

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are a way to acknowledge someone special or highlight an important occasion. Many thanks to all who have requested altar flowers. The flower calendar is full through May. Requests are now being taken for June 2nd, 9th, 23rd and 30th.

Altar flowers cost \$30. We keep costs low by reusing containers and vases. Please pay the church directly and include a note that the funds are for Altar Flowers and the date chosen.

When requesting flowers please provide your name, phone number, email address and dedication. Let us know if you plan to take the flowers after the 10:30 service, or if you want them delivered to someone needing a pick-me-up.

Use this [link](#) to reserve your flowers. Any questions? Contact Yvonne Roux, yrouxrings@gmail.com, or 973-534-6129.

Chime Choir Returns

Chime Choir (for Kindergarten through grade 3) is continuing on Mondays from 5 to 6 pm. Chime Choir introduces children to music theory through games and other activities. They will meet through most of April and play during the 10:30 worship service on either May 5th or 12th.

For additional information contact Yvonne Roux at yrouxrings@gmail.com or 973-534-6129.

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CHURCH MOUSE APRIL SALES -BE SURE TO STOP IN FOR A VISIT

APRIL 24 - 27: Entire Shop 50% off!!!

SHOP HOURS: WED & SAT: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thurs & Fri: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

EARTHKEEPERS

Please remember to save July 22-26 for EARTHKEEPERS!

If you'd like to sponsor a child, please send a check to the church office for \$25 and mark EK scholarship in the memo.

We are excited that families are beginning to register.

If your child needs a scholarship, see Pastor Steve or Pat Schutz.

April 21, 2024

The Altar Flowers are given by

Lois Manigian

In memory of my brothers, Alan and Bob

Thank you to our Worship Leader this morning

Dave Johnson



Thoughts and Prayers

Prayers for Tina Smilace and Terri Reno

Continued prayers for: Tammy and Mike Vrabel and family for their granddaughter Izabella Vrabel, Ann Freeman Price, Linda Donelson (friend of Ruth Kelley's), Edith VanHousen, Anthony Hutchison, Kelly Stites, Alba Haas, Diane Cironi, Judy Remo, Arnie Koriakin, Sue Gibson, Sharon Gordon, Karen Sutphen, Lester Hemphill, Rich Kelley, Linda Giammanco, Brenda Losey.

Healing for, Bev DeYoung, Pat and Sandy DeYoung's sister-in-law

Before you place anyone on our prayer list, please make sure you have permission from the person to do so.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

For all Zoom Gatherings, you may use either the Video Link or the Phone in # with ID #

BEYOND THE BASICS - (ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL)

Sunday Mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Room 8

MONDAY NIGHT

Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM

The Monday Night Group will be reading Howard Thurman's "Jesus and the Disinherited" through the month of February in recognition of Black History Month. Thurman was an acclaimed theologian at Boston University School of Theology and an influential teacher for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. For February 5, we will read the preface and the first chapter.

All are welcome to join for this book discussion held on ZOOM from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

The link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/771970415?pwd=bFdUQk9YQUIyZXRhYUZnNVhRVEZvUT09>.

Even if you can't come each week, please feel free to join whenever you can. If you need help finding the book, please see Pastor Steve

HEALTHIER LIVING GROUP

PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME!! Every TUESDAY Morning at 10:30 a.m. Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85294018790?pwd=bScXqgjh6RlCDFWN93116_aMcguqxF.1

Meeting ID: 852 9401 8790 Passcode: 389789

One tap mobile +16465588656,,85294018790#

Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 852 9401 8790

UMW BOOK GROUP-

THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH IS UMW BOOK GROUP

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89033468706?pwd=M3FYTHZPcm55Sm1jdGIRckRXTjgrQT09>

Meeting ID: 890 3346 8706 Passcode: 681008 -- One tap mobile

+13017158592,,89033468706#

Dial by your location: 1 301 715 8592, Meeting ID: 890 3346 8706

WEDNESDAY MORNING MEN'S STUDY

Wednesday Mornings at 7:15 a.m.

Angelo's Franklin Diner

READING TOGETHER/BIBLE STUDY

Friday's at 10:00 a.m. If God Is Love Don't Be a Jerk

Book by John Pavlovitz

Join Zoom Video Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/389284226>

Alternate Phone in #: +1 646 876 9923; Meeting ID: 389 284 226 -- Passcode: 7773

SATURDAY PRAYERS & CONVERSATION GATHERING

Join a ZOOM gathering on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. just to touch base and connect with others from the congregation just to check in and share with each other. Join Zoom

Video Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/826747498> Phone in #: +1 646 876 9923;

Meeting ID: 826 747 498 Passcode: 7773

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Hudson Valley Handbell Festival/Conference

46th Annual
CONCERT

Featuring 15 Handbell Choirs
from the Hudson Valley Tri-State Region

Guest Director: David Harris
Local Director: Christine Braden

Free Admission
A free-will offering will be collected to support our festival.
Check our website for donations in the past years.

Saturday, April 27, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m.

Sommer Center at Iona University
Bronxville • Campus

171 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708

For information about the
Festival or Concert
visit www.hudsonvalleyhandbells.org



ART SHOW – SEPTEMBER 13TH & 14TH

Planning is underway for an Art Show which will take place in Demarest Hall on Friday, 9/13 through Saturday, 9/14. The show will feature artists from the surrounding community. Proceeds will benefit the Sparta Methodist Church Youth Group Program. More details to follow.

WORSHIP LEADERS NEEDED

We are in need of worship leaders. If anyone is interested, please email the office at officeadmin@spartaumc.org and we can put you on the schedule. Thank you!

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There is a need for more people to help with coffee hour.

Please email the office at officeadmin@spartaumc.org if you can help out.



We would like to thank Yvonne Roux, Cullen Kempson, Pat Harvey, Chris Deery and Julia Juan for making Livestream Worship Services possible by recording and posting the service for us to watch as they happen.



DO WE HAVE YOUR MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION?

We want to be able to get our most current information to you. Have you moved, changed phone number – do we have your correct email address?

Please fill in updated information and return to the office. You can also notify Karen at 973-729-7773 or officeadmin@spartaumc.org

FAMILY NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE NUMBER



General Conference: April 23-May 3 Charlotte, North Carolina

Please note that this session of the General Conference is official the postponed 2020 conference, so you will see it listed this way in several locations of the General Conference Web-site.

To view the agenda and opportunities for live streaming, go to:

[75de97629dda4a838e87a0ad2408dcdf.ashx \(resourceumc.org\)](https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020)

All worship and plenary sessions are on live stream beginning with opening worship on Tuesday, April 23rd at 2:30 PM. Most action on legislative matters will not begin before next Monday – check the agenda.

To read proposed legislation, reports, or to watch on live stream, go to: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>
From here you can click on appropriate links.

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing about a concern that has surfaced within the church. Most recently, someone was in the building near our Sunday School children with the distinctive smell of marijuana on them. In addition, there have also been people who have been here on Sunday mornings with the distinctive smell of alcohol on them. There is no evidence that someone was drinking or using marijuana in the building, however they have come in contact with our young people and other adults which has been disconcerting.

As a church that welcomes all people and all means all, we care about each other and everyone including those struggling with addictions and/or in recovery. We are here also to help and support those who are in need of changes in their lives. Though marijuana is now legal in New Jersey, as is alcohol, it is well known that the smell of marijuana or alcohol can be a trigger for others preventing them from experiencing the church as a safe place. As the apostle Paul reminds us, we must take care not to let our liberties become a stumbling block for others. (see 1 Corinthians 8:9)

As your pastor, I am asking everyone to remember that welcoming all people requires thinking about the needs of others and acting accordingly. While each individual can make their own choices about the use of alcohol or cannabis products, please remember that what one person has been doing prior to coming together may be harmful to another. While all are welcome, not all behaviors build up the body of Christ and we must work together to lift up each other. I pray the choice of each person in this congregation will be to pray for the health and well-being of all persons as we safeguard one another and support one another on the pathway to wholeness.

Should you have any questions, I would be glad to talk with you privately to address these concerns. My hope is that we can continue to bless all people as beloved children of God.

In Christ,