



MARCH 2016

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## REFLECTIONS: A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR



We are almost half-way into this Lenten journey. The ashes of Ash Wednesday reminded us of humbleness in our relationship with God, but in a reverse way. In other words, as people who recognize that the abundant grace of God is poured on every human being, we commit to stand with courage against hoarding by sharing; oppression, by freeing; and harming by healing. For this reason, it is imperative that all the elements that comprise our Christian identity, such as faith, love, justice, peace, and hope, are engaged in this journey of reflection and preparation.

If you still have not had an opportunity to stop by and participate in one of our Lenten suppers, I encourage you to come and experience the blessings of fellowship, along with a delicious meal prepared by our church family. This time together allows us to share our stories, learn a little more about our struggles, and know that we are not alone. Words of compassion can make a big difference, and to realize that a life lived in faith and connected to a community expresses better the will of God. So if you decide to come and join us, do not expect perfection but a great deal of hospitality and warm hearts.

On a different topic, the Scholarship Committee is organizing a fundraising meal in support of our high school graduates. Most of you know that every year we celebrate the accomplishments of those youth in our church who graduate from high school. The schol-

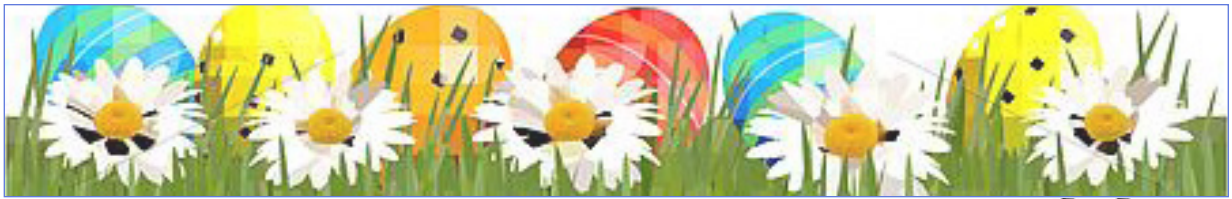
arship fund allows us to encourage these young people to continue their education as they move on to college. For this reason, I hope all of you will respond and participate. The members of the Scholarship Committee are working very hard to make sure this event will bring the needed funds for this purpose. Your support is very important!

On the first Sunday in March, our church will celebrate International Women's Day. Traditionally, the international community celebrates it on March 8. Our speaker, Mr. Anthony Zemkus from The Safe Center LI, will talk on the subject of domestic violence. We all know how this social malady affects not just women but the entire family; unfortunately, many of the perpetrators and victims are Christians.

I hope you have the opportunity to attend and to invite relatives, friends, neighbors, etc. The more aware we are of how this problem destroys relationships and lives, the better we can respond as a community of faith to offer hope, healing, and ultimately, wholeness.

Grace and Peace,

*Rev. Rafael García*



# In the Spotlight

Four of the lovely ladies of the United Methodist Women celebrated birthdays in February. In honor of their special days, they shared a birthday cake and an enjoyable lunch at the UMW meeting on February 9th.

Happy Birthday to **Jackie Morgan, Dot Zondag, Jean Bearak and Miriam Harris!**  
(pictured, left, L-R)



Pictured, above (L-R): Janice LaLumia, Rubia Rivas, Jackie Morgan, Mary Johnson, Julia Ross, Jean Bearak.

Pictured, left (L-R): Eileen Bailey, Miriam Richards, Dot Zondag, Miriam Harris, and Rev. Liz Williamson.



# **'LOVE'**

## **LIVE: BY IT! THROUGH IT! FOR IT!**

Love, as we know it, is a four letter word  
It produces emotions, - good and bad  
How we choose to use it impacts our life  
Live BY sharing love - eradicating what makes us sad

Love is like the earth's four seasons  
Bringing Joy, Sorrow, Sickness, Laughter and Pain  
If we live THROUGH it, embracing each step -  
As our Savior did, we'll experience much gain

Love - So often shied away from when given  
Afraid of any hurt it often brings  
As Christians, we should always embrace love  
FOR it's the chain-link to Christ our King

Let's reach out in love BY giving and receiving  
Let's love THROUGH all circumstances  
Let's share love; FOR God so love - and will always -

**"LOVE US!"**

**J. Wellington, Feb. 2016**







## UMW AND UMM HOST LENTEN DINNER AT UMC OF HEMPSTEAD - FEBRUARY 17

Many people from our the church community came together on Feb. 17, the second week of Lent, to celebrate the Lenten season in faith and fellowship. The evening began with a delicious menu of dinner items, prepared and cooked by the church family.

To complete the evening, a prayer service with the theme, "Journey Into the Brokenness of Our Inner Selves," was led by Wayne Redman. The service included several scripture readings, a poetry reading, prayers, and time for reflection to remind us that "spiritual life is not a part of life....it is life!"







## CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



The UMC of Hempstead celebrated Black History Month with a special worship service that included a significant message by guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Sedgwick Easley, Pastor of Union Baptist Church of Hempstead. The service was both meaningful and memorable.

*Photos, courtesy of Grace Brammer*

## LENTEN DINNER AND PRAYER SERVICE AT UMC OF HEMPSTEAD FEBRUARY 17TH





# Sunshine Column

## MARCH BIRTHDAY LIST - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Wayne Hall  
Kamla Rose  
George Knight  
James Greene  
Maxine Knight  
Paul Ross  
Kimberly Johnson  
Beatrice Nwatu  
Jade Page  
Linda Gomes  
Charlene Brown  
Glenston Buckner  
Sheila Smith  
Janice LaLumia  
Cherie Brown  
Nadine Samuels  
Errol Foo

March 2nd  
March 5th  
March 8th  
March 9th  
March 11th  
March 12th  
March 13th  
March 14th  
March 14th  
March 15th  
March 17th  
March 19th  
March 20th  
March 20th  
March 23rd  
March 31st  
March 31st



*If your name is not on the list, please contact Mary Johnson, Karen Bonnet, or Lavern Thompson in the Church office.*

### PARISH NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please submit all information (articles, announcements, photos) about events, committee/ministries news, and other information that you can share with our church family to: [hempsteadumc@gmail.com](mailto:hempsteadumc@gmail.com), or drop them off in the church office by March 14th.

The next *Parish News* will be distributed by the last week of March.

If you are new to the church and wish to become a member, please see Pastor.

### CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday: 8:30 AM Bible Study  
9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 AM Morning Worship  
(Social Hour to Follow)  
After service, Sounds of Praise Choir Rehearsal  
(5-11 years old)

Sunday: Service in Spanish, 12:30 PM  
Thursday: 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal  
Friday: 8:00 PM Youth Fellowship  
(Alternate Fridays)



# March Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Lenten Supper, 7 pm	3	4	5
6 One Great Hour of Sharing  International Women's Day  Bible Study, 8:30 am	7	8	9 Lenten Supper, 7 pm	10	11	12 UMW Continental Breakfast, 10 am
13 Bible Study, 8:30 am	14	15	16 Lenten Supper, 7 pm	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day 	18	19 Trustees meeting, 9 am  Easter Egg Hunt, 12 Noon
20 Palm Sunday Bible Study, 8:30 am	21	22	23	24 Maundy Thursday Service, 7:30 pm	25 Good Friday Service, 12 Noon	26 Hempstead Fellowship Brunch, 11 am
27 Easter Sunrise Service, 7 am  Easter Service with communion, 10 am	28 Church Council, 7:30 pm	29	30	31		

**alleluia!**  
*Christ has Risen!*



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## CHURCH NEWS

### HEMPSTEAD FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH

**R**uth Robinson is grateful for the volunteers who assisted this past year with the Hempstead Fellowship Brunch, held on the fourth Saturday of each month.

"As we are in the beginning of a new year, I am positive that the caring, cooperation, and fellowship that we experienced will continue in this new year. God bless you all and keep you in His loving care," said Ruth.

**Donations of costume jewelry are needed for the Spring Rummage sale - if you are no longer using some of your pretty earrings, bracelets, pins, and necklaces, please consider bringing them into the church to be sold at Rummage Sale on May 7th. It will make others less fortunate very happy!**



Pictured above (L-R): Janice Wellington, reading her poetry at the Black History worship celebration on February 21, 2016.

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING IS ON MARCH 6

**W**hen disaster strikes around the globe—Haiti's 2010 earthquake or Typhoon Haiyan in 2013—so many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), is prepared to act. Since 1940, when UMCOR's forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we've continued to respond to those in desperate need—throughout more than eighty countries around the world today.

The administration cost for UMCOR is paid by the United Methodist Church, therefore, 100% of all donations go for relief. **Please be generous on March 6th for those most in need. Thank you.**

