



THE *Next* CHAPTER



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MOUNT KISCO, N.Y. | April 2019

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY

9:15 a.m., Choir Practice

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

6 p.m., Iglesias Cristiana Fe Y Esperanza, Sanctuary, Education Room, Halstead Hall

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

4:30 p.m., Interfaith Food Pantry, Halstead Hall

7 p.m., Bible Study at Panera Bread

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

8 p.m., Amway, Education Room

FRIDAY

1 p.m., Co-Dependents Anonymous, Education Room

6 p.m., Iglesias Cristiana Fe Y Esperanza, Sanctuary and Education Room

SATURDAY

8 a.m., Wellness Wins (formally Weight Watchers), Halstead Hall

9 a.m., Golden Crown Driving School, Education Room (third Saturday of each month)

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

Being at Home With God

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. – John 15:1-5

Jesus speaks these words to the disciples as part of what has come to be known as the Farewell Discourse – his final instructions to the disciples before he is arrested and crucified. They have eaten together in the Upper Room and shared the cup and bread.

The word "abide" is used repeatedly in this passage and expresses the idea of "dwelling, enduring, and remaining." To abide is not a fleeting gesture. When we abide in Christ there is a vital, living connection between us – like branches

BENEATH THE
Spires
Rev. Joanne S. Utley

stretching off a vine. Our lives as Christians cannot produce fruit unless we are fed by the vine, from Jesus himself. Energy flows through the vine to the fruit.

When we are IN Christ. When our emotions are IN Christ. When our thoughts are IN Christ. When our actions are IN Christ, we produce an abundance of fruit – the fruit of love.

But the branches can't produce that fruit without a little pruning. As it's warming up, many of us are itching to get outside and putter about in our yards and gardens. And one of the first tasks may be to look for any damage caused by the cold and snow and ice. Which of the trees or bushes have taken a beating? There will probably need to be some pruning in our yards, and as this passage attests, some

pruning in our lives. Pruning

God's alternative to this

In God's care and service,
Pastor Joanne



that will allow us to more deeply connect with Christ, to abide in him, to find a home in God's word.

What things are keeping us from God? What barriers keep us from being at home in his love and mercy? What is it that we need to prune from our lives?

The late Henri Nouwen observed that many of us live as if we've forgotten our address and are living at the wrong place – living in the house of fear instead of at home with the Lord. Scripture tells us that this happens to God's people over and over again: we forget, or get confused, or are reluctant to move out of the house of fear. Many of us live in the house of fear without even realizing it. We're afraid of what we know and of what we do not know. We are afraid of change and afraid of standing still. Fear shapes our decisions and our choices.

house of fear is what Nouwen calls "the house of love," the place where we can think, speak, and act in the ways of God, not in the ways of the fear-filled world.

Jesus offers us such a home even now, in the midst of our fear. Our home with God is that place where we experience the unearned, unmerited, unwarranted super-abundance of God's love and amazing grace. Being at home with God is wherever and everywhere we experience God's sacred presence.

So, are we going to abide in Christ, make our home in Christ, or are we just going to be visitors, and stop by once in a while when we need help?

As we walk through this Holy Week together, I pray that you will choose to live in God. Make your home in God so that wherever you go, you will be sheltered. Live at home in God, as God lives at home in you.

Pastor's Lenten Bible Study

Pastor Joanne will be offering, "24 Hours That Changed the World," began the week of March 10 and is running for seven sessions. This is a book/video study exploring the last hours of Jesus' life, written by Rev. Adam Hamilton. Sessions are held on Sunday mornings following Fellowship in Porter Library.

District Gathering, Farewell to DS Ott

The New York-Connecticut District Conference is scheduled for **Sunday, May 5**, and will include a farewell celebration for District Superintendent Rev. Betsy Ott, who will be retiring at the end of June.

The gathering at **Danbury UMC**, 5 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, Conn., will **begin at 3 p.m. and end following dinner at 6 p.m.** There is no cost. We hope you will join us for this special time together.

Online registration by May 1 is required so enough food and seating may be provided. Please speak to Pastor Joanne if you plan to attend. Carpooling from the church may be arranged.

UMCOR Sunday Offering

Thanks to your generous donations we raised \$190 to send to UMCOR.

Spend Holy Week With Us

Sunday, April 14: Palm Sunday worship at 10:15 a.m. to remember Christ's entry into Jerusalem, and the start of Holy Week. Join us for the palm parade.

Thursday, April 18: Agape meal and Service of the Shadows at 6:30 p.m. to mark Maundy Thursday at the Katonah UMC, 5 Bedford Road,

Friday, April 19: Good Friday service at 12 noon in the chapel. Combined worship with Katonah UMC.

Sunday, April 21: Easter Sunrise Worship, 6:30 a.m., at the Cross-River Reservoir Dam about ½ mile off Route 22 on Reservoir Road, Katonah. This is a combined service with Katonah UMC to rejoice in Christ's resurrection. Service will last about 30 minutes. All are welcome. Carpooling is recommended, as parking is limited. FYI: Reservoir Road is a narrow gravel road.

Sunday, April 21: Easter Celebration, 10:15 a.m. Worship with special music followed by brunch in Halstead Hall, and an Easter egg hunt for the kids. All

are welcome to join in celebrating the risen Christ!



Donate to the Church While You Shop Online

If you could automatically donate to the church when you shop, wouldn't that be a great thing? Well, you now can do just that every time you shop at AmazonSmile.

When you shop online at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same selections and prices as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate a portion of the purchase price to the charity of your choice. The donation does not cost you anything extra. And as of this month, The United Methodist Church of Mount Kisco is listed as one of the charitable organization options at AmazonSmile.

To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may

want to bookmark the website for further use. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you'll be asked to designate a charitable organization before you begin shopping. Search for the United Methodist Church of Mount Kisco. The website will remember your selection, and .5 percent of the price of eligible purchases will be donated to the church.

You might be amazed at what you can buy on AmazonSmile: from groceries to electronics, books to furniture, and clothing to cars. These small donations can add up and allow us to continue to share the love of God with our congregation, our community, and in our world.

If you have any questions, please speak to Leanne Summers



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

5 th	Paul Martinez
8 th	Don McCann
12 th	Alex Kent
15 th	Gaye Abrams
17 th	Reina Smith
19 th	Ken Launhardt

Our monthly birthday parties are usually held on the first Sunday during fellowship.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesdays at 7 p.m.: Bible Study at Panera Bread.

May 18: Spring Flea Market (Vendors Only)

June 2: Faith In Action Sunday

July 12: Fireman's Parade

December 7: Christmas Fair

Health Kits

As I get ready to attend the Annual Conference in June, as our church lay delegate, I am praying we can surpass the number of health kits then we have done in the past 2 years! This is something we can all be part of as these health kits are delivered to areas where UMCOR is helping those who have suffered with floods, tornadoes, typhoons, hurricanes or any other disaster.

The kits include; 1 wash cloth & hand towel, 1 toothbrush, 1 nail clipper, 1 comb, 1 bath size soap, and 6 band aids. These are all rolled in the towel and put into a gallon size zip lock bag. \$1.00 is sent for each bag to cover cost of toothpaste that UMCOR purchases.

I have researched items in bulk at Amazon and I am willing to shop for other items at local "dollar stores", I pray you are able to donate to this Mission effort. Cash can be given to me

or if you prefer to write a check to the church, I will get those funds from our treasurer. Jesus said we are to love God and our neighbors as we would like to be loved. I pray we may never need a health kit, but how good to know they are available! Peace and prayers, Joanne Hall

Need to Contact Us?

Address: 300 E. Main St.,
Mount Kisco, NY 10549

Phone: 914-666-5014

Email:

office.umcmk@gmail.com

Website:

www.mountkiscochurch.org

Church office hours:

M-F 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Joanne S. Utley

Pastor's email:

kiscorev@gmail.com

Pastors office hours W& F

10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Music director: Paul Martinez

Head ushers: Andre Ferrara,

Art Covey

Lay leaders: Bobbie

McCann, Ross Porter

Administrative assistant:

Marianne Baldwin

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 lddance@gmail.com.

THE MOUNT KISCO
INTERFAITH
FOOD PANTRY



The pantry is located right here in the church and is open from **5-7 p.m., Tuesdays and 9:30-11 a.m. Wednesdays.**

They are always in need of volunteer workers. Or you can help by donating some of the most popular items like cereal, pasta, rice, and canned food. Please be sure to check the expiration dates.

If you would like more information or volunteer, please contact Lisa Porter by email:

wrporter115@verizon.net

Be ye fishers of men. You catch them - He'll clean them.

Holy Humor Sunday?

The Resurrection of Christ on Easter turned the world upside down, so we're doing the same with worship on Sunday, April 28. We will rejoice and laugh together as we continue to celebrate God having the final laugh over the forces of evil. Christ is risen, and new life has conquered death!

Knowing that he was about to be betrayed, tortured, and crucified, Jesus told his disciples just before his arrest: "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full." (John 15:11)

For centuries, Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant churches celebrated the Resurrection after Easter Sunday with parties, picnics, joke-telling, pranks, songs, and dancing. The early Greek Christians called the Sunday after Easter, "Bright Sunday," but today it is sometimes called "Holy Humor Sunday."



Jelly Beans

Red is for the blood He gave.
Green is for the grass He made.
Yellow is for His sun so bright.
Orange is for the edge of night.
Black is for the sins we made.
White is for grace He gave.
Purple is for His hours of sorrow.
Pink is for our new tomorrow.

May everyday be Easter in your heart. May the joy you feel on Easter morning be the joy of each day of your life.