

Bay Shore United Methodist Church

THE SPIRE

The Rev. Dr. Sungmu Lee

March 2014

Christians have gathered together to worship God on Sunday for a long time. Every Sunday Christians get up early in the morning, go to church, sing hymns, pray to God, listen to the sermon of a pastor, receive the Lord's Supper, and share joys and concerns with their brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. In the past, without Sunday observance one may not have been identified as a Christian.

However, the harmonious relationship between Christians and Sunday observance is in trouble. Many churches in North America, especially the so called mainline Protestant churches, have experienced a decline in the number of attending members during their Sunday worship services. Consequently, some of the churches have closed their doors. Recognizing this crisis, each Protestant denomination has tried to regain its good relationship with Sunday.

For instance, each United Methodist Church is supposed to report its attendance average on Sunday worship to its annual Conference, and the Church is awarded when it increases the attendance for Sunday services. In spite of these efforts in each Protestant denomination, it does not seem that modern Protestants will soon recover their relationship with Sunday.

Why? In the past, Christians had to come to church because many of them believed that if not, something bad might happen to them. When I was a teenager, I listened to that kind of sermon. Yet, modern Christians know that nothing tragic will happen even if they do not go to church. In this situation, I would like to reconsider what wisdom Christian ancestors handed down, focusing on the celebration of resurrection on Sunday.

The relationship between Sunday and the resurrection is initially found in the Gospel narratives, each of which describes the day of Jesus' resurrection as "the first day of the week." The day when the Lord was resurrected must always be a day of joy, thanksgiving, and victory. For example, in the early Christian Church, fasting and the penitential observance of kneeling in prayer were most strictly forbidden on Sunday. (The penitential mood was added later in the Sunday worship of the Medieval Church, and we still find that feature from the Catholic Church.)

In the Early Church, the mood of Sunday was very different from that of the Sabbath (from Friday evening to Saturday evening), even though many of them were influenced by Jewish traditions. If the Sabbath was forcefully kept according to the law in the Old Testament, then the day of Jesus' resurrection (Sunday) was willingly and joyfully celebrated by the early Christians.

Why do you come to church on Sunday? The answer of Protestants should not be "It is because I have to" but "It is because I want to." The motto of the sixteenth-century Reformation was "Let us go back to the Early Church!" I imagine that the early Christians actively and joyfully celebrated the Lord's day. Nobody told them to observe Sunday, but they willingly celebrated the Lord on the first day of the week.

We modern Protestants have great ancestors who handed down the legacies of Sunday celebration and theology. However, the Protestant Church has missed some valuable instructions from their ancestors, although the church has inherited and practiced many parts of that wisdom from them. Now, it is time to reconsider the wisdom of Christian ancestors, utilize it, develop our own unique Sunday practice, and finally recover the harmonious relationship between Christians and Sunday observance.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5th). Let us come to worship and experience God in Jesus Christ, who died on the cross and saved us from sins. Amen.

LENTEN WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES

During Lent our congregation worships with other Bay Shore Churches every Wednesday evening at 8 PM. Before each Wednesday evening service the hosting church provides a Soup & Sandwich Supper at 7:15 PM. Those of us who have attended these have found the fellowship rewarding and the reverence of the service in neighboring churches uplifting. Won't you join our congregation during Lent and travel to our neighboring churches to worship as we prepare for Easter? Watch for the schedule of the Wednesday Soup & Sandwich Services in the Sunday Bulletin.

Our Church will be hosting on April 9th. Please help us host this event by signing up to bring soup or sandwiches for the supper. A sign-up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall.

“Jesus’ Words from the Cross”

- March 5 ASH WEDNESDAY at Bay Shore Methodist with Islip UMC
- March 12 FIRST CONGREGATION CHURCH OF BAY SHORE Preacher: Pastor Gerth
1860 Union Blvd., Bay Shore, N.Y.
- March 19 BETHEL AFRICIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL Preacher: Pastor Darius Dickinson-Clark
54 Brook Street, Bay Shore, N.Y.
- March 26 ST. LUKE’S LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BAY SHORE Preacher: Pastor Sungmu Lee
3 Lawrence Lane, Bay Shore, N.Y.
- April 2 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BAY SHORE: Preacher: Pastor Kristian Baudler
175 2nd Avenue, Bay Shore, N.Y.
- April 9 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BAY SHORE: Preacher Pastor Allan Robinson
107 East Main Street, Bay Shore, N.Y.

NEWS FROM OUR DAY CARE & PRESCHOOL

Our Day Care and Preschool Center has been steadily growing! We recently installed new carpeting in the two front rooms in order to prepare additional space for the children. We are looking to purchase tables, chairs, and other furniture to use in these new rooms, however we do not have adequate funding at this time. We would also like to add computers in the center for the children to use. Donations of used computers would be greatly appreciated! Please contact Amy Bowman our Director if you have any donations for the center, 631-647-4326.

*Bay Shore Day Care and Preschool
2014 Summer Program*

- *18 months – 5 years old
- *Full Day (9:00-3:00) or Half Day (9:00-12:00)
- *3 days/week or 5 days/week
- *8 week-long sessions (register for 1-8 weeks)
- *Fun Weekly Themes
- *Register by April 1st to receive our “Early Bird Discount”
- *Call for details and pricing information 631-647-4326

EASTER LILIES

The lovely Easter lilies that beautify our sanctuary on Easter Sunday have a dual purpose: not only do they symbolize God’s promise of rebirth, but they also enable us to share this joyous spirit with the sick and shut-ins among our church family. If you would like to provide flowers for these purposes, please fill out the form below and give it to Flaye Stahl (665-2575).

NAME OF DONOR: (Please print all information)

DONATED: _____ To the glory of God

_____ In memory of: _____

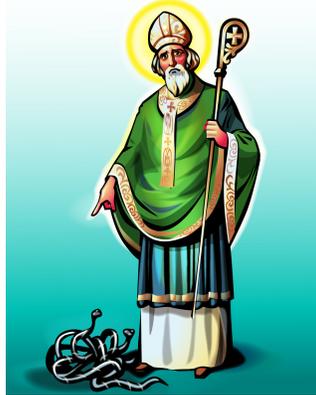
_____ In honor of: _____

_____ I will take my plant after Easter

_____ I would like my plant delivered to a shut-in

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN April 6th ! Thank you!



*“He Who Sings, Prays Twice!”- St. Augustine***Notes from the Music Director****Saint Patrick’s Day March 17th 2014****‘A FAMILY AFFAIR’**

On Friday evening, March 28, 2014 at 8:00pm in our Church Sanctuary, I will perform a concert with my sister’s Carolyn and MaryAnn. This concert will be a fundraiser for our music program here at UMCBS. We will raise funds to bring in instrumentalists for our Good Friday and Easter services. We will perform music theater, pop, opera, and classical music. We will be accompanied by Mr. Neil O’Connell, who is the music director at Babylon UMC. Tickets are \$10.00 each and will be sold prior to the concert and at the door. Please come out and support our church, and come hear a wonderful concert. Please see me for further information.

Chamber Choir Rehearses

Thursday March 6 th	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	in the School Building
Thursday March 13 th	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	in the School Building
Thursday March 20 th	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	in the School Building
Thursday March 27 th	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	in the School Building

Penataquit Handbell Choir Rehearsals

Sunday March 2 nd	11:15 am – 12:00 pm	West Room
Sunday March 16 th	11:15 am – 12:00 pm	West Room
Sunday March 30 th	11:15 am – 12:00 pm	West Room

Youth Choir Rehearsals

Sunday March 9 th	11:15 am. – 12:00 pm.	Sanctuary
Sunday March 23 rd	11:15 am. – 12:00 pm.	Sanctuary

Anyone wishing to join our music groups, please speak with Danny. New members are always welcome.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

- March 1 Joseph DiGiovanna, Jeanne Wood
- March 2 Jasmine Jones
- March 3 Nick DeLuca, Larissa DiPietro,
- March 8 Garrett DiPietro
- March 15 Jennifer Swetland
- March 16 Brian LePrell , Edward Shirley
- March 17 Karen LePrell , Katrina Jones, Edward Stein
- March 19 Dorothy Miller, Lillian Montemagno
- March 20 Mary Wilson
- March 24 Delia Berka
- March 26 Leslie Owen, Brandon Robinson, Jessica Schmalfuss,
Elizabeth Suda
- March 27 Nicholas, Janna & Janel DiGenaro, Joseph Schlamowitz
- March 28 Karen Lozano
- March 30 Karl Bocchieri, Patti Booy, Paul Burvenich,
James Cameron, Kristin Lechner De Vita

ANNIVERSARIES

- March 8 Gene and Jean Ufer

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

Soup Kitchen

Thursday: 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Thrift Shop

Wednesday: 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Elaine Williams is now at

Bella Mi Salon

Located at:

135 E. Main Street

East Islip, New York

631-581-2679

Bay Shore Day Care Center

A new ministry of Bay Shore United Methodist Church



**Quality,
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107 East Main St., Bay Shore, NY 11706
(631) 666-7194
Rev. Sungmu Lee
(631) 666-6211**

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The SPIRE March 2014