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United Methodist Church of Parsippany

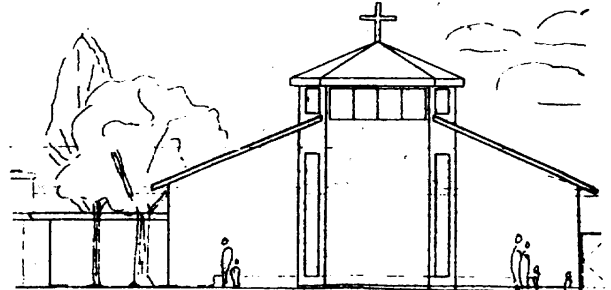
903 So. Beverwyck Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054 (973) 887-4657

<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"



APRIL, 2024



Greetings!

I was in a meeting last week where someone was talking about how glad they were that Holy Week was coming to an end soon. There was a collective head shaking by the people in attendance, most of whom were pastors or leaders in the church. There is a tremendous amount of work that goes into the services and events for Lent and Holy Week.

If you weren't aware of how much work goes into Lent and Holy week, ask our Sunday School teachers who had meaningful Lent activities for the kids week after week, ask the chancel choir how many times they practiced the anthems and hymns they so brilliantly sung, ask Barb (our music director) how many times she came in to practice the brilliant and moving anthems and hymns, ask our Mission Team how long it took to plan and carry out our Maundy Thursday mission project, ask our worship team who always show up on the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter to decorate our sanctuary, ask our Bible Study group who helped stuff the eggs the children will find on Sunday, and ask all the others who help make Holy Week a moving and special week.

I just digressed into gratitude, but in the meeting, someone said something that made us all move into a collective awakening about resurrection. They quoted this from theologian Jurgen Moltmann, 'Believing in the resurrection does not just mean assenting to a dogma and noting a historical fact. It means participating in this creative act of God. Resurrection is not a consoling opium, soothing us with the promise of a better world in the hereafter. It is the energy for a rebirth of this life. The hope doesn't point to another world. It is focused on the redemption of this one'

In the coming weeks, months, and beyond let us show our gratitude and live into what it means to live into a divine rebirth of this life.....bringing hope, peace, joy, and love to our communities and beyond.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Marissa

pastormarissavdv@gmail.com



Holy Humor Sunday April 7th

Join us for "Holy Humor Sunday" on April 7th at 10am! Come as you are, wear a funny hat, bring a church appropriate joke to tell!

Ever wondered about "Holy Humor Sunday"? It's a day dedicated to celebrating the boundless joy of Christ's resurrection! This tradition traces back to some of the earliest Christian theologians who recognized the divine humor in God confounding evil and raising Jesus from the dead. They saw

Easter as "God's ultimate jest against death."

So, what happens on this special Sunday? It's a day filled with laughter, joy, and light-heartedness—a true celebration! People sing, dance, exchange jokes, and revel in the joy of God's love. It's a time to experience the fullness of joy as we worship together.

Join us for our service on April 7th where we'll infuse our worship with a playful spirit and sprinkle in some jokes to enhance the joy of our fellowship. Don't miss out on this opportunity to laugh, celebrate, and worship together!

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Looking back... Last month we had a great time playing games. Thanks to everyone who brought them. **Please contact me if you would like more information and you are not a member of United Women of Faith.**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3rd – 7 P.M.
Dr. Susan Elbin speaks!
We will have a short business meeting and then hear from Dr. Susan Elbin.
April is Citizen Science month and she's used citizen science volunteers in her work at NYC Audubon and is involved with a program in Michigan. We are excited to hear from Dr. Elbin again.
[Click here for zoom link](#)

April 20 – Roast Beef Dinner	April 26 – Arbor Day
April 22 – Earth Day	

GET WELL wishes to those of you who are ill, and
 HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those of you celebrating this month.

God Bless,
 Betsy Adams betsyadams@live.com





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 8th.**

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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 **DUCK 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. Help is needed in the kitchen, serving, setting up and cleaning up. Contact Barb Bradley or Connie Keller if you can help! Prices are: Adults: \$18; Seniors: \$15; Children: \$8. Take out orders are available!!!

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Book of Ruth Bible Study

We will be having a **4-week Bible study** on the book of Ruth **starting on Monday April 22nd**. There will be a **morning session on Zoom at 10am** and an **evening study in person at 7pm**. The study will look at faith, loyalty, bitterness, courage and the steadfast love of God. It has everything you need for a dramatic story including an intelligent, confident, heroine, Ruth. All are invited to come and journey through the Book of Ruth. Please let Pastor Marissa if you would like to attend.

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May 11th – Spring Garage Sale – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you would like a table for the sale, they are \$25 – see Barb Bradley or Connie Keller. If you have some small items to be sold, please bring them to the church on Friday, May 10th and we'll add them to the church tables.

We'll also need bake sale items for that day. Have them there before 9 a.m., if you can. If you can help out during the day, we can use you!

Steve's Café will be open for your lunch pleasure – hot dogs and other

goodies!!

Mission Team Update –

Please contact Laurie Wilken and Connie Wallace if you have ideas for mission projects.



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.

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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

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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>

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.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS			
2 nd	Tracy Booth	14 th	Art Sakelakos
4 th	Cheryl Judge	14 th	Charolette Rose Bryant
6 th	LilyAnn Bryant	15 th	Esther Chun
7 th	Charley Bruxgulis	15 th	Arianna Cintenero
7 th	Vijaya Desari	16 th	Melissa Tribuna
8 th	Gail Lingerman	17 th	Gail Booth
8 th	Annabelle Vance	18 th	John Sedlak
9 th	Carlee Cintenero	20 th	Ruth Davenport
11 th	Lloyd Newberry	23 rd	Bob Krisa
11 th	Margarette Bryant	23 rd	Bob Vance
12 th	Steven Chun	24 th	George Haddad
12 th	Kylie Morgan	27 th	Gina Trezza
13 th	Jon Keller	29 th	Debbie Gantert
13 th	Eddie Abbott		

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES	
13 th	Lynn & Bob Barbarite



April 2024

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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