

The Word

GRACE, *mercy* and
PEACE from *God* the Father
and from
Jesus Christ, the Father's Son,
will be with us in
truth and love.

2 John 1:3, NIV



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Ministers Musings

I skipped the fifth grade. Fourth grade was an experimental classroom of some sort and they let me do a lot of work on my own. When they realized that I'd read all the little pamphlets and answered the questions through the end of the series, they didn't know what else to do with me but to send me to sixth grade. My dad was concerned that I wouldn't learn American history, because I would miss the elementary American history unit that we got in fifth grade, so I was supposed to read a lot of history books over the summer before I started sixth grade. I read about the Civil War, the Revolutionary War, the Declaration of Independence, the pioneers moving westward, and the Roaring Twenties. It was a fun assignment. But there were only two black people I remember reading about in all those books I took out of the library that summer. Crispus Attucks was the first man killed in the Boston Massacre in 1770, and a black doctor came to Laura Ingalls Wilder's house when they all had what turned out to be malaria and gave them a dose of quinine. Further research, years later, tells me that man was Dr. George Tann. There have been many other blacks involved in the history of this country, but they weren't mentioned in the books I had available to me as a kid. I appreciate the opportunity to observe Black History Month in February to catch up on some of the stories and connections I missed over the years. I encourage you to brush up on your history this month as well. There are great books you might check out, like Isabel Wilkerson's *The Warmth of Other Suns*, about the Great Migration from the rural South to northern cities. Another great book, *Master Slave Husband Wife* by Ilyon Woo, was named one of the ten best books of 2023 by the *NY Times*. Or choose to watch a movie or two about history you don't know well – *Harriet* (2019), *Amistad* (1997), *Selma* (2014), *Glory* (1989), or *Hidden Figures* (2016). There are excellent kids' books out there, too – *The Story of Ruby Bridges*, by Robert Coles, and biographies of Thurgood Marshall or Ella Fitzgerald. I'm especially charmed by books built on spirituals like *Let It Shine* or *Walk Together, Children*, both by Ashley Bryan. Beautiful books!

In a similar vein, I hope you'll consider being part of the Lenten book study with the Cooperative Parish churches on *Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White People Talk Faithfully About Racism*. It will meet on Monday afternoons at 2 at the Andes United Methodist Church, starting on February 26. I'll be leading it; if you'd like to ride down to Andes with me to participate, give me a call.

Behold, says God, I am doing a new thing. Isaiah 43:19

May you be blessed with new information, or a new perspective, by engaging with Black History month this year.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Cathy

Announcements



We'll install church leadership on Sunday, February 11 during worship. If you're elected at the Annual Meeting to serve in 2024, please plan to be present on the 11th to be installed and recognized.



We'll be intentional about including songs from the Black church tradition in worship during February.

Highlights of January Parish Council

January 15, 2024

Council began with Carol Greene sharing a devotion about the end of one year and welcoming the beginning of a new year.

The minutes of the December meeting were reviewed. A quorum was not present at that meeting, so all the motions made were not valid and were brought forward to this meeting for official approval. Some of these decisions included the approval of the Treasurer's report from November, approval of increasing the Pastor's professional reimbursement to cover additional costs over the 2023 budgeted amount, the approval for baptism of Madison and Olivia Vredenburg and the removal of a phone line and the local phone book listing for a savings of \$1000 a year.

Playschool reported that everything is going well and that they are expecting two additional students in January 2024.

Fran presented the Treasurer's report and the financial report for the year ending 12/31/23 was reviewed. A last draw from investments was not made as the year ended positive for cash flow. New Covenant Investment numbers were discussed as to where we stand going into 2024.

Stephanie presented the 2024 budget with edits from the Finance Committee. It included a lower budgeted income amount being used from investments and added a slight increase to faith giving. The miscellaneous income line was increased to reflect expected and known grant income. The phone expense line was lowered due to Trustees decision to remove a phone line and minimize advertising in the phone book. It was clarified that piano tuning and organ maintenance costs are currently in the same expense line. The Budget for 2024 was voted on and approved by the council.

Gideon reported that he had installed new CO and smoke detectors at the Parsonage and that more wood was delivered. He also fixed the front door handle and light bulbs at church.

Barb Jones reported via email that SPR had completed Documents 1 and 2, approved them and sent them to the DS on 1/12/24. Staff Appreciation Day will be on January 28th and SPR will host the coffee hour.

Pastor Cathy reported that December was a very busy month and that three services on Christmas Eve Sunday was a lot and exhausting for all. She visited Playschool during the week before Christmas. She also reported there was a Blue Christmas service on December 21st with St. Johns and First Baptist Church. Ruth K served cookies and punch afterwards. Our 12/31/23 service was not online but Deb was able to stream the service on 1/7/24 from home when roads were bad due to snow. Pastor Cathy reported about the baptism service on the January 18th which was fun.

Nominating Committee is working on having a slate of nominations for the Annual Meeting. Karen Monk will be meeting with leadership after the Annual Meeting. Pastor Cathy is currently either at the Legion or Diner for Pastor with Coffee. She can't decide the best place to do it but finds good conversation at both locations.

She submitted a Pastor's Pen to the Walton Reporter which was published online. Cathy also reported that the Cooperative Parish encourages churches to do things together that they can't do themselves. They are looking to do a book study about anti-racism and being an anti-racist church. This is currently scheduled for Monday afternoons at 2pm starting February 26th. The title of book is "Anxious to talk About".

Evelyn explained that Pastor Cathy had covered most everything about worship, but she could report that Coffee hours have been going well. There is a Potluck before the Annual Meeting on February 4th. Carol has talked with Charle about setting up for this with Stephanie's assistance. We will need to have some long tables repaired/replaced before this event.

There will be a Food Giveaway on February 3rd. Carol will not be able to be there on the 2nd and 3rd but will have the preparations and food gathering completed and a crew of people in place to do the Giveaway.

Fred stated that he wished he could have an active witness program in place but that he felt our Pastor is doing a wonderful job of this and he supports her fully!

If at any time you have questions, please feel free to talk with me or other council members.

Carol Greene

Annual Meeting, Sunday, February 4th

Immediately Following Worship

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the Annual Meeting! We need you to help make this meeting a valuable and meaningful gathering for discussion, discernment and decision-making!





Annual Meeting & Potluck Lunch *Sunday, February 4*

Lunch in McIntosh Hall immediately following worship. Annual Meeting will begin after lunch. Bring a dish to share!

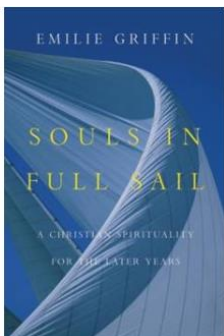
Cooperative Parish Book Study

Bishop Bickerton of the NY Conference of the UMC has declared that we will be an Anti-Racism Conference. The Fields and Forests Cooperative Parish of the local United Methodist churches will offer a study group to talk about actively living as an anti-racist. We will gather on Mondays in Lent (and a few more weeks) at the Andes United Methodist Church at 2 pm. The discussion will be grounded in a book called *Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White People Talk Faithfully About Racism*. The book is available from many booksellers online, or our local bookstore would probably order it for you. We'll begin meeting on Monday, February 26, and participants are asked to read the introductory material and the first chapter by the first meeting. Pastor Cathy will be one of the leaders of the study group.

Book Study

The Thursday morning Book Study will continue together with *Souls in Full Sail: A Christian Spirituality for the Later Years*. Anyone is welcome to join us. Pastor Cathy has copies of the book, and it is widely available on line.

The Book Study meets on Thursdays at 10:30 am in the Harder Room.

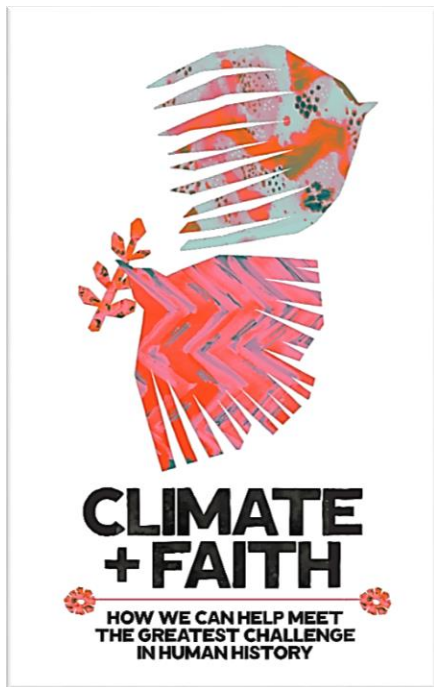


Women's Open Circle

Women's Open Circle will meet on Thursday, February 15th at noon in the Harder Room. Bring your own lunch and beverages and dessert will be provided.



Lenten Devotional



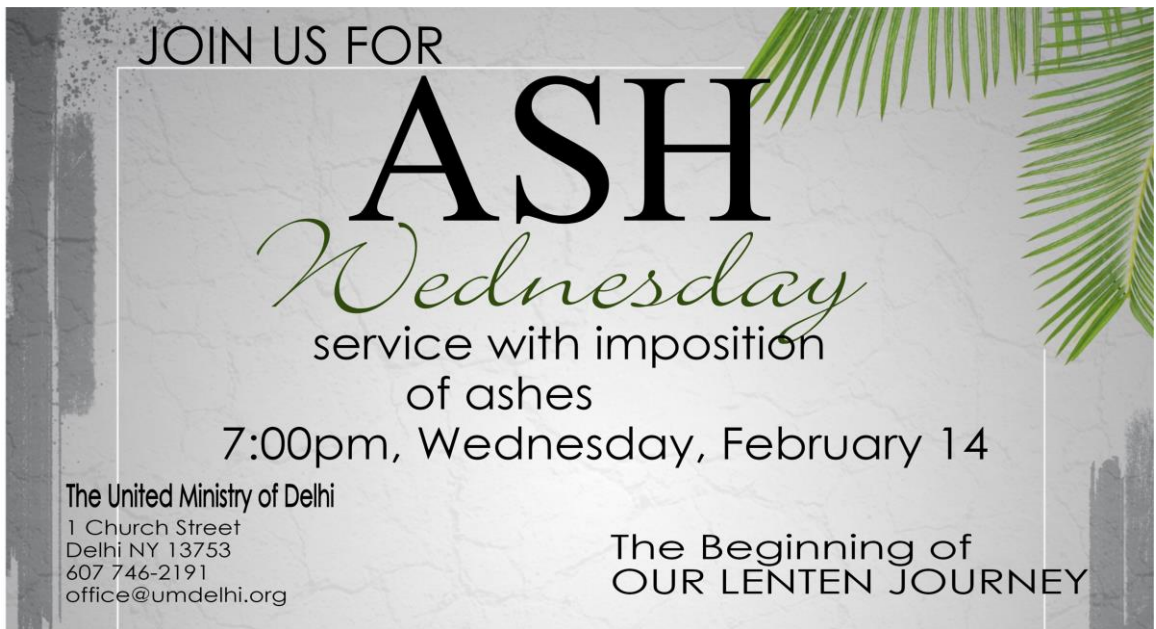
Copies of *Climate & Faith: How We Can Help Meet the Greatest Challenge in Human History* are available on the table in the hallway.

2023 was Earth's hottest year in recorded history. The time has come: God's call to action – to protect and preserve a healthy climate for all – is ringing like a church bell.

To love the world, and put our love into practice. To care for creation, and pass it on to the next generation better than we found it.

This 40-day devotional includes references to classic biblical texts, including the Lenten passages from Year B in the Revised Common Lectionary. It takes a "love-and-act" approach (rather than "doom-and-gloom"), building on our love for our neighbors, near and far, and our love for God, Maker of heaven and earth.

A digital copy is available for download at umdelhi.org/connect/adult-formation in pdf format. A companion pdf document containing a curated list of links to resources is also available on the same page



Play School Update - February 2024

Play School has been having a productive year so far. The children are learning a lot, we continue to stress sharing and manners at playtime, and adapting to change. We welcomed 2 new students in January bringing our total number of students to 9. We just finished up with our winter/ice/snow units and are getting ready to move on to Groundhog Day, I Love..., and Valentine's Day projects, stories, and games. We will welcome Miss. Tasha in for some Valentine projects with the children. On February 14th we will have our class Valentine's Party. We will finish up the month with our Dinosaurs Unit, before we gear up into Spring!

Play School is planning to do our annual bake sale at the St. Patrick's Day parade in March, we are just waiting to secure a location. Please keep a look out for additional information. We are also looking to hang our beautiful banner across Main Street again this spring to help bring in additional students for the 2024-25 school year.

Thank You again to everyone who has donated to Play School and has shared their time and support! This has truly been a blessing for the children's learning, growth and development!! They are so curious to see what we are going to learn about next! It's amazing to see when every thing starts to click and their little faces light up that they "Got It"!!

Happy Valentine's Day and hope the Groundhog doesn't see his shadow!! Can't wait for Spring!! Wishing you all health and happiness in this New Year!

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Savage

Play School Director



Coffee Hour Hosts & Flowers for the Sanctuary



Have you signed up to host Coffee Hour yet? Coffee, tea, lemonade, and paper goods are supplied. Cookies are optional.

Sign up on the sheet on the Bulletin Board or call the church office to pick your date.

Would you like to commemorate a loved one or special event in your life? Garden and wild flowers are always welcome! If you are uncomfortable creating the arrangement, call the office and we can make the arrangement for you.



Coffee Hour

Feb 4 Annual Meeting/Lunch

Feb 11 Cathy & Rick

Feb 18 _____

Feb 25 _____

Flowers

Feb 4 _____

Feb 11 _____

Feb 18 Tom Pandick

Feb 25 _____

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office.



Amanda Green	2/2	Jack Tessier	2/13
Michele Jetter	2/2	Jeff Ackerly	2/14
Michael Griswold	2/2	Gideon Frisbee	2/14
Liz Frisbee	2/3	Lori Tietelbaum	2/22
Fred Onasch	2/8	Pam Guy	2/23
Dawn Jensen	2/10	Patrick Sturdevant	2/23
Chris Savage	2/12	Charis Edwards	2/28

Word and Worship

February 4

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

February 11

Transfiguration Sunday
2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

February 14

Ash Wednesday
Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 18

First Sunday of Lent
Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

February 25

Second Sunday of Lent
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

Lectors

- February 4 -
- February 11 - Rick Edwards
- February 18 - Ruth Kazmierski
- February 25 – Evelyn Jacksto



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On a cold winter morning, Holy Spirit,
enfold me in the warmth of your love.