

**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** – February 11th, 2018

**Greetings from the Pastor**

Dear Friend in Christ,

I was driving past the Princeton Airport the other day and noticed an airplane coming in for a landing. Graceful as a bird and precise in its flight, the plane gently touched the ground and landed.

Everything relies on the pilot setting just the right altitude. I am reminded that in life, "attitude sets the altitude". Let us approach our days with an attitude of hope and trust in God. God has wonderful plans for us, my Friend. Let us fly gently on the wings of His holy spirit so that we may receive His blessings as they come to us. Let's remember our positive, hopeful "attitude sets the altitude".

I look forward to seeing you in Church this Sunday. God bless you every day.

*Your friend, Pastor Tony*

**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. We've "Closed the Gap"!**

It's time to celebrate! Our Church has accomplished another major project! It is with joy that I report this to you: we have "Closed the Gap!" for 2017!

Thanks to your faithfulness in your ongoing contributions to our General Fund and to your generosity in contributing to the "Close the Gap" fund, our Church has been able to finish 2017 debt free.

Many, many Churches have been faced with economic shifts and pressing needs such as this in recent years. It is with great thankfulness that I share with you this news. The attainment of this major goal means that our Church sails into the year 2018 in good financial standing, ready to do the Lord's work in an undistracted way.

Thank you so much for your faithful stewardship. Your support has made all the difference.

Now, let us turn our attention to the work of sharing God's love with those around us, those who need His Love and Word so much. God bless you every day! *Your friend in Christ, Pastor Tony*

**4. This Sunday Is Scout Sunday**

This Sunday, February 11th, 2018 is Scout Sunday. We will welcome all Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, Eagle Scouts, and every other kind of Scout. Please do wear your uniform. Our own Boy Scout Troop, #850, will provide significant leadership during the service. Let us warmly welcome all Scouts and their families.

**5. Ladies' Day - A Celebration of the Heart**

A Heart Healthy Women's Fellowship will take place here at our Church on Saturday, February 17th, 2018 from 9:00 to 12:00 PM. There will be a **Breakfast** with healthy and nutritious options on the menu (yogurt, fruit, egg-bake, veggies) and **Activity Stations** featuring adult coloring books, a spa corner, reading corner and tea tasting. There will also be **Light Group Exercise** (possibly chair exercise) and information brochures about Healthy Heart from Princeton Fitness & Wellness. This is for women of all ages so please invite your girl friends for a wonderful event celebrating women. You may indicate your interest on the Count-Me-In paper. For more information, please contact Charine Johnson at (609) 751-1889.

**6. Lenten Book Club 2018 Coming Soon!**

It's time for our winter Book Club sessions! I invite you to join me as we explore a remarkable book by my beloved Bible teacher and friend, Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas. It's called, "I Bought a House on Gratitude Street". It's an exciting, insightful, helpful, fascinating book.

We'll be meeting at Church at 7:15 PM on four Tuesday evenings during the season of Lent (February 20th and 27th and March 6th and 13th from 7:15 - 9:00 PM).

If you want to be part of this study:

1.) **Please secure your own copy of the book as soon as possible.** It's easily available from Amazon - or whatever your favorite bookseller is.

2.) **Please start reading it right away!** Underline in it! Mark it up! Draw icons and arrows, even pictures if you like! Most of all, write down notes and questions and ideas that it inspires. When we get to class, we'll talk

about it!

3.) **Please set aside time for reading at home.** We're not going to read entire chapters aloud in class this time; we'll discuss whatever the class has read at home (three chapters per class session).

4.) **Please make Book Club a priority.** If you decide to go with it, please stay with it - for all four weeks. (If you try it for the first week and decide it's not your cup of tea, I and everyone else will understand.)

5.) **Everyone's welcome - and please invite a friend!!** Sign up today! We will learn, be inspired, and have fun with this! You may indicate your interest on the Count-Me-In paper. Blessings always, Pastor Tony

#### **7. Ash Wednesday is February 14th, 2018 - Soup Supper @ 6:15 PM and Service @ 7:30 PM**

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. We will begin the season by having supper together before the service, along with a prayer at 6:15 PM. Please bring your favorite homemade soup. Other food donations are appreciated, like bread, salad and dessert. See the Count Me In paper in this week's bulletin.

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.

#### **8. St. Patrick Takes A Rest**

Due to scheduling conflicts, our annual St. Patrick's Day Festival will be postponed until next year. In its place, we are bringing back "Game Night" (see the article below).

#### **9. Game Night**

What could be better on a cold winter's evening than to come to a warm Church and have some fun with your Church friends? Let's get together on Sunday, March 11th, 2018 for an informal covered dish supper and a time to play some board games with friends. There will be an old fashioned sing-a-long around the piano as well for those who like to sing. Bring some food to share and a game you'd like to play. Sign up, and more details will come your way. You may indicate your interest on the Count-Me-In paper in this week's bulletin.

#### **10. Confirmation is Coming**

Confirmation is a learning process and special Church ceremony wherein young people affirm and celebrate their personal faith in God. This faith, which was affirmed for them by their parents and Godparents at their Baptism is "confirmed" by these young people for themselves at Confirmation. It is a joyous step in our journey of faith. Please indicate your interest on the "Count Me In" paper.

#### **11. 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!

#### **12. The Rummage Sale is Coming!**

Our UMW Spring Rummage Sale will take place this year on May 4th and 5th, 2018 and preparation will start on April 29th. Liberate your real estate! Let's start setting things aside for the Rummage Sale.

#### **13. Our Special Offering**

Your gift toward our Special Offering will help our Church defray the cost of heating and heating equipment repairs. Thank you so much for your additional generosity.

#### **14. 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.

#### **15. Heart and Key Announcement**

<[www.heartandkey.org](http://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.*

#### **16. 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:	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> - Service @ 7:30 PM
March 25th:	<b>Palm Sunday</b> - <i>Sermon in Song</i>
March 29th:	<b>Holy Thursday</b> - Holy Communion Service @ 7:30 PM
March 30th:	<b>Good Friday</b> - Service of Worship @ 12:15 PM

April 1st:	<b>Easter Day</b>
May 4th/5th:	<b>Spring Rummage Sale</b>
May 20th:	<b>Pentecost</b>

### 17. Happy Birthday to You!

**February 2** Kyle Maloney; **4** Steve Heckel; **11** Joy Carter; **11** Cynthia Conshue; **12** Denise Roth; **16** Frank Picone; **17** Carlos Benito; **19** Bryan Lawrence; **20** David Musante; **20** Jen Tonkin; **22** Matt Twomey; **23** Millie Baker; **24** John Pecci; **27** Jill Frezza; **28** George Bartlett; **29** Karen Lawrence

**18. 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, **Patrick...** prayers of gratitude for miraculous results and continued prayers for a quick and full recovery, along with prayers for Vilma and her continued spiritual support and encouragement; • 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; • Pray that **Barbra and Nicole LaPilusa** have true peace, health, happiness and continue to grow with God's love always; • 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).