerous to mention. One of Ireland's favorite sons is John Fitzgerald Kennedy who was the first Catholic president.

So on this St. Patrick's Day we say we are all Irish because being Irish is a proud thing to be. To all Irish Americans, thank you for this joyous holiday.

THE UP SIDE
From GUIDEPOSTS, April/May 2025

1. "I think people often judge the result and not the journey. But the art, the magnificence, the beauty, the skill, the artistry are in the journey."
~Viola Davis, EGOT-winning actor
2. "We aren't trapped by the limited options of life as we've always known it. Jesus was alive, and he exhales healing, vitality, and wholeness into our world." From Easter: The Season of the Resurrection of Jesus by Wesley Hill
3. "The best things happen at the exit of your comfort zone." ~Karen Salmansohn, author
4. "Much like our lives, which start out as a blank canvas, we face trails and tribulations along the journey... Through these experiences, whether joyful or difficult, God adds color and texture along our paths to create a beautiful masterpiece." ~Anne Nielson, artist, on the connection between her faith and art
5. "My purpose in life is to get people to see that we are all one – we all sing the same song."
~Saul Dreier, 100, who survived years in concentration camps during World War II and, at age 89, founded the Holocaust Survivor Band, made up of fellow survivors
6. "It's not only God's mercies that are new every morning. It's his miracles! Every day, without exception, we experience miracles big and small, visible and invisible, tangible and intangible." ~Mark Batterson, pastor and author
7. "As we mature, our prayers stop focusing so much on asking God to change the situations we're dealing with. Instead, we start asking him how he wants to change us while we're in them."
~Priscilla Shirer, motivational speaker and author

TAKE A MOMENT

By Tony Sosnosky, February 24, 2000

Did you ever take a moment to really look
around,
You'd be surprised at all the beauty there is to
be found.

Amid the dumps and trash that one would
quickly see,
You'd find some things growing, like a flower
or a tree.

If we all just took a moment, to each do our
little part,
Not just go through the motions, but strictly
from the heart,

We'd make this place we live in a nicer place
to be
For all the seniors and the children, and even
you and me.

So why not take a moment, it begins with
only one
To really make a difference and see what can
be done.

DO IT ANYWAY

Submitted by Toni Sosnosky

*This poem was originally written by
Kent M. Keith in 1968 as a booklet for student
leaders - he had called it the Paradoxical
Commandments. It became famous after
being found on the walls of Mother Teresa's
children's home in Calcutta.*

PEOPLE ARE OFTEN UNREASONABLE,
IRRATIONAL, AND SELF-CENTERED.
FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY

IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL, YOU WILL
WIN SOME UNFAITHFUL FRIENDS AND
SOME GENUINE ENEMIES.

SUCCEED ANYWAY

IF YOU ARE HONEST AND SINCERE,
PEOPLE MAY DECEIVE YOU.

BE HONEST AND SINCERE ANYWAY

WHAT YOU SPEND YEARS CREATING
OTHERS COULD DESTROY OVERNIGHT.

CREATE ANYWAY

IF YOU FIND SERENITY AND HAPPINESS
SOME MAY BE JEALOUS.

BE HAPPY ANYWAY

THE GOOD YOU DO TODAY WILL OFTEN
BE FORGOTTEN.

DO GOOD ANYWAY

GIVE THE BEST YOU HAVE,
AND IT WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH
GIVE YOUR BEST ANYWAY

IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IT IS BETWEEN
YOU AND **GOD**

**IT WAS NEVER BETWEEN YOU AND
THEM ANYWAY**

As we step into the new
month of **March**, may God shower us
with blessings of good health,
happiness, and prosperity. May we
make the most of each day, cherish
our loved ones, and
spread kindness wherever we go.
Wishing you all a blessed and fruitful
March ahead.

BREATHE

From The Upper Room, May/June 2023

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.”

~Luke 11:1 (NIV)

A few years ago, I studied acting. One of the classes taught techniques for breathing and movement. Just prior to the acting sessions, we would lie down on the floor and practice slow and deep breathing exercises. The purpose was to gain coordination as we incorporated the breathing and movement techniques into our acting sessions. It was something relatively simple to do but at times some of us would skip this regimen. That was when the professor would vigorously call out: “Breathe!” And we would stop what we were doing, lie down, and begin our breathing routine.

I see a similarity in our life of prayer. It can be easy to be distracted by other tasks and fail to nourish our spiritual life with active prayer. Many times we are full of excuses. Communion with God, our Breath of Life, is always free, and God wants us to be fully engaged. Prayer is an opportunity to breathe deeply and coordinate heart, mind, body, and soul to be attentive to God’s voice.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Prayer is an opportunity to breathe deeply.

Prayer: God of creation, center our thoughts so we can be in complete communion with you. Thank you for teaching us to pray: “Father, hallowed be your name, your

kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation. (Luke 11:2-4, NIV)” Amen.

~Alan Li DCmarillo (Missouri, USA)

HISTORY OF LENT

Lent’s history traces back to early Christian traditions of fasting before Easter, inspired by Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness, with the Council of Nicaea (325 AD) formalizing a preparatory period, though its length and practices varied before Pope Gregory I (late 6th/early 7th century) established the 40-day fast starting on Ash Wednesday, incorporating Ash Wednesday rituals from ancient penitential practices. It evolved from shorter fasts, initially for new converts, into a universal church observance of prayer, penance, and self-denial to prepare for Easter.

Duration: 40 days

Observances: Fasting; Praying; Alms giving; Abstinence

Symbol: Fish

Dates: Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 18, 2026) and traditionally ends at sundown on holy Thursday (April 2, 2026), the evening before Good Friday, marking a 40-day period of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in preparation for Easter. The dates change yearly as they are tied to Easter, but the season always starts with Ash Wednesday and culminates with the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday evening, Good Friday, Holy Saturday).



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

St. Patrick's Day Word Search

Words to Find:

- rainbow
- luck
- green
- pot
- shamrock
- jig
- gold
- Irish
- leprechan
- lucky

