

# ***The Messenger 3.0***

***The Newsletter of the Centerville/Saugerties Churches***

**February 2024**

**From the Pastors heart**

**Dear Church Family,**

Hello,

I hope this letter finds all of you well. I pray for God's peace to be with each and every one of you. Lent is approaching soon. In Korea, during Lent, there is a special 40-day early morning prayer meeting. People gather at the church at 5 a.m. every day for worship, starting their day with prayer for 40 days, participating in the spirit of sharing in the Lord's suffering. As a pastor, I must admit that this period has been quite challenging and difficult for me. Having to attend morning worship every day for 40 days, occasionally delivering sermons as an assistant pastor, and still being a student at the time meant waking up early, offering worship, and studying, sometimes resulting in nosebleeds due to sheer exhaustion. It was so tough that at times, I felt like my tiredness was reaching a whole new level. I felt like I was participating in Lent on a whole new level, the nosebleeds edition.

But on a serious note, this Lenten season has provided me with a unique perspective on the sacrifices and struggles that Jesus faced. It made me appreciate not only the spiritual aspect but also the physical challenges He endured for us. So, while I may joke about the nosebleeds, it's a reminder of the greater sacrifices made for our salvation.

We may not have any special events torturing(?) us during Lent, but as we go through this season, I encourage you to reflect on how much Jesus loved us, how lonely and homeless He was for our sake, and why He had to die for us.

As for me, I am doing well with your prayers and support. Despite some car troubles, it's still running fine, so no need to worry. Please continue to pray for me, that God may work through me, and that Jesus may be the head of our community. I will also pray for all of you every morning. Thank you and much love.

Warm regards,

Jay Yoon



**A Special request and mission**

For the month of February we would like to take a collection for Mother Goose's Intro to Pre-School Teacher Christa Kelly. She has been diagnosed with a brain aneurysm that requires surgery at the end of the month. Christa has 3 children of her own at home one of which is part of our Preschool class. It is likely that she will be out of work for 6 weeks after the surgery is completed. With medical costs and being out of work the financial strain on Christa and her family will be difficult. Here are some things we can do to help Christa out as a church family.

- Month long donation collection- we will use the offering box in the church

and a basket at coffee hour to collect any donations that come in.

- Our church is hosting a lantern making activity for the Snow Moon festival

on Sat. Feb 24th from 4-6pm. We will do a bake sale again this year.

Speak to Lisa K if you are able to donate baked goods.

- We will be making a pot of Chicken Noodle Soup on the day of the festival and package it to sell to participants doing the craft. If you are able to help

make soup or donate any ingredients please contact Lisa K.

- A sign up sheet to preorder quarts of soup will be in the Narthex. These will

be available for pick up on Sunday Feb. 25th after church. All proceeds will go directly to Christa and her family.



### **Sunday School news:**

The Sunday School is in full swing with 6 regular disciples. February we will cover things like: Warrior Jesus, Love like Jesus, What is worship?, and Music is worship. I often step away from traditional bible stories to focus more on building their understanding of "Why" we need Jesus and "How" do we find him. Our song for the month is My God Is Powerful by Lifetree kids on you tube. It has movement to engage them a bit more.

Our Sunday School is facing obstacles for the coming year. As I gradually retire from teaching we are need of others to fill these positions as well as assistants. As per regulation we must have two qualified people present each week. (a back ground check is required) Teaching or helping both are essential to the success of this program. We will begin in the fall with a sign up sheet to request volunteers to help. We hope you consider helping out so this program can continue.

Pam, Joan, Ann, and Laura



## **Boys' and Girls' Club update.**

The SUMC continues to support the children of our community by providing a nutritious home cooked meal for the Boys and Girls Club on Partition St. whenever we can. We were managing twice a month but are in need of a few more volunteers. There are about fifty children there at dinner time. We know it is difficult to cook a home cooked meal for 50, so short cuts are ok! The kids like chicken cooked all different ways, they like salad, hot dogs, spaghetti, Mac and cheese, soup, stew. To mention some suggestions. If you are interested in this mission project or just want more info. Call me 845-246-1209 or 860-480-2743 or [marilynbucher@gmail.com](mailto:marilynbucher@gmail.com)



# **SAUGERTIES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

(updated 2/6/24)

### **FEBRUARY 2024**

- Choir Chili Sale 2/10
- Pro Musica 2/11 @3:00 p.m.
- Ash Wednesday service 2/14 @7:00 p.m.
- Communion 2/18 during worship
- Planning children's Easter party 2/18 after worship
- Craft group 2/19 @2:00 p.m.
- United Women in Faith meeting 2/20 @ 5:30 p.m.
- Snow Moon Festival @ SUMC 2/24 @ 4-6 p.m.
- Book Club 2/26 @2:00 p.m.
- Finance Committee 2/27 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Church Council 2/27 @7:00 p.m.


## **MARCH 2024**

- Craft group 3/4 @ 2:00 p.m.
- Pro Musica 3/10 @ 3:00 p.m.
- Bishop's visit @ St. James UMC , Kingston 3/11
- Children's Easter party 3/16
- Craft group 3/18 @ 2:00 p.m.
- United Women in Faith meeting 3/19 @ 5:30 p.m.
- Palm Sunday 3/24
- Finance Committee 3/26 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Church Council 3/26 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Maundy Thursday 3/28
- Good Friday 3/29
- Easter 3/31



### **From our Music Leader**

Phyllis Clark, music leader, offers free music lessons to any member of the congregation or their family members- up to one hour a week, as time permits. She is a specialist in voice and singing, but can also teach piano, recorders, clarinet and saxophone, limited strings( Suzuki) music theory and note reading. She also invites anyone who likes to sing to join the Sunday worship choir. Please email her at [clarkphyllise@gmail.com](mailto:clarkphyllise@gmail.com) or stop by after Sunday worship.

On another  (Note,) if there are members of the congregation or visiting family members who play instruments and would like offer their talents for special music in a worship service, please let her know.

Thank you.

Phyllis



### **Help Wanted**

Lectors - in some denominations they are called “readers.” In other churches they are called Liturgists. In all churches they are an important part of the mornings worship. We have enjoyed the service of our lectors for many years. It is a very pleasant way to assist the pastor in spreading the Good News Of Christ. The position has a rich history, and some interesting functions. If you’re interested in becoming a lector, or just want to know more, great! Please see Al or Diane McDowell.

Lay Servants - Are you interested in learning more about our Methodist roots, our interesting history and our evolution and growth into a vibrant and relevant faith community? Do you feel the call to do more than just sit in a pew every week, a call serve both God and community? A 6 week basic Lay Servant course could help you discern your call to serve in today’s church. If you’re willing to serve, think about taking the basic course. If you have an interest, please talk to Joan Robinson, Karen Reynolds or Diane or Al McDowell.



### **Craft Group**

The Saugerties UMC craft group meets twice a month to create all types of crafts which are then offered for sale at the November Church Holiday A-Fair each year. We have lots of supplies for our use – to participate just bring your imagination and craft skill! We have been meeting on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 2:00, but if this schedule is a problem for anyone who is interested, we can create a new schedule that works for all.

If you are interested, see Cece Sciortino or Diane McDowell for more information.



### **Book Club**

The Church book club usually meets once a month on Monday afternoon in the Church lounge to discuss a book that we have all read. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 26 at 2:00. At that meeting, we will be discussing the book ‘The Orchid House’ by Lucinda Riley. At the end of the meeting we will decide on a book for our next meeting.

Everyone is welcome to attend the book club, even if you have not read the book. We have some very interesting discussions!

If you have questions, contact Diane McDowell.

