

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

April 2026 Newsletter

Ignite Community United Methodist Church of Kenilworth

A Faith Community Ignited by God's Love

April 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

Prayer Meeting Wednesday via Zoom and FB Live, 6:00 p.m. will resume on April 8, 2026,

Zoom ID 749 308 740,

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

Choir Practice, 9:30 a.m. Sundays

April 1, 2026 Last day of Lenten Devotion, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom ID 749 308 740

April 2, 2026 Holy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m. in person with Trinity UMC at
1428 Main Street, Rahway, NJ via Zoom ID 811 5781 1503

April 3, 2026 Good Friday Service, 1:00 p.m. in person at Ignite Community UMC,
and on Zoom ID 620 488 505

April 5, 2026 Complimentary Community Breakfast for First Responders and the
Community, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

April 8, 2026 United Methodist Women, 11:00 a.m., in person and Zoom ID 749 388 740

April 8, 2025 28 DAYS GNJ Day of Prayer, Mondays to Fridays from April 8th to
May 15th, 7 a.m. - 7:20 a.m. To register visit: [https://member.gncumc.org/.default.aspx?
page=3352&occurrenceid=946&profileid=1747](https://member.gncumc.org/.default.aspx?page=3352&occurrenceid=946&profileid=1747)

April 16, 2026 Community Food Pantry, 4:00 p.m.



"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." (John 11:25)

Beloved Church Family and Friends,

Happy April! I wanted to take a moment to gently ask: *how was your Lenten journey this year?* Whether it was filled with deep reflection, small sacrifices, struggles, or quiet moments with God, remember that every step mattered. Lent is never about perfection, but about drawing closer to the heart of Christ. I would love to hear your journey.

Now, we move forward into the joy and hope of the Easter season. This is a time that reminds us of a powerful truth: Christ is alive. The resurrection is not just something we remember—it is something we live. In a world that can often feel uncertain, heavy, or even discouraging, the risen Jesus invites us to keep going, to keep believing, and to keep trusting that His light is stronger than any darkness we face.

We are reminded in Scripture: **"I am the living one; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever!" (Revelation 1:18)**

Because Jesus is the Living God, our faith is not empty—it is alive and active. He walks with us in our daily lives, strengthens us in our struggles, and fills us with hope when we need it most.

As a community, we are also called to be a *living Church*. Not just a place we come to, but a family we belong to. The Church is here to support you. We are here to pray with you, grow with you, and journey with you. At the same time, each one of us has something meaningful to offer. Your presence, your kindness, your time, your gifts, and whatever you can offer are all ways to help build and strengthen God's kingdom here on earth.

So, this Easter season, I warmly invite you: stay connected. Be part of this living, breathing community of faith. Let us encourage one another, serve one another, and continue sharing the love of Christ wherever we go. I can't wait to hear your ideas, how can we be a help, and how can you be part of the church ministries.

May this season fill your heart with renewed faith, deeper joy, and lasting peace.

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



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Nathan Crisci
- 6 Kaia Grace Restrepo
- 7 Peter Tran
- 8 Pastor Don Knott
- 13 Nice Diaz
- 16 Rachel Ronan
- 17 Hemesias Ares
- 20 Reden Cenizal
- 21 Titas Ares
- 22 Sharon Santiago
- 26 Deanna King
- 27 Ann Doughertry



"Warmest wishes to you on your birthday. May your special day be filled with lots of family, friends, food, and fun. Happy birthday."

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Fernando and Melinda Lim
- 20 Reden and Gloria Cenizal
- 30 Bryan and Rachel Ronan



"An anniversary is a time to celebrate the joys of today, the memories of yesterday, and the hopes of tomorrow. Happy anniversary!"

HELPFULNESS

From Prayers and Promises for Women

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: It is more blessed to give than to receive.
~Acts 20:35 NIV

"Who is more important? Is it the one at the table, or the one who serves? Isn't it the one who is at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves."

~Luke 22:27 NIRV

Share with God's people who need help. Bring strangers in need into your home.

~Romans 12:13 NCV

Give generously, for your gifts will return to you later. Divide your gifts among many, for in the days ahead you yourself may need much help.

~Ecclesiastes 11:1 -2 TLB

"Ever-present God, you are over, under, around, and through all who call you Lord. This connection to you connects us to one another. Give me the joy of my brother, the heartache of my sister, and the confusion of my friend. Allow me to stand with them in complete agreement, and to meet with you there. Help me to feel what you feel for people and extend your helping hand where I can.

What is something helpful you could do for someone today?

WELCOME APRIL

Please be a good month and bring good health, financial abundance, blessings for family and friends, smiles and laughter, and lots of April showers for May flowers.

Have a peaceful, happy, and BLESSED APRIL.

EASTER TRIVIA FACTS THAT ARE COMPLETELY UN-EGGS-PECTED

FLORIDA HELD THE LARGEST EASTER EGG HUNT IN THE UNITED STATES.

Talk about eggs-traordinary! The largest Easter egg hunt to ever take place in the United States happened at Cypress Gardens Adventure Park in Winter Have, Florida on April 1, 2007. At the gigantic hunt, 9,753 children and adults searched for a whopping 501,000 eggs.

IN RECENT YEAR, AMERICANS SPENT OVER \$22 BILLION ON EASTER.

Between food, clothing, candy, and gifts, Easter can get expensive! In 2024, Americans planned to spend \$22.4 billion on Easter, according to the National Retail Federation (NRF). As that number increases every year, it's likely to be even higher in the years to follow.

INSTEAD OF A BUNNY, AN EASTER FOX DELIVERS GOODS IN GERMANY.

While kiddos in the U.S. know and love the Easter bunny, a different critter is beloved by little ones in Germany. Over in Westphalia, Germany, an Easter fox (Osterfuchs) once delivered eggs and goodies to children. Though the bunny is more common nowadays, the fox is still a popular symbol in some parts of the region.

PASTEL COLORS HOLD RELIGIOUS MEANINGS.

Pastel colors are used in so many Easter celebrations. But they have important symbolism, too! Baby blue, mint green, light yellow, and soft pink all carry meaning of

the rebirth and renewal of life that occurs in spring. Specifically, white represents light, triumph, and glory, while lavender represents penance, power, and royalty. Pink represents joy and love, then red symbolizes sacrifice, blood, and martyrdom. Finally, green represents hope and eternal life.

AN EGG HUNT IS THE MOST POPULAR WAY TO CELEBRATE EASTER.

From brunch to egg dyeing to church service, there are an abundance of exciting ways to celebrate the holiday. However, Easter egg hunts are the most beloved! A recent study shows that 83% of people participate in the fun, family activity come Easter Sunday.

EASTER BONNETS ARE A RELATIVELY NEW TRADITION.

Though dressing up in your Sunday best is an Easter custom that goes way back, bonnets are a relatively new addition to festive outfits. The big hats were popularized in 1933 when composer Irving Berlin included them in his song, "Easter Parade." The tune features lyrics about elite New Yorkers showing off their extravagant Easter outfits.

KINDER SURPRISE EGGS ARE BANNED IN THE UNITED STATES

If you have a craving for chocolate eggs, there are so many candy options to choose from - but Kinder Surprise eggs are not one of them. These hollow milk chocolate eggs contain a toy held in a plastic capsule inside, but they've been illegal in America since 1938 when the U.S. Consumer (CPSC) banned consumable items with nonnutritive objects inside.



PRAYER REQUESTS

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

FOR PEACE: Middle East Situation and all around the World

FOR HEALING & STRENGTH: Cathy P., Bob W., Bill L., Jane R., Amy N., Joe, Carl, 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 L., 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 & her son, Kirk., Letty S.

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

FOR JOB: Kluivert F

FOR GUIDANCE & STRENGTH: Mary Ellen, Mary O., Abuela B., Drew & Gracielle R. fam, Vercillie F., Owen F., Fam., Anallyn, 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 Fam., 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., Adrian M.,

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



EASTER CELEBRATION

IGNITE COMMUNITY UMC FAMILY
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO



- * **COMMUNITY BREAKFAST**
COMPLIMENTARY FOR FIRST RESPONDERS & THE COMMUNITY
APRIL 5 @ 9AM-10AM
OUR SIMPLE WAY OF SAYING THANK YOU TO
KPD • KFD • EMT • KDPW • AND ALL WHO
SERVE THE BOROUGH OF KENILWORTH
- * **EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE**
APRIL 5 @ 10:30 AM
- * **EASTER TREATS FOR KIDS**
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!
DURING BREAKFAST & AFTER WORSHIP
- * **ALL ARE WELCOME**
455 BLVD., KENILWORTH NJ 07033



Ignite Community UMC
goes to Sight and Sound



JOSHUA
LIVE ON STAGE

June 6, 2026

SIDE TRIP AT BIBLICAL TABERNACLE
LUNCH AT HERSHEY FARM
EMAIL: igniteumckenilworth for reservation and inquiries

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women met on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. The program presented was "35 Interesting Women's History Month Facts We Bet You Didn't Know," telling us why March is an important month.

The next meeting will be on April 8th at 11:00 a.m. Please bring a bag lunch; dessert will be provided by our hostesses. All women are welcome join us.

COMMUNITY CARE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry provided food and non-food items for 17 families on Thursday, March 19, 2026. Seven Pet Smart Gift Cards were also distributed.

We appreciate your donations that make it possible for 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.

May your month be filled with
peace, love, and light.

THE TREASURE SHOP

The Treasure Shop is open on Saturdays from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m., but will be closed on April 4th, Easter Saturday. Bag Day for shirts and pants continues on the second Saturday of the month. We do receive new items every week.

Thank you to all who come to donate and to all who come to shop. We look forward to seeing you!

SPRING QUOTES

1. "Despite the forecast, live like its spring."
~Lilly Pulitzer
2. "I suppose the best kind of spring morning is the best weather God has to offer."
~Dodie Smith
3. "Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush."
~Doug Larson
4. "The earth laughs in flowers."
~Ralph Waldo Emerson
5. "Spring will come and so will happiness. Hold on. Life will get warmer."
~Anita Krizzan
6. "If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant."
~Anne Bradstreet
7. "Flowers don't worry about how they're going to bloom. They just open up and turn toward the light and that makes them beautiful."
~Jim Carrey

SPRING PUNS

By David Em

Spring is a season of growth and renewal. The flowers blossom, and temperatures get warmer. Read spring puns for a laugh this season.

Seasons change due to Earth's 23.5 degree tilt on its axis. As Earth orbits the sun, the angle results in a different amount of energy.

Spring is the shift between winter and summer. It's all about new beginnings. The landscape comes to life as plants grow and animals wake up from hibernation.

You can also make it a time for new laughter with the following spring puns.

1. I need an umbrella because it's spring-ling outside.
2. I got a new lawn spring-ler.
3. A flower's favorite type of pickle is a daffo-dil.
4. Spring is happening right before my berry eyes.
5. It's allergy season again? You've got to be pollen my leg.
6. Gardeners get so excited about spring that they wet their plants.
7. You can make a water bed bounce by using spring water.
8. Flowers kiss with their tulips.
9. This spring, be-leaf in yourself.

UPSIDE DOWN QUOTES

"Upside" quotes about life focus on finding positivity, new perspectives, and resilience when situations are turned upside down. Key themes include embracing change, finding opportunities in chaos, and creating a life that feels good on the inside rather than just looking good on the outside.

INSPIRATIONAL UPSIDE DOWN QUOTES

1. "Sometimes you have to let life turn you upside down, so you can learn how to live, right side up." ~Facebook user
2. Do not worry that your life is turning upside down. How do you know the side you are used to is better than the one to come." ~Rumi (via Reddit)
3. "I like to turn things upside down, to watch pictures and situation from another perspective." ~Uresus Wehrli (via Brainy Quote)
4. "Create a life that feels good on the inside not just one that looks good on the outside." ~Unknown (via Facebook)
5. "If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else." ~Booker T. Washington, (via Yahoo)

PERSPECTIVE AND GROWTH

1. "The world is wrong side up. It needs to be turned upside down in order to be right side up." ~Brainy Quote
2. "The upside of web-based journalism is that everybody gets a chance. The downside of web-based journalism is that everybody gets a chance." ~Brainy Quote

OF MICE AND MEN

Written by Louis Lotz

Now listen, you who say, "Today and tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow.

~James 4:13-14 (NIV)

I was in my barn on an autumn afternoon, hoisting hay with the pitchfork to take to the chicken coop for bedding, when a field mouse went skittering past me. Then came another one, a little brown mouse running lickety-split, frantically turning this way and that, not knowing where to go but in a big hurry to get there. I looked down and saw that I'd ripped through a mouse burrow, a cozy little den hidden in the hay. I'd smashed their little mouse pantry, scattering acorns and puckered kernels of corn. The mice were all safe and snug and ready for winter, and then I showed up and in an instant all their plans and preparations were undone.

As the poet Robert Burns noted, the best-laid schemes of mice and men often go awry. We make plans for the future, arranging things just so, never stopping to consider that some pitchfork – a debilitating illness, an automobile accident, an undetected tumor – could come slicing into our lives and, in an instant, all our preparations would be undone. How presumptuous to believe that the future is going to accommodate our plans.

Christians in an earlier era would print the initials *DV* at the conclusion of their letters. The initials stood for the Latin *Deo Volente* – God willing. The words signify an attitude, a way of looking at life, and an

acknowledgment that God is in control, not we ourselves. Which is a nice thing to know, when I think about it. The phrase "God willing" doesn't express uncertainty. Rather, it expresses the greatest certainty of all, that God – not blind fate – is in control of my destiny.

Maybe the mice will come back. I hope so. I keep looking for them. And I go easy with the pitchfork.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

~Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

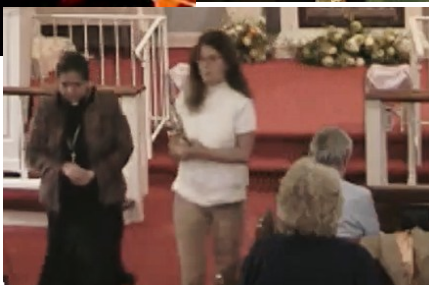
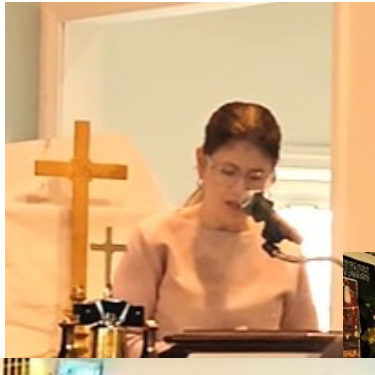
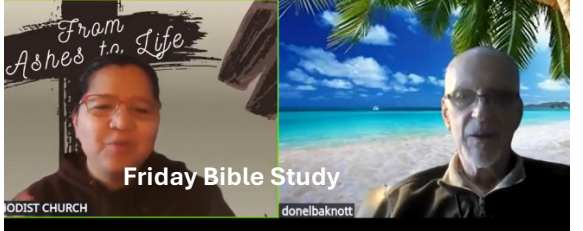
From All God's Creatures, Sept./Oct. 2022

A SERMON FOR YOU IN A SENTENCE OR TWO

Edited by William A. Leier

1. People seldom improve when they have no model but themselves to copy.
2. Benjamin Franklin once said, "If men are so wicked with religion, what would they be without it."
3. Abraham Lincoln once said, "I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this Book upon reason that you can, and the balance by faith, and you will live and die a better man."
4. If your Bible had dollars in it, would you open it? There are values there beyond all values of money.
5. He who fears God need have no other fears.

MARCH 2026 MEMORIES



BIGGER THAN OUR FEARS
From The Upper Room, May-June 2023

Read Matthew 6:25-34

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.."

~John 14:27 (NIV)

Since I was a kid, I have been a worrier. It started with small worries about whom I was going to talk to at lunch or who would allow me to join their game at recess. It grew into intense anxiety about almost any social situation. My anxiety was rooted in deep fears about not belonging and facing rejection. These fears clouded most of middle school and high school as I worried that people I considered "cool" were secretly judging my every action. I did my best to put on a happy face each day, but on the inside I was sinking.

When I opened up to my parents about the roots of my anxiety, they encouraged me to think about where my strength and peace come from. I realized that I was looking for peace in other people's approval instead of from the one true God. Thus began the slow journey of retraining my brain. Now, when an anxious thought arises, I combat it with scripture and reason instead of letting it take root. Learning to do this takes patience, and the journey never ends. While I am in a much better place than I was two years ago, I still struggle every day. But I know God has provided me with all the tools I need.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
God is bigger than my fears.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us minds to think, to be creative, and to worship you. In times of mental distress, remind us that you are looking out for us. Amen.

~Madison Brown, Texas, USA

HEALTH

From Prayers and Promises for Women

The world and its desires pass away,
but whoever does the will of God
lives forever.

~John 2:17 NIV

Don't be wise in your own eyes.
Have respect for the Lord and avoid evil.
That will bring health to your body.
It will make your bones strong.

~Proverbs 3:7-8 NIV

I will never forget your commandments,
for by them you give me life.

~Psalm 119:93 NLT

A happy heart is like good medicine,
but a broken spirit drains your strength.

~Proverbs 17:22 NCV

Healer, I need you! I know what you can do; I've read it and I've seen it. Today, I claim your healing. You know my need. The brokenness in body and spirit for which I pray is not news to you. You are intimately involved, waiting to intercede. I believe you, Lord. I know you can heal me. Boldly, I ask for that healing today.

***What healing are you believing
God for right now?***

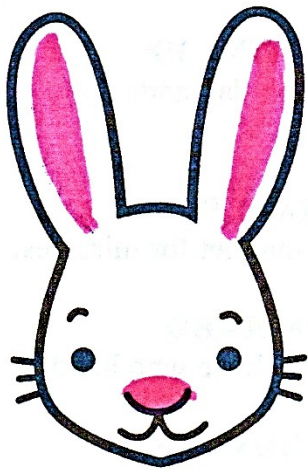
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Easter Day

Word Hunt

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

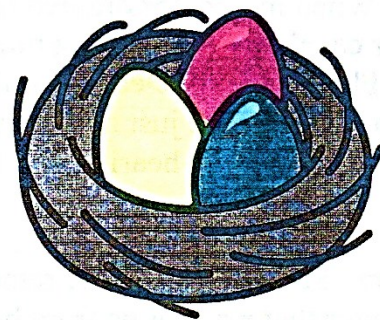


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T	D	S	K	C	I	H	C	B	Y	I	S	L	F	H

- BASKET
- BUNNY
- CANDY
- CARROT
- CHICKS
- CHOCOLATE
- DAFFODIL

- DECORATE
- EASTER
- EGGS
- FLOWER
- HUNT
- JELLYBEANS
- PARADE

- SPRING
- SUNDAY



EARS TO HEAR
From The Upper Room, March/April 2023

Whoever has ears, let them hear.
~Matthew 11:15 (NIV)

Due to a sinus infection, one of my ears became filled with fluid, I could hear clearly out of my good ear, but the other only registered muffled sounds. I became frustrated by my inability to hear sounds I had taken for granted before. I had to ask people to repeat themselves in conversation. Sound distortion threw me off key during praise team rehearsal, and I couldn't hear important details when the team leader gave instructions. For a time, I literally did not have ears to hear.

How often do we suffer from the same affliction in our spiritual lives? Worldly distractions, fear, stubbornness, pride, apathy, selfishness, and sin can build up in our hearts and keep us from hearing God's voice. Our pastor preaches a message, but we may catch only part of it because we're distracted. We ask God for guidance, but we might fail to study scripture and miss God's answers. God is always speaking, but sometimes a blockage distorts our hearing.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

When I turn my heart toward God
I can better hear God's voice.

When my doctor drained the fluid from my ear canal, my full hearing returned. The Great Physician will clear out our spiritual blockages, too. We just need to acknowledge our lack of spiritual hearing and turn our hearts toward God.

Prayer: Father God, please remove the blockages that prevent us from hearing your

voice clearly so that we may have ears to hear when you speak. In Jesus name. Amen.

Pat Banta Kreml (Florida, USA)

8 POWERFUL WORDS
FOR THE DAY

1. BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.
Believe you can and you will.

2. STAY STRONG
Dream, believe, achieve.

3. NEVER GIVE UP
A little progress each day adds up to a big result.

4. BE GRATEFUL
A grateful heart is a magnet for miracles.

5. WORK HARD
Good things come to those who hustle.

6. STAY HUMBLE
Work hard in silence, let success make the noise.

7. BE KIND
Kindness makes you the most beautiful

8. KEEP SMILING
Because of your smile,
you make life more beautiful.

**April is a reminder that life is
a beautiful ever-renewing cycle.**
E.E. Cummings