

Montgomery United Methodist Church
117 Sunset Road, Belle Mead, NJ 08502 - 908-874-3273
www.WelcomeChurch.net - *The Rev. Dr. Anthony J. Godlefski, Senior Pastor*
The Weekly Reminder – January 21st, 2018

Greetings from the Pastor

Dear Friend in Christ,

We've been talking these last few weeks about following the star, just like the Wise Men did. Last week, we discussed choosing a "Shining Star Word" - a word you can embrace as a guiding thought during the New Year. Have you chosen yours? This morning, we'll have a chance to focus on your personal word. You may choose to share it with others or keep it between yourself and the Lord - whichever approach gives more energy to you and your word. I look forward to seeing you in Church!

Blessings always, Pastor Tony

P.S.: I have a very special announcement to share with you in Church this Sunday. I hope you will be there to hear it (hint: its good news!).

2. Shining Star Words

Instead of New Year's Resolutions, we are encouraged to select a word that would be like a guiding star for us personally in the year ahead. Here are a few of the words that were selected by our congregation last year: **what will your "Shining Star Word" be?** (Idea: What word would I like to have follow the words, "I AM... "

Blooming - Successful - Joyful - Organized - Motivated - Hopeful - Balanced - Patient - Calm - Present - Grateful - Excellent - Fearless - Thankful - Confident - Courageous - Positive - Encouraging Supportive - Healthy - Appreciative - Enough - Friendship - Aware - Enlightened - Active - Accepting Focused - Thankful - Loving - Blessed - Kind - Christ-like - Forgiving

3. Thank You - Staff Gift Fund Contributors

On behalf of our entire staff and myself, we want to thank you so very much for your generous contribution to the Staff Gift Fund.

Your thoughtful gift has made this holiday time all the brighter for us.

Those of us on the staff of our Church wish to send you our warmest appreciation for your generosity and your encouraging, thoughtful wishes. May God bless you with a happy, healthy, bright New Year.

Warmest regards, *Pastor Tony and the Staff Members of MUMC*

4. Ash Wednesday is Coming!

It is hard to believe but Ash Wednesday is almost here. Ash Wednesday is the traditional beginning of the prayerful season of Lent - the preparation of the glory of Easter. On this day we will have a special service of worship in our Sanctuary at 7:30 PM. At this service, we will be thinking about the concepts we wish to delete from our lives. The things we want to put aside so that we can grow stronger and closer to God. Now is a good time to start thinking about what we wish to "give up for Lent". May it be something that brings strength and refreshment to your spirit. Ash Wednesday is February 14th.

5. The Rummage Sale is Coming!

Our UMW Spring Rummage Sale will take place this year on May 4th and 5th. Preparation will start on April 29th. Liberate your real estate! Let's start setting things aside for the Rummage Sale.

6. Discovery Bible Study This Week

We'll continue with our Sunday morning Discovery Bible Study in Room #103-104 (next to Friendship Hall) at 9:45 to 10:15 AM sharp. All materials will be provided. You are most welcome!

7. Our Special Offering

Your gift toward our Special Offering will help our Church defray the dramatic increments in our heating bills over these last few weeks, considering the frigid temperatures we've dealt with. Thank you so much for your additional generosity.

8. Online Giving is Now Available!

You may now make your contribution to our Church **online!** Simply go to our website <Welcome Church.net> and click on "Donate". Thank you, and Happy New Year.

9. Heart and Key Announcement

<www.heartandkey.org> is live!! Please visit our new website to find out more about our ministry with the ladies from Crawford House. Go to the contact page and send us a note - we would love to hear from our Church family! Many thanks! *Stacy Ladyman.*

10. MUMC "BIG Days"

Any Sunday service - especially our "BIG Days" - are excellent times to invite a friend who may not have a church home. Here are some important "BIG Days" happening at our Church - be sure to mark your calendar:

February 14th:	Ash Wednesday - Service @ 7:30 PM
March 25th:	Palm Sunday - <i>Sermon in Song</i>
March 29th:	Holy Thursday - Holy Communion Service @ 7:30 PM
March 30th:	Good Friday - Service of Worship @ 12:15 PM
April 1st:	Easter Day
May 4th/5th:	Spring Rummage Sale
May 20th:	Pentecost

11. Happy Birthday to You!

January 1 Sharon Fantozzi; 1 Rohan Samuels; 3 Joey Cincotta; 3 Keith Fleischer; 3 Kieran Kessinger; 4 Mary Dubberly; 5 Carrie Heckle; 7 Mark Hewel; 7 Katie Specht; 8 Amanda Paul; 8 Catherine Paul; 9 Naty Ancheta; 10 John Heath; 10 Michelle Samuels; 11 Jack Callan; 12 Arlene Bougher; 12 Evan Hewel; 13 Mark Ruppert; 14 Sally Piller; 16 Caitlin Librizzi; **21 Tommy Lagerman; 22 Noah Quick; 24 Joseph Cooper; 25 Jessica O'Dell; 25 David Stern; 26 Kaila Carter; 27 Melissa Dandy;** 28 Joan Dismukes; 31 Jan Baldauf; 31 Sophia Sapienza

12. The Prayer List: Names may be added by writing a note or email to Nancy Hranek at nancyhranek@gmail.com.

Let us surround our loved ones and friends with the blessed power of prayer: • Let us pray for **Connie Gray** and her family, who had a kitchen fire in their apartment; they are staying in temporary quarters; • Please be in prayer for **Judith Bowen** and her family in the passing of her cousin **Nathan Silpath**, who was 17 years old. Nathan passed away recently from a long battle with cancer; • Let us pray for **Howard Daniels**, for full recovery to excellent health; • Let us be in prayer for Frank Picone and Kim and their family for comfort from grief. Kim's mother, Carol Wolfe, passed away on December 8th, 2017; (12/8/2017); • Prayers of thanksgiving for **Jean Ammirata**. Her operation was successful and the doctors had good news; • For Deb Ploe's brother, **Shawn** that he may make a full recovery from surgery - and prayers of gratitude for her brother **Patrick**, whose surgical procedure was successful. Please keep **Patrick** in your prayers for a quick and full recovery; • For **Alexa**, Dr. Robert and Candida Marques-Harman's daughter, for a full recovery; • For **Josephine Marsch**, mother of Denise Ruppert, who has ongoing medical issues and is now in rehab; (10/26/2017) • For **Daryl Potter** - for rapid healing as she undergoes knee replacement surgery; • Please keep **Pat Stern** in your prayers, for full healing; • Dylan asks for prayers for **Mark**, for healing and good health; • For the **Kirscher Family**, with condolences in the passing of Rudy's mother, and brother; • For those affected by the **California wildfires**; • For the people of **Puerto Rico**, that he recovery of their island may be swift and complete; • For **Mike Behn**, who has separated from his wife and moved back to Las Vegas with his parents, thus leaving his son back in NJ with his mother. Pray for continued healing, emotional support and strength and clarity of mind during this difficult time; (9/17/2017) • For **Laura Lynn Boger**, Dylan's mother and Barb Ewick's daughter, who underwent successful liver transplant surgery recently; (9/13/2017) • For all those who have been affected by the recent hurricanes; (9/10/2017) • For **Janet's children**, for blessings and with love; • For **Christine**, a friend of Kathy Johnson-Brown, for good health; • Prayers of God's grace, protection, and courage for **Jennifer Barnett**; • **Anonymous request** for healing prayers; • For Barbra LaPilusa's niece, **Megan Elizabeth Helsel**, for complete healing; • For **Kaye Foster**, that she may heal quickly from a serious foot injury; (6/28/2017) • For **Alexa Vasquez**, recovering from a serious thrombosis in her leg (Alexa is Candida and Dr. Robert Harman's daughter); (6/28/2017) • For the **Cruz Family**, for the Lord's comfort as they grieve the passing of several loved ones and friends over the last six months; (5/21/2017) • For **Vy Willson**, dealing with the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease; (5/12/2017) • For **Mike Behn**, for healing, for wisdom for his doctors and comfort for his wife and son; (4/21/2017) • Kathy Johnson-Brown asks that we pray for her daughter, **Stef**, who is moving to Kansas; (4/16/2017) • Continued prayers for **Lawrence Cardinal**, for good health, and for **Barbra LaPilusa and Wade Cardinal** that they may grow together in Christ's love; (4/16/2017) • Hedy Bottitta asks that we pray for her **husband**; (4/16/2017) • **Joan Dismukes** asks that we continue to pray for the alleviation of her pain; (4/16/2017) • For blessings of recovery, please pray for **Anthony Bottitta**; • For **Connie Grey**, for healing and freedom from pain; (2/2/2017) • For **Andy Schechter**, for increasingly good health; (12/25/2016) • Jeff and Lynn Blakemore ask for your prayers for **Bart Kerner**; (12/24/2016) • Let us pray for **Makenzie Bracaloni**, infant daughter of Ashley and Robert Bracaloni (Ashley is Bob and Sandi Bjornsen's granddaughter; Makenzie is their great granddaughter) for good health; • For **Karen Fleischer's mother**, who is home recovering from a health challenge; (6/19/2016) • For **Bob and Sandi Bjornsen**, for good health; (4/24/2016) • For **Mr. Dalwin Foster**, father of Kaye Foster, for comfort and peace. Mr. Foster is dealing with severe complications from Parkinson's Disease; (3/20/2016) • For **Lisa Drift**, for continued healing; (9/27/2015).