



THE SPIRE

The newsletter of the Bay Shore United Methodist Church

The Rev. Wendy C. Modeste, Pastor

November - December 2017

Grace and Peace!

One of the distinctiveness of the Apostle Paul's missives to the churches is his opening salutation of "Grace and Peace ..." ("Grace," *Charis* in the original Greek) This special greeting is to the household of faith, the community of believers. Paul is actually saying, my brothers and sisters, I give you joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness. I wish you God's favor, strength, may you increase in your Christian faith, knowledge, affection and the Christian virtues. May you be blessed above and beyond your expectations!

May the Peace ("Peace," *Eirene* in the original Greek) of God be with you, keep you and strengthen your hearts in your difficult times. This peace is what I wish you, a state of tranquility, exemption from the rage and havoc of all wars and violence; peace between us, harmony, security, safety, and prosperity (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous).

The grace of God reminds us of God's unconditional, unmerited, and undeserved, love and acceptance of God toward us; even when we were in our sinful state, not thinking of God. So, as we begin to speak life and wellness to each other, we recognize that in Christ Jesus we are connected making us brothers and sisters. We experience God's peace and harmony with each other as a result of God's graciousness.

I am grateful for YOU, each of you. To paraphrase Paul in 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4: I always give thanks to God for all of you and I mention you in my prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our lord Jesus Christ. For I know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you in himself to shine in this place and this community of Bay Shore, Brightwaters and beyond.

As we celebrate the birth of our savior Jesus Christ, may our lives be filled with grace and peace and harmony! Let us begin a new year together in worship, fellowship and service to God.

MERRY CHRISTMAS from my family to yours!

-Pastor Wendy



O COME LET US ADORE HIM!

Join us on Sunday December 24th as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. The 10 a.m. Service will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The family service is at 4 p.m. and features Lessons and Carols. The late service takes place at 11 p.m. with special music directed by Daniel Cafiero. Communion will be served at both services, and both will conclude with passing the light.

-The Worship Committee

ANOTHER GREAT CRAFT FAIR

Greetings and blessings! Here's a hearty and heartfelt "thank you" to all the people who made the craft fair such a success. Although the final numbers haven't been tallied, we're on track to make almost \$1,300. That money is greatly needed for current expenses and repairs. If we tried to name all the people who helped, we'd be sure to omit somebody. And let's not forget the many people who purchased items and supported our fundraising efforts. There is a lot of love at Bay Shore United Methodist, for sure. This was our 22nd Annual Craft Fair, and thanks again for making it awesome.



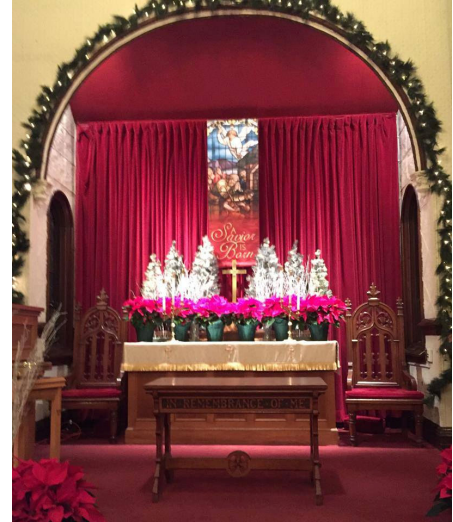
SOUP KITCHEN THANKSGIVING DINNER

On Thanksgiving Day our Soup Kitchen served the best holiday meal in town to 65 guests - and sent them home with leftovers! Thanks to the 25 volunteer cooks and servers both from our Church and volunteers from the Bay Shore community as well as to coordinator Susan Yost for their service to our neighbors.

GREENING THE SANCTUARY

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Greening of the Sanctuary on November 26th. We had more than a dozen people who helped mount the pew poles, hang garland and wreaths, assemble the Nativity Scene and decorate the Chrismon tree. A special shout-out to Christine Hoff, who bought the candles for the pews. As a result, we are ready to celebrate this joyous time of year!

-Beth DeCarbo and the Worship Committee



CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD AND POINSETTIAS

Instead of sending cards to your church friends, you can participate in the Church Card that is mailed to all our members. Forms are available at Worship (see Donna Lechner) or email the Church Office at UMCBS@aol.com with your name exactly as you want it to appear. DEADLINE IS SUNDAY DECEMBER 3RD. Cost is \$3.00 (if you email you can pay later).



The beautiful Christmas Poinsettias which decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve have a dual purpose: Not only do they symbolize the birth of Jesus; they also enable us to share the joyous holiday spirit with the sick and shut-ins among our church family. If you would like to provide flowers for these purposes, please fill out a form at Worship (see Flaye Stahl) or email the Church Office at UMCBS@aol.com.

If you email please let us know:

- 1) Your name exactly as you want it to appear on the list of donors.
- 2) Whether you are donating in memory of someone (and that name), in honor of someone (and that name), or to the Glory of God.
- 3) Whether you will take your poinsettia after Christmas or want it delivered to a shut-in.

DEADLINE IS SUNDAY DECEMBER 3RD. Cost is \$10.00 per plant (if you email you can pay later). Thank you!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship will meet on Saturday December 16th at 10 am at The Parsonage. Topic will be the Book of Esther and how her challenges can inform the decisions we make in our lives. All women welcome whether they are members of our congregation or not. For more information contact Pastor Wendy or Dale Dowd.



CAROLING – SUNDAY DECEMBER 17th

The Church Band and carolers will be singing and playing on Sunday afternoon December 17th. We will be visiting homebound Church members and nursing homes. This is a wonderful and spiritually uplifting experience for all who attend.

We will gather in Fellowship Hall after Service to assemble lyric booklets, pass out maps, set up the car pools, and warm up on a few tunes. Pizza will be provided, after we munch we'll drive around to several performance locations, returning to the Church around 4:45pm. If you have to come late or leave early that's fine. Most of our locations are indoors so caroling will be rain or shine. For more information or to play in the band please contact Tom Wilson or the Church Office.

SOUP KITCHEN CHRISTMAS DINNER – THURSDAY DECEMBER 21st

On the Thursday before Christmas we expand our Soup Kitchen to “the best holiday dinner in town” because none of us cooks as well as all of us together, followed by a caroling sing-along.

We need your help to cook, serve, and provide good cheer. Remember that we do have a soup kitchen fund so cooks with tight budgets can turn in receipts and we will gladly reimburse you for materials purchased.

The schedule for this year will be: DROPOFF 2:30pm - 3:00pm. Those who are cooking but not serving can deliver food at this time. SETUP: 3:00-4:30pm. SERVE DINNER 4:30pm. SING-ALONG 5:15pm. CLEANUP 5:45pm until done.

I hope you will join us in worshipping God not just with our words but with our deeds in this holy season. Please sign up to cook and/or serve by signing up in Fellowship Hall or contacting Tom Wilson or the Church Office. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

STOP THE PRESSES – RENOVATION GRANT APPROVED!

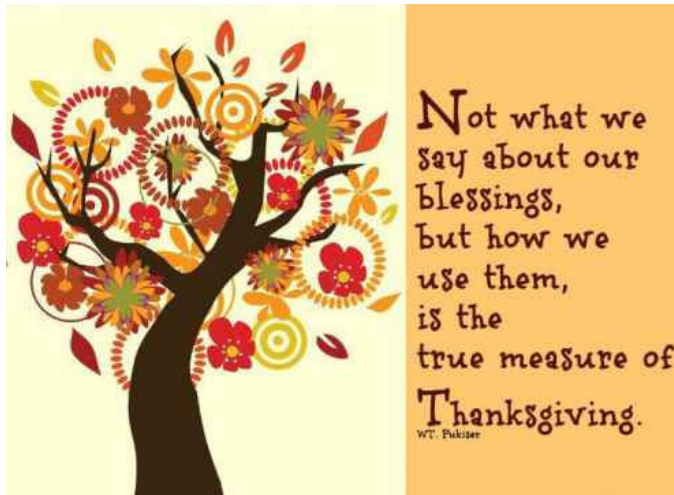
The Trustees have some great news to share: Our application for a \$100,000 grant from the NYAC Parish Development fund has been approved in two parts. First, the church will receive \$50,000 up front for repairs and improvements. The second part is conditional. We must continue to pay our apportionment--and we are--and we must start a capital campaign to raise additional funds that will be matched.

The Trustees have opened a Church Restoration and Maintenance account at Teachers Federal Credit Union, and in just a short time, it has received \$2,800. We also expect to receive donations from the community, thanks to Pastor Wendy's enthusiasm and outreach efforts. Donna Perricone, president of the Bay Shore-Brightwaters Chamber of Commerce, will speak Tuesday night [11/28] at the Chamber meeting about our capital campaign and ask for donations. Donna has also spoken to Monsignor Thomas M. Coogan of St. Patrick's Church, who has offered his support. In yesterday's [11/26] bulletin at St. Patrick's, parishioners read some very kind words from Father Coogan and learned about our fund-raising efforts. We are truly blessed to be a part of a community that supports its churches.

In turn, we must continue to help ourselves. Contribute to the restoration fund. Fill out your pledge forms. Help get the word out in the Bay Shore-Brightwaters community and beyond. Most of all: Keep the faith! We are the oldest house of worship in Bay Shore, serving the area for over 200 years. With our love and stewardship, our building will be restored and ready to serve another 200 years.

I will provide more information on how to contribute, as well as offer more details on the restoration effort. --David Timmone on behalf of the Board of Trustees

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN 2018



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 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 financial picture continues to improve. As we seek major grant funding to restore our buildings, it is more important than ever we demonstrate sustainability in our payment of day-to-day expenses. With your help we can accomplish that and remain an active and outward facing Church that serves God and our neighbors for many years to come.

Think about all the wonderful things our Church does with our gifts:

- We have 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 207 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 December 3rd, 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. Thank you for your support.
*Additional pledge forms are available at Worship
or on the website by printing the page from the November/December 2017 Spire*

Bay Shore United Methodist Church - 2018 Pledge Form

My/our pledge to the church is \$ _____
() Weekly () Monthly
() Quarterly () Yearly

I (we) understand this commitment begins January 1st, 2018 and concludes December 31st, 2018, and may be revised at any time by contacting the church office at 631-666-7194 or by email at bsumc@aol.com

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 3	Stan Orme	Dec. 1	Winston Charles
Nov. 4	Allison Becker, Sean Joseph, Alyssa Hourican	Dec. 2	William Harbert
Nov. 5	Jonathan Wood	Dec. 3	Jason DiGenaro
Nov. 7	Cameron Allen, Christopher Witherspoon, Manuel Costales	Dec. 4	Charles Kirkup, Jr
		Dec. 5	Marvin Allen, Lois Fallon Skyler Hirsch
Nov. 8	Payton Feil	Dec. 9	Joan Burvenich
Nov. 10	Eric Fager	Dec. 10	Molly Dowd
Nov. 11	Kara Seyda	Dec. 11	Clara Trotta
Nov. 14	Barbara Zelenka	Dec. 12	Audrey Muzzy
Nov. 15	Edward Goldman	Dec. 14	Roy Fager
Nov. 16	Yaa Antiwiiwaa Owusu	Dec. 15	Eleanore Owen, Alyson Lawther
Nov. 17	Ava Lynn Statam, Caren DeRonde	Dec. 16	Deborah Carr, Yvonne Sing
Nov. 18	Ashley Hirsch	Dec. 18	Julie Aromi, Doreen Hirsch
Nov. 19	Ann Marie Falcon, John Murray	Dec. 19	Nahseam Seabrooks
Nov. 21	Devin Keskinen	Dec. 21	Charles Beaudrie, Jack Biondolillo, Jackie Hubschmitt, Dolores Hoffmann
Nov. 22	Jennifer Allen		
Nov. 25	Max Lyman	Dec. 25	Jesus of Nazareth (observed)
Nov. 26	Christopher Rivera	Dec. 28	Jeannie Aromi, John Witherspoon
Nov. 27	Adwoa Ababio	Dec. 31	Don Hoffmann
Nov. 27	Marguerite Meehan		

ANNIVERSARIES

Nov.25	Eric and Regina Schneider	Dec. 16	Harold and Alice Swetland
Nov. 29	Jeffrey and Dawn Lawther	Dec. 23	Bill and Jean Carr
Nov. 30	Bill and Ann Scharfenberg	Dec. 31	Mike and Deirdrea Renwick
Dec. 3	Charles and Margery Kirkup		

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.

 The SPIRE is published monthly September to June. Deadline for the January issue is December 10th.

 Send news and announcements to Spire Editor Tom Wilson at 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: 106 East Main Street, Bay Shore NY 11706

Elaine Williams is now at
Bella Mi Salon
135 East Main Street East Islip NY



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Rev. Wendy C. Modeste, Pastor
Tel: 631-666-7194
www.bayshoreumc.org



"And you will recognize Him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." – Luke 2:12.

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