



THE SPIRE

The newsletter of the Bay Shore United Methodist Church

The Rev. Wendy C. Modeste, Pastor

November 2016

ROAD BLOCK? – MOVE FORWARD!

The Exodus story is so fascinating. It shows a picture of how God literally saves God's people, physically as well as spiritually. The battle that started in Egypt culminated in confrontation at the Red Sea; the conflict between the LORD versus the Pharaoh and all his armies.

The LORD purposely led the Israelites the long and difficult path, where they would be stuck between a rock and a hard place. Have you ever felt that you are at a dead-end, a standstill, and the only way out is to turn back? However, turning back is not an option because behind are the things that you left in order to forge ahead.

I presume that's how the Israelites felt when they got to the Red Sea and saw the mountains on both sides and Pharaoh's armies on hot pursuit. They were enclosed without an escape route. Sometimes God leads us in difficult places – cul-de-sac, so God can get the glory when the people realize that God is in control of the seas and all things!

They did what any of us would have done in their situation, they cried out to the LORD in fear and desperation. Since Moses was the intermediate to God, they asked him, "Have you brought us out here to die?" God said to Moses tell the Israelites stop complaining and move forward.

As they obeyed God and moved towards the Red Sea, God opened a passage in the Sea; God divided the sea so they walked through safely on dry land. God controlled the sea by God's breath, the waters became congealed, two walls on either sides as they went through.

In his book, "The Red Sea: 10 God-Given Strategies for Difficult Times," Robert J. Morgan said, "The same God who led you in will lead you out." God will never bring us to a place and leave us alone. Even when it seems like you are at a blind-alley,

Morgan said, "Realize that God means for you to be where you are."

Don't turn back! Keep moving forward, by faith. The LORD will make a way so you can get through your roadblock.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!
Pastor Wendy

Women's Fellowship Begins October 30th

The Women's Monthly Fellowship is an interactive gathering of all the women of the Church and their guests. It is a welcoming setting that meets women where they are spiritually and emotionally. We will look into the lives of women in the Bible: what were their experiences and challenges, and how can the way they handled their issues inform us today?

The new year of Women's Fellowship begins Sunday October 30th with gathering and refreshments immediately following Worship. For more information contact Pastor Wendy or Chair of Adult Education Dale Dowd.

Sunday School News

The Sunday School has a new curriculum this year plus two new special programs. One Sunday per month Jean Finfrock will be running a craft class for the children. Once per month (on a different Sunday), Mary Ann Cafiero will lead special music. We welcome Mary Ann and Jean and invite your children to join in these fun and enriching activities. For more information please contact the Church Office or Sunday School co-coordinators Susan Yost and Dorothy Allen.



Some Jolly Good Fellowship

We've had a ball this fall in Adult Fellowship. The new season kicked off in September with a singalong to the oldies. We didn't sound exactly like Elvis, but we were very close on "Hound Dog." Many thanks to Diane Timmony for leading us in the tunes.

In October, the staff at Frank & Maria's Pork Store led the group in a cheese tasting, where we learned about varieties of Italian imported cheeses. In all, 22 people attended and showed their support for this local business. Many thanks to Frank & Maria's for donating the cheeses that were sampled. The proceeds of the registration fees were used to purchase an Italian gift basket from Frank & Maria's that will be enjoyed by some lucky customer at the Craft Fair.



Christmas Craft Fair/Bake Sale

Friday, November 11 from 5-7 pm
Saturday, November 12 from 10 am-3 pm

Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner:
Friday 5-7 pm, tickets \$5



Homemade cookies * Gift Baskets

Come with your friends and family to support your Church and the Boy Scouts.

Help Wanted – Christmas Elves

One of our biggest fund-raisers of the year is happening soon. The annual Craft Fair November 11th and 12th will feature an assortment of handmade crafts, gift baskets and the world-famous cookie buffet. We need volunteers to help out in a number of roles:

- Setup of the West Room on Thursday, Nov. 10
- Staffing to cover sales on Friday night (to coincide with the Boy Scout's Spaghetti Dinner) and Saturday during the day.
- Cookies, cookies, cookies. These and other baked goods are greatly appreciated.
- Packing and cleanup after the fair ends

Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall. Please do your part to make this a success. Questions? See Donna Lechner or Christine Hoff.



Crafternoon With Jean

Join us as we learn to make Christmas candlesticks out of inexpensive wine glasses under the direction of master crafter Jean Finfock.

Date: Saturday, Nov. 19 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Fee: \$5 to cover the cost of materials. To register: See Beth DeCarbo or email heybeth@optonline.net

Bay Shore Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

The annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will take place Sunday, November 20th, beginning at 4:00pm. at St. Patrick's Church, 9 North Clinton Avenue. Donations and/or non-perishable food items will be collected for the Bay Shore Emergency Food Pantry.

Soup Kitchen Thanksgiving Dinner

As in years past, our Thursday Soup Kitchen will expand to a full holiday dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday November 24th. *Cooks, servers, setup, cleanup, and good cheer are all needed.* Volunteers should sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Coordinator Sue Yost at cluele3972@aol.com

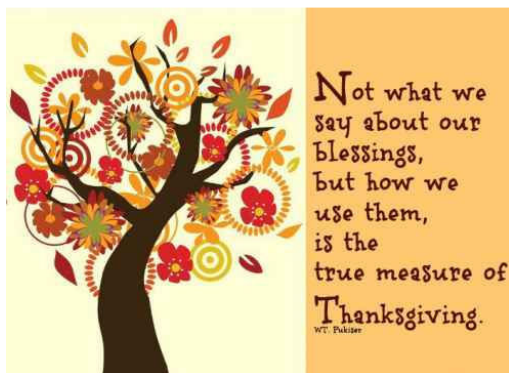
Food should be prepared ahead of time and dropped off between 2:30 and 3:00pm Thursday. Setup will be between 3:00-4:30pm, serving from 4:30-5:30pm, and cleanup from 5:30-6:00pm. For those on limited budgets, the Soup Kitchen fund will gladly pay for items you purchase – just keep the receipts and contact the Church Office for reimbursement.

Last year we provided a full Thanksgiving Dinner for over 100 people! Thank you for your generosity in the past and please help us serve our neighbors just as well this year.

Bring on the Green!

After worship service on Sunday, Nov. 27, we will be Greening the Sanctuary to kick off the Christmas season. With many hands, the work goes quickly. For those who have cordless screwdrivers, please bring them charged and ready to go. -The Worship Committee

Pledge Campaign 2017



As United Methodists, we covenant (promise) five things to bring to God's Service as participants in this congregation. These are our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

So what exactly is a pledge - and what relationship does it have to bringing our gifts to the Church?

A pledge is your personal goal for monetary giving to the Church in the coming year:

- **It is confidential** - only two people in the church see the individual pledges.
- **It in no way affects your standing in the Church** – this is guaranteed by the rules of United Methodism.
- Finally, **it is non-binding**. We are here to serve the poor, not make you poor ☺. We are only interested in the amount you can give freely and joyfully and not a penny more. If that amount changes during the year, so can your pledge.

So why pledge? The Bible asks it of us. Proverbs 3:9 advises “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops.” Now most of us aren’t farmers anymore but the principle is the same. Pledging is a way of saying “I am going to make a priority of returning a portion of the bounty the Lord has provided to His Service, not just give what is left over.”

In Matthew 6:21, Jesus says “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Pledging is one way we put “skin in the game” and commit ourselves to support our Church.

Because of God’s sustaining grace and all those who have supported our Church with their gifts and service and prayers, our finances have improved in 2016. With your help, we hope to continue this trend in 2017 and remain an active and outward facing Church that serves God and our neighbors.

Think about all the wonderful things our Church does with our gifts. We provide a sacred space for the worship of a loving and forgiving God – and for Fellowship with one another. We come here to celebrate and consecrate the most joyful events of our lives – and for comfort in the most difficult times. Church is a place for spiritual development – and a source of direction and hope when our lives are confusing and burdened.

Our Church is a place where change begins - both within ourselves and in the larger world because of our support for over 30 mission projects with scopes that range from local to global.

Our Church has done all these things and more, not just this year but for 206 years because every year people like us decided to make it so with their prayers and their presence and their gifts and their service and their witness. Now it is our choice whether we will with God’s help continue these things into the future for the benefit of ourselves and all those who come after us.

If we choose as wisely as those saints who have come before us, Jesus promised “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back” (Luke 6:38).

All that you are and all that you have is God’s gift to you. What you choose to do with those things is your gift to God. The fact that you pledge is more important than the amount you pledge. We ask that you prayerfully consider your personal circumstances, fill out the pledge form with an amount you can freely and joyfully give, and return it to the church office or at any Worship offering.

The blessing of pledges will take place Sunday November 20th, but we will gratefully accept pledges at any time. Thank you for your consideration of this request - and for being a unique and valued part of our little corner of God’s Universal Church.

Please fill out, fold to keep your pledge confidential, and return to the Church office or in any offering.
Additional pledge forms are available at Worship or by printing this page from the online Spire.

Bay Shore United Methodist Church - 2017 Pledge Form

My/our pledge to the church is \$_____

() Weekly () Monthly () Quarterly () Yearly

I (we) understand this commitment begins January 1st, 2017 and concludes December 31st, 2017, and may be revised at any time by contacting the church office at 631-666-7194 or by email at office@bayshoreumc.org

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Button Button, Who's Got Extra Buttons (and Hangers)?

If your sewing box has any extra large colored buttons that no longer match clothes you own, our Preschool could use them for crafts. Our Thrift Shop could also use any spare pants hangers taking up space in your closet (no other hangers please). To donate either please contact Christine Hoff or the Church Office.

Pennies For Preservation

A much needed rain is descending on us today, so just in case it is raining "pennies from heaven" be sure to look and see if there are some out there that could find a home in our Pennies for Preservation container. Last month's donation was \$20.00. Let us see if those who are able can contribute more this month. Any time is a good time to thank the Lord by returning a share of all that he has given us to His work.

BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 3	Stan Orme	Nov. 15	Edward Goldman
Nov. 4	Allison Becker, Sean Joseph, Alyssa Hourican	Nov. 16	Yaa Antiwiwaa Owusu
Nov. 5	Jonathan Wood	Nov. 17	Ava Lynn Statam, Caren DeRonde
Nov. 7	Cameron Allen, Christopher Witherspoon, Manuel Costales	Nov. 18	Ashley Hirsch
Nov. 8	Payton Feil	Nov. 19	Ann Marie Falcon, John Murray
Nov. 10	Eric Fager	Nov. 21	Devin Keskinen
Nov. 11	Kara Seyda	Nov. 22	Jennifer Allen
Nov. 14	Barbara Zelenka	Nov. 25	Max Lyman
		Nov. 26	Christopher Rivera
		Nov. 27	Adwoa Ababio
		Nov. 27	Marguerite Meehan

ANNIVERSARIES

Nov.25	Eric and Regina Schneider	Nov. 30	Bill and Ann Scharfenberg
Nov. 29	Jeffrey and Dawn Lawther		

Contact the Church Office to add or correct your birthday or anniversary.

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

Soup Kitchen: Thursdays at 4:30 p.m.


Thrift Shop: Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

CONNECT WITH BAY SHORE UMC

Website: bayshoreumc.org

Pastor's email: pastor@bayshoreumc.org Office email: office@bayshoreumc.org



Find us on Facebook: click on the  icon on the upper right of our website home page

Yahoo email group: to receive occasional emailed news and notices about the Church, please send a request to be added to office@bayshoreumc.org.

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Please send your contributions to news@bayshoreumc.org

The SPIRE is available in electronic form on our website (click MEDIA / e-Newsletter) or printed and mailed. Send mailing requests, removal requests, and address corrections to the Church office:

Tel: [631-666-7194](tel:631-666-7194), email: office@bayshoreumc.org, Postal: 107 East Main Street, Bay Shore NY 11706

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Bella Mi Salon
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Give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good; his love
endures forever.

—1 Chronicles 16:34