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United Methodist Church of Parsippany

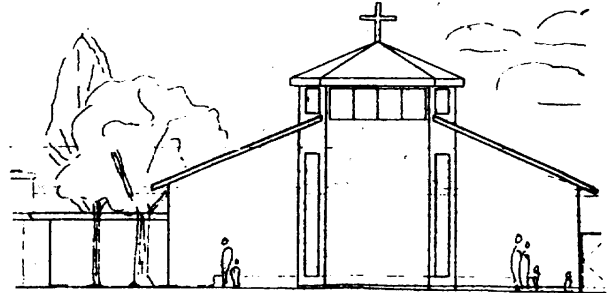
903 So. Beverwyck Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054 (973) 887-4657

<http://www.parsippanyumc.org> E-Mail: pastormarissavdv@gmail.com

Sunday Worship Celebration: 10:00 a.m.

In a hostile, hurting world we reach out to share kindness and laughter. Our spirituality is based on Jesus and his love and compassion. We provide a community of support and healing where all are welcomed and valued regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, disability, gender, or economic status. In a world where people feel they can love only those who are like themselves, we seek to celebrate the uniqueness of every human being.

"Making Room in the Circle"



MARCH, 2024

From the

Greetings!



I recently attended a meeting where the first item on the agenda was an opening prayer. The meeting was on Zoom and there were some problems with the passcode that the leader had sent out for the meeting. After many texts and emails from the people at the meeting, everything was squared away and we started the meeting about 15 minutes late. The leader started in on the business of the meeting. About half way through the meeting, someone pointed out that we had skipped the opening prayer.

There were some jokes made as most of the attendees were pastors or people involved in the church and then one of the attendees said, "Well this is more of a church business type of meeting. Did we really need to open with a prayer?".

His question made me think about prayer, not just individual prayer, but also how we pray communally. Prayer is a spiritual way to open ourselves up to God. In this openness, we become instruments for God to move through us and within us. Sometimes it is hard to get out of our own way. Individually we may wonder if we are praying in the "right way" and communally we may be hesitant praying in front of others. In this season of Lent, how are you allowing the Spirit to work through you? How are you allowing God to break down the walls and move within you?

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Marissa

pastormarissavdv@gmail.com



Children and Youth Event

Calling all children and youth! Join us on **Sunday, March 3rd, from 6-7:30pm** for an exciting youth and children's event. Get ready to unleash your creativity as we come together to construct a **labyrinth**, weaving pathways of wonder and imagination. Before our labyrinth adventure, we'll have a **pizza dinner**.

It's an evening filled with fun, creativity, and pizza and you won't want to miss it! Mark your calendars and join us for a memorable experience on March 3rd.

Have Questions? Please contact our Youth Leader Aimee Letsch or Pastor Marissa

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Mission Team Update –

Lenten Mission Project

The Mission Team is inviting you to participate in a Lenten Mission Project! We will be collecting cleaning supplies to make a **“Cleaning Bucket”** for the Women's Campus of Homeless Solutions. How can you help? Check out our Amazon Wish List in the weekly blast.

Here is the list of items we need:

- Dishwasher Pods (16-42 packs)
- Windex Wipes
- Dish Cloths
- Hand Soap
- Roll of Paper Towels
- Dishwashing Liquid (up to 38oz bottles)
- All Purpose Cleaning Spray (around 28oz bottles)
- Sponges
- Wash Machine Detergent Pods (16 count or less)
- 2.5 Gallon Mop Bucket



Our goal is to **make 30 cleaning buckets** during our **Maundy Thursday service** on Thursday March 28th at 7pm. There will be a donation bin in the Narthex for your donations. If you would like to make a monetary donation, that would be great. All donations will be used to purchase supplies for the buckets. Have questions? Please contact our Mission Team Leaders Connie Wallace or Laurie Wilken.



Parsippany Emergency Food Pantry – Laurie Wilken is now delivering our donations to the Emergency Food Pantry in Parsippany. You can bring your donations of non-perishable food items to the church any Sunday. Laurie takes the food over as the bin gets filled up. Supermarket gift cards are also welcome. This is a very easy way to give back to the less fortunate in our own township.



Looking back... There was no meeting in February due to illness, but this month we will be playing games, make that board games! **Please contact me if you would like more information and you are currently not a member of United Women of Faith.**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6TH – 7 P.M.
Game Night!
 We will have a short business meeting and then we play games. Zoom will be available for the business meeting only.
[Click here for zoom link](#)

March 10 – Daylight Savings Time Begins	March 24 – Palm Sunday
March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day	March 28 – Maundy Thursday
March 19 – Spring Begins	March 29 – Good Friday
	March 31 – Easter Sunday

GET WELL wishes to those of you who are ill, and
 HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those of you celebrating this month with Angela Nolan and Karen Wilk.

God Bless,
 Betsy Adams betsyadams@live.com

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Maundy Thursday

Step into the sacred journey of Maundy Thursday as we gather for a special service infused with reflection, service, and spiritual exploration. We will be assembling cleaning buckets filled with cleaning essentials for Homeless Solutions. In addition to our acts of service, we will also embark on a spiritual journey with the ancient practice of

walking a labyrinth. We will conclude the service with a sharing of communion. Join us on Maundy **Thursday March 28th at 7pm** as we come together in worship, service, and spiritual exploration, embodying the true essence of love, humility, and community. **This service will be in person only.**

Good Friday

Join us for a transformative Good Friday service on **Friday March 29th at 7pm**, where we delve into the depths of this sacred day through the eyes of six diverse perspectives. Through stirring monologues delivered by individuals from various walks of life, we will explore the profound significance of Good Friday in a deeply personal and thought-provoking manner.

Palm Sunday

Join us on Palm Sunday, **Sunday March 24th**, for a unique intergenerational worship experience. As we enter Holy Week, we invite people of all ages to come together and explore the timeless story of Palm Sunday in a vibrant and inclusive setting. Children will have the opportunity to engage in hands-on crafts that illustrate the themes of the day, fostering creativity and spiritual growth. At the heart of our celebration is the theme of the journey, through scripture readings, prayers, and music, we will explore the significance of the journey of faith in our lives. We welcome you to join us as we come together in worship, fellowship, and celebration on this special Palm Sunday. **This service will be in person only.**



Seder Meal

Interfaith Model Seder

Temple Adath Shalom has invited our congregation as well as other houses of worship to an Interfaith Model Seder on **Tuesday April 16 at 7pm**. It is an opportunity to share one of the most beloved rituals of the Jewish year. We will enjoy all the ritual foods: matzah, parsley, salt water, horseradish, hard boiled eggs, etc. In addition to introducing the elements of the seder, it will also give us an opportunity to reflect on the powerful resonances between Passover, Easter, and Muslim traditions. **Please RSVP to Pastor Marissa by April 1st.**

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Trustee Clean-Up Day

Save the date! The trustees will be having a spring clean-up day on **Saturday April 13th at 9am**. Everyone from the church is invited. This will be a time when we can come together and give a little extra love and attention to our church building. Coffee and donuts will be provided. We hope you will join us!

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SAVE THE DATE! OUR **ROAST BEEF DINNER** IS COMING UP ON **APRIL 20!!** The outstanding chefs of PUMC will be cooking and creating their famous Roast Beef dinner on Saturday, April 20 from 4 pm – 7 pm. Mark your calendar now so you reserve the date. There'll be more information in the April Hilltopper.

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Anyone aware of a **Prayer Concern** is invited to contact Doris Bradley at 973-887-3219 who will put the **Prayer Chain** into action. If Doris cannot be reached, please contact Pastor Marissa. If you would like to add your name to the people who receive the prayer chain, please speak to Betty Polen.

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Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Parsippany United Methodist Church, where there's always room in the circle, is invited to speak to Pastor Marissa.

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FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS – If you want to remember or honor a special occasion in your life by putting flowers on the altar, please get in touch with Connie Keller. You are certainly welcome at any time to place flowers on the altar. Contact information: Connie's cell: 973-568-5404; email: connie@mhmlender.com

Church Offerings:

If you are more comfortable attending worship online, or live at a distance, please try to keep your pledge up to date. You can send your pledge to the church. **Please make checks payable to Methodist Church of Parsippany.** The address is:

Parsippany United Methodist Church
903 So. Beverwyck Rd.
Parsippany, NJ 07054
You can also use our PayPal link ---



To make it easier for the Congregation to keep up with their financial pledges to the Church, a **PayPal link has been added to the PUMC Homepage.** If you've never used PayPal before, it's an easy and secure way to send a payment over the Internet. You can use your bank account or a credit card to make your payment, and PayPal takes a small transaction fee. For more information or a quick demonstration on how to use this new tool, please speak with Justin Cogan. You can use this link: <https://www.paypal.me/parsippanyumc>

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CHURCH CALENDAR and SCHEDULING EVENTS

The church calendar on our website www.parsippanyumc.org has been updated. If you want to schedule an event, you need to look at the website calendar to see if the date is available. All requests for use of the church facilities need to be approved by the trustees. Please contact Pastor Marissa for more information

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Zoom Wednesdays at 1:00 pm and Fridays at 12:00 pm

Many people may still feel wary about the risks of visiting shops, church or even leaving our homes. This is especially true if you have a disability or long-term health condition that makes you more vulnerable. Losing face to face contact with people can feel stressful and worrying. That's why on Wednesdays and Fridays we join on Zoom in the hopes that seeing a friendly face can help us feel more connected. On Wednesday, Joanne Rich checks in with those online seeing how people are doing. On Friday, Betsy Adams leads the group with a question of the week to open discussions and maybe find out something new about your church family. We end asking if there are any prayer requests you have. If you are looking to make connection with people, our Wednesday and Friday groups may be ideal for you. **Emails are sent out the day before meetings for you to follow the link.** If you have any questions, please reach out to either Joanne or Betsy.

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Our church website is at ParsippanyUMC.org. You can find all the newsletters, as well as a calendar that gives the times of events held at the church. You can also find a little church history, a listing of all the plays we've produced at the church, and a summary of the various church fellowship and mission groups.

If you aren't presently on **Facebook**, consider joining with a secret identity so you can be a member of the Parsippany United Methodist Church Congregation Group and received day by day prayer concerns and announcements and other postings regarding the life of our church.

FACEBOOK LIVE – Our services are on Facebook Live every week. If you are interested in furthering the ministries of our church by helping out with our Live broadcasts, please reach out to Connie Keller or Darryl Sokolowski.



Parsippany United Methodist Church is now on Instagram. To find us, search - Parsippany_umc

Instagram

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Consider becoming a part of one or more of our Musical Groups here at church:

Bell Choir – rehearses on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining us, please speak to Barb Bradley or Aimee Letsch - or just show up on Thursday and see what happens!

Choir – rehearses Thursdays at 7:45 p.m. We always have an "open robe" for anyone who loves to sing. We sing in 4-part harmony, so if you've sung in your high school chorus or any other equivalent, you have a great start! Speak to any choir member or Barb Bradley if you're interested.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS			
2nd	Evan Nichols	20th	Len Bostwick
5th	Michael Weiss	20th	Alexa Taylor
7th	Ian Crawford	21st	Eric Christiango
7th	Christina Sakelakos	22nd	Jared Gropper
7th	Kristopher Hawkins	22nd	Brianna Laux
9th	Ryan Laux	23rd	Jim Simmons
10th	Anna Gripp	24th	Karen Wilk
10th	Maya Roelofs	24th	Angela Nolan
10th	Daniel Duran	24th	Frances DiPietro
12th	Alex Hawkins	25th	Nancy McAllister
12th	Sue DeJessa	26th	Kate Eiring
12th	Amy Gripp	27th	Amina Thomas
14th	Debra Mortensen	28th	Arlene Sklow
16th	Paul Larsen Sr.	29th	Sarah Roberts
17th	Julia Sklow	29th	Monica Hawkins
17th	Daniel Wallace	31st	Ron Gounaud
18th	Anna Christal		
20th	Andy Klekanos		

March 2024

United Methodist Church of Parsippany

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																	
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