

October, 2023

A Note from Pastor Bette



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MOUNT KISCO

Beneath the Spires

October 1, 2023

Grace and peace to you my sisters and brothers.

If it is October, it must be time for the Pumpkin Patch. I hope you are already looking at your calendars and figuring out when/how you might serve in this annual fundraiser.

Pumpkins always make me think of Peanuts, the comic strip created by Charles Schultz. Linus waits faithfully every year for the Great Pumpkin. The Great Pumpkin rises from the pumpkin patch to deliver toys to believing boys and girls. The pumpkin patch must be the right patch, the most sincere.

Certainly if the Great Pumpkin was looking for sincerity, it would be found in Linus. Every year he would wait all night in a pumpkin patch (and where was his parents, anyway?), and when a new day dawned without a citing of the Great Pumpkin, Linus would attribute it to not finding the right patch, and next year would be different.

Linus had a faith beyond seeing. As I look at this world I live in, I can't help wondering if I have that much faith? As I see the violence we perpetrate against each other, do I truly have faith that a few Christ followers can make a difference? When I hear good church people saying things that would make Jesus shake his head, do I believe that we can change? When I pray a prayer of confession, and I ask for forgiveness, promise to try again to be who God made me to be, do I believe that I will last for more than an hour before I return to old ways? I have so much doubt within me.

But Jesus promised that faith the size of a mustard seed could move mountains (Matthew 17:20-21. Look it up.) So, maybe...

Anyway, come work at the pumpkin patch. And keep your eyes peeled for a young boy testing your sincerity. Who knows, perhaps this will be the year that Linus gets his wish.

Peace and blessings, my friends.

Pastor Bette



What is happening?



The pumpkins are arriving on Wednesday, October 4th. After they have been placed we will be open for business beginning Thursday, October 5th at 3:00pm.

The patch will be open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 12:00-6:00pm.

Saturdays 10:00-6:00 and Sundays 11:00-5:00pm. We cannot run this important fundraiser without you. Please sign up for a shift or two to help us out. The schedule for week 1 is attached.

WEDNESDAY 10/4			THURSDAY, 10/5			FRIDAY 10/6		
12:00-2:00	2:00-4:00	4:00-6:00	12:00-2:00	2:00-4:00	4:00-6:00	12:00-2:00	2:00-4:00	4:00-6:00
		Delivery Day	Bobbie	Nancy P	Nancy P	Bobbi	Nancy P	
					Julie B		Jeannett	

SATURDAY 10/7			SUNDAY 10/8		
10:00-1:00	1:00-4:00	4:00-6:00	11:00-1:00	1:00-3:00	3:00-5:00
Bobbie					

People in the news.

We were fortunate to welcome Ruth Ali back to our services when we were on the 11:00am schedule. Ruth's daughter and caregiver were able to bring her to church. It was so good to see her and have her participate in the service. We are being told that Ruth is also getting out and going to the Senior Center which has been great for her.



Our prayers are with Andre Ferrara. Andre was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and is undergoing chemo treatment. Andre continues to work in his garden and help folks out when he can. He is very fortunate to have a great network of friends and family to help him keep his spirits up. We love you Andre and you are always in our prayers.



Remember these guys? They have been involved with our church since they were old enough to attend Sunday School. Now college graduates, or pursuing higher degrees they are out in the working world. They still have time to take part in our Annual ASP project.

Pictured: Coryn Porter, Nick Kent, Cammie Summers



OUR MISSIONS



Since the flooding disaster in the Hudson Highlands on July 9th near West Point, the Conference has been busy with the call to help the survivors. The call went out to collect bottled water and flood buckets. The UMC of Mt. Kisco volunteered to become a drop-off point for these donations. To date we have collected and delivered to the area over 150 cases of water. The flood buckets have also been accumulating. We received a donation of 100 flood buckets from Jesse Lee UMC in Ridgefield and 50 buckets from the Hudson Valley Parish. Our own church was able to assemble and re-assemble over 75 buckets, with the help of donations from Yorktown UMC. The Conference, and especially the people affected by the flooding, are grateful for all of these donations.

Ross Porter is our Disaster Coordinator for the NYAC. Please reach out to Ross if you would like to assist in this ongoing endeavor.

CoOp News

We are part of the Northern Westchester Cooperative, which is not taking any autonomy from our church, just has us joined with 10 other small community churches. This will allow us as a bigger group of Christians to help each other, join each other, and do things together that may be better with more participants! Think of a bigger group of young people (children) enjoying time together! We will let the other churches know our events and how someone can help/participate and they will let us know events happening in their churches where we might want to participate! Stay tuned for announcements!

Joanne Hall is our coordinator for our CoOp. Please reach out to Joanne if you have ideas or suggestions for the CoOp.

What is Harvest Host?



We have become a Host Site for Harvest Hosts. This is a network of overnight sites that assist people who are traveling with campers and mobile homes to find a safe place to park their camper at the end of the day. They have over 4800 hosts registered in their data base. It lets the traveler map out their trip and look at the places they'll be traveling through. Traveling members answer a brief questionnaire and it matches them up with a location that best fits their needs, We do not pay for being part of this service the traveler pays to belong to Harvest Host and at the end of their stay they have the opportunity to donate to our church. We provide them with information of activities and restaurants in the area. They contact us to see if we have an opening for their date. If we do, we approve their stay. Pictured is Pastor Bette meeting a few guest that stayed here for the night recently.



PLEASE HELP SUPPORT OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

Our interfaith food pantry is looking for volunteers to help with distribution and support. Local churches are being called upon once again to help at the food pantry. Below is an explanation of each area that is needed. Please let Lisa Porter know what shift would work for you on an ongoing basis.

Pantry Distribution

Pack and distribute fresh produce and shelf-stable goods for our guests. We rely on volunteers to help us serve hundreds of community members each week.

Tuesdays: 3:15pm - 7:00pm (please arrive at 3:00pm)



Pantry Support

Help prepare for our weekly distributions by packing produce bags, sorting rescued food items, checking expiration dates and shelving food donations, and packing School's Out Supplement bags during the summer.

Tuesdays: 9:30am - 12:00pm

Receive Food

Deliveries

Receive and help unload donated food deliveries (must be able to lift and push 50 lbs.)

Fridays: 9:00am - 12:00pm



THE MOUNT KISCO

INTERFAITH

FOOD PANTRY



The Mount Kisco
Interfaith Food Pantry
TAKE a BITE
out of **HUNGER**

October 15, 2023

1:00 - 4:00 pm

Captain Lawrence Barrel House

369 LEXINGTON AVENUE, MOUNT KISCO NY

FEATURING MUSIC BY THE FOUR26

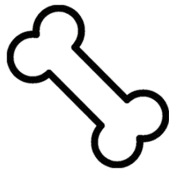
KIDS ON THE MOVE

We are starting a new program called Kids on the Move. We are reaching out to youth in the community to get together to do an activity each month. These activities will introduce them to a learning experience and then follow up by doing an activity or project to better the community.

This month we will have Blessing of the Animals during our church service on Sunday, October 15th at 9:00am out on the front lawn. We have planned our first Kids on the Move activity with Guiding Eyes for the Blind. They will be coming on Friday, October 20th at 4:00pm to talk about their program and bringing one of their guide dogs. This event is open to all youth and their

families so tell your friends, all welcome!. After the presentation will have pizza and talk about next months activity. Along with this theme during the month of October the youth will be collecting pet supplies to be given to one of our local shelters. There will be a box out at the

Pumpkin Patch to drop off supplies. Hope to see you there!



MORE NEWS!



October

3 rd	Lisa Porter
7 th	Leila Armstrong
8 th	Kooki Laux
10 th	Alexandra FitzGerald
10 th	Elisa Palmsi
13 th	Lena Pitt
13 th	Lydia Donohue
21 st	Leslie Hall
25 th	Emily Alcala
31 st	Andre Ferrara

October 15th will be Blessing of the Animals. We will be outside on the lawn. You are welcome to bring your animals if you feel that your pet would be ok in a place with other animals. Otherwise, you may wish to bring a picture of your animal, or a stuffed animal in place of their animal to receive the blessing.

October is Hunger Awareness Month for our church

Please bring Non-Perishable Food only and please check food expiration dates.

Bring to the back of the church and leave in the basket. We will ask Pastor Bette to bless the food and deliver it to the food pantry.

I received an Edible Arrangement from the UMC of Mt. Kisco on Monday night, for my birthday.

I just wanted to thank you folks for this gift. Filled with strawberries, pineapple, cantaloupe and honeydew, it was festive, fun, and even healthy!

It is an honor to serve among you. I have enjoyed how we have grown together in this last year, and look forward to where God might lead us.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Bette





**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF MOUNT KISCO**

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Website: mountkiscochurch.org

Pastor Bette Johnson Sohm
Email: pastorbette@gmail.com

The church and thrift shop are looking for volunteers for different projects and jobs to be done around the church & thrift shop.

If you can volunteer or know someone who would be interested in volunteering, please have them call the church office at 914-666-5014.



VOLUNTEER

**We pray. We love.
We serve.**

United Methodist Church of Mount Kisco
300 East Main Street
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549