



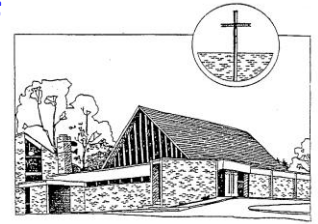
## The United Methodist Church of Sea Cliff

Carpenter and Downing Avenues

P.O. Box 190

Sea Cliff, New York 11579

Rev. Kirtland M. Watkins, Pastor



Greetings in the name of our Risen Savior,

A man was sleeping one night in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with light, and God appeared. The Lord told the man he had work for him to do, and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might. So, this the man did, day after day. For many years he toiled from sunup to sundown, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all his might!

Each night the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain. Since the man was showing discouragement, the Adversary (Satan) decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the weary mind: (He will do it every time)!

"You have been pushing against that rock for a long time, and it hasn't moved." Thus, he gave the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure. These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man. Satan said, "Why kill yourself over this? Just put in your time, giving just the minimum effort; and that will be good enough." That's what the weary man planned to do, but decided to make it a matter of prayer and to take his troubled thoughts to the Lord.

"Lord," he said, "I have labored long and hard in Your Service, putting all my strength to do that which you have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. What is wrong? Why am I failing?" The Lord responded compassionately, "My friend, when I asked you to serve Me and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all of your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push. And now you come to Me with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed. But, is that really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back shiny and brown; your hands are calloused from constant pressure, your legs have become massive and hard. Through opposition you have grown much, and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. True, you haven't moved the rock. But your calling was to be obedient and to push and to exercise your faith and trust in My wisdom. That you have done. Now I, my friend, will move the rock."

At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what He wants, when actually what God wants is just simple obedience and faith in Him. By all means, exercise the faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still God Who moves the mountains.

When everything seems to go wrong..... Just P.U.S.H.

When the job gets you down..... Just P.U.S.H.

When people don't do as you think they should..... Just P.U.S.H.

When your money is "gone" and the bills are due..... Just P.U.S.H.

When people just don't understand you..... Just P.U.S.H.

P = Pray

U = Until

S = Something

H = Happens

\*\*Harvested from the internet - no author given\*\*

# Bulletin Board

## ..... UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 7<sup>th</sup> – Spirit Builders, 7:30 p.m. @ the church
- March 4<sup>th</sup> - UMW World Day of Prayer, service @ 1:00 p.m.
- March 9<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday, service @ 7:00 p.m.
- March 21<sup>st</sup> - Spirit Builders, 7:30 p.m. @ the church
- March 29<sup>th</sup> – Reconciling Task Force meeting, 7:00 p.m.

## ..... THANK YOU!

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for the overwhelming kindness you showered upon our family during Pastor Kirt's illness.

Bonnie Watkins

Dear Congregation,

I want to sincerely thank the congregation for their cards, prayers and attendance of my mom's funeral service. Tracy did such a very nice job in helping my family thru a very difficult time with conducting the service. Thank you for all your care. My mom would have been so happy to know so many people came on a snowy and cold day to honor her. This is why we are such a strong church because we are there for one another. I am grateful to God, my husband, and all of you for this healing time.

With Appreciation, Lisa Hill

## ..... BACKPACKS NEEDED

The UMCS and Trinity Episcopal Church are collecting backpacks for the men who participate in the Homeless Shelter program at the Glen Cove Presbyterian Church. The backpacks do not have to be new, but they must be appropriate for adult men. Please bring them to the church office.

## ..... MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

- KATE CHASE, a long time member of the church, passed away peacefully on February 9<sup>th</sup> at her home in Shelburne, Vermont. She was 93 years of age and had moved to Vermont in 2000 to be near her children. Kate was very active in all aspects of our church life since moving to Sea Cliff in 1946. The family has recommended that memorial contributions be made to our church.
- JANE LOCKWOOD, mother of Nancy Lockwood, passed away on February 22<sup>nd</sup> in California. A funeral service will be held March 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 9:45 a.m., at the church.

## ..... MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Belle Kicinski	3
Patti DiStefano	16
Jenny Weiss	18
Kira Watkins	21



## ..... OUTREACH NEWS

### North Shore Sheltering Program

On Monday February 7<sup>th</sup>, members of the Outreach committee prepared and delivered a hot meal to the North Shore Shelter. The Shelter, located in the Glen Cove Presbyterian Church, provides meals and sleeping arrangements for 25-30 homeless men every evening throughout the winter months.

### Mission Sunday

This month our church will celebrate Mission Sunday with a special offering to benefit The United Methodist City Society. The Methodist City Society is one of our apportionments.

The Rev. Dr. William S. Shillady, Executive Director of the United Methodist City Society, will be the guest preacher on **Sunday, March 27th**.

The UMCS is the social service arm of the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

This multi-service community- based organization provides financial support and technical assistance to more than 100 New York City churches, located in low-income communities; and addresses the religious, educational, recreational, and social needs of children and families through after-school and Head Start programs, day care centers, food pantries, soup kitchens, residential drug treatment centers, retreat facilities, senior centers, and summer camps. Its City-Wide Children's Program initiative provides educational activities for children at Methodist church-based after-school programs across New York City.

A special offering will be requested, and the Outreach Committee and the United Methodist Women will partner to provide coffee hour refreshments.

Please mark your calendars for Mission Sunday.

## ..... SAVE THE DATE

**APRIL 17<sup>th</sup> IS THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH.** Watch for more details in the April Highlights and bulletins.

# Palm Sunday



## ..... CHURCH FOOD BOX GOES GREEN FOR MARCH

In honor of St. Patrick's Day on March 17th as well as the much-anticipated first day of spring on March 21<sup>st</sup>, **GREEN** will be the theme for your contributions of non-perishable items to the food box for March. Let's see how creative you all can be in thinking "outside of the box" with your interpretation of green! It doesn't have to be all green beans and peas.....

## ..... ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We will observe Ash Wednesday this year with a service on March 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7 p.m. at the church. Please join us as we begin the Lenten season.



## TEN QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR CHURCH

How many can you answer?

1. Who is our Lay Leader?
2. Who is president of the Church Council?
  1. What is the Church Council and who serves on it?
3. Who is president of the Board of Trustees?
  1. What are the trustees in charge of?
  2. How long may a member serve?
4. What committee does reviews of our staff and recommends salaries? Who must approve their recommendations?
5. What is the difference between the financial secretary and the church treasurer? Who holds each job?
6. What committee is responsible for the September picnic, the Christmas Brunch, and Sunday coffee hours?
7. What four people have taken on the responsibility of educating our young people each Sunday morning?
8. Approximately how much money did our Thrift Shop raise in 2010 for the work of the church?
9. What exactly is the Reconciling Task Force trying to reconcile?
10. Who is chairperson of the Outreach Committee and what exactly do they reach out to do?

*If you need help with these answers, be sure to pick up a copy of the Annual Charge/Church Conference Report in the back of the sanctuary.*

**You will be tested on your answers in an upcoming coffee hour!**

**- Prayer List -**

**Healing, Comfort, and Strength of Mind and Spirit**

Eve Haim  
Connie Fisher  
Carol

Mark  
Kathy Valente  
Family of Jane Lockwood

Victor Johnston  
Pastor Watkins

**For those Homebound and in Health Care Facilities**

Gladys Baxter  
Joan Clark

Stewart Gaynor  
Bob Josephson

Dot Sprague  
Laura Valente

## On the Light Side

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning.

The wife said, "You should do it, because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee."

The husband said, "You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it, because that is your job; and I can just wait for my coffee."

Wife replies, "No, you should do it; and besides, it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee."

Husband replies, "I can't believe that; show me."

So she fetched the Bible, and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says ..... "HEBREWS"



***"Please select  
hymn number  
637 on your  
iPods."***



# Person of the Month

## Connie Fisher

A photographer hoping to take a perfect picture of Connie Fisher would probably place her in her cozy den, finishing off a book of Sudoku puzzles and listening to a CD of the New York Philharmonic performing Debussy or Rachmaninoff. She would have been at the piano herself, but she's not quite as mobile as she once was; and the bench is not as comfortable. In fact, she says if she could do one thing for Sea Cliff Methodist, it would be to raise funds for some pew cushions to make Sunday mornings a bit more comfortable.

Connie's time at United Methodist goes back to the building on Sea Cliff Avenue, and she was the only woman on the committee to build the current church. "I think they needed someone to take notes," she said recently, "because I sure didn't know anything about architecture." She was also on the committee to call Rev. Ray Lange – "a wonderful man" – and was on the Church Council.

Born a Presbyterian in Portland, PA., then a town of about 300 people, Connie describes her childhood as idyllic. She had one sister, whose son considers Connie his second mom. He and his family, Connie's only remaining relatives, live in Ohio and usually come east for a visit once a year, around Christmas.

Connie and her husband, Jack, moved to New York in 1956 so he could work on his doctorate at NYU. Both teachers, they lived in Lindenhurst and, eventually, moved to the house Connie still calls home in Glen Cove. She says they looked at several churches in the area before choosing the United Methodist Church of Sea Cliff in the early 1960s. Jack became very involved, ushering and teaching Sunday School almost from the beginning. In addition to her other duties, Connie was on the membership committee for many years.

"In those days, we had attendance cards for every member and visitor and we'd have people sign them each Sunday," she said. "I'd go home and tally who had been here each week, so we'd know if someone needed a visit or a call." The committee also sent birthday cards to youngsters who had gone off to college. Connie says she loved having the service at 11 a.m., as it once was, and she and Jack would go out to lunch afterwards. She also remembers the fellowship of many church suppers.

Jack loved sports and Connie loved music – opera, symphony, ballet – and each championed the other's interests. Connie, originally a math teacher, moved to Port

Washington schools and was a guidance counselor there for 25 years until shortly after Jack, then in his 50s, had a tragic fall. The accident left him mentally incapacitated for 17 years, until his death. Connie's many friendships, both in and outside the church, kept her going, she says. One dear friend, who died recently, attended musical events in the city with Connie for years and also joined her in duets—she on the piano and he on the organ. She hears from students from a half-decade ago, with one never missing her birthday or Christmas.

After retiring, Connie's love of music led her to volunteer for many years with Friends of the Arts, where she devoted several hours a week working both in the office and at the shows on Saturday evenings. She also volunteered with the Chamber Players. A highlight of her experience with them was hosting a quartet from Italy at her home for a week. They quickly became good friends. Upon their return to Italy, the cello player's mother, an artist, did a beautiful Italian street-scene painting that hangs on the wall in Connie's den.

Connie and Jack had no children, but they brought three teenage girls to live with them at various times. All were from Connie's school district and had difficult family situations. Connie has remained close to them – particularly one, who is now a vice president for an insurance company in South Carolina and who wore Connie's wedding dress when she got married. She even named her daughter after Connie. The Fishers' home is filled with photos of smiling faces from those days.

Connie turned 85 on Groundhog Day, and health concerns keep her from getting to church as much as she'd like. When she does, she enjoys Pastor Kirt's sermons and thinks the music is fantastic. In the meantime, she enjoys visits and calls from friends and, of course, her music. And she still does a mean Sudoku!



SPRING AHEAD  
DAYLIGHT  
SAVING TIME  
MARCH 13th