

THE LORD'S PRAYER

March 2012

"**Teach us how to pray,**" the disciples said to Jesus. (*Luke 11, 1*) He answered by teaching them the prayer we call the Our Father or The Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer is a basic Christian prayer. As a model of prayer, every Christian learns it by heart. It appears everywhere in the church's life: in its liturgy and sacraments, in public and private prayer. It's a prayer Christians treasure.

Though we memorize it as a set formula, the Lord's Prayer shouldn't be repeated mechanically or without thought. Its purpose is to awaken and stimulate our faith. Through this prayer Jesus invites us to approach God as Father. Indeed, the Lord's Prayer has been called a summary of the gospel.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

When Moses approached God on Mount Sinai, he heard a voice saying, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." An infinite chasm separates us from the transcendent God.

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus invites us to draw near to God who is beyond human understanding, who dwells in mystery, who is all holy. We can call God "our Father".

Calling God "Father" does not mean that God is masculine. God is beyond the categories of gender, of masculine or feminine. None of our descriptions of God is adequate. God, who is "in heaven", whose name is holy, cannot be fully known by us.

By calling God "Father" we are more rightly describing ourselves and our relationship with God. Jesus teaches that we have a filial relationship with God; God sees us as if we were a daughter or a son. And we, on our part, can approach God in the familiar confident way a child approaches a loving parent. What is more, we approach God through God's only Son, Jesus Christ, who unites us to himself.

Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

God's kingdom. Jesus often said that God's power would appear and renew all creation. God like a mighty king would rule over the earth according to a plan that unfolds from the beginning of the world. God's kingdom would be marked by peace and justice. Good would be rewarded and evil punished. The kingdom, according to Jesus, is not far off, but already present in our midst, though not yet revealed.

In the Lord's prayer we pray that God's kingdom come, that God's will, which is for our good, be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

We are God's children. What can be more childlike than this petition in which we pray for our daily bread, a word that describes all those physical, human and spiritual gifts we need to live. With the confidence of children we say: "Give us this day what we need."

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

This petition of the Lord's Prayer is a demanding one. Not only do we ask God's forgiveness for our daily offenses, but we link God's forgiveness of us with our forgiveness of others. Forgiving others is not always easy to do. We need God's help to do it. But it must be done or we ourselves cannot receive God's mercy.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Life is not easy. It is a daily battle. Trials like sickness and failure can crush our spirits. False values and easy promises can entice us and even destroy our souls. And so we ask God to keep us from failing when we are tested, to help us to know the right thing to do, to deliver us from the evil which awaits us in life.

The Lord's Prayer sums up the teaching of Jesus. It is also a prayer that offers the grace of Jesus: his reverence for God, his childlike confidence in his Father, and his power to go bravely through life no matter what comes. When we pray his prayer, his spirit becomes our own.

LECTIONARY FOR MARCH

March 4

Genesis 17:1-7,15-16; Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

March 11

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19
I Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:11-22

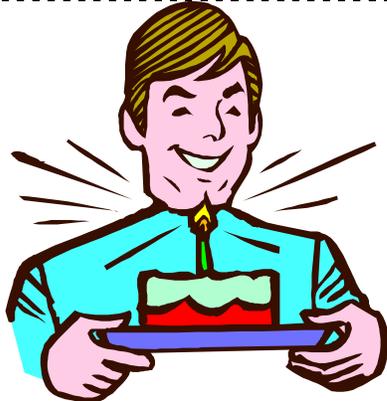
March 18

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3,17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

March 25

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10; John 11:20-33

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HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY TO:

<i>Jeffrey T. Scott, Jr.</i>	2
<i>Steven Curtin</i>	7
<i>Andrew Moore</i>	8
<i>Lois Burns</i>	9
<i>Joseph Cocco</i>	9
<i>Virginia Chavan</i>	10
<i>Leona Parker</i>	11
<i>Fred Gmitter</i>	12
<i>NancyJane Baldwin</i>	16
<i>Kenneth Long</i>	19
<i>Laura Schickel</i>	19
<i>Cynthia Mannino</i>	21
<i>Christopher Beyer</i>	22
<i>Leonard Parker</i>	23
<i>Christopher Cocco</i>	26
<i>Keith Burns</i>	27

HOW DO YOU RECEIVE THE MESSENGER?

Some of our members and friends receive it in church, some through the mail and others with an email message telling them it is on line for them to access it. The ones getting it through the internet probably have the best copy since that is the only one that is in color. Our copy machine at church does not print in color so you have to settle for black and white.

In going over our records lately and comparing the names of those receiving the Messenger, we found that we have been duplicating some of the mailings. It has now been corrected so, hopefully, that will no longer happen.

If you receive yours through the Internet, please access it when you receive the message that it is on line. We have no way of checking to know just how many do read it and we like to think that you find it interesting and want to keep up with what is happening here in the Linden UMC. We do receive messages from some with very nice compliments about our newsletter, and we are always glad to hear from our friends.

If, at any time, you would like to put a message in the Messenger, please contact Doris Henel at Djhenel@aol.com or Djhenel@umclinden.org.

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ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

WE HAVE FOUR ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS A YEAR – THE SECOND WEDNESDAY IN MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER. THE FIRST ONE IN 2012 IS WEDNESDAY. MARCH 14TH AT 10:00 a.m. in aldersgate hall. All chairpersons and members of committees are members of the council. please try to attend. if you cannot make it you can contact the secretary, doris henel, and she will see that you receive a copy of the minutes. these meetings are important – plans are made and reports are given to keep everyone up-to-date. we need your input!!



How difficult it is to write an obituary for someone who has been a part of our church family for so many years! Mary Margaret Muir Barnes died after a long illness on Monday, January 23, 2012 at her home surrounded by her loving family. The viewing was held at the Leonard-Lee Funeral Home on Thursday, January 26th from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. The funeral service, conducted by Rev. Dr. Ricardo Ramos, was in our church sanctuary on Friday, January 27 at 10:00 a.m. with some of those present recalling memories of times spent with Mary. Interment was in Graceland Memorial Park, Kenilworth, N.J. The women of the church served a lovely luncheon in Aldersgate Hall to the family and friends following the service. Mary was born in Mount Union, Pa. and moved to Linden in 1951. She was employed by Exxon Corporation and in the Treasurer's Office of the City of Linden. She was an active member of the Daughters of Scotia, the Exxon Annuitants Club and a volunteer with the Center for Hope Hospice.

For over 50 years, she was a member of the United Methodist Church of Linden, serving as a Sunday School teacher, member of the Kum Double Club, Administrative Council, and chairwoman of the Benevolence, Endowment, and Scholarship committees.

In recent years, Mary and Ruth Schulte spent the winters at her vacation home in Vero Beach, Fla. where she had many friends and lots of visitors, who will miss her very much. They, too, shared many happy memories during their times together.

Mary was the beloved wife of the late George C. Barnes, who died in 1986, and is survived by her son, George M Barnes, and his wife, Karen of

Linden and a daughter, Mary Jean Barnes, and her husband, Michael Maye of Berkeley Heights, N.J. She was the loving grandmother of Allyson Marie Barnes and Jennifer Lynn Barnes.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Center of Hope Hospice, 1900 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, 07076 in her memory would be appreciated. Some have also been giving to the Memorial Fund of the United Methodist Church of Linden. We now add Mary as one of the spirits that fill our sanctuary – those members who were so important to our church and to the people remaining. They may be gone from our sight, but will never be forgotten.

God Bless Mary and her wonderful family – we continue to pray for them all.



This picture was taken at the open house of the parsonage when Rev. Frederick Boyle and his wife, Rose, entertained us. Some of our happy memories of Mary with Ruth Schulte.

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We also extend our sympathy to Ruth Schulte and her family, on the death of her brother-in-law, Paul Diljak at the same time that Mary Barnes died.

Paul had been on our Prayer List for a few months and it was a very difficult time for Ruth, who felt the need to be with her sister in Pennsylvania when her husband died, and wanting to also be with Mary's family. She spent time with them at both viewings, and her daughter and husband drove them to Pa. for Paul's funeral on the day of Mary's funeral service.

BITS AND PIECES

Beatrice Bradford and her son, Mycroft, left for Ghana, Africa the last week in January. They were not sure how long they will be away, but we know that they will enjoy their time there, and especially, the time spend with Beatrice's husband.

We miss them but understand how important it is to visit with family and friends.

We received a note from George Barnes thanking the church members for their cards and prayers as he recovers from his treatments. We continue to pray for George and his family and hope for a complete recovery.

Marie Dziamba is always happy to return to Texas to visit her family and friends. It is especially nice when her son, Mike, can accompany her on the flight. Mike goes for business, and Marie goes for the joy of being with her family. They left on Friday, February 3rd and while Mike will be returning home when his meetings are over, Marie will be staying about 6 weeks. The week before she returns, her daughter, Diane, will fly out to spend some time with their family and return home with her mother. What a nice vacation for all of them. We hear so many good stories when Marie returns to New Jersey. Enjoy!!

We were glad to see Angel Mercado in church recently. He had been hit by a car and is walking with crutches but he was fortunate that it wasn't something a lot worse.

He is very faithful to the UMC of Linden and El Redentor UMC. He attends services on Sunday at each service and we are always happy to welcome him. Get well soon Angel.

We are so pleased to be able to greet Norman Carhart each Sunday. He and Joyce moved to Brick a couple of years ago, and Norman drives up to Linden each week so he can attend church with us. He says "there is no church like the Linden UMC with its caring and friendship" and he would never be able to replace it. He also is

continuing to bowl up here and does that each week, also. Norman had been bowling for many years and back when we had a Church Bowling League, he was always in the top UMC team. Good thing Bob and Lorraine Carhart live nearby, because they can look forward to a visit every week. It's not just the bowling, though, because Norman comes up all summer long – and there is no bowling then!!!

Claudette Harty recently found that one of her college roommates lives not too far away from Linden and she hope to rekindle that friendship again. It is always fun to meet those that grew up with us and has some memories that not all can share.

If you drive past Bill Martin's previous home on Wood Avenue, you will not recognize it. When he left Linden for Maine, he sold the house to a women who is a veterinarian and they seem to be making a lot of changes to the property. It is interesting to watch!!

Friends of John Henel and his wife, Julie Smith, have some very nice friends! A couple of them planned a 60th birthday party at John and Julie's home, with a pot luck supper, and about 90 people attended. They were surprised when their daughter, Tessa, appeared from Denver, Colorado to join the party. Twins, Nina and Alec had a few friends attend and many old and new friends were there. The old ones were some from Linden who have been living in California for a long time, and people from their college days. It was a fun time for all!!!

PRAYER LIST IN SUNDAY CHURCH BULLETIN

Doris Stamer	George Barnes	Janet Pavlinic
Leona Parker	Sophia Meolia	Marge Varga
Dale Williams	Angel Mercado	Kime Smith
Dottie & Larry Diaz	Maggie Chichester Family	
Ethel Steiniger		Gertrude Kiely

Some are better but all continue to need our prayers.



Doris and Al Henel



Mary and Bob Lamont

These look like "happy days" for the Henel's and Lamont's. Must have been a fun occasion! Looks like the tables have tablecloths on them so there must have been food involved - there usually is when Methodists meet!

Bob Carhart came across these pictures recently and as near as we can figure, they were probably taken during the 80's or 90's. Thanks for sharing them, Bob.

Do you have any pictures of church events? We would be glad to put them in the Messenger if you will let us borrow them.

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CHURCH SIGNS
YOU MAY BE IN THE DRIVERS SEAT, BUT
GOD HOLDS THE MAP.

FAITH IS A JOURNEY – NOT A
DESTINATION.



We extend our deepest sympathy to Bill Forster, his wife, Louise, and family on the death of his sister, Dorothy Sigmund.

When St. James U.M.C. closed its doors, both Bill and Dorothy were longtime members there. They came here to our church but Dorothy found that she knew a number of people in the Reformed Church and eventually started attending church there. The viewing and service were held on January 28, 2012 at the Werson Funeral Home. Interment was at Graceland Memorial Park in Kenilworth.

Dorothy was predeceased by her husband, Charles Sigmund (1992) and is survived by her two children, brother, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

She will be missed by her family and many friends.

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NEW BIBLE STUDY STARTS

A new Bible Study for Lent will be starting on Tuesday, February 21st at 10:30 a.m. and will continue through Lent for six weeks each Tuesday. The sessions will be held in the Youth Room in the Aldersgate Hall section, downstairs. The topic will be the "last days of Jesus' life". We hope you will consider attending this Bible Study group – we promise you will enjoy the discussion.

We look forward to seeing you.

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SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2012

Applications have been received by the church office to nominate someone for Outstanding Senior Citizen of the Year 2012. Does it seem almost a year ago that Doris Henel received her notice that she was the Senior Citizen for 2011?

The Annual Senior Citizen Day Celebration will be in May at the J. T. Gregorio Center All Linden organizations, churches, and families are invited to submit nominations by completing and returning an application to the Department of Public Property and Community Services by March 16th.

Applications are available in the church office with a letter of instruction. The nominee must be a resident of Linden and at least 65 years of age.

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ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Communion will be served on Ash Wednesday at our church service in the sanctuary February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. We invite all to join us and to bring your friends.

It is a personal choice whether you choose to receive ashes or not.

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"DO NOT WAIT FOR THE HEARSE TO TAKE YOU TO CHURCH"

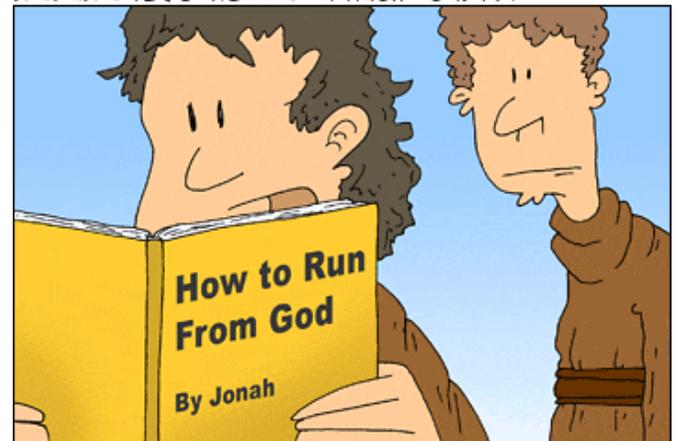
PLEASE ORDER YOUR EASTER LILY



IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!
Gertrude Baldwin will be ordering the Easter Lilies to grace our sanctuary once again. You may take them home after the Easter church service on April 8th. The cost will be \$7.00 and you may give them in memory or honor of a loved one. Order forms will be in the Sunday bulletin or you may order them by calling Gertrude at 862-9473 if you will not be in church.
Each year at Easter time our sanctuary is beautiful, thanks to your generosity, and we know it will be just as lovely this year.

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Thanks to Richard Germain (See Jonah 1-4) 09-19-2008
IT JUST SAYS "DON'T"



SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS DURING THE EASTER SEASON

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE - In our sanctuary, February 21st at 7:00 p.m. Communion will be served.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2 - **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – 7:30 PM CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
128 Arthur St., Tremley Point, Linden

All are invited – men, women and children – to experience an evening of Christian unity through prayer. The service is authored by the women of Malaysian on the theme of *Let Justice Prevail*.

The women of the Interfaith churches will take part in the service.

Rehearsal – Sunday, February 26 at 2:30 p.m. – Calvin Presbyterian

UMC LENTEN BIBLE STUDY – To be held on Tuesdays, from February 21st through March 27th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Room. Theme – “The Last Hours of Jesus’ Life”.

PALM SUNDAY – April 1st at 10:30 a.m. in our sanctuary. Palms will be distributed.

UMC HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE – Will be April 5th at 6:00 p.m. in Aldersgate Hall for a **Soup Supper followed by Communion. Reservation forms will be in the Sunday bulletin for the supper at no cost for you.**

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE – April 6th the Good Friday Service will be in Linden Presbyterian Church, Orchard Terrace, Linden. Church members from the Interfaith Council are invited and welcome to bring their friends. Please attend.

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 8 WITH THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULED:

MEMORIAL GARDEN – Short service in place of a sunrise service – 8:00 a.m

BREAKFAST IN ALDERSGATE HALL – 8:30 a.m. A free-will offering will be available for those that wish to contribute.

Reservation forms will be in the bulletin for the breakfast.

CHOIR REHEARSAL – 9:00 a.m. in the Choir Room

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE – In our sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. (Read the article in this Messenger about ordering an Easter Lily.)

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

**WHEN? Tuesday, March 13
 PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!!!**

WHERE? Meet at the church

TIME? 12:00 Noon

WHAT? Progressive Luncheon

We will gather at the Knopf Street foyer at the church and carpool to Gertrude Baldwin’s home for appetizers. The second stop will be soup and salad at the home of Doris Henel. Our final stop will be at Doris Stamer’s for dessert and a short business meeting.

Progressive suppers used to be a regular thing for our Methodist Youth Fellowship but it has been a long time since we have had one. We are all looking forward to it and know it will be just as much fun as they used to be.

We hope all members will attend. If you are interested in joining the United Methodist Women’s organization, we would be pleased to have you also attend our luncheon. Speak to one of the presidents if you are interested – Doris Stamer, Gertrude Baldwin or Doris Henel.

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RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE PERSONAL USE OF ALDERSGATE HALL

The church buildings are the responsibility of the Board of Trustees and they set the rules for the renting and use of them. In the last year they have reminded everyone of these rules and they are stating them again.

Members of the UMC of Linden can reserve Aldersgate Hall, if the date is free, for their personal use (birthdays, weddings, parties, graduations, special occasions, etc.) at no cost to them. You must make the reservation through the Board of Trustees (Donald Beyer, President) and fill out a simple contract.

This is important because if there is a problem, the Trustees must have information to contact the correct person. Non-members contacting the church to rent the Hall are charged \$175. with a \$100. deposit which will be returned if the Hall and kitchen is left in good condition with everything put away and left over food and personal items taken with them. They must fill out a contract which they return with the deposit. If there are complaints about the condition the deposit will not be returned and the Hall will not be rented to them again. This has happened.

On occasion, the Board of Trustees may give a special price to Linden non-profit community organizations (school, city committees, police or fire department meetings, etc.) or, depending on the use and length of time, no charge at all.

No one can reserve a date by just putting “reserved” on the church calendar – that will only be done when a contract is filled out and a Board of Trustee member (or their representative) enters the name and date on the calendar.

The Board of Trustees spends a lot of time trying to take care of our buildings and keeping them in good repair. We must have rules and regulations and they must be followed. All, whether a member of our church or not, MUST fill out a contract. Aldersgate Hall is used for our church programs and we are pleased to have people use it when it is not in use but all must follow the guidelines. Donald Beyer can be reached at 908-486-8686,

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UNITED METHODIST WOMEN’S RUMMAGE SALE

Although the date has not been set by the United Methodist Women for their Spring Rummage Sale, it will be announced in the near future. You can bring clothing, linens, soft-covered books, purses, white elephant items and shoes to Epworth hall NOW!

MARCH 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	2 7:30-World Day Of Prayer Calvin Pres.Ch. All invited	3 9:30-1:30 Fencing School
4 9 AM - Choir 10:30 - Worship 10:30-Sunday Sch.	5 7 – Board of Trustees (D.Beyer,T.Henel,B.Losyk J.Stamer,C.Ettel,W.Hanns G.Baldwin) 4:30 – 9:30 Fencing Sch.	6 10:30-Bible Study in Youth Room 4:30-Weight Watchers 4:30 -9:30 Fencing Sch.	7 4:30-9:30 – Fencing School	8 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	9	10 9:30-1:30 – Fencing School in gym
11 9 AM - Choir 10:30 - Worship 10:30 -Sunday Sch	12 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	13 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers 12 Noon-U.M.W. Progressive Luncheon 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	14 10:00-Administrative Council - Please attend! 4:30-9:30-Fenc.Sch.	15 4:30-9:30-Fenc.Sch	16	17 9:30-1:30- Fencing School in gym
18 9 AM – Choir 10:30-Sunday Sch 10:30-Worship	19 4:30 – 9:30 Fencing School	20 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	21 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	22 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	23	24 9:30-1:30 Fencing Sch. in Gym
25 9:00 – Choir 10:30-Sunday Sch 10:30Worship	26 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch.	27 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-Weight watchers In Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	28 4:30-Fencing Sch.	29 4:30-Fencing School	30	31 9:30-1:30 Fencing Sch.

REHEARSAL FOR WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2:30 PM - CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH