

The Lily Pad



“I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.” Solomon 2:1



WE ARE CALLED TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Dear Friends in Christ,

March is Women’s History Month and it marks the celebration of biblical, historical and contemporary women who have responded to the call of peace, justice, equality, and humanity in the world. This month should also be a reminder that

the celebration of the manifold gifts and contributions of women should not be limited to one month or set time, but all the time. Women’s History Month is a time of celebrating and acknowledging the myriads of ways that women both locally and globally, inspire, transform, and enhance all our lives.

For 2018 Women’s History Month, Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church celebrates the ministries, missions, services, and advocacies focusing on women, children, and youth through the **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**.

God calls Christian laywomen and clergywomen, all Christians, to model the biblical reality that each of us has gifts. God calls all of us to bring those gifts - and God's people - together. The Good News is that many, many women work together across lines of status, class, and calling, to serve and model interdependence at its best and are known as **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 reminds us, *someone might be able to beat up one of you, but not both of you. As the saying goes, “A rope made from three strands of cord is hard to break.”*

There is also a motivational poster that reads, *“God has given us bread, wine, and one another.”*

The meaning of both bits of wisdom is clear: when we stand together with each other and with our God who creates and sends us forth, we can accomplish much more good than may be accomplished when we strive against one another.

A threefold cord is not easily broken. Together, with God nudging us forward, laywomen and clergywomen, young women and old women, poor women and rich women – **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**, working together to advocate for the betterment of women and families everywhere will change the world and ourselves for the better through spiritual growth, leadership development, transformative education, service, mission, and advocacy. This is who we’ve been, who we are, and who we’ll continue to grow to be! Well done **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**, well done!

It is hard to believe that we are not far from Holy Week. Lent has moved right along hasn’t it?

Our Holy Week begins today with Christ’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem. As we begin these Holy Days, I would like to thank you for your participation in the various activities of Lent during these past weeks: Ecumenical Lenten Services, Wonderful Wednesday, Sunday Worship Services, Sunday School, Men’s Retreat, and other various ministry and outreach opportunities. I hope that repentance, fasting, self-examination, and reflection has occurred in preparation for the coming of Easter and a closer relationship with God.

The special days of Holy Week are considered to be our Holy Days as Christians and the various celebrations are deeply rooted in the traditions of our faith. I invite you to participate in the liturgies of these Holy days. If you have never attended the celebrations of Holy Week, perhaps this is the year to attend either individually or as a family. Holy Week and Easter Worship Services:

Palm Sunday, 25 March 2018, 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Pancake Breakfast: 7:30am & 9:45am

Maundy Thursday, (Holy Thursday) 29 March 2018 at 7 p.m. – Holy Communion, Feet Washing.

Good Friday, 30 March 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Sunrise Service, 1 April 2018 at 7:00 a.m., Love Feast, followed by Soulful Breakfast.

Easter Service, 1 April 2018 at 9:30 a.m., Holy Communion

At our Easter Service, I pray you will bring family and friends and I thank you in advance for extending a warm Fifth Avenue welcome and hospitality to those who will be here to praise and celebrate our *RISEN* Lord and Savior! I sincerely appreciate your uplifting praise as we live our mission statement - to be a Welcoming Christian Community.

When you come before the Lord in the coming weeks, please whisper words of prayer for clergy leadership and laity leadership to Almighty God. Pray that we all are blessed with wisdom, strength, and hope during these special days and weeks. Know that we will pray for you, your loved ones, and your joyful anticipation of the Resurrected Jesus!

WE MAY NOT SEE EACH OTHER EVERY DAY BUT, MAY WE MEET EACH DAY IN OUR PRAYERS!

Yours in Christ,

***Pastor Clarissa, Martin, Marissa, Biancha,
Sophia, Nicolas, Cookie, Hachi, & Sadie***