

Day of Pentecost

May 24th, 2015

Acts 2: 1-21

Dear fellow disciples,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ! In few weeks, we will be joining Christians throughout the world to celebrate Day of Pentecost. We like to prepare our sanctuaries with the appropriate decorations considering the liturgical color (red). We prepare a well-coordinated liturgy (hymns, prayers, sermon, etc.) to reflect our theological understandings. All that is good! As we prepare for Day of Pentecost, let us be mindful of God's message to our congregation: We are a Pentecost community. What does that mean? I want to share with you a reflection written by Jacob Juncker entitled, Learning New Languages. Please, read it carefully as we strive to learn what it means to be a Pentecost community.

The disciples were together in one place. We're not quite sure where in Jerusalem they were hiding out, other than it was near a main thoroughfare. It was during the Jewish Feast of Pentecost—celebrating the giving of God's law to Moses on Mt. Sinai. As the disciples were celebrating, something happened. A loud sound from above, like the howling of a fierce wind enveloped them. They saw what appeared to be wisps of fire above each other's heads. And, they felt the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which enabled them to speak in languages they did not understand. In confusion, they left the room and entered the streets of Jerusalem where Jews from all over the world were gathered in celebration of the feast. And, all these outsiders and foreigners were mystified, surprised and amazed that these ordinary people were speaking their native languages.

The disciples were speaking an unfamiliar language to an unfamiliar people who understood with complete familiarity. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were speaking new languages, reaching new people with Good News of Jesus Christ. The Scriptures record that "God brought three thousand people into the community on that day" (Acts 2:41, *Common English Bible*).

At the 2012 General Conference of The United Methodist Church, the gathering of United Methodists from all over the world who decide the missional focus of the denomination, a presentation was made that stated that if the UMC continued to hemorrhage members at its present rate, in 50 years there will be no United Methodist Church in the United States of America (to see this presentation go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAb8OZ1v_lk - the presentation starts around the 30 minute mark). The United Methodist Church is dying. Church decline has become such a part of our culture that we have devised elaborate ministries, programs, even buildings to try and lure people to the church. And, they do, at times, work with marginal success in terms of numbers *and* discipleship. But, on this Pentecost Sunday, I would like to remind all who will listen that the way we grow the church is by learning new languages and engaging people in a familiar tongue.

The story of Pentecost reminds us that it is irresponsible to assume people can speak our jargon ("Christianese"), our Christian language. Pentecost reminds us that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Church can reach all people wherever they might be, whatever language they might speak. The question is: *are we willing to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and learn a new language so that the Good News can be heard (and understood) by all?*

Are we willing to set aside the languages that are familiar to us so that an unfamiliar people might learn the Good News of the Gospel in a way that is familiar?

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Ricardo Ramos-Diaz

LECTIONARY FOR MAY

May 3

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22: 25-31
I John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

May 10

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98
I John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

May 17

Acts 1:15-17,21-26; Psalm 1
I John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

May 24 PENTECOST SUNDAY

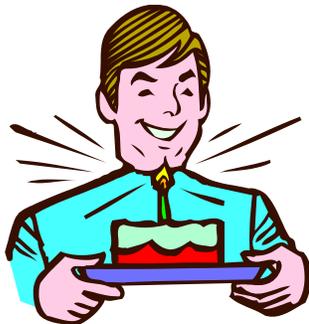
(WEAR RED)

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34,35b
Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27,16:4b-15

May 31 PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUN,

(SPECIAL OFFERING)

Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

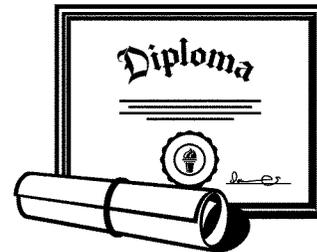


HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY TO:

<i>Kerry Abbott</i>	2
<i>Laurel Hanns</i>	3
<i>Richard Woodfield</i>	4
<i>Irene Modrak</i>	4
<i>Curtis Burns</i>	5
<i>Nancy Martinson</i>	5
<i>Carolyn Franz</i>	7
<i>Joyce Carhart</i>	7
<i>Lorraine Carhart</i>	8

<i>Bridget Crespo</i>	10
<i>Patricia Martinson</i>	16
<i>Ed Burns</i>	18
<i>Richard Brinckmann</i>	20
<i>Evan Schickel</i>	20
<i>Alan G. Woodfield</i>	26
<i>Courtney Martinson</i>	28

If your birthday is not listed, please call Doris Henel, 486-5571, so it can be added to our monthly list.



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Diane Long, Gregg Carhart and Bill Steiniger scholarship is available this year. Because interest rates are low, the scholarship will be less than many years, but whatever amount it is, we are sure it will help. Please speak to Lorraine Carhart, 925-4865, for an application and see that it is turned in to her as soon as possible. It will be presented in June and you will be notified of the date. It is available to any member of our church graduating this year or any previous year. Recipients already receiving the scholarship are welcome to re-apply. The Interfaith Council also will be presenting scholarships. Please speak to Carolyn Franz, 486-3792, for an application and follow the guidelines for submitting it. Good luck!





We were sorry to read of the death of Bob MacPherson, age 86, in the Star Ledger recently. Bob and his wife, Winnie, and their children, Richard and Cathy were active members of our church many years ago.

In fact, Winnie was the church secretary for a number of years and only left when she began working a full time job.

Bob died on Monday, March 23, 2015 at home. The funeral was at Leonard-Lee Funeral Home in Linden on March 25th with interment at the Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

He was a lab technician for quality control for Hanovia Liquid Gold, a division of Engelhard Industries 36 years,

In retirement he enjoyed sports, gardening, tennis and golf.

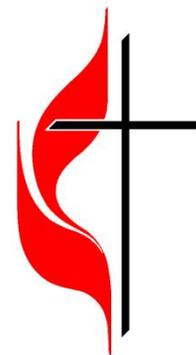
Bob is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Winnie, and loving father of Richard and his wife Lorie, of Cranford, the late Catherine Rodriguez and cherished grandfather of Marlon and Melodie. Although we have not seen the MacPhersons in a number of years, we have many fond memories of their years with us, We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends.

.....
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A reminder that the next Trustee meeting is MONDAY, MAY 4TH AT 7:00 PM. Members are: Bob Losyk (President). Charles Ettel, Carolyn, Franz (Secretary), Gertrude Baldwin, Michael Curtin, Bob Carhart, Jack Valdez, and new member Demola Adeyinka.

The Trustees are in the middle of having many repairs and improvements made to our church buildings. The outside work had to be put off until the spring because of the snow and bitter cold weather during the winter. We look forward to seeing it completed in the near future.

We thank the Board for their commitment and dedication to our church and the many hours they spend taking care of all our church property. We look forward to all members attending the meeting on May 4th.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Because of the terrible winter with so much snow and bitter cold, Tuesday, April 7th, was the first meeting the women had since the lovely Christmas luncheon we had at the home of Kathryn Gmitter. Gertrude Baldwin opened the meeting with a welcome to Heilea Deus Nysenbaum Molay, one of our new members. She is planning a study session this evening (April 7th) and hopes to be able to continue to meet on a regular evening basis. Tentative plans were made to visit Mildred Ebert in her new location, clear the date with her and make sure we have enough cars to transport the women.



For those that did not see our beautiful flowers in the sanctuary for Easter, we are pleased to list those that gave them.

We dedicate the Easter Lilies to the “Glory of God” in Honor or Memory of our loved ones. Thank you for allowing us to enjoy them.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Mary & Dee Dalziel by MaryJane Koslosky & Kathy Curtin

George Koslosky by MaryJane Koslosky & Kathy Curtin

Ken & Norma MacAlpine by Dick & Jeanie MacAlpine

Loved Ones by Gertrude Baldwin

Fred & Randy Gmitter by Kathryn Gmitter

Michael Perona by Megan & Carl Stamer

Loved Ones by Ruth Schulte

Ralph Horsch, Sr. by Vera Horsch & Family

Ralph Horsch, Jr. by Vera Horsch & Family

Loved Ones by the Valdez Family

Victor Peralta & her parents by Ida Peralta & Family

Russell Lyles by Rusty Lyles

Loved Ones by Lorraine & Bob Carhart

IN HONOR OF

Nellie Lyles by Rusty Lyles

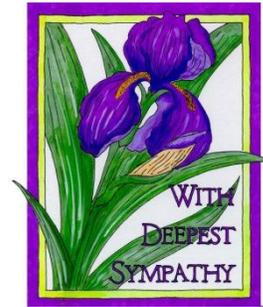
Doris Stamer by Megan & Carl Stamer

Barbara Perona by Megan & Carl Stamer

TULIPS IN MEMORY OF

Arthur & Gladys Mellor by Doris Henel

Loved Ones by Doris Stamer



PLEASE REMEMBER GAY KUJBERDA AS SHE FACED THE DEATH OF A NUMBER OF LOVED ONES

Her grandson, Shane Osada, lost his mother on January 8, 2015 very suddenly. Shane is a junior in Linden High School. Her memorial was held at Kowalski Funeral Home on February 4th.

On February 21, 2015 “the love of her life”, John Karoly passed away suddenly. His memorial was on March 1, 2015 at Joseph J. Pula Funeral Home in Stroudsburg, Pa.

Many of us remember John who came to church with Gay many times in the last years.

John was employed as an engineer at the Johnson Chemical Co. of N. J. for many years.

He is survived by a son, John E. Karoly and his wife, Erica of Stroudsburg, his grandson Greyson and his fiancée, Gay Kulberda of Linden.

Gay’s twin brother Gale Williams passed away on March 5, 2015. He was on life support. His memorial was on March 9th at Brunson’s Funeral Home in Milltown, N. J.

Gay will miss them all so much. She is hoping she can survive with the help of her family and friends and most of all the God she depends on.



THE FOLLOWING POEM WAS SENT TO JOHN KAROLY'S FAMILY BY GAY AND IT HELPED HER COPE WITH THE LOSS OF DEAR ONES.

John E. Karoly
June 1, 1944 – February 21, 2015

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free. I'm following the path that God has chosen for me. I took his hand when I heard him call; I turned my back and left it all I could not stay another day to laugh, to love, to work or play. Tasks left undone must stay that way, I've now found peace at the end of the day. If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joys. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss; Oh yes, these things I too will miss. Be not burdened with times of sorrow. Look for the sunshine of tomorrow. My life's been full, I savored much. Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch. Perhaps my time seems all to brief. Don't lengthen your pain with undue grief. Lift up your heart and peace to thee, God wanted me now – He set me free.

.....
FAREWELL TO OLD FRIENDS!

If you have noticed over the last few months, the calendar in the Messenger has cut a few of the days that the Polish- American Fencing School has been meeting. Unfortunately, the economy has affected the number of students that have been attending the school and now the owners of the school, Janusz Mlynek and his wife have had to cancel the school completely.

They have been renting our gym for a number of years and have been very good tenants and we have become friends. Not only have they left the gym 100% better than it was when they came here, but they treated our church buildings as if they were also their responsibility. They painted our rest rooms and tables, kept the Hall in good condition, put flowers and table clothes on the tables, cleaned Epworth Hall and helped make everything comfortable for those using the room.

They closed the school as of April 1, 2015 and will no longer be meeting and we will miss them after all these years. We wish them good luck in the future and hope they will be able to start the school again and once more be successful and able to use the gym that they turned into such a beautiful room. We thank you both for your consideration of our church property, the financial support you gave us and the friendship we shared. Many of the young people you taught brought honors to you and we were thrilled for you and always put their pictures in our church Messenger. They will miss you, too!

Best wishes to two very nice people. It has been fun!



BUILDING BLOCKS U.M.C. DAY CARE

We are getting closer and closer to the completion of the rooms, purchasing the furniture, and hiring people to run our brand new Day Care. One more signature from the State and it will be official – hopefully in time for this summer. We thank Rev. Ramos, with the help of Judy Burlew of the Reformed Church, who has been a Day Care director and has shared her knowledge with us. This will be a brand new experience for us but one we are looking forward to. Since we are sponsoring the Day Care it will be part of our church program and one we hope we will share together.

We are sure the Day Care, when everything is completed, will have an open house so that all can see the results that have been taking place over the last months.

As we get closer to opening, there will be more information available.

June will be our last Messenger until September and we hope that we will have more definite information for you in June. We will keep you posted!!

BITS AND PIECES

Nancy Steiniger Kielar and her husband, Joe, recently sold their Westfield home and completed building a new home at Pt. Pleasant Beach on the property where they had a summer home that was destroyed by the Sandy hurricane. It is an exciting time for them and we wish them much happiness in their new location.

Ethel Steiniger now has two daughters both living in South Jersey since Carol and husband Jonathon, built a lovely home in Bayhead a few years ago. The daughters now live in the same area but Ethel is an hour away. Please remember to give her a telephone call, 925-0352, and let her know you are thinking of her. Ethel has not been able to take part in church activities or attend church because she has trouble walking. We miss seeing her – she never missed church and she is the member with the longest membership. She joined in 1936, 79 years ago! Longer than some of your ages!

John Henel is arriving in Linden on June 4th to work again his year with his church group from Sebastopol, Ca. on houses destroyed by the Sandy hurricane in Keansburg, N. J.

It was such a wonderful feeling when they did this last year in N. J. and he is looking forward to another rewarding experience from June 7th to 13th. He will be returning to his mother's home on June 13 and that's the day his son, Alec, arrives from Florida after months working in a beautiful hotel as part of a training program to be a chef in his college. John will leave the next day, June 14th to return Alec to school in New York state and then he will fly back home on Tuesday, June 16th. Looking forward to a hectic schedule!

PRAYER LIST

Since no one has given the editor of the Messenger a list of those members or our church, we can only list those that we know would still appreciate prayers for them. Please remember the following:

Dan Ajuka
Ed Burns
Norman Carhart
Lorraine & Bob Carhart
Mildred Ebert
Vera Horsch
Gay Kulberda
Wanda Martinson
Nancy Martinson
Vivienne Merrill
Leona Parker
Janet Pavelinic
Ruth Schulte
Doris Stamer
Ethel Steiniger
Janusz Mlynek & Wife

Some have been ill, some getting better, others have had challenges, some need our thoughts and prayers for events in their life, and some just need to know that we are thinking of them.

If you know something the editor does not know, just let her know (Doris Henel, 486-5571) and she will add to this list.

We recently had a call from a pastor who is looking for a church that his congregation could use once a week. The information has been passed on to Rev. Ramos and the president of the Board of Trustees, Bob Losyk. They will discuss it at their next meeting.

A special "thank you" to Ida Peralta who makes sure we have lovely flowers on our altar each Sunday!

MAY 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>3</p> <p>9:30-Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Sunday School 10:30- Worship Se</p> <p>1</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00 Board of Trustees</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11:30-United Methodist Women 7:30-Faith in Action</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1</p> <p>5:30-8:30 Champion Youth</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p>8</p> <p>5:30-8:30 Champion Youth</p>	<p>2</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:30- Bible Study 7:30-Faith in Action</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:30-CHURCH COUNCIL</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:30-8:30 Champion Youth</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:30-Bible Study 7:30 – Faith in Action</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:30-8:30 Champion Youth</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:30-Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Sunday School 10:30-Worship Ser.</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:30-Bible Study 7:30 – Faith in Action</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:30-8:30 Champion Youth</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service</p>						<p>:</p>