

TOUCHSTONE / February 2008
The United Methodist Church of Franklin Lakes
454 Pulis Avenue, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417
(201) 891-0022

Rev. Elizabeth Quick, Pastor

Dear Friends,

It is already time for another Lent to begin! This year, Easter falls very early in the year – March 23rd! Since Lent is 40 days long (excluding Sundays), our season of preparation begins early – we begin with Ash Wednesday on February 6th.

What is Lent exactly? Rev. Ken Collins writes, “*Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus’ withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. All churches that have a continuous history extending before AD 1500 observe Lent. The ancient church that wrote, collected, canonized, and propagated the New Testament also observed Lent, believing it to be a commandment from the apostles.*”

Lent, as Collins says, is about soul-searching. What is God calling us to do? How are we responding? We follow Jesus on a journey of sacrificial love. Are we willing to make the journey with Christ, and share in his story?

This year, we’ll be using music from *The Lion King* to help us focus on the Lenten journey. The theme song from *The Lion King* is “The Circle of Life,” which speaks to the life cycle we all experience. This provides a good starting point for our Lenten journey beginning on Ash Wednesday. On this day in particular, we are reminded of our own mortality – we are finite beings – we live and we die. But we also look beyond our own finite endings to the resurrection and new life that Jesus promises, the hope of Easter that we look for at the conclusion of Lent. You’ll be hearing more about our special services during Lent and Holy Week leading up to Easter. I hope you’ll take this time as an opportunity to recommit yourselves to a life of discipleship, and to answer Jesus’ call to take up the cross and follow him.

We’ll begin our season together with an Ash Wednesday Service on February 6th at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. We’ll celebrate communion together, and you’ll receive Ashes in the sign of a cross to represent repentance and reflection as we begin this season. I also invite you to join us **before the service** for a potluck supper, beginning at **6:30pm**. Please bring a dish to pass and table settings for yourself and family. We’ll enjoy a time of food and fellowship and then proceed to the sanctuary for our service. See you there!

Peace,
Rev. Beth

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 3 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Meditation by Rev. Beth

“Abundance: The Good Life” – John 10:1-10

Sacrament of Holy Communion

February 6 Ash Wednesday – 7:30pm

Service of Ashes

Meditation by Rev. Beth

“The Circle of Life” - Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sacrament of Holy Communion

(Child Care Provided)

February 10 First Sunday in Lent

Sermon by Rev. Beth

“Tempted” – Matthew 4:1-11, Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

February 17 Second Sunday in Lent

Sermon by Rev. Beth

“Reborn” – John 3:1-17, Genesis 12:1-4a

February 24 Third Sunday in Lent

Sermon by Rev. Beth

“Forgiven” – John 4:5-42, Exodus 17:1-7

PASTOR’S NOTES

“The Lion King: Circle of Life” for Lent

For the season of Lent this year, we will be using the movie/musical *The Lion King* to deepen our experience as we journey with Jesus to the cross. *The Lion King* is the story of Simba, a young Lion trying to find his way after the sacrificial loss of his father. Each week, we’ll hear music from the movie/musical, and tie it in to our regular lectionary texts as we explore themes like temptation, forgiveness, redemption, rebirth, and resurrection. We hope using this music will be a way to connect with a broad segment of the congregation as we embark on the Lenten path together.

Ash Wednesday Service and Potluck Supper – February 6

February 6th is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent. We will hold a Service of Repentance and Renewal at 7:30 p.m. We celebrate Holy Communion, and share in the service of imposition of ashes. Nursery and child care will be provided. You’re invited to join in a **potluck supper at 6:30pm** before the worship service. Bring your table settings for you and your family and a dish to pass, and come join in a time of fellowship before our service.

Weekly Lenten Communion Service/Study

This year during Lent, we’ll have a short communion service/study time each Wednesday evening. Beginning at 6pm on the **13th of February** and continuing through Holy Week, this 30-minute service will focus on what communion is and why/how we celebrate communion. Stay for another 30 minutes following the service and enjoy a bowl of soup, a piece of bread, and some fellowship time.

Oversight Responsibilities for 2008

With the start of a new church year, we want to share with you a slightly new version of who is overseeing which committees for the year. With a new Vice Ad Council Chair, there are some changes this year.

Pastor – Rev. Beth

Administrative Council, Committee on Lay Leadership, Nurture Committee, Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Worship Committee,

Assistant Lay Leader – Brian Pobanz

Church and Community Spirit Team, Outreach Committee, Music Committee

Administrative Council Chair – David Murray

Finance Committee, Board of Trustees, Building Utilization Committee, Parsonage Committee

Administrative Council Vice-Chair – Rose Peligri

Education Committee, Memorials Committee, Stewardship Committee, Youth Council

Please keep us all in your prayers as we seek to do God's work together!

February Bible Verse of the Month – Mark 8:34b

“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Our church’s Staff-Parish Relations Committee is responsible for maintaining good communication between our staff and our congregation, as well as support and encourage the growth and development of our staff. If anyone has compliments or concerns regarding a member of our staff, simply speak to a member of the committee. This year’s committee members are: Craig Gipple (Chair), Jack Willer, Michele Margherita, Engelen de Vries, Dennis Senglaub, and Pat Andrews. May God bless this ministry we share together.

Spiritual Push Study Programs ~ Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

At Franklin Lakes UMC (FLUMC), we believe that Christian Education is important for people of all ages and backgrounds. Adults need to challenge themselves, grow in faith, and seek a path of discipleship. We offer different options for different needs. We run two adult programs on **Sunday mornings at 9:30am**: a Bible Class, focusing on different themes from the scriptures, and a Forum Class, focusing on current issues. We also offer occasional evening classes and even an online option for study. You are welcome to come for one class or join for a whole series. Come just for Church School or stay for worship at **10:30am**. Come on your own, or bring your children to our **Church School**, with options for Pre-K through Senior High School. Call or email if you have questions or concerns. We hope you'll join us!

BIBLE CLASS

1/6 - 2/3 ✦ The Gospel of John

Rev. Matt Labriola, a United Methodist clergyman, will teach a course on the Gospel of John.

2/10 - 3/9 ✦ Sleeping with

Bread Rev. Karen Puckett, Assistant Director of Admissions at Drew Theological School, will teach *Sleeping with Bread*. This course explores how to figure out what God is calling you to do, and how to respond to God's call.

3/16 - 4/20 ✦ The Way of Christ

Rev. Penny Gadzini, a pastoral psychotherapist and United Methodist clergywoman, on staff at the Creative Living Counseling Center, will teach *Companions in Christ*, a program of the Upper Room, a small-group study in discipleship and spiritual practices in the Way of Christ.

5/4 - 6/22 ✦ Revelation: The End of the World as We Know It?

Rev. Beth, pastor at FLUMC, will teach a bible study on the book of Revelation. What does Revelation mean? Is it about the end of the world? Are their codes for us in this book? How do people of faith interpret and use the Book of Revelation?

Coming This Summer: Rev. Beth will lead a short summer study on a topic to be determined. Sundays. Keep growing and learning all year round!

FORUM CLASS

1/27 - 2/10 ✦ Faith and

Finances Rev. Dick Sharber and the staff of Dream House Financial LLC will lead a course on finances with a

spiritual perspective: 1/27 - "My House, Christ's Home," 2/3 - "Making Sense of the Mortgage Mess," and 2/10 - "Moving Forward in Reverse (home equity conversion mortgage)."

2/10 - 2/24 ✦ Faith and Stress

Rev. Dave Pierson, a United Methodist clergyman, will answer: "What Does Our Faith Teach Us About Dealing with Stress?" The course will focus on three areas of life: meaning, intimacy, and identity. Develop stress coping skills.

3/2 - 4/20 ✦ UMC 101: General Conference Edition

Rev. Beth, pastor at FLUMC, will teach a course about the basics of the United Methodist denomination, with a special emphasis on the upcoming General Conference. General Conference is the meeting of the global United Methodist Church, which gathers every four years to set the policies and positions of the denomination.

4/27 - 6/22 ✦ TBA

upcoming or recently preached sermons. Website: <http://sermonquestions.blogspot.com>

2/13 - 3/19 ✦ Worship and Study

During the season of Lent, Rev. Beth, pastor at FLUMC, will lead a brief communion service with a study component: What is communion? Why do we take communion? Come and prepare heart and soul for the Easter celebration. Wednesdays at 6pm.

4/6 - 6/29 ✦ Book Study: The Secret Message of Jesus

Looking for an evening class? This April, Rev. Beth, pastor at FLUMC, will lead a group book study on Brian McLaren's *The Secret Message of Jesus*. From the book: "Could it be that the church has misunderstood or, in some cases, intentionally distorted Jesus' core message? What if Jesus was right - but right in different ways than we realized?" Come and discuss! Sunday Evenings at 6pm.

OTHER ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

ONGOING ✦ Online Bible Study

Rev. Beth, pastor at FLUMC, "teaches" an online Bible Study. This study focuses on the scriptures that are used in worship each week. The study takes a blog (short for *weblog*) format, and participants can read Rev. Beth's sermon thoughts, comment on passages, and ask questions about

Adult Monthly Bible Study ~ 3RD Wednesday

The Adult Bible Class meets in the Ungemah Room at 10:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. Rev. Matthew Labriola is our class leader. New members are cordially invited to join at anytime. Over the past few years the Bible Class has studied most of the books of the Bible. We are studying a new series on "Jesus and Peter." Our March and April class will study the life of Susanna Wesley. Please join us~!

Education Hour ~ Children's Sunday Morning Schedule

9:30-9:40 Children's singing time.
9:40-10:25 Church School Classes for ages 5 through high school; Live B.I.G. curriculum.
9:30-11:45 Nursery – Rosa Carney will be in the nursery with children under age 5.
10:30 During Worship Hour ~ Children are invited to join Rev. Beth for her children's sermon.
10:45 Video time, after the children's sermon, during Worship Hour.
11:30 Social Hour with refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

Online Bible/Sermon Study

Rev. Beth has launched a blog (short for weblog) site for conversation, questions, and comments about the scriptures and sermons in our morning worship. Visit the website during the week to see what scripture text will be studied in worship. Ask questions and make comments. Stop in again after each Sunday to reflect on what you heard in worship. If you aren't able to make one of our adult education classes on Sunday mornings, this is a perfect way for you to make time for your spiritual growth. All are invited to participate. The blog address is: <http://sermonquestions.blogspot.com> – the site will also be linked from our FLUMC website.

CONCERT SERIES

Saturday, March 8th at 7:00pm ~ "Heaven on Broadway" Our free concert series will continue with Heaven on Broadway. Heaven on Broadway is a fun, exciting and poignant musical revue comprised of Broadway songs focused on "divinely inspired" thoughts and hopeful messages. Containing more than 25 songs, the production pulls together a wonderful array of spiritual, moving, touching and inspiring musical numbers plus a few comedic and "slightly irreverent" songs as well!

The show features the music of some of the best composers and lyricists of the 20th century, which include Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II, John Kander and Fred Ebb, Jerry Herman, Jule Styne, Stephen Schwartz, among others!

Some songs performed in the revue include: "Get Me to the Church on Time" from *My Fair Lady*, "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat" from *Guys and Dolls*, "Do You Love Me?" from *Fiddler on the Roof*, "Put on Your Sunday Clothes" from *Hello, Dolly!* and "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" from *The Sound of Music*.

This is an energetic, exciting, enjoyable and "intermission-less" night of music...not to be missed!

All concerts are FREE. FREE CHILD CARE is also provided at all concerts. For further questions, please contact Russell Wagoner @ NYMaestro@aol.com or at 845-624-0098.

OTHER NOTES

Financial Thank You

The Finance Committee would like to thank the congregation for their financial support. We had a very long way to go in the last quarter, but we experienced a miracle as we collected more than we ever have. By your contributions and the grace of God, we were able to meet almost all our goals this year, including 90% of our Conference Apportionments and Missions. Thank you for your confidence in and support of our church, and may God continue to bless our ministry together.

Thank Offerings

Are you thankful? Each of us has been richly blessed by God in many ways. As an expression of our gratitude, all of us are encouraged to return thanks and praise to God. On occasion, events or occasions come along for which we are additionally grateful to God. One way we can express our thanks is by making a "Thank Offering." We now have special offering envelopes for this purpose, which can be found in the narthex. Write what you are thankful for on the envelope, enclose a thank you gift, and put it in the offering plate. May our hearts continue to be touched by the grace and love of our wondrous God.

Updating Our Records

As we do at the beginning of each year, we are updating our church records. We would appreciate it if everyone would check the "Church Directory 2007" and contact the Church Office if there is any information that needs updating: changes of address or phone numbers, children's information, and email addresses in the back of the directory. The directory is used solely for the internal ministry of the church. You do have the right to not have your information published. If so, please contact the Church Office. This information is an important part of our ability to be family and community together and we are grateful for your help in updating the information.

Outreach/Missions Report

A big thank you to everyone who supported the outreach projects during the month of December. Through the CUMAC WISH LIST, FLUMC donated gifts for 50 needy children this Christmas. We also collected many hats, gloves and scarves for CUMAC families.

The Alternative Gift Giving program brought in donations of \$455 this Christmas. Donations went to the following charities: \$250 to HEIFER International, \$150 to CUMAC, \$35 to RISE, and \$20 to Equal Exchange.

This Christmas season at coffee hour, the Outreach Committee had Equal Exchange products available for sale. We sold the Equal Exchange coffee, tea, chocolate, cocoa, pecans, and almonds. Equal Exchange is a fair trade organization supporting small-scale coffee and cocoa farmers in developing countries. They promote a fair trade system that pays farmers a fair price for their crop, enabling farming families to improve their living conditions.

In our first year of supporting Equal Exchange, FLUMC purchases totaled \$272! Thanks to everyone who supported this mission, thus enabling these farmers to improve their lives! Their website is www.equalexchange.com if you would like to learn more about them, or to continue purchasing their coffee, tea and chocolate! ~ Jill Webb, Chair.

2008 SANCTUARY FLOWER CALENDAR

The Flower Calendar for 2008 has been posted on the church bulletin board. Sign up now to reserve special Sundays throughout the year when you would like to have flowers on the altar. The cost of the floral arrangements is \$25.00 and can be paid by check made out to FLUMC.

ENTRIX News!

Entrix meets every Sunday evening from 7-9 pm at Westwood United Methodist Church. All young single young adults (18-35) are welcome! An area UM pastor is always present to lead a discussion about whatever is on the mind of those who've come – issues of life, of faith, of national or global events, etc. Visit the website (www.entrixsingles.org) for more information.

INVITATION TO PHOTO SHOW

Rev. David Pierson invites the congregation to a show featuring his photography. February 3rd to March 6th Rev. Pierson will exhibit "People and Places I Have Enjoyed" at Farleigh Dickinson University Weiner Library Auditorium.

**Next
Touchstone
Deadline:
Sunday, February 10th**

Vital Statistics as of 1/21/06

**Please
Remember Your Church
In Your Will**

Accolades!

Our sincere thanks go out to these folks this month:

- The Congregation, for helping with our de-decorating party.
- Russell Wagoner, the choir, and friends, for a wonderful Epiphany-day Cantata!
- Rev. Matt, for preaching for Rev. Beth during her vacation, and for providing pastoral care coverage for her.
- Faron Webb and the Finance Committee, for leading us in our efforts to meet our budget for 2007!
- Our New Leaders, for joining and taking on new responsibilities on our various committees.
- Don and Ron Meyers, for plowing our parking lot when it snows!
- The Congregation, for donating \$455 to missions through the Alternative Gift Giving program and \$272 through purchases of Equal Exchange fairly traded items!

A hearty thank you to these and all of those who do so much for our church!! If you ever have suggestions for "Accolades," just call the church office!

PRAYER LIST
Church Family

Susan Cheetham – At home
Gloria Doka – At home
Ken Doka – At home
Chuck Ford – At home
Margaret Gipple – At home
Harry Mitlitsky – At home
Terri Mitlitsky- At home
Elizabeth Murray – At home
Amanda Ribustello–At home
Virginia Smith – At home
Caroline Stires – At home
Mabel Ann Watkins–At home
Linda Winters - At home

CHURCH FRIENDS

Jennifer Amador – Sara Jane Manfredi's daughter
Dick Carlson – Pam Teevan's father
Maxine Barnick – Jean McLennan's grandmother
Max Cruger – Gerald Lynch's relative
Ruth Bellinfante – Rosa Carney's grandmother
Angela Davies – Jane TerLouw's friend
Eleanor Carlson – Richard Koons's grandmother
Jack Elwood – Hartwells' friend
Robert Carney, Sr. – Rosa Carney's grandfather
Claire Hollam – Linda Winters's sister
Elaine Doka – Gloria Doka's daughter-in-law
Alfons Joos – Gloria Doka's friend
Nellie Hopper – Eliza Winters's sister-in-law
Jane Knight – Sue Senglaub's cousin
Kathy Lockwood – Jane TerLouw's friend
Marie Koons – Richard Koons's mother
Michael Mania – Diane Ribustello's friend
Jack Manganini – Mike Manganini's uncle
Jim McFaul – Dot McFaul's son
Cheryl McMann – Pam Teevan's friend
Cheryl Morrissey – Diane Ribustello's friend
Frank Napolitano – Joanne Jones's father
Josephine Napolitano – Joanne Jones's mother
Carter Peligri – Rose Peligri's nephew
Joyce Pollison – Former member
Marge Ribustello–Diane Ribustello's mother-in-law
Josie Quaye – Autumn Lynch's friend
Debbie Schepp – Evie Meyer's friend
Carol Sgambelluri – Farrands' daughter
Elizabeth Spina – Bruce Spina's mother
Lillian Tanis – former member
Gordon Wagoner–Russell Wagoner's father
Laura Warren – Jane TerLouw's friend
Martha Wagoner – Russell Wagoner's mother
Jay Willer – Jack Willer's son

HOMEBOUND

Nancy Blomquist - Christian Health Care Center
Bill Dollar - at home
Evelyn Hansen - Oakland Care Center
Hank Johnson - at Leeders
Bea Maronpot - at home
Nick Meyers - at home
Aleida Patterson - Catskill, NY
Carol Pitts - Warsaw, VA
Gertrude Wasmund - Lehigh (PA) Commons
Ellen Wilgus - Oakland Care Center

Upcoming FLUMC Events
(subject to change and revisions)

FEBRUARY

6 Ash Wednesday Service (7:30) and Pot Luck Supper (6:30)
10 First Sunday in Lent
13 Weekly Lenten Communion Service/Study & Soup Supper (6:00)
20 “ “ “ “
27 “ “ “ “

MARCH

5 Weekly Lenten Communion Service/Study & Soup Supper (6:00)
8 Concert Series (7:00) ~ “Heaven on Broadway”
12 Weekly Lenten Communion Service/Study & Soup Supper (6:00)
19 “ “ “ “
16 Palm Sunday
21 Good Friday
23 Easter Sunday