

TOUCHSTONE / November 2008
**The United Methodist Church
of Franklin Lakes**

**454 Pulis Ave.
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417
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Rev. Elizabeth Quick, Pastor

Dear Friends,

November, like most of our months here at FLUMC, is a very full month. We start with All Saint's Sunday, and before the month's end, we'll celebrate our annual Church Conference, Thanksgiving Sunday and the Banfield Food Drive, United Methodist Student Sunday, the wrap-up of our *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* focus, and the First Sunday of Advent!

At our annual Church Conference on November 9th, we'll be focusing on four themes from the following excerpt:

From Jesus' New Command: Rediscovering the Joy of Fellowship by Bill Kemp

"Developing and maintaining a healthy, loving, Christ-honoring fellowship should be the primary task of every church leader, both clergy and lay. If fellowship fails to occur, nothing else will work in the church for long..."

"Consider also that when a church begins to lose members, the church tends to shift its focus to things other than love. Congregations focused on survival rarely create a nurturing atmosphere for genuine fellowship. It is painful to see once-full pews become empty... Many congregations exacerbate their circumstances by splitting into factions. One group blames the pastor, another blames society, and a third is envious of the modern non-denominational church 'over there.' They are so desperate to preserve old structures and attack contributors that they lack the integrity to be vulnerable, have a healthy corporate identity, or be genuine in their love for each other."

*"One indicator of the rarity of real fellowship in today's church is how ready people are to describe their congregations as "friendly." Jesus was not encouraging friendship when he said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:12-13). Real fellowships are **sacrificially loving, endearingly fun, surprisingly diverse, and intensely committed to their mission.** They are never content to be just friendly. Real fellowships are both intentional about inviting others to join them and serious about their care for each other"*

Brian, our lay leader, and I will be gathering our thoughts about how FLUMC is sacrificially loving, endearingly fun, surprisingly diverse, and intensely committed to our mission. What do you think? What is our fellowship like at FLUMC? Are we just friendly? Or do we go beyond that? Come and be part of our fellowship all month as we worship, service, and live together as disciples in the body of Christ.

Blessings,
Rev. Beth

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – 8:15am

November 2 – Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints' Sunday

Message by Rev. Beth

“Discernment: Elisha and Elijah”

Sacrament of Holy Communion

November 9 – Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Message by Rev. Beth

“Discernment: Samuel”

Sacrament of Holy Communion

November 16 – Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Message by Rev. Beth

“Discernment: Mary”

Sacrament of Holy Communion

November 23 – Reign of Christ Sunday

Thanksgiving Sunday

Message by Rev. Beth

“Discernment: Peter”

Sacrament of Holy Communion

November 30 – First Sunday of Advent

United Methodist Student Day

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Message by Rev. Beth

“Christmas from the Backside”

Sacrament of Holy Communion

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – 10am

November 2 – Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints' Sunday

Meditation by Rev. Beth

“Risk-Taking Mission and Service: Samaritans” Luke 10:25-37, Amos 7:1-8

Remembrance of our Saints

Sacrament of Holy Communion

November 9 – Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Church Conference Sunday

Message by Rev. Beth and Brian Pobanz

November 16 – Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon by Rev. Beth

“Extravagant Generosity: Extravagance,” John 12:1-8, Psalm 126

November 23 – Reign of Christ Sunday

Thanksgiving Sunday

Dedication of Our Food Donations

Sermon by Rev. Beth

“Extravagant Generosity: All Gathered In,” Deuteronomy 8:7-18, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

November 30 – First Sunday of Advent

Lighting of the Advent Candles

United Methodist Student Day

Sermon by Rev. Beth

TBA

PASTOR’S NOTES

All Saints' Sunday - November 2

On the first Sunday in November, All Saints' Sunday, we gather as a church community to remember and give thanks for those saints who have been among us and have gone to be at home in God. We will especially remember those of our church family who have passed away in the last year, and we will celebrate Holy Communion together. I hope you will attend this moving service of remembrance and thanks.

Annual Church Conference – November 9 – BLURB from bulletin

Thanksgiving Sunday - November 23

Thanksgiving Sunday at FLUMC will be a full day! On that Sunday, we will share our bounty by bringing our bags of food for the needy, sing the hymns of the season, and share in lifting thanks to God for our many blessings! We hope you'll plan to share your bounty and to share in this day of thanksgiving!

United Methodist Student Sunday – November 30

The last Sunday of the month is the First Sunday of Advent, but we're also celebrating one of our United Methodist Special Sundays, United Methodist Student Sunday. If you are a college student who will be home for the Thanksgiving break, I would love to have you participate in morning worship. Please contact me at the office or via email to let me know if you are available.

November Bible Verse of the Month – 2 Corinthians 9:6b

“The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

OTHER NOTES

Christmas Decorating Party – November 30

We will be having our annual Christmas Decorating Party after the 10am service again this year on Sunday, November 30. After worship and coffee, we'll have a time of decorating the sanctuary and the shrubs out front, with crafts for the children. We'll enjoy a pizza lunch around

12:30 and then gather for devotions around the sanctuary tree about 1. It is designed to be a time for members of our church family to gather – young and old(er) – for fun and fellowship and to be blessed by the beauty of the Christmas season and the Christ child of Bethlehem. Please mark your calendars and join us for this special event!

STUDY PROGRAMS

(from Adult Ed. Flier)

Info about Rev. Matt's Sunday Class

Info about World Religions Class, Advent Class

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 starting a new series on "Jesus and Peter." During November, this class will explore Luke 22: 31-34; 54-62 and John 21:1-19. Please join us~!

CONCERT SERIES ~ Our 9th Season

Saturday, November 8th, 7 p.m. ~ Piano Concert Blurb

Saturday, December 13th, 7 p.m. ~ Our annual "**Celebration of Christmas**" heralds the opening of the holiday season. This always proves to be a superb way to "get you in the holiday spirit." Carols, handbells, whimsy and merriment abound as we ring in the Christmas season. Celebrate the season in song as we share in the festivities surrounding Christ's birth.

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.

Christmas Cantata

SINGERS!!! YOUNG AND OLD! Come celebrate the season in song as the Chancel Choir presents the annual Christmas cantata. We want you to come and sing! Rehearsals will take place on Thursday evenings from 7:30-8:15 p.m. beginning October 30th. For details, contact Russell Wagoner at NYMaestro@aol.com or 845-624-0098.

OTHER NOTES

Leaf Raking Parties!

We will be having two Leaf Raking Parties at the church: Saturday, November 3 from 10-12 p.m. and Saturday, November 17 from 2-4 p.m., with a rain date of Sunday, November 18 from 12-2. We are inviting Pack 34, Pack 134, Pack 234, Troop 34, our Church Youth Group, our Church School, and our church members to come for an hour or two to help tackle this big job. Bring rakes or blowers and drop cloths to use. Refreshments will be served by the Trustees for all who participate!

Youth Protection Training

Our church Youth Protection Policy is in place to protect our children against abuse and help ensure a positive, caring environment. Each year, new teachers, youth workers, and staff are required to complete the applicable paperwork, have references checked, pass a background check (for lead volunteers), and attend a training program. We appreciate the cooperation of all of our employees, youth advisors, church school teachers and volunteers in this regard. If you were unable to attend the October 14th training program, please contact Sandy Labriola.

Church School and Youth Lead Banfield Thanksgiving Food Drive

On Thanksgiving Sunday, November 18, members of the congregation are asked to bring bags filled with food for a Thanksgiving dinner and place them in the chancel by the altar before the worship service begins.

On the previous two Sundays, November 4 and November 11, the Church School students will pass out grocery bags after the church service to every family. Attached to each bag will be a list of suggested foods and paper products for a Thanksgiving dinner. We suggest that, if possible, you make this a family project with everyone participating.

After the Thanksgiving Sunday worship service, the Youth Group will organize the bags of food and move them into Christian Passageway where the bags will be picked up by CUMAC/ECHO in Paterson, a United Methodist sponsored helping agency. Henry Banfield was one of CUMAC's founding board members and gave endless hours of service to its ministry.

The Church School and Youth look forward to organizing our church's annual Anna and Henry Banfield Thanksgiving Food Drive for those in need.

Thanksgiving Offering for Missions

As in the past, all monies received in the Thanksgiving Offering will go to missions to help others know God's love. It will go to general church mission funds as well as local ones. As you prepare to give thanks this year, know that your offering of gratitude will reach beyond our walls to touch others in God's name!

<u>Regular Reminders</u>			
Church School (all ages)	Every Sunday	9:30	am
Worship Service	Every Sunday	10:30	am
Praise Band Rehearsal	Every Monday	7:45	pm
Handbell Choir Rehearsal	Every Thursday	6:30	pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Every Thursday	7:30	pm
Naomi (Widows) Group	First Tuesday	12	noon
Morning Bible Study	Third Wednesday	10:30	am

Fall Rummage Sale a Success!

The Fall Rummage Sale was a success once again. We raised \$2,200 + for the church's mission and ministry programs through the United Methodist Women. Many items were donated to CUMAC and the American Veterans. We thank everyone for their support, especially Eliza Winters, Alice White, Evie Meyer and all the folks who pitched in. This is an important outreach ministry to our community. Well done!

Invite a Friend to Church!

November and December are terrific months to invite a friend to come to church with you. In the midst of the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, people are more mindful of the place of spirituality in our world and in their lives. They are, then, more receptive to an invitation. Do you have a friend, relative, acquaintance, or neighbor who might be struggling with concerns or

loneliness, or searching for a church or direction in life? Why not invite them to come to church with you to find the comfort, peace, and love of God we share here? Invite them to come and worship with us, to stay for coffee and conversation afterward, and to get to know a bit about our congregation. Maybe they will find a church home and encouragement for their journey among us. The Lord calls us to open our doors and invite others to join in this ministry we share and this is a great time to do so!

Vital Statistics as of 10/22/06

UMYF NEWS

Kathy Haviland has been busy gathering and organizing our young Methodists into an exciting United Methodist Youth Fellowship. This group has many wonderful plans that they are developing for the 2007-2008 church year. Please contact Kathy Haviland if you would like to join this energetic youth group.

ENTRIX News!

Entrix meets every Sunday evening from 7-9 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. Contact Beth LeDuc or visit the website (www.entrixsingles.org) for more information

**Please
Remember Your Church
In Your Will**

Advent Candle Wreaths

One of the traditions of Advent in many churches and homes is the lighting of candles on each of the four Sundays of the season and a fifth one on Christmas Day. This is usually accompanied by reading a scripture, singing a Christmas carol, and sharing a prayer. With the holidays coming upon us, those who do not have an Advent Candle Wreath might like to consider making, buying or ordering one soon. Our United Methodist Bookstore is Cokesbury and they have a wide range to choose from. You can shop for one online at www.cokesbury.com or call them at 1-800-672-1789. May this tradition serve to deepen our observance of Advent.

Boy Scout Christmas Tree Sale!

Our church Boy Scout Troop 34 will begin its annual Christmas Tree Sale on Saturday, November 24 in the church parking lot. They sell Balsam, Fraser Fir, and Douglas Fir trees, as well as roping, grave blankets, and decorated or undecorated wreaths. They will be selling every Saturday (8:30-4:30) and Sunday (12:00-4:30) through Christmas. Please support the Boy Scouts and this ministry of our church to the youth of our community.

Keep Those Cookies Coming!

As always, we welcome your donations of cookies and beverage supplies for Coffee Hour. Simply drop them off in the kitchen before or after church any Sunday!

Audio-Visual System

Every Sunday morning, the audio-visual system crew is on duty to run the projection equipment, to make sure the sound levels in the sanctuary are correct, and to assure that the morning worship is recorded on an audio-cassette. The tape is taken to some of our homebound people and is available to anyone else who would like to listen to the service. I would like to thank all of our volunteers for their help on Sunday mornings.

Coordinator

Lynn Andrews, AV System

Christian A/V Library

The Christian A/V Library is located in the narthex and contains a varied selection of adult and children's DVDs and videos. There is music to be enjoyed, documentaries, cartoon stories, and full-length movies. These can be borrowed, free of charge, by just writing down your name and phone number on the card attached to each selection and leaving it in the card file box. A basket on top of the cabinet is available for returned items. The A/V cabinet is open each Sunday morning before and after the worship service. Take a look the next time you're in the narthex

Welcome to our New Members!

On October 12th, we welcomed four new members into our church family: Amy and Leo Pestano, and Michael and Laura Burgess. Both couples started worshipping with us earlier this year, and we celebrated the baptisms of their sons Jeremy (Amy and Leo's) and Riley (Laura and Michael's) over the summer. Please welcome them into our congregation!

Accolades!

Accolades this month go out to:

- Rose Pelgri and the Youth Group for volunteering for the CUMAC food drive.
- Pat Meyers and The Rummage Sale Crew, for all their hard work on the Fall Rummage Sale!
- Brian Pobanz for coordinating a great Laity Sunday service this year.
- Daphne Mendolia for sharing a message on Laity Sunday.
- Karen Pobanz for bringing our children's sermon on Laity Sunday.
- Lynn Andrews, Bill Teevan, and Anthony Masefield and their helpers for putting on our Fellowship Brunch.
- Jack Willer for escorting Rev. Beth to the Fire Department's Old Timer's Dinner.
- Jill Webb for coordinating our CROP Walkers.
- Donna Mulder and Ginny Smith for their behind-the-scenes work as our communion stewards.