

TOUCHSTONE / March 2008

**The United Methodist Church
of Franklin Lakes**

**454 Pulis Ave.
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417
(201) 891-0022**

Rev. Elizabeth Quick, Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

I'm writing this letter on a snowy, cold, windy evening, and it is hard to believe that by the end of the month we'll be celebrating Easter, celebrating new life and resurrection. But surely, Easter is coming. Right now, we're in the midst of the journey of Lent. We're in the midst of winter, and sometimes it is hard to see the hope of resurrection and life when we're surrounded by things cold and gray.

I imagine that the disciples following Jesus had a hard time clinging to hope as they watch Jesus travel closer to the cross, literally and figuratively. As Jesus "walked the lonesome valley" to Jerusalem, to his sacrificial death, even he was sometimes overwhelmed with sadness. But Jesus knew that the promise of God is that new life comes in unexpected places – new life comes even when it seems all hope had died.

As surely as we can trust that another spring will come, that the birds will sing, the flowers will bloom, and the sun will shine, we can trust that God can bring new life out of us. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life," and in so saying, he promised that we can have new life – not just life after death – but new life, in Christ, right now, when we accept the unconditional love God offers us and begin to follow where God leads. God wants to bring new life out of you, even when you feel that there is no hope for change and growth in your life. God offers new life to you – how will you respond?

One of my favorite hymns is the Hymn of Promise. It reads:

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

This Lent, as we draw closer to Easter, ask yourself what hope, what new life it is that God sees in you. Jesus is the resurrection and life, for you, for right now, and forever. That's God's Easter promise to us.

Looking toward Spring, *Rev. Beth*

Lent/Easter Happenings at FLUMC

Lent is here! It is time again to begin the season of Lent and our journey with Christ to the cross. This season, we are using the musical, *The Lion King*, to give us a creative focus for our Lenten journey. We'll be focusing on how we journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter, and the passion that is required from us and given to us to make this journey.

Each weekend, join us for our regular service – Sundays at 10:30am, with Christian Education classes for all ages at 9:30am. This Lent, our regular services will focus on the passion and journey of Jesus through music, images, praise, and scriptures. Here are the other special services and events going on this Lenten season:

- **Weekly Communion Services** - during Lent, we will have a weekly **30 minute communion service** and **30 minute soup supper**. We'll enjoy a short service of communion with a 'study' component on what communion means. After our service, stay and enjoy some soup together! The service will run through Holy Week: **March 5th, March 12th, and March 19th**.
- On **Sunday, March 2nd, at 6pm**, we'll have a movie night and watch **The Lion King** together on the big screen in the sanctuary. Come and enjoy this fun time with family and friends of all ages as we take a closer look at the theme of our Lenten journey this year.
- **Palm/Passion Sunday** – On **March 16th**, we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and hear the passion story in dramatic form, at our regular worship time.
- **Maundy Thursday Service** – (**March 20th**) On this day, we celebrate Jesus' last supper with his disciples. We will join for worship at **7:30pm** and celebrate communion together.
- **Good Friday Service (March 21st)** – Our Good Friday service will be a *Tenebrae* service, or a service of shadows, as we remember the day Jesus was crucified. Come and join us for this very special time of worship. **Service at 7:30pm.**
- **Easter Sunday** – At **9am and 11am**, join us for a worship celebration with special music, flowers, and praise! Stay after worship for a time of fellowship. Celebrate the resurrection with us on **March 23rd**.

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 2 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

One Great Hour of Sharing Music from "The Lion King"

Meditation by Rev. Beth

"Lion King: Blinded" – Psalm 23, John 9:1-41

Sacrament of Holy Communion

March 9 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Girl Scout Sunday

Music from "The Lion King"

Sermon by Rev. Beth

"Lion King: Unbound" – Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 11:1-45

Daylight Savings Time Begins!!

March 16 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Music from "The Lion King"

Sermon by Rev. Beth

"Lion King: Adored/Abandoned" – Matthew 21:1-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66

March 20 – Maundy Thursday – 7:30pm

Music from "The Lion King"

Meditation by Rev. Beth

"Lion King: Loved" – 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Sacrament of Holy Communion

March 23 – Good Friday – 7:30pm

Music from "The Lion King"

Sermon by Rev. Beth

"Lion King: Alone" – selected scriptures

Tenebrae Service

March 23 – Easter Sunday – 9am and 11am

Music from "The Lion King"

Sermon by Rev. Beth

"Lion King: Resurrected" – John 20:1-18

March 30 – Second Sunday of Easter

Boy Scout Sunday

Music from the Praise Band and Chancel Choirs

Sermon by Rev. Beth

"After Easter: Doubt" – John 20:19-31

PASTOR'S NOTES

Girl Scout and Boy Scout Sundays

We will mark Girl Scout Sunday at our service on March 9, and Boy Scout Sunday on March 30. We invite all of our Scouts and leaders to wear their uniforms to church those Sunday. The service will include a special time of recognition and blessing for our Scouts, their leaders, and their families.

Daylight Savings Time Begins March 9 – NOTE THE CHANGE!!

One Great Hour of Sharing

We will be collecting the "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering on March 2. This offering is collected each year to aid the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), which responds immediately on our behalf to the victims of disasters and war around the world. Please try to give generously to this special mission ministry.

Communion Class for Children

On Sunday, April 4th, at 12pm, Rev. Beth will teach a short class for young children about communion. This class is open to any child who would like to attend: those who have never

taken communion before, and those who have been taking communion, but who would like to learn a little more.

March Bible Verse of the Month – John 13:35

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

OTHER NOTES

THE LION KING ON BROADWAY ~ We are organizing a trip to see *The Lion King* on Broadway during Lent. The date has been set for Friday, March 14, for an 8:00 p.m. show. The discounted cost of the group tickets is \$91.25 each for orchestra seats. If you have not already signed up for tickets and would like to attend, you may contact Diane Ribustello (201-847-9621) to see if there are any tickets still available. More details will follow.

STUDY PROGRAMS

Spiritual Push Study Programs ~ Sundays at 9:30 am

Sunday Bible Study Classes

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.

BIBLE CLASSES (continued)

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.

SUNDAY FORUM CLASS

3/2 – 4/20 – *UMC 101: General Conference Edition* Rev. Beth 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

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.

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

Adult Monthly Bible Study ~ 3RD Wednesday

The Adult Bible Class meets in the Ungemah Room at 10:00 am 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. Our March and April classes will study the life of Susanna Wesley. Please join us~!

WEEKLY LENTEN COMMUNION SERVICE/STUDY ~ This year during Lent, we'll have a short communion service/study time each Wednesday evening. Beginning at **6:00 pm on February 13** 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.

CONCERT SERIES

Saturday, March 8th at 7:00 pm ~ “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.

ART AUCTION

Friday, April 4, 2008 ~ 7:00 pm ~ SAVE THE DATE!

If you've never attended an auction, this is an excellent opportunity to give it a try. If you have attended auctions, you already know what a pleasant evening you're in for! So please plan to attend and bring a friend, (or two, or three or more!). Tickets will be available soon at Fellowship Hour, or by contacting the church office. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile venture. The proceeds for this year's art auction will go directly to the FLUMC Building Renovation Fund to assist with some costly repairs that are needed.

OTHER NOTES

Our Nurture Committee Thanks you~!

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who visited Chuck Ford each week during the past 5 months. Caring people make all our lives brighter. Thank you Roy and Evie Meyer, Sara Jane Manfredi, Ellie Arnell, Pat Andrews, Ginny Smith, Matt and Sandy Labriola, Jack Willer, Pat Meyers, Anne and George Van Heest, Jill Webb, Engelien de Vries, Rev. Beth, and Jane TerLouw.

You brightened the life of Chuck Ford and I am certain you found your own life brightened during your visits. I know I did. ~ Jane

Emergency Call List

Please help us update our Emergency Call List. We use our Emergency Call List to make church members aware of weather emergencies and also to send word of the death of a church member. We have used it twice in the past several months. If you have had a problem receiving calls, need to change a telephone number, or wish to be removed, please notify Donna in the church office (flumchurch@msn.com or 201-891-0022). Head callers on this list should let Donna know about any problems you have encountered when making your calls. We would like to redo this list in March.

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.

INVITATION TO PHOTO SHOW

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

<p style="text-align: center;">Next <i>Touchstone</i> Deadline: <u>April 10th</u></p>
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**Please
Remember Your Church
In Your Will**

Accolades!

We salute the following folks this month:

- The Youth Group, for organizing and leading our month-long “Soup-er Bowl of Caring” drive and collecting 1,400+ cans of food for CUMAC-ECHO!
- Sandy Labriola, for helping Rev. Beth with the soup preparation for our Wednesday Lenten series.
- Eliza Winters and her helpers, for their help in the luncheon for Chuck Ford’s funeral.
- Rev. Matt Labriola, for leading our Sunday School class on the Gospel of John.
- Richard Koons and Russell Wagoner, for presentation of their “Grateful” concert, for which we are certainly all very grateful!
- Russell Wagoner, for arranging for such wonderful musical guests during Lent.

Our thanks to these and all of those who do so much for our church!

Joys and Concerns

Funeral

Chuck Ford, a 50~year + member of our church passed away on February 9th. A celebration of his life was conducted in our Sanctuary on February 12th. Our prayers go out to his family.

Concerns

- Evie Meyer spent days in Chilton Hospital after falling at home. She is now at Oakland Care Center to regain her strength and receive rehabilitation therapy.
- Pam Teevan was struck by a car in New York City, which resulted in hospitalization and two ankle surgeries. Pam is now recovering at home.
- Jack Schmidt is recovering at home after back surgery.
- Rev. Dave Pierson is recovering at home after surgery.
- Aleida Patterson is in hospice care in Catskill, New York.

Our prayers are with all of these dear friends.

Operation Enduring Freedom

- Our service personnel
- Families who have lost loved ones
- All of those in harms way
- American and world leaders
- Peace on earth

May God bless and keep us all.

Missions and Ministries

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar – our Resident GNJAC Bishop
Rev. Sung Hoon Ahn – our Palisades District Superintendent
Steve and Gail Quigg – our missionaries in mission aviation safety
Rev. Pat Bruger and the Staff of CUMAC-ECHO in Paterson
Maria Benavides and the Staff of CAMP-YDP in Paterson
Rev. Stafford Miller and St. Phillips Ministry in Paterson

PRAYER LIST

CHURCH FAMILY

<i>Susan Cheetham – At home</i>	<i>Gloria Doka – At home</i>	<i>Ken Doka – At home</i>
<i>John Gavin – At home</i>	<i>Margaret Gipple – At home</i>	<i>Michael Manganini–At home</i>
<i>Evie Meyer – Oakland Care</i>	<i>Harry Mitlitsky – At home</i>	<i>Terri Mitlitsky - At home</i>
<i>Mickey Monroe – At home</i>	<i>Woody Mooers – At home</i>	<i>Elizabeth Murray – At home</i>
<i>Amanda Ribustello–At home</i>	<i>Virginia Smith – At home</i>	<i>Caroline Stires – At home</i>
<i>Pam Teevan – At home</i>	<i>Mabel Ann Watkins–At home</i>	<i>Linda Winters - At home</i>

CHURCH FRIENDS

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

HOMEBOUND

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

Upcoming FLUMC Events (subject to change and revisions)

MARCH

02	Movie Night ~ <i>The Lion King</i> (6:00 pm)
05	Weekly Lenten Communion Service/Study & Soup Supper (6:00 pm)
08	Concert Series (7:00 pm) ~ “Heaven on Broadway”

- 09 Girl Scout Sunday
- 12 Weekly Lenten Communion Service/Study & Soup Supper (6:00 pm)
- 14 *THE LION KING* on Broadway
- 19 Weekly Lenten Communion Service/Study & Soup Supper (6:00 pm)
- 16 Palm/Passion Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt
- 21 Good Friday (7:30 pm)
- 20 Maundy Thursday Service (7:30 pm)
- 23 Easter Sunday (9 am & 11 am)
- 30 Boy Scout Sunday

APRIL

- 04 Art Auction (7:00 pm)

<i>MARCH BIRTHDAYS</i>			
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|----|-----------------|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Katie Senglaub | 19 | Christine Andrews |
| 10 | Dale Johnson | | Michael Manganini |
| 11 | Susan Walker | 20 | Bruce Ford |
| 15 | Evelyn Hansen | 22 | Ricki Siska |
| | Linda McLachlan | 23 | Mike Smith |
| 16 | Woody Mooers IV | 26 | Napoleon Valdez |
| | Sarah Teevan | 27 | Paul Nichols |
| 17 | Ellen Wilgus | 31 | Thomas Webb |

<i>MARCH ANNIVERSARIES</i>			
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|----|-------------------------|----|------------------------|
| 9 | Kamal and Sheena Greiss | 12 | Jan and Joe Martorelli |
| 22 | John and Ellen Wood | | |