



THE *Next* CHAPTER



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MOUNT KISCO, N.Y. | March 2019

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY

9:15 a.m., Choir Practice

10:15 a.m., Worship followed by fellowship, coffee and snacks in Halstead Hall.

6 p.m., Iglesias Cristiana Fe Y Esperanza, Sanctuary, Education Room, Halstead Hall

MONDAY

6:30 p.m., Overeaters Anonymous, Halstead Hall

TUESDAY

4:30 p.m., Interfaith Food Pantry, Halstead Hall

7 p.m., Bible Study at Panera Bread

WEDNESDAY

8:30 a.m., Interfaith Food Pantry, Halstead Hall

THURSDAY

8 p.m., Amway, Education Room

FRIDAY

1 p.m., Co-Dependents Anonymous, Education Room

6 p.m., Iglesias Cristiana Fe Y Esperanza, Sanctuary and Education Room

SATURDAY

8 a.m., Wellness Wins (formally Weight Watchers), Halstead Hall

9 a.m., Golden Crown Driving School, Education Room (third Saturday of each month)

6:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Halstead Hall

"In the Bulb there is a Flower"

As I sit in the church office writing this column, the season of Spring is just minutes away from its official arrival. And that will be good news for many who aren't fond of the weather that usually comes with the winter. We embrace the warmer temperatures, celebrate the lengthening of daylight hours, and delight as the first few flowers break through the ground's warming surface.

I love the newness of life that comes with the Spring - a chance to shake off the old heavy clothes of winter and put on a new lightness of being. Spring always reminds me of God's steadfastness, of God's promises to care for us and guide and protect us. Spring is also a reminder that God is always at work in our world.

In years past, I have potted a variety of spring bulbs and then given them a time of cold and darkness before moving them into a sunny spot in the house. This technique of "forcing" the bulbs usually gives you flowers inside before they bloom outside. It's a method for the

BENEATH THE *Spires* Rev. Joanne S. Utley

impatient among us, or the ones who want a touch of spring all year long. On our altar through Lent are two glass vases of paper whites working their way into bloom.

According to the book, *Spiritual Gardening: Creating Sacred Space Outdoors*, forcing bulbs "can be part of a spiritual exercise that keeps our hearts and spirits open" even during those months of the year when the soul food nature provides seems to be largely absent."

The book also notes the religious meaning attached to some of the spring bulbs.

"In the Christian tradition, the hyacinth symbolizes the peace of mind focused on heaven. The paper white too has a sacral history: It may well be the 'rose of Sharon' referred to in the Song of Solomon, since it blooms in profusion on the plain of Sharon at the

beginning of the winter rainy season."

In many ways, it feels like our denomination has survived the cold brutality of the 2019 special General Conference that denied full inclusion to those in the LGBTQIA community, and is now poised for something new to happen, waiting for something new to bloom. We await the late April rulings of the Judicial Council to determine what parts of the Traditional Plan approved in St. Louis are constitutional. And then we will have a better sense of how to move ahead. Will we remain where we have been planted, or find richer nurturing soil in another garden?

I know that we will continue to be in conversation, prayer and discernment about our beloved United Methodist Church and the New York Conference as we continue to serve our members, neighbors and greater community. And we can be certain that our Creator-Gardener God will be walking the path ahead of us.

So, as we look for ways to reconnect with God during this Lenten season, may you stop and notice as creation is coming alive all around us. I leave you with "A Springtime Prayer," written by one of my favorite devotional authors, Joyce Rupp:

Ever-renewing and energizing Creator, come, stir in my dormant spiritual limbs.

*Wake up my tired prayer.
Revive my weary efforts of care.
Sing hope into my
discouragement.*



*Wash my dusty, drab attitude
with the cleansing rains of your
vision.*

*Go deep to my roots and
penetrate my faith
with the vibrancy of your grace.*

*Shake loose the old leftover oak
leaves of my tenacious ego-
centeredness.*

*Coax joy to sprout from my
difficulties.*

*Warm the buds of my
relationships so they bloom with
healthy love.*

*Clear out my wintered debris
with the wild breeze of your
liberating presence.*

*Nudge me, woo me, entice me,
draw me to you.*

*I give you my trust and my
gratitude as you grace my slowly
thawing spirit.*

*Light-filled Being, my Joy and
my Hope, let the greening in me
begin*

In God's grip and service,
Pastor Joanne

Pastor's Lenten Bible Study

Pastor Joanne will be offering, "24 Hours That Changed the World," began the week of March 10 and is running for seven sessions. This is a book/video study exploring the last hours of Jesus' life, written by Rev. Adam Hamilton. Sessions are held on Sunday mornings following Fellowship in Porter Library.

Do you know UMCOR?

UMCOR stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief and will be the focal point of a Special Sunday Service this month. When watching disaster unfold around the globe, many of us feel the call to help but are at a loss as to what we can actually do to help.

UMCOR Sunday on March 31 is the day for congregations around the globe to help. UMCOR offers aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded.
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded.
- When a massive tsunami devastates lives in Japan, we responded.

And when the next crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond. On March 31, 2019, our generosity as a church covers the operating budget of UMCOR. This allows them to funnel 100% of other donations

received throughout the year directly to relief efforts.



Please join us for the Katonah Appalachia Service Project Annual Dinner and Auction from 6-9 p.m., Saturday, March 30, in the parish hall at Katonah United Methodist Church. \$15 for adults, \$10 for children 21 years and younger (includes dinner & coffee/tea)

- Reveal of 2019 Katonah ASP T-Shirt design winner
- Highlight photo slideshow of last year's trip
- RSVP by March 23 with number attending by email to katonahasp@gmail.com
- Invite friends, neighbors and family
- Over 50 items in the auction
- All funds raised help pay for the June ASP trip



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

14th Katy FitzGerald
21st Bobbie McCann
25th Pat Visser

Our monthly birthday parties are usually held on the first Sunday during fellowship.

Labyrinth Workshop

Pastor Joanne will host a Labyrinth Workshop on Saturday, March 30, to introduce this form of "walking prayer" as a way of deepening our connections to God during Lent. The first session starts at noon; the second at 2:30 p.m. Please call the church to register.

F.I.S.H. of Mount Kisco

Leanne Summers was invited to be on the board of Friends in Service Helping (FISH) to provide representation from all the churches in Mount Kisco. FISH offers Mount Kisco and Bedford senior residents transportation to medical appointments in our area, Monday through Thursday. If you need assistance please call 914-666-2255.

Also, FISH is always in need of a few drivers. It is only a commitment of a half a day, once a month. If you are interested in volunteering please give them a call. Those that receive your help will be so grateful.



Tuesdays at 7 p.m.: Bible Study at Panera Bread.

Sundays after fellowship Bible Study during Lent. Beginning the week of March 10th. To be held on Sundays following Fellowship in Porter Library.

April 14: Palm Sunday

April 18: Joint Maundy Thursday service at Katonah UMC.

April 19: Good Friday service at UMCMK.

April 21: Easter
6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service at Cross River Dam with Katonah UMC
10:15: Easter worship followed by brunch

May 18: Spring Flea Market (Vendors Only)

May 9-11: Flower Patch

June 2: Faith In Action Sunday

July 12: Fireman's Parade

December 7: Christmas Fair

Teamwork on a Banner for Easter



A New Look For Our Kitchen

Our church kitchen has taken on a new look with some new cabinets and pulls, and new countertops. Thanks to craftsmen, Ross Porter, Stu Beck, Art Covey, and Andre Ferrara for all their hard work on the project.

Just walking into the kitchen, it seems so much brighter. Please stop by and take a look.

Bobbie McCann and Lisa Porter are in the midst of organizing cabinets and drawers.



Happy 90th Birthday to Pat Visser



Pat Visser celebrated her 90th Birthday this week. She was unable to attend service on Sunday but wanted us to celebrate for her. She sent us two beautiful cakes of

lemon and coconut, ice cream cups, candy and beautiful decorations. The fellowship was enjoyed by many. Happy Birthday Pat We miss you very much.



THE MOUNT KISCO
INTERFAITH
FOOD PANTRY



The pantry is located right here in the church and is open from **5-7 p.m., Tuesdays and 9:30-11 a.m. Wednesdays.** They are **always in need of volunteer workers.** Or you can help by donating some of the most popular items like cereal, pasta, rice, and canned food. Please be sure to check the expiration dates. If you would like more information or volunteer to help, please contact Lisa Porter by email: wrporter115@verizon.net

CoDA



We welcome you to Co-Dependents Anonymous, a program of recovery from codependence. The only requirement for membership is a desire for healthy and loving relationships. We have all learned to survive life, but in CoDA we are learning to live life.

<http://nyccoda.org/>

Held here Fridays at 1pm in our Education Room. For more information please contact ldance@gmail.com.

A couple of very proud grandparents showing off their grandbabies – Joanne Hall and Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton at the special called Annual Conference on March 16 at Purchase College.

Need to Contact Us?

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Phone: 914-666-5014

Email: office.umcmk@gmail.com

Website: www.mountkiscochurch.org

Church office hours: M-F 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Joanne S. Utley

Pastor's email: kiscorev@gmail.com

Pastors office hours' & F 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Music director: Paul Martinez

Head ushers: Andre Ferrara, Art Covey

Lay leaders: Bobbie McCann, Ross Porter

Administrative assistant: Marianne Baldwin

Sexton: Art Covey