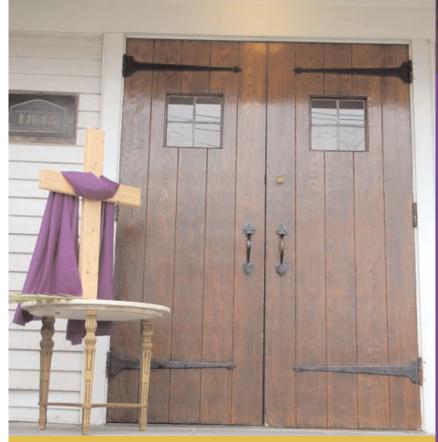
The Lamplighter

APRIL 2010

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, AMITYVILLE, NY

PALM SUNDAY PASSION



church on Palm Sunday, they saw palm strips, a reminder of the masses' greeting Jesus when he entered Jerusalem and the purple-draped cross, a sign of the nearing betrayal and arrest of Jesus.



PALM SUNDAY

J. 09

warm welcome to new members, Darlene Peterson (third from left) and Horace Bassaragh (fourth from left). They are surrounded by family and friends.

Horace has been active for many years in the congregation. He grew up as a Methodist in Jamaica, but had not joined the church.

Darlene lives in the area and transferred her membership from a Lutheran Church.



PASTOR LOUISE

PART I: QUESTIONS ABOUT A LIFE CUT SHORT:

During Holy Week, the last week in the earthly life of Jesus, I have the sense of a life unnecessarily cut short. If we enter this time with a sense of the inevitable death of Jesus, we may mute the role of the participants. We may not consider the separate forces that came together to perpetrate a crime against an innocent man. And we may not consider what in the motives of the major actors sounds all too familiar: fear of losing power; disagreement with tactics and goals; jealousy; discomfort with any kind of conflict. If Jesus had lived another year or more, I wonder how much we could have learned through his teaching, how many people would have had their lives turned around by becoming a follower?

How much did Jesus want to continue living? In the garden doesn't he pray that he won't be killed? He never shied away from speaking truth to and about the powerful, but it was not to bait them. He wasn't looking for a fight!

How hard was it for Jesus not to pull off a good miracle—and save himself? I think there were many other things he could have done, not for himself, but for others. Would it have been wrong for him to slip through the hands of a betrayer and accusers?

What in us is like Peter who became terrified that he would be arrested, so that he categorically denied even knowing Jesus? Could we have stood near the cross, unable to stop an execution, yet at least be willing to associate with the accused?

Søren Kierkegaard, the 19th century Danish Philosopher-Theologian made a distinction between those who admire Christ and those who are followers.

"It is well known that Christ consistently used the expression 'follower.' He never asks for admirers.... No, he calls disciples.... His whole life on earth, from beginning to end, was destined solely to have followers and to make admirers impossible.

"To want to admire instead of to follow Christ is not necessarily an invention by bad people. Admirers are only too willing to serve Christ as long as proper caution is exercised, lest one personally come in contact with danger."

"Now suppose that there is no longer any special danger, as it no doubt is in so many of our Christian countries, bound up with publicly confessing Christ. The difference between following and admiring still remains. Does not the Way–Christ's requirement to die to the world and deny the self–does this not contain enough danger?"

"Admirers never make any true sacrifices. They always play it safe. Though in words they are inexhaustible about how highly they prize Christ, they renounce nothing, will not reconstruct their life, and will not let their life express what it is they supposedly admire. Not so for followers. No, no. Followers aspire with all their strength to be what they admire." Provocations: Spiritual Writings of Kierkegaard, compiled and edited by Charles E. Moore, 2003.

Are we admirers or followers of Christ?

Part 2: Sabbath Grant Awarded & Family Joy

Through the Resource Center for Pastoral Excellence affiliated with Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, I have been granted money for a Sabbath Leave. The most likely time for me to take the Leave is in the fall of 2010.

The mission of the Center is "reconnecting ministers to the spiritual Source of their vocation, replenishing the physical, emotional, and intellectual source for church leadership today". The length of my leave will be ten weeks. I will be working with leaders of the congregation to prepare for a smooth time of my absence. It is a wonderful opportunity for the congregation to hear from some of your own members, as they will lead in worship and other pastors from the area.

Congregations can become understandably concerned about the day-to-day operation of the church as well as times of worship, the core of its communal life. The experience of other congregations is almost unanimously one of pride and a little surprise that things go quite well and the church grows as a result. By the time the pastor returns, refreshed and reinvigorated, there is greater appreciation for the excellence of leadership by the laity. There is also a better understanding of the many roles of a pastor.

I will be sharing more in the next few months about specifics. In the meantime, if you have any questions, feel free to speak with me. I welcome any conversation or concerns that you have.

Before the fall comes, my husband and I will travel along with other family members to California for the California-Pacific Annual Conference in June. It will be a most joyous time, because we will be there for the commissioning of my daughter, Michele. Previously this stage was for ordination as a deacon. In the new terminology, the word is "commissioning". Her call is to work as a chaplain with at-risk youth. Therefore she will ultimately be ordained as a permanent deacon.



By Gene and Barbara La Poma

We care a lot for those less fortunate than us – and we can help by contributing toward the pension fund of poor, destitute Methodist Pastors outside the United States, who have retired.

Please return your Lenten Self-Denial Donation Cups on Easter Sunday, April 4th.

Please scotch tape the lid so the monies don't fall out, and indicate your name thereon.

Thank you for your generous support. Yours in Christ, Gene and Barbara La Poma Co-Chairs

BISHOP PARK SETS GOAL FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 9-12 is the annual meeting of our conference. It will be at Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY. Our two delegates are Bob Silz and Linda Thompson, along with Pastor Louise Stowe-Johns.

The bishop invites persons who have joined the church since 2004 (with their families) and prospective members to a "Parking Lot Festival". It will be on Saturday, June 12, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be activities for all ages. In addition to two outdoor stages with live music, there will be three different tents bursting with things to see, learn, and get engaged in. The tents are: 1: Experience Global Mission; 2: Engage in Advocacy Ministries; 3: Youth and Children in Action.

The goal is to have 5,000 United Methodists attend on that Saturday. Lunch will be served and it is free! But they must have a count of the numbers who will be attending. If you want to attend (even if you haven't joined the church in the last six years), please let Pastor Louise know. They are needing a count of people by the end of April. Consider yourself invited without getting an engraved invitation!

More information on the day and other United Methodist news can be read online in The Vision newsletter by going to www.nyac.com and clicking on the March issue.

COLUMBARIUM TASK FORCE



At the request of the Pastor, a task force has been formed to investigate the feasibility of installing a Columbarium here in First Church. A columbarium is a memorial wall with niches behind an attractive bronze face plate for the storage of cremated remains. An individual brass name plate is placed on each niche for easy identification. New decisions have been made and none will be made until the necessary information can be researched and presented to the congregation.

Historically, the Church has been the final resting place for deceased members and a Columbarium makes this possible for those who find this an appropriate, economical manner to honor their dead. Customarily the niches are sold either prior to need or at the time of need for those who choose to have the cremated remains (cremains) of their loved ones placed in a quiet Chapel-like setting. A Columbarium can be inside or outside.

The Task Force consists of the Pastor, Linda Thompson, Judy Silz, and Wes Powell (chair). It has been charged with gathering information on locations, style, costs, and other details to determine if this is a viable project that will be positively received by you, part of our Church family. Should you have any input, either pro or con, we will be grateful to receive it, as that will assist us in making a proper evaluation concerning the need for a Columbarium in First Church. We will be working to gather the necessary information to make an informed recommendation, when the facts are clear.

Please do not hesitate to speak with one of us, should you have a question or comment as we move forward.

Yours in Christ, Columbarium Task Force



By Barbara La Poma

A REMINDER: Each Sunday we have two or three bouquets beautifying our Chapel at 8:00 A.M and our Sanctuary at 10 A.M.; a minimum of 104 bouquets. The flowers are given in memory of OR in honor of friends, relatives, birthdays, anniversaries, etc., and are listed in the bulletin on a weekly basis. Cost for one bouquet is \$15.

Would you like to participate by signing up for one or more bouquets on the Sunday(s) of your choice? Just call the Church office (631 264 0152) or me (Barbara La Poma – 631 264 0563) and let us know which week, for whom the bouquet is requested, and whether it is to be in memory or in honor of that person. Please also indicate whether you want to take the bouquet home (if you are coming to Church) – or, if you live out of area, we will see that it is given to a shut-in.

The following spots are still open (as of 4/1) for 2010:

4/11 (3); 4/18 (1); 4/25 (2); 5/16 (2); 5/23 (2); 5/30 (2); 6/20 (1); 6/27 (2); 7/4 (2); 7/11 (3); 7/18 (3); 7/25 (2); 8/1 (2); 8/15 (3); 8/29 (1); 9/12 (1); 9/19 (2); 10/3 (3); 10/10 (3); 10/24 (2); 10/31 (2); 11/7 (2); 11/14 (3); 11/21 (3); 12/5 (3); 12/12 (1); 12/19 (1);

Payment (\$15/bouquet) is made by writing a check to First United Methodist Church (indicate flower fund in the memo part) and mailing it either to the Church or directly to me –

BARBARA LA POMA ---

174 Ketcham Avenue, Amityville NY 11701.

OUTREACH UPDATE

By Joan Stern, Chair

Wonderful! Wonderful! All 21 names have been taken from the Easter Giving Tree (16 "ladies" and 15 "guys") leaving the committee with high expectations that the children will once again receive a surprise from the Easter Bunny through the generosity of our parishioners. Ages have ranged from 12 years down to 6 months, and included a "boy-girl" pair of twins. Many requests were for clothing, baskets, etc. It was a joyous occasion when Mrs. Dawson picked up the goodies on Palm Sunday (March 28th). Thank you, thank you, for always responding to our programs as you have done for many, many years.

On another note, Outreach has joined with the UMW in outfitting the bathroom in the newest Habitat Home: everything that a bathroom would require; towels, shower curtain, including necessary cleaning supplies, personal supplies, etc. were delivered to the new home.

Looking ahead, we will once again participate in the Church Worldwide Services Blanket (for Mother's Day) and Tool (for Father's Day) program. Look for the form in this issue.

Once again, thank you so very much for your support.

Heard on the Floor of the United States Congress

After the vote to pass health insurance reform, March 21, 2010:

"... we're proud and also humbled today to act with the support of millions of Americans who recognize the urgency of passing health care reform. And more than 350 organizations, representing Americans of every age, every background, every part of the country, who have endorsed this legislation. Our coalition ranges from the AARP, who said that our legislation 'improves efforts to crack down on fraud and waste in Medicare, strengthening Medicare for today's seniors and future generations." ... To the American Medical Association, the Catholic Health Association, the United Medical — the United Methodist Church, and Voices of America's Children. From A to Z — they are sending a clear message to Members of Congress: Say yes to health care reform."

Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives



Horace Bassaragh completed classes over the past four months to become a member of FUMC. Surrounded by family he took the vows of membership on Palm Sunday. Horace was born and grew up as a Methodist in Jamaica. He is married to Carmen Bassaragh and they have two children, Danielle and Dana. They are in the youth confirmation class.

Darlene Peterson has been attending for over a month and also made a decision to join on Palm Sunday. She comes from a Lutheran Church in the area.

FORMER ASSOCIATE PASTOR PASSES AWAY

The Rev. Evelyn S. Newman was an assistant pastor at FUMC in Amityville in the early 1970s. She passed away on March 9 at the age of 83. She was living in Marietta, Georgia when she died. In a *Newsday* article her daughter, Elizabeth spoke of the difficult path Rev. Newman had in becoming a pastor. She said that when she applied to one seminary, "she was basically told very nicely to go home and take care of your family, be the queen of your household". But she persevered and graduated from New York Theological Seminary in 1970. In addition to FUMC, Amityville she served other churches on Long Island, including Hicksville and Smithtown. She also worked as minister of pastoral care and social services at Riverside Church in New York City. In 1980 she founded a retreat ministry, "Chapel in the Garden" on her property in Setauket.

A memorial service was held for Rev. Newman on March 20 at the Stony Brook Community Church.



By Linda Thompson, Chair

We had another great meeting and all in attendance agreed our recent worship services have shared good messages with us by Pastor Louise. We are excited and hope you are too at the number of youth participating in worship this year: liturgists, ushers, acolytes and of course other members of the congregation.

As we come to the end of our Lenten journey we come to the end of a great Lenten series with Bible study. The Taizé Worship gave us a new opportunity to open ourselves to Christ through the Holy Spirit; it is a time of repetitive songs and silence. Our Bible study based on the lectionary scriptures shared some facts about women in various countries who have come together in Faith to make changes in their own areas for the benefit of women in the community.

Easter postcards were mailed to the congregation reminding them of the services during Holy week. Palm crosses were made in the parlor on the Saturday before Palm Sunday, and our Palm Sunday service began with a processional into the sanctuary.

April 1 is Maundy Thursday and our traditional soup and bread supper will precede hand washing and or foot washing and the stripping of the altars in both the sanctuary and the chapel. We will also receive communion at table as part of our eating together. There will be handbell and choir music.

At Good Friday service Pastor Louise will present the Stations of the Cross through the Arts.

Of course the culmination of the week will be our services celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord, at 7 am and 10 am April 4th.

Holy humor Sunday is April 11th. Our theme is "What you learned in Kindergarten" (getting along with our neighbor). Any suggestions please let us know.

Don't forget to keep in mind that not very many Methodist churches on Long Island offer two Sunday worship services, and we are fortunate to have the ability to participate in worship early if we have another appointment later in the day.



Church Membership "Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness

By Your Prayers

By Your Service

Kay Dewar
Shirley Johnson
MISSY KENNEDY (ACHILLES TENDON REPAIR)
Rhoda McVicker
George Wrage
Roy Van Nostrand
CARRIE WATSON (SHOULDER SURGERY)
BEVERLY MIEHL (DEATH OF HER HUSBAND DAVID)
Family of Arthur Wesley Peterson

Let perpetual light shine upon you.

ARTHUR WESLEY PETERSON
SEPTEMBER 6, 1927 - MARCH 14, 2010

He is survived by his wife; Martha: his children: Linda Groenewold (Chicago), Edward Peterson (East Orange, NJ), Carol Sandick (Steve) (Lindenhurst), and Wesley Peterson (Tracy) (Amityville); his grandchildren: Philip Groenwold, Austin Sandick, Jesse Peterson, and Lucas Peterson.

The family has suggested that any memorial contributions be made to First United Methodist Church Memorial Fund. Envelopes are available at the Powell Funeral Home, www.powellfh.com or First United Methodist.

Training for Local Leaders Re-Scheduled

A snow storm on February 6 caused a cancellation of the annual district Leader-to-Leaders Training. It has been re-scheduled for Saturday, May 22. More details will follow.

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ACOLYTES	April 4:	Natalie Korba & Michael Castellano
REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE	Apr. 11: Apr. 18:	Staff Parish Administrative Council Worship Stewardship
COMMUNION STEWARDS	Apr. 4:	Barbara & Gene La Poma & Dorothy Bausch, Beverly Bode, Mike Korba, Valerie Miller and Margaret Wolter
LECTORS	10 am: Apr. 4: Apr. 11: Apr. 18:	of April - 8 am: Kate Peterson Charlene Jourdan Holy Humor Sunday Mike Korba Pat Dougherty
OFFERING COUNTERS	Apr. 11: Apr. 18:	Cathy Taylor & Carrie Watson Arlene De Land & Wes Reinhardt Barbara & Gene La Poma Jeanne Otis & Charlene Jourdan
Ushers	Apr. 11: Apr. 18:	Wes Reinhardt, Mike Korba, George Beierling and Michael Castellano Judy Hartten, Natalie Korba & George Beierling Dorothy Bausch, Sade Ogunyele & Rustica Mc Conneaughey Margo & Jose Martinez & Danielle Bassaragh
Junior Ushers	Apr. 11: Apr. 18:	Emily Korba & Jack Dubyn Desi Adeleye & Aaron Reichbach Ana Gonzalez & Juliana Warta Derik Gonzalez & Robert Castellano
Greeters	Apr. 18:	Jasmine Allen & Family Wes Reinhardt George Beierling Barbara Simpson
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By Your Presence

Date	8 am	10 am	Sunday School	Total
Mar. 7	27	55	17	69
Mar. 14	11	35	12	58
Mar. 21	14	58	14	86
Mar. 28 (Palm Sunday)	21	66	14	101

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 1 6:30 pm - Ireland Hall Supper & Communion Service

GOOD FRIDAY

April 2 7:30 pm Worship Service

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

(Easter Sunday) - April 4 7 am Sunrise Service 10 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary with Holy Communion No Sunday School Classes. We encourage all our Sunday School families to worship together on Easter Sunday.

EASTER EGG HUNT ON GREAT LAWN

(weather permitting)

11:30 am



We will have a 7:00 a.m. service on Easter morning, April 4. The weather will determine if it is inside or outside. Traditionally that service has been the first lighting of the paschal candle. The service lasts about thirty minutes.

The main service is at 10:00 a.m. Along with special music, there will be communion. The children will find the Alleluia banner and it will be hung in the sanctuary. Alleluias will once more be heard in our worship.

If you prefer actually seeing the dawn at the sunrise service, the Long Island Council of Churches (LICC) has its annual ecumenical service at Jones Beach. It begins at 6:00 a.m. Enter Parking Field #6 and head due south toward the beach, where there will be large LICC banner directing you toward the gathering place. The service is brief and informal. Worshippers are encouraged to dress warmly, bring beach chairs or blankets, and non-perishable food or monetary donations for their emergency food pantries.

OUTREACH BLANKET AND TOOL PROGRAM
Please fill out the appropriate section and return this form with your check to the Church Office at 25 Broadway, Amityville, NY 11701. Mother's Day request deadline is May 2nd. Father's Day request deadline is June 13. Checks should be made payable to First UMC— <u>clearly marked</u> "For Blankets" or "For Tools". Each Blanket or Tools of Hope is \$5.
FOR BLANKETS (As it will appear in our Mother's Day booklet)
Name of Donor
In Memory Of
In Honor Of
FOR TOOLS OF HOPE (As it will appear in our Father's Day booklet)
Name of Donor
In Memory Of
In Honor Of
TOTAL NUMBER OF ITEMS ORDEREDx \$5.00 =AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Please attach a sheet of paper with additional names)

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

APRIL 11: What You Learned in Kindergarten

For several years we have celebrated after Easter in a way that has traditions in the church, but is not the typical Sunday service. We have engaged in "Easter laughter". We laugh at the forces of violence that tried to destroy Jesus. People who had no understanding of Jesus thought they could put an end to him through killing him. Clearly it didn't work. Laughter is good for one's health: physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. There is great joy in our faith and we want to celebrate that together.

Our Holy Humor Sunday is April 11. The theme this year harkens back to Robert Fulghum's book *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. Some of his advice includes: "Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody." Sometimes adults need to go back to kindergarten!

Here's what you can do to get ready:

Work on your wild wardrobe—the more colors and the less harmony among those colors—the better. (Think of the times you dressed yourself at 5 and came up with an outfit that didn't pass parental approval.)

Wear an Easter bonnet—of your own creation.

Come prepared to celebrate God's joke on death, through the resurrection of Jesus.





DISTRICT YOUTH RETREAT: APRIL 16-18, 2010 • CAMP QUINIPET

During the Youth Retreat at Camp Quinipet, Shelter Island, the youth will do a walk to benefit Habitat for Humanity. They are asking that members make contributions to sponsor the youth who will be walking. About five of our youth will be attending. If a youth does not speak to you about being a sponsor—of any amount you wish to give—you may use the sign-up sheet on the table in the church narthex. Checks are made payable to FUMC (memo: youth retreat walk).



The Committee is making plans for several upcoming events:

Parking Lot Festival (see article on page 3 about Bishop Park's setting goal for that day): highlighting United Methodists in ministry, Saturday, June 12, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Free lunch!

July 4th Parade: Sunday, following church. All members welcome to walk in parade.

Church at the Beach: We are applying for use of the Kiwanis Pavilion on a Sunday in either July or August for the morning service.

Our next meeting is Monday, April 19, 10:30 a.m.



- 7 GEORGE SANTYPAL
- 8 Paul deQuillfeldt Peter Johnson Gail Kaiser Caren Milheron
- 10 JOSEPH RAMIREZ
- 14 BRUCE JORDAN
- 16 Betty Small
- 17 KATHLEEN DOUGHERTY
- 18 Jonathan Durnin Elizabeth Sanford
- 19 KIM RAMIREZ
- 20 WILL BROOKS
- 21 Alan Lush
- 24 Fred Fehleisen
- 25 Arlene DeLand Barbara deQuillfeldt
- 28 Lottie Symington
- 29 Shana Zachman



First United Methodist Church

amitychurch@optimum.net AmityUnitedMethodistChurch.org 25 Broadway, Amityville, NY 11701 631 264-0152 The Rev. Dr. Louise-Stowe-Johns, Pastor

Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors

Every Sunday Schedule

- 8 & 10 am Worship
- 9 am Choir Rehearsal
- 10 am Sunday School
- 11:15 am Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 11:30 am Middle School Handchime Reh.
- 11:45 am Teen/College Handbell Rehearsal *Unless Otherwise Indicated below.*

Support Group Meetings

AA Wednesday & Saturdays @ 8 pm

NA Fridays @ 8:30 pm

Ninja NA 3rd Saturday of each month @12 Noon

April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				Maundy Thursday 10 am UMW Board 6:30 pm Supper & Worship Service (IH)	2 Good Friday 7:30 pm Service	3 9 am HB Ens. 10:30 am Teen/College Bell Reherasal
4 Easter Sunday 7 am Sunrise Ser. 10 am Worship w/ Communion No Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt No Youth Choir	5 Office Closed 7:30 pm Worship Comm. Mtg. 7 pm Irish Dancers (IH)	6	7 7 pm HB Reh 7:45 pm HB Ensemble.	8 5 pm Finance	9 8 pm PeaceSmiths (IH)	10 9 am HB Ens.
11 Ist Sunday After Easter Holy Humor 11:30 am Admin Council Mtg.	12 7 pm Irish Dancers (IH)	13	14 7 pm HB Reh. 7:45 pm HB Ensemble	15	I	17 9 am HB Ens. outh Retreat Quinipet
18 2nd Sunday After Easter No Bell Rehearsals Youth return from Retreat	19 10:30 am Member ship, Nurture & Evangelism Mtg. 7 pm Irish Dancers (IH)	20 10 am Trustee Mtg.	21 Office Hours Today only 9 am—12 noon	22	23	24 9 am HB Ens.
25 3rd Sunday After Easter Native American Ministries 1 pm UMYF 2:15-3:30 pm Confirmation	26	27 U.S. Censu	28 s Training (BH) 9 a	29 m—4:30 pm	30	
	7 pm Irish Dancers (IH)	7 pm Amity- ville Jr. League (IH)	7 pm HB Reh. 7:45 pm HB Ensemble	Room Guide: (BH) Binkley I	(IH) Ireland Ha Hall (AR) Am Church Handbel	anda's Room

First United Methodist Church 25 Broadway Amityville, NY 11701

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Louise Stowe-Johns
Director of Music Ministry: Robyn Hyland, AGO
Secretary: Linda Cohen
Sexton: Ron Thomson
Newsletter Editor: Sherri Warta
Telephone (631) 264-0152
Fax: (631) 598-3425
AmityUnitedMethodistChurch.org

Sunday Services: 8 & 10 am Sunday School - 10 am Non-Profit Organization US Postage Paid Amityville, NY Permit No. 47

April 2010

DATED CHURCH MATERIAL



Handbell ringers from First UMC play during the Handbell Festival in Sayville, March 7.

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