

March

NEWSLETTER



Imaginative Contemplation

Sundays, March 8, 15, & 22 at 11:30am in the Library. Join Pastor Jeff and the Ministry of Adult Education for contemplative prayer in the tradition of St. Ignatius. Each week we'll be reading a Lenten Gospel text and prayerfully entering into that scene in our imaginations to experience it from a whole new perspective.



From Pastor Jeff

Beloved, most of us know that the Season of Lent is a time for fasting, prayer, and repentance. And that it is. Fasting, prayer, and repentance are keys that can open up Lent. And if you dedicate yourself to them, you can turn the lock and walk through the door into the fresh mountain air of Lent. But fasting, prayer, and repentance are not the openness beyond the door. They are three ways to unlock the locks.

They're not the only three keys either. One of you told me that she knits an afghan every Lent and gives it away for Easter. What a beautiful symbol for how Lent builds and folds and weaves slowly over the weeks until it becomes something new-something you want to wrap around yourself. What a way to walk through the door into Lent.

Whatever your way, Lent is a season for unlocking the locks. When I moved into the parsonage, I noticed that every door in the entire house had a keyhole and a locking mechanism, but there were no keys. Luckily, I'm weird and love the look of antique keys. So, I had uselessly collected a bunch of old-timey keys over the years. During paternity leave, when Romey was napping, I began to try my

key collection out in the parsonage doors and, eventually (with the help of a little oil), things started clicking.

You probably know where to find the locked locks in your life, in your soul, in your relationships. You may even be aware that you've got a ring of keys and some oil somewhere that could get those locks to open, if you took the time to figure it out. Lent is the time to figure it out-to get your hands dirty, to work the kinks out, and to open up the whole house of who you are before the Spirit of God who wants to breeze into every dark, dusty corner.

Let's Pray...

Making the House Ready for the Lord
by Mary Oliver

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but
still nothing is as shining as it should be
for you. Under the sink, for example, is an
uproar of mice, it is the season of their
many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves
and through the walls the squirrels
have gnawed their ragged entrances, but it is the season
when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And
the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard
while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow;
what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling
in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly
up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will
come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox,
the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know
that really I am speaking to you whenever I say,
as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

- + Barbara Stevens
- + Patti, Carey and Nick Gsell, mourning the death of Patti's father, Thomas Carey on February 11.
- + Lisa Jakob, friend of Rachel Steele, who needs prayers that her cancer responds to a new medicine;
- + Nan Otlowski (sister of Barbara Stevens)
- + Anise Kilgen
- + Rebecca Schaller (mother/mother-in-law of choir members, Bill Schaller and Diane Schaming) who is recovering from a serious stroke.
- + Bob Valvano (Phyllis Connolly's in-law)
- + Ana Sieruk (mother of Elaine Carroll)
- + Sylvia Caldwell
- + Norma Batastini
- + Roberta Mansfield (Pastor Jeff's mother), going through cancer treatment

...and others known to be in need of our prayers.

Lenten Prayer Partners



If you're looking to deepen your spiritual practice through prayer this Lent or if you're looking to make a more personal connection with a church friend, a prayer partner can be a great companion.

Beginning in the first week of March and ending in Holy Week, you'll meet your prayer partner in person or by phone once a week for about 10-15 minutes. You'll share your joys and concerns with one another and you'll pray for one another. Don't worry! Pastor

Jeff will give you a little primer on how to pray with and for one another.

If you'd like a prayer partner this Lent, contact Pastor Jeff at pastor.jeff@glenridgecong.org. You can partner up with a friend on your own or you can let Pastor Jeff match you with someone who's also looking for a partner.



CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School students in Pre-K through 6th grade meet in Room 6 prior to going to their classrooms. Please remind your children to be prepared with a Church School offering. (No worries if a child forgets...Mrs. H-K will always provide a bowl of coins). Youth in grades 7-12th go directly to their regular classrooms.

DREAM MATS

Please join us this Saturday, February 29 between 10 am and 1pm in Robinson Hall. This is great opportunity to help others in need during Lent.

If you're homeless or for some other reason forced to sleep outdoors, "bedtime" can mean the wet cement or damp earth. Sleep swirls in, less as an opportunity for peaceful rest and optimistic dreams than the real dangers of the dark, including assault and robbery. The plarn mats can do little to shield a person from those threats, but they can help assure that the fragments of sleep remaining are more restful. "The advantages the plarn mats provide to a homeless person are critical. For example, the mats thicken the barrier separating the ground from a blanket or a sleeping bag with a person tucked inside it. Brian Dusenberry, 34, has slept on two of the plarn mats, and they do make a difference in the outdoors, he said. "You put them on the ground and they help you stay drier," he said. "Your blankets don't get so dirty. They have a cushioning impact."



MARCH TOGETHER! MARCH WITH GOD!

Saturday, March 7, 2020

4:30 - 6:30

Robinson Hall

Sing ~ Play ~ Craft ~ Eat

All are welcome!

MARCH together to live and practice the 3 Great Loves of the UCC ~ Love of Children, Love of Neighbor, Love of Creation.

Marching is active praying!

Ministry of Children & Youth

By Janet Spoerl, Chairperson

Lent is here with its 40 days for meditation, prayer, and practices that remind each one of us of the tender relationship with God and Jesus. This year, the Prayer Partners theme introduced by Pastor Jeff leads the way in:

- Church School ~ teachers and children "ignite the Spark" of learning more about Jesus through bible study / activities each Sunday. On Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020, everyone will participate in the Palm Sunday Processional and then the special Lenten Journey of Holy Week leading to Easter. It is a special event with readings, hands-on activities, and "sitting in the tomb." Watch for praying with partners.
- Confirmation ~ Pastor Jeff engaged the Confirmands in learning to pray and becoming praying partners. One Saturday, March 7, Confirmands, parents, and sponsors will engage in service by assisting in getting food to the hungry, one of the missions of our church.
- Outreach Activities support faith formation.
 - Dream Mats ~ the work continues through Mrs. H-K, C & Y, and the Women's Association. Plarn practices certainly are a hands-on form of praying.
 - Family Faith - see information above under "Faith Formation."



Women's Association SPRING BRUNCH

**Saturday March 7th 10:00am
in the Blue Room**

If you are interested in bringing food please contact Ann Bronneck at abbronneck@gmail.com

Wednesday Morning Prayer Partners

9:00 ~ 9:30ish
Library

Come!

Drop a child off at school. Come!
Leave the comfort of your home. Come!
Stop in before going to work. Come!
Praying together is an experience. Come!

Bring a friend!

All are welcome to gather with Jan Spoerl and experience "Praying Together" as part of the GRCC initiative during Lent



Yoga

On Monday the 9th of March at 6:30pm a new 8 week session of Yoga will begin. Young or older, with or without experience - come and get your body and mind ready for spring. For info call Jan Dickinson at 973-748-1509.

Glen Ridge Community Concerts



CHRISTOPHER
COLLINS
LEE
violin

MERYNDA
ADAMS
harp

Reception following the concert

∞ ADMISSION ∞

Adults \$20 • Seniors \$15 • Students \$10

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 • 3:00 P.M.

Glen Ridge Congregational Church UCC
195 Ridgewood Avenue • Glen Ridge, NJ • 973.743.5596
www.glenridgeconcerts.org

You won't want to miss these brilliant musicians. They've concertized all over the world and are in great demand as soloists and ensemble players.

Tickets on sale during Fellowship Hour this Sunday, March 1 in the Blue Room.

*Buy your tickets **this Sunday** and receive some free homemade vanilla caramels made by the contemplative nuns of Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey in Dubuque, Iowa*



The Women's Association will continue sorting rummage every Monday at 9:30am until the sale on March 27-28.

Volunteers are needed to work at the sale. Sign-up sheets are in the Blue Room and in Robinson Hall or contact Ann Bronneck at abronneck@gmail.com

[Sign Up to Volunteer Here](#)

Also, if you have rummage that you need help moving from your home (attic, garage, etc. or into the church:

call Cara Richardson at
917-331-3447

(text message ideal; if calling be SURE to leave a message).

Cara is willing to help you put bags, boxes, etc. together and bring to the church.

Food Pantry

Food of the month for MARCH

We support the MEND pantry at the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green. For March please provide oatmeal, cereal and shelf stable milk



Donations of paper bags or reusable grocery bags (not plastic) are greatly appreciated. This will be an ongoing need. Think of purchasing a reusable bag in addition to the food needs when you are shopping next!

Thank you for your continuing generosity!



[Visit the GRCC Google Calendar](#)

Want to use the church WiFi?

Please connect to **GRCC Guest**
Password: Trinity_365



Weekly eNews deadline is
5:00pm on Tuesday

Monthly newsletter
final deadline is
the 20th of each month

Thank you!



[GRCC Website](#)

[Central Atlantic Conference Website](#)

[UCC National Website](#)

[Sign up to receive the Stillspeaking Daily Devotional](#)

GRCC STAFF

Phone: 973-743-5596

Click on staff member's name to send them an email.

[Rev. Jeff Mansfield](#)
Senior Minister: x16

[Alma Amendola](#)
Office Administrator: x10

[Thomas A. Mustachio](#)
Minister of Music: x19

[Mary Duus](#)
Pilgrim Preschool Director: x13

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