

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY

June 8th, 2014

Acts 2:1-11

What would you say has been the most exciting event in your life so far? The disciples who were gathered in the upper room at the first Pentecost would have no trouble answering that question. They would immediately tell us the story of the Holy Spirit's dramatic descent on the followers of Jesus. A great, thundering wind! Tongues of scarlet fire parting over their heads! Each person filled with the Holy Spirit! Everyone suddenly speaking in languages they had never known before! What a day that was!

At Pentecost the gift of the Spirit filled the disciples with the energy and power to speak so that people from many nations could understand them. It was an event that changed the world and gave birth to the universal Church.

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

The game of one-upmanship can cause trouble even in religious communities. When St. Paul wrote this letter to the Corinthians, they were debating about whose spiritual gifts were better. Did those who could speak in foreign tongues have a more valuable gift than those who could prophesy? The truth is revealed in the letter. All of the gifts of the Spirit are valuable. And they are all given for the common good.

In the Spirit we are all made one in the Body of Christ. Whatever our different gifts, there is one God who produces them and makes us one.

John 20: 19-23

Some events are so life-changing that we have to keep going back to them in memory to grasp their true meaning. That's how it was with the gospel writers and the resurrection of Jesus. In this reading, John recalls the evening of the first Easter. Jesus appears in the midst of the disciples and gives them his peace. He breathes on them and gives them the breath of the Holy Spirit so that they have the power to forgive sins.

As we know from the first reading, the Spirit would be experienced again as fire and a mighty wind at Pentecost. But whatever form the Spirit takes, his gifts are intended to bring unity and peace to the Body of Christ.

LECTIONARY FOR MAY

May 4

Acts 2:14a,36-41; Psalm 116:1-4,12-19
I Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

May 11

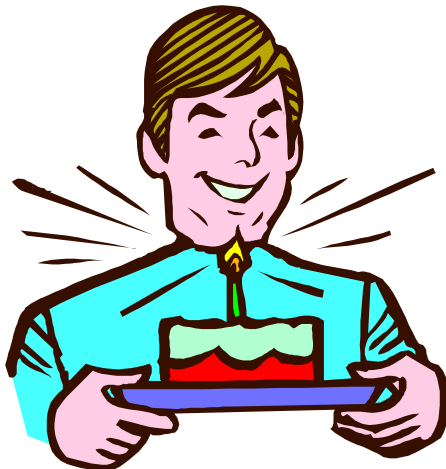
Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23
I Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

May 18

Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5,15-16
I Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 25

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20
I Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21



HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY TO:

<i>Kerry Abbott</i>	2
<i>Laurel Hanns</i>	3
<i>Richard Woodfield</i>	4
<i>Irene Modrak</i>	4
<i>Curtis Burns</i>	5
<i>Nancy Martinson</i>	5
<i>Carolyn Franz</i>	7
<i>Joyce Carhart</i>	7
<i>Lorraine Carhart</i>	8
<i>Bridget Crespo</i>	10
<i>Patricia Martinson</i>	16

<i>Ed Burns</i>	18
<i>Richard Brinckmann</i>	20
<i>Evan Schickel</i>	20
<i>Alan G. Woodfield</i>	26
<i>Courtney Martinson</i>	28

.....and many, many more!!!



ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL

In the fall of 2013, The Administrative Council voted that they would meet every other month, rather than quarterly as they had been doing the last few years. We have been very careful to remind you of this in the Messenger you receive during the time they will be meeting. In May, they will be meeting in Aldersgate Hall on WEDNESDAY, MAY 14TH AT 10:00 A.M.

All chairpersons of committees and the member of those committee are automatically members of the Administrative Council. Although not all people who are on the committee attend the Council meeting, we would urge you to make every effort to attend. If you need transportation, please contact Lorraine Carhart, 908-925-4865. It is vital that you know what is going on in the church, and that you can contribute ideas that will help in the growth of our church. Please think about it!!



RESERVATIONS FOR ALDERSGATE HALL

The Trustees have had many rentals in past months and they are continuing in June. Be sure you check the calendar in the church office before you request a date so you will know what is free for meetings and rentals.

LECTIONARY FOR JUNE

June 1

Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
I Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17; 1-11

June 8

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34
I Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39

June 15

Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Mathew 28:16-20

June 22

Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

June 29

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42



HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY TO:

<i>Philip Karpa</i>	3
<i>Jessica Faith Mannino</i>	4
<i>Brian Stamer</i>	7
<i>Lynette Joy Carhart</i>	9
<i>Glenn Curtin</i>	9
<i>Douglas Martinson</i>	13
<i>Dorothy Gerbounka</i>	18
<i>Kacie Ann Gmitter</i>	23

and many, many more!!!!



GOD IS PERFECT.....ONLY PEOPLE MAKE
MISTAKES

A NOTE FROM THE MESSENGER EDITOR

Many, many years ago I found a small quote in the newspaper that really made a big impression on me. I carried that message in my purse until the paper began to fall apart and I eventually had to throw it away. I have tried to find a copy of it ever since and just recently my son, Bill, went on the internet and there it was! It gave me a direction as a young married woman and, after all this time, I wanted to share it with my friends. It probably will explain why I can't walk away from a problem and, one way or another; I get involved – all because of these four sentences which appeared in the newspaper a few years after the end of World War!

"First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out – Because I was not a Socialist

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out – Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out – Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak for me!"

The lesson I learned? Get involved, whether it be political, volunteering in schools, hospitals, charities, church, youth groups and organizations that are trying to make life better for all of us. We are our "brother's keeper". Let's not forget that!

Doris Henel





EASTER FLOWERS

Each Easter members and friends of our church order a lily to be put on our sanctuary altar in memory or honor of a loved one.

We are listing below those that were listed in our church bulletin on Easter Sunday. Following the service people took the one they had ordered home or gave it to a shut-in.

GIVEN BY _____ IN MEMORY OF

Doris Henel	Loved Ones
Kathy Curtin,MJ.Koslosky	Mary,Dee Dalziel
Kathryn Gmitter	Fred & Randy Gmitter
Ruth Schulte	Loved Ones
Dick&JeanMacAlpine	Norma,KenMacAlpine
Helia Bento	Odair Bento
MaryLou F. Resch	William Forster
MJ.Koslosky,Kathy Curtin	George Koslosky
Nellie & Rusty Lyles	Russell Lyles
Isabelle Livingston	Loved Ones
Doris Stamer	Loved Ones
Janet & Stan Pavlinic	Loved Ones
Grace Hickman	The Lawson Family
Ida Peralta	Husband & Parents
Valdez Family	Loved Ones
Vera Horsh	Ralph Horsch
Lorraine&BobCarhart	Mary & GreggCarhart

<u>GIVEN BY</u> _____	<u>IN HONOR OF</u>
Gertrude Baldwin	My Family
MaryLou F. Resch	Louise Forster
Janet & Stan Pavlinic	Our Service People
Mark Cierpial	The Church

We thank all those who ordered flowers and shared them with us to beautify our sanctuary. It looked lovely!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



The United Methodist Women met on Tuesday, April 1st in Aldersgate Hall. They made plans and for the coming year, and discussed their finances. One change they have made – they will not meet in January and February in the future. In recent years those months have not been, weather-wise, very good for meeting and they have had to be cancelled at the last minute.

The next meeting is Tuesday, May 6th at 12:00 noon. Bring your lunch – coffee and tea will be provided. If you have not been attending meetings of the United Methodist Women, we invite you to do so. Our organization was first organized in 1901 as The Ladies Aid Society and we have kept going ever since (even though our name has changed.) All women of our church are automatically members but we would really like to see more attend our monthly meeting. Please reserve the date and try and join us.



NOTE THE CHANGE!!

The past two years have not been very good, health wise, for Doris Henel. This past April and part of May she spent in Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, Rahway, with pneumonia. As of the typing of this Messenger, she is home again and hoping that the future will be better for her.

Since, because of health, she retired from serving as church secretary after 45 years, and Finance Chairperson over 25 years. However, she has continued as a volunteer, to type and write the Messenger ever since retiring. She enjoys putting the Messenger together and feels it is very important to keep communication open between our church members, previous members who have requested receiving the Messenger even though they may have moved away, potential new members, old friends and our previous ministers. These are all very important people to us, whether current members or previous ones who served our church well and we appreciate them all.

Because she was in the hospital in April, and the May Messenger was being worked on at that time she didn't finish the newsletter on time and some possible changes may be made in the future.

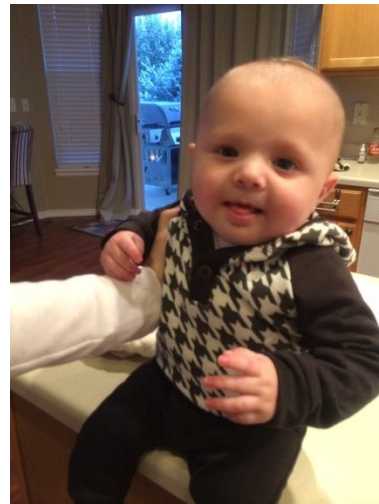
This month the May and June Messengers are combined into one as you will notice. We may do this on a permanent basis or occasionally as time allows.

Your next Messenger will be mailed out the end of August with all the information you will need for the return to the church sanctuary for our church services and programs and schedules that will be announced. Sometimes you will receive a two-month Messenger and sometimes it will just cover one month. Just check the date listed on the newsletter and you will know which you have.

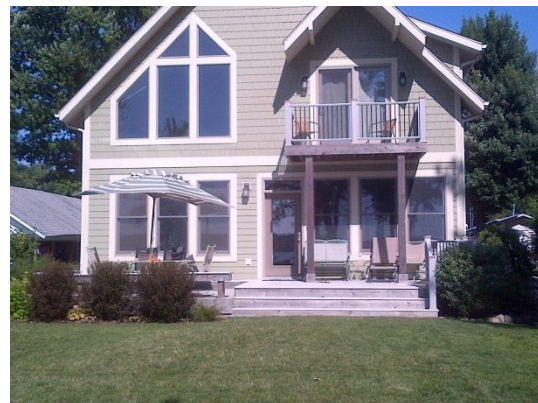
Since this is now done by a volunteer, it will relieve some of the pressure and hopefully still be enjoyable to read.



Doris Henel with grandson Matt Henel and his fiancée Jamie Van Salisbury. Wedding plans are being made for next Spring.



Jayne Cocco's latest grandchild Cole (son of Joe and Tracy Cocco) with another on the way from Brian and Meg Cocco.



Todd Schickel, Tom Henel and Rick Downey will be visiting Bob and Carol Schickel again this year at their summer home on Bass Lake in Indiana.

A HEARTFELT EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO THE
ROBERT J. BAUER FAMILY FOUNDATION

On Sunday, April 27th immediately following our worship, we gathered for a Special Church Conference called and presided by Rev. Dr. Jisun Kwak, Gateway North District Superintendent. The purpose was to receive a very generous donation from the Robert J. Bauer Family Foundation for mission and ministry, for \$500,000. We also gathered to set the protocol for the use of the monies. For such a blessed opportunity, we welcomed Mrs. Mary Bauer and her son Mr. Rick Bauer. Mr. Robert J. Bauer was not able to be with us due to a health related situation. Mr. Rick Bauer introduced her cousin Cathy and her two daughters. Cathy is Mrs. Dorothy Fedor's daughter.

During our time together, we learned about the Bauer's love for Linden and The United Methodist Church of Linden. We rejoiced in knowing that Mr. Bauer spent his formative years in our church and that throughout the years the Robert J. Bauer Family Foundation has been contributing to our church. We heard Mrs. Bauer saying that they would like to hear the church organ sound again in our church. We will certainly honor their will to have the organ sound again and to be dedicated to Mr. Robert J Bauer and his sister Mrs. Dorothy Fedor.

The community gathered had the opportunity to express their gratitude to the Bauer family. We expressed our heartfelt appreciation for their deep sense of mission and their wish for us to continue serving the Linden community for years to come. In addition, Mr. Tom Henel read a letter of thanksgiving from Mrs. Doris Henel, who was not able to be present due to a health issue. We agreed and affirmed our commitment to keep the Bauer family in our prayers. We finished, as we best know how to do: sharing coffee and some goodies.

During the next few months, our Church Council, in close conjunction with the Board of Trustees, will continue to work on a strategic approach for the use of the allocated monies. By God's grace and with the Holy Spirit guidance, we will use the financial resources available to us to uplift and reignite our church mission and ministry. In doing so, we will continue to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

We will keep you posted regarding upcoming church projects and progress. I invite to join us with your prayers and collaboration as we all move forward following the resurrected Christ where he is leading us.

In Christ service,

Rev. Dr. Ricardo Ramos

Pastor

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

ON SUNDAY, JUNE 29TH AT 9:30 AM, WE WILL START OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE OF CHURCH WORSHIP IN ALDERSGATE HALL. USUALLY BY THAT DATE IT GETS PRETTY WARM IN THE SANCTUARY AND EVERYONE IS VERY HAPPY TO WORSHIP IN OUR HALL WHERE THERE IS AIR-CONDITIONING.

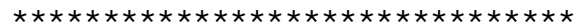
PLEASE MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR SO WE WILL ALL BE IN THE SAME PLACE FOR THE START OF OUR SUMMER WORSHIP TOGETHER.



PENTECOST SUNDAY

WHEN? SUNDAY, JUNE 8
WHERE? IN THE SANCTUARY
TIME? 10:30 A.M.

PLEASE WEAR RED!

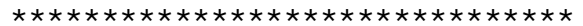


**UNITED METHODIST
WOMEN**

On Tuesday, June 3rd at 12:00 noon the United Methodist Women will meet for their last meeting until September. The last few years, they have been

going out to a nice restaurant to help make the day a little special.

This year they will be going to the Stagehouse Restaurant in Scotch Plains. Calls will be made to arrange transportation for everyone. Please reserve this date and plan to join the women for a nice luncheon and enjoyable company.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Once again, thanks to the generosity of one of our members who will be adding to the Dianne Long, Gregg Carhart and Bill Steiniger scholarships, we will be able to give out a few scholarships.

They will not be as large as last year, but we hope it will help anyone applying. Please get your application immediately from the church secretary and submit to Lorraine Carhart as soon as possible.

MAY 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	2 5:30-8:30 Champion Youth	3 9:30- 1:30 Fencing School
4 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship Service	5 7-Trustees 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	6 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 Admin. Council 4:30 -9:30 Fencing Sch.	7 4:30-9:30 – Fencing School	8 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	9 5:30-8:30 Champion Youth	10 9:30-1:30 – Fencing School in gym
11 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship Service	12 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	13 10:30 Bible Study 4:30-9:30-Fencing School	14 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	15 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	16 5:30-8:30 Champion Youth	17 9:30-1:30- Fencing School
18 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship Service	19 4:30 – 9:30 Fencing School	20 10:30 Bible Study 4:30-9:30-Fencing School	21 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	22 4:30-9:30-Fencing School	23 5:30-8:30 Champion Youth	24 9:30-1:30 Fencing School in Gym
25 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship Service	26 4:30 – 9:30 Fencing School	27 10:30 Bible Study 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	28 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	29 4:30-9:30-Fencing School	30 5:30-8:30 Champion Youth	31 9:30-1:30 Fencing School

JUNE 2014

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1 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship Service	2 7-Trustees 4:30-9:30-Fencing School	3 10:30 Bible Study 12-United Methodist Women – Stagehouse Restaurant 4:30 -9:30 Fencing Sch	4 4:30-9:30 – Fencing School	5 4:30-9:30-Fencing School	6 5:30-8:30 Champion Youth	7 9:30- 1:30 Fencing School
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29 <u>9:30-Worship in Aldersgate Hall for The summer</u>	30					

NO FENCING SCHOOL DURING THE SUMMER