



# THE *Next* CHAPTER



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MOUNT KISCO, N.Y. | AUGUST 2018

## This week's calendar

### SUNDAY

9:15 a.m., Choir Practice  
10:15 a.m., Worship followed by fellowship coffee and snacks in Halstead Hall.

### MONDAY

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

### TUESDAY

9:45 a.m., Mediation Yoga, Education Room  
4:30 p.m., Interfaith Food Pantry, Halstead Hall

### WEDNESDAY

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

### THURSDAY

9:45 a.m., Mediation Yoga, Education Room  
8 p.m., Amway, Education Room

### FRIDAY

1 p.m., CODA, Education Room  
4:30 p.m., Iglesias Cristiana Fe Y Esperanza, Sanctuary and Education Room

### SATURDAY

8 a.m., Weight Watchers, Halstead Hall  
9 a.m., Golden Crown Driving School, Education Room (third Saturday of each month)  
6:30 p.m., AA, Halstead Hall

## The Gift of Gardening

*"Truly charity has no limit; for the love of God has been poured into our hearts by His Spirit dwelling in each one of us, calling us to a life of devotion and inviting us to bloom in the garden where He has planted and directing us to radiate the beauty and spread the fragrance of His Providence." – St. Francis de Sales, 1567-1622*

I grew up in a family that was dependent on the Ohio summers to fill the basement deep freezer with vegetables and fruits to last until the next year. Most of the vegetables came from the backyard garden that stretched across the entire width of my parent's property. And with six kids in the family, there were always plenty of hands – albeit somewhat reluctant ones – to do the planting, weeding, watering, and picking. There was always corn, tomatoes, green beans, peas, onions, and lima beans.

We picked strawberries at a local farm, black raspberries and rhubarb at my grandparents', and apples from a neighbor's tree. They made their way into shortcakes, jams, or applesauce.

As an adult, most of my summer gardening has been confined to pots and planters – especially as a pastor who moves in the middle of the growing season. Each new location requires a check of the Department of Agriculture geographic zones for plant hardiness. According to their

BENEATH THE  
*Spires*  
Rev. Joanne S. Utley

web site, the USDA plant hardiness map is "the standard by which gardeners and growers can determine which

plants are most likely to thrive at a location." This year's crops are limited to basil, oregano, thyme, rosemary, lavender, and a few flowers.

For many, gardening is not only a way to provide fresh flowers for the table and fresh

vegetables for dinner; it is also a spiritual experience. With good reason Martin Luther wrote, "God is entirely and personally present in the wilderness, in the garden, and in the field."

Gardening can enrich our understanding of the world God created and its incredible interdependence. As one of my favorite hymns says, "in every seed there is a promise." We till the land, enrich it for planting, and lay in the seeds or seedlings in great expectation. We rediscover the importance of earthworms, insects, and birds in the success of our crops. We marvel at how the seed unfolds in due time when supplied with good soil, water, and sunlight.

We hope that what we nurture will grow and blossom, that what we care for will be fruitful and multiply. We learn what it means to be faithful stewards by enjoying and sharing the bounty of our garden plots. We learn how important it is to "do no harm" to our fragile environment.

A garden also requires a certain discipline, much like our practices of prayer, worship, and Bible reading. I often begin the gardening season filled with great energy and passion about transforming the landscape around me or eating fresh vegetables, cooking with fresh herbs. But sometimes that zeal flags, as other things compete for my attention. I get careless and forget to water for a day or two. I forget to trim or prune, or let the

weeds run wild. The garden rambles out of control, much like a spiritual life that goes unattended.

In every place and in every location, there are seeds of love and mercy to be planted. Some will take root immediately and grow like wildflowers. Others will need years of attention to come to a place of maturity. Others will lay fallow, until something or someone prods them to sprout and push their heads above the soil line. Our job as Christians is to scatter and nurture those seeds wherever we may go. The time of harvest is up to God.

From the quote at the top of this column, we have taken the modern mandate to "bloom where you are planted." And I believe that in some way we are all capable of doing that. We are each capable of finding the work that God calls us to exactly where we are. We may not be particularly happy about our current location or circumstance, but we can trust that God is here walking alongside us to guide, protect and nurture.

The work that God calls us to might not look like what we had envisioned or may not be with the people we had thought. But there is always the possibility of starting some new thing; to see a problem or a need and create something that brings new life or healing to our communities. It is good and faithful work that brings glory to God.

We say that those with a gift for gardening have a "green thumb." They have an innate ability to get even the most damaged or neglected plant to grow well. And while you may instead have a "brown thumb," you do have special gifts to be used for building up the kingdom of God. If you've been wondering how you can help your church or praying about what God is calling you to do, there is an online spiritual gifts quiz at [www.umc.org/what-we-believe/spiritual-gifts-online-assessment-that-might-help](http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/spiritual-gifts-online-assessment-that-might-help).

If you take the assessment, I'd love to hear about your results. Or to talk with you about the places in our community that might be ripe for scattering the love of God. We each have a place to grow – whether it be in the sun or the shade – as witnesses to the great love of God and the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. We each have places to cultivate, working alongside God to transform lives.

And I look forward to discovering those places here in the Mount Kisco area as we nurture and tend our ministries together!

*In simple humility, let our gardener God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life. – James 1:21 (The Message paraphrase)*

In God's care and service,  
Pastor Joanne

## Need To Contact Us?

Pastor: Rev. Joanne S. Utley  
Music director: Paul Martinez  
Head ushers: Andre Ferrara, Art Covey  
Lay leaders: Bobbie McCann, Ross Porter  
Administrative assistant: Marianne Baldwin  
Sexton: Art Covey  
Phone: 914-666-5014  
Website:  
[www.mountkiscochurch.org](http://www.mountkiscochurch.org)  
Church office email:  
[office.umcmk@gmail.com](mailto:office.umcmk@gmail.com)  
Pastor's email:  
[kiscorev@gmail.com](mailto:kiscorev@gmail.com)  
Office Hours:  
July-August 10a.m.-1p.m.  
Sept-June 1:30-4:30p.m.



**September 9<sup>th</sup> Rally Sunday:**  
Kick off for Sunday School.

**Saturday, Sept. 22:** UMCMK Fall Tag Sale, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vendor tables are available to rent for \$35 by contacting the church office. The church will be offering food and drinks for sale for both breakfast and lunch. If you'd like to help with the preparations or cleanup, please contact the church office or sign up in Halstead Hall.



In cooperation with The Arc Westchester, we are installing two bathrooms on the basement level for the use of

their clients during the day. The Arc program operates from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, serving individuals with developmental disabilities. Previously, the staff and their clients were using the bathrooms outside the church office upstairs. One of the two new unisex bathrooms will be compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. We'll let you know when they are finished so that you can take a look. We thank the trustees for their efforts on this project, especially Ross and Lisa Porter. Drew Osgood is doing the construction work.



On June 23, 2018, about 47 youth and 23 adults left from Katonah, N.Y. to go to Wise County, Va. to repair houses as a part of the Appalachia Service Project. ASP is a nonprofit organization that helps rebuild homes for those who can't afford it in central Appalachia.

Of the 80 or so volunteers, 5 of us were from Mount Kisco, Ross Porter, Coryn Porter, Cammie Summers, Alex Kent and myself. The youth on the trip consist of high school students. Interestingly enough, Alex was the youngest youth on the trip at 14 years old, and I was the oldest 18 years old.

Once we got down to Wise, we split up into 9 groups to work on 9 houses in the area. My group worked on replacing the floor in a bedroom for a family. Our work was stopped due to an air duct problem that a specialist had to look at. Unfortunately, we couldn't finish because the specialist was not able to make it to the site within the week.

However, this was okay because we were able to spend more time with the family. ASP isn't always just about repairing houses. Sometimes ASP is about getting to know the families and spending time with them. Because the specialist didn't show, we had time to talk with the family and play with the kids.

This year Alex and Cammie were on the same site. Their job was very complicated, and they got lots of work done. On their site they were working on a laundry room floor. The old water heater caused the floor to rot and fall apart. It was their job to remove and replace it.

During the week, they were able to remove the old floor, replace it, put down the finished flooring, replace the rotted walls, and bring in the new water heater. It is always a great feeling to be on ASP, but it's even greater when you are able to complete a job as well as they did.

This trip would not have been possible without the generous donations, prayers and support from UMC Mount Kisco. Everything that is done to help is greatly appreciated by everyone who is a part of ASP. ASP is a great organization that I love and that I wish to be a part of for as long as I can.

*Nicholas Kent*

THE MOUNT KISCO  
*Interfaith*  
**FOOD PANTRY**

You can also help regularly by donating breakfast cereal, pasta, rice, canned food.

Please make sure cans are not dented and are not out of date.

If you would like more information, please contact or speak with Lisa Porter on Lisa's email is [wrporter115@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:ldance@gmail.com).



**Neighbors Link makes hiring workers simple, safe and efficient!**

**Skilled and general labor available including: House and Yard Clean-Up, Housekeeping, Home Companions, Painters, Carpenters, Masons, Catering Help and more**

**Neighbors Link Worker Center is open 365 days a year, 7am-7pm  
27 Columbus Avenue, Mount Kisco, NY 10549 914-666-3410 •  
[www.neighborslink.org](http://www.neighborslink.org)**



AUGUST 2018

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Art Covey
- 9<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Ruff
- 19<sup>th</sup> President Bill Clinton  
Scott Davidson  
27<sup>th</sup> Dave Visaggio  
Susan Logan
- 30<sup>th</sup> Joe Baldwin

**Does the office know when your birthday is? Please let us know if you haven't done so already.**



**With many fall projects starting up either at the church or in your community, please think about volunteering your time. The rewards are many: meeting new friends, gaining new work experience, feeling a sense of reward for yourself, And it's an eye-opening experience to realize that doing even small things can have a big impact on you and others.**

**Groups in the village of Mt. Kisco that are looking for volunteers:**

- My Second Home**
- Fox Senior Center**
- Neighbors Link**
- Interfaith Food Pantry**
- United Methodist Church Mt. Kisco**
- Boys and Girl Club**

**“Sharing in our sadness as we remember:**

Armella Ferrara wife of Andre Ferrara

Dagmar Swanson, mother of Judy Launhardt. Dagmar will be remembered at a Memorial Service on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m. at Drew UMC in Carmel, NY. A luncheon will follow.

Fredrick Karl, brother of Anne Marie Karl

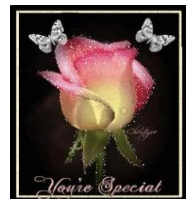


*In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

**Special Birthday Greetings to:**

**Pat Stoker, mother of Kooki Laux Happy 93<sup>rd</sup>**

**Pat resides in Skyview Nursing Home, Croton, New York**



*ARC of Westchester* is looking for volunteers to plant, water, weed, and harvest at the Community Garden, located at the Ann Manzi Center, [699 Main Street, Mount Kisco](#). The garden is in collaboration with the Food Bank for Westchester. Produce from the garden will be shared with the Interfaith Food Pantry and any volunteer garden workers. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Mey Marple at 914-420-5983

### *Listening Sessions*

Join Pastor Joanne to talk about the church and its vision/mission for the present and future in the Porter Library on one of three separate dates:

- **Sunday, Aug. 12,** following fellowship at about 12 noon.
- **Wednesday, Aug. 15,** at 7 p.m.
- **Thursday, Aug. 16,** at 11 a.m.

Each session will be limited to 10 people, so please sign up. Sign-up sheets are located on tables outside (weather permitting) or Halstead Hall, or please call the church office on 914-666-5014

### *Coffee Talk*

Join Pastor Joanne for coffee, tea, or breakfast at 9 a.m., Friday, August 17, at Mount Kisco Bagel, 480 East Main Street, Mt. Kisco (next to TJ Maxx). Come and chat about life, faith, or whatever is on your heart and mind. All are welcome at this casual weekly gathering.

