



“Fenimorian News from the Pews”

January-February 2022 – Volume 1 No 1

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Introduction:

A BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL and welcome to the first edition of the Fenimore Street United Methodist Church Newsletter!! We are grateful to God for the opportunity and privilege to expand the communication channels of our church through the establishment of this newsletter. One of our goals is to keep our congregants informed on the “happenings” of the church and to attract those in the community in a new and vibrant way. Some of our upcoming feature articles and stories will include From the Desk of the Pastor, Wellness Empowerment, your Yummy Scratch Dish, spotlights on our diverse congregants and so much more.

Our kickoff started with a contest on selecting a name for the newsletter. For those who may not be aware Sister Barbara Moody submitted the winning name “Fenimorian News from the Pews.” Sister Moody said she prayed and asked God to give her a name that would inspire the congregation to submit articles. A \$50.00 gift card was presented to Sister Moody. We thank all in the congregation who participated in submitting entries.

Newsletter Ministry

From the Desk of the Pastor:



Rev. Roger Jackson

Saints of God, in the marking of time, each year is divided into four separate and distinct seasons. During the spring all of nature seems to be coming alive. During the summer all of nature is either soaking in the sun or is sweltering from

Continues on pg. 2 column 1

Upcoming Church Events:

- 1/4/2022 btw 10:00am-2pm every Tuesday, Ladies in Waiting/Food Pantry in Fellowship Hall
- 1/4/22 @ 8:00pm – Prayer on Zoom every Tuesday
- 1/19/2022 @ 7:00pm – Bible Study on Zoom. every Wednesday



John Wesley’s Covenant Prayer and the Baptismal Covenant by Steve Manskar

“I am no longer my own, but thine.
 Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
 Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
 Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
 exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
 Let me be full, let me be empty.
 Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
 I freely and heartily yield all things
 to thy pleasure and disposal.
 And now, O glorious and blessed God,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
 And the covenant which I have made on earth,
 Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.”

Continues on pg. 2 column 2

Continuation from page 1 column 1 (From the Desk of the Pastor)

its heat. In the fall all of nature is losing its luster and appeal. And in the winter, all of nature appears to be dead but in the Kingdom of God the marking of time is not predicated upon the positioning of the sun, but the will of God. All seasons in the lifecycle of the people and the ministry ebbs and flows according to God's timing. So while it is cold outside and we are in the winter season where everything in nature appears to be dead, God has decided that we as a church will experience new beginnings.

The *Fenimorian News from the Pews* is one such new beginning that God has provided for us to share stories, information, recipes, fun facts, testimonies of the goodness of our God with each other and so much more.

May this and every future edition speak of the lived reality of this season in the life of our church that "Christ is alive and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings: our God is making all things new." (Words by Brian Wren: UMH #383)

Continuation from page 1 column 2 (Spotlight)

John Wesley adapted this prayer from the Puritan tradition that was so important to his parents, Samuel and Suzannah, and life in the Epworth rectory. It informed his theology and preaching. He expected the people called "Methodists" to pray this prayer at the beginning of each new year as a way of remembering and renewing their baptismal covenant.

The prayer describes the life of a participant with Christ in his mission. It is a practical description of what Jesus was talking about when he said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23). Baptism marks the beginning of life in Christ and his *ecclesia*, a people who "profess to pursue holiness of heart and life; universal love filling the heart and governing the life." The Covenant prayer helps us remember what this Jesus-way of life looks like and what loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind and loving our neighbor as ourself requires of us. *Continuation on page 3 column 2 (Spotlight)*



Family Life Chairperson, Marlene Ferguson and her team hosted a Grab and Go Breakfast in October, 2021 for the community.*

SOCIAL OUTREACH CONTINUES WITH THE FOOD PANTRY AND WEEKLY DISTRIBUTION



Ladies in Waiting Chairperson Joan Cox and Minister Jacque Cummings review stats on the number of participants for the day



Fresh fruits and vegetables are part of the nutritious food that is distributed weekly.



Chaplain Selena Lubell opens the Food Pantry with prayer

Continuation from page2 column 2 (Spotlight)

When we pray this prayer, we remember that we are baptized. We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin. We accept the freedom and power God gives to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, trust wholeheartedly in his grace, and promise to serve him as Lord, in union with the church. And we renew our promise to live as faithful members of Christ's church and serve as his representatives in the world.

The Covenant Prayer describes missional life devoted to following Jesus and serving as Christ's representative in the world he loves and is working to redeem. It tells us that being a Christian is more a way of life than a system of beliefs. The Covenant Prayer describes the Jesus way of self-giving and self-emptying love.

This way of living and loving is possible only in a community centered in the life and mission of the crucified and risen Jesus Christ. Wesley and the early Methodists annually prayed the Covenant Prayer presuming everyone was part of a class meeting or band that met weekly for accountability and support for living this prayer. And everyone had a discipleship coach in their class leader who encouraged and prayed for them.

Happy New Year
Fenimorians
2022!!!

Showcase: **132** Years in Ministry



Nelson A. King of Caribbean Life Newspaper published an article on 11/11/21 entitled “Brooklyn Church celebrates 132nd Anniversary. Following are excerpts from the article.



Rev. Jackson, left, his wife Kim, Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke and Rev. Dr. Ian Straker.

“The 132nd Anniversary Service for Fenimore Street United Methodist Church opened with the bold hymn, ‘Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart’”, Shanae Als – a Barbadian American member of the church, at the corner of Fenimore Steet and Rogers Avenue in Brooklyn, and secretary of the church’s United Methodist Women (UMW) – told *Caribbean Life*.

“With attendance available both in person and online, the in-person worship experience was dynamic,

heartfelt, and was remnant of the pre-COVID worship services,” added the former UMW president.

“The church sanctuary was well attended (132 parishioners), and the theme, ‘His Amazing Grace’, was appropriate for the celebratory occasion and a necessary sentiment, as we deal with the effects of a pandemic and moving back to a new state of normalcy,” Als continued.

The Worship Service – organized by the church’s Anniversary Committee, headed by Trinidadian retired registered nurse Marlene Ferguson – featured, among other things, lofty singing, drumming, liturgical dancing and speeches.

Brooklyn Democratic Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke and the Rev. Dr. Ian Straker – the daughter and son of Jamaican immigrants, respectively, who were raised in the community – were in attendance and addressed the celebration.

In his sermon, entitled “Enduring Grace,” the Rev. Roger Jackson, who recently took over the pastorship of the church, said that “enduring grace provides for and will sustain ministries,” according to Als.

“If it was not for grace, we would not survive what we are going through,” said Rev. Jackson, an African American, who succeeded another African American, the Rev. Dr. Maxine Nixon, who served FUMC for 19 years. Rev. Nixon, FUMC’s first female pastor, retired in June.

“No matter the struggle, nothing should be able to shake the firm foundation on which we stand,” added Rev. Jackson, who, prior to coming to FUMC, served St. Paul’s United Methodist Church of Vanderveer Park; St. James United Methodist Church in Lynbrook, NY; First United Methodist Church of Hollis, Queens; and First Roosevelt United Methodist Church. He also served as a volunteer preacher for Sunday Services at the Far Rockaway Mission Center.

“We live in the assurance of God’s grace,” Rev. Jackson preached. “We can struggle with God over how we feel about what is going on in our bodies and
Continuation on pg. 5 column 1 (Showcase 132 Years in Ministry)

Continuation from page 4 column 2 (Showcase 132 Years in Ministry)

lives; struggles draw us closer to God. Grace becomes amazing when we, as disciples, come to realization that we are not in control.

“Surrender our will, and His grace will be sufficient for us,” Rev. Jackson urged worshippers. “Grace is our spirits’ longing to be made whole. Had it not been for the Lord on our side, we would not be a vibrant community of faith today.

“God kept and is keeping us,” he affirmed. “For God knows us by name and knows who we are as a community of faith. Fenimorians are unapologetic about the amazing grace of God. Enduring Grace is what keeps, will sustain, and will help us to be a vibrant in this community, if we simply remain humble. God’s grace is sufficient.”

Rev. Straker, according to Als, said it was a “blessing to be home,” stating that his Jamaican family moved to the adjacent Rutland Road, when he was six years old.

He said he attended Sunday School and was confirmed at FUMC.

“One hundred and thirty-two years ago, this part of Brooklyn was farmland,” Dr. Straker said. “We are still here, even through changes in the neighborhood, by remaining true to the gospel and remaining open to the people in the neighborhood.

“If we continue to serve as Lord, as we know we are called to serve, we know that God will be with us on the rest of the journey,” he added

After the celebration, Rev. Jackson told *Caribbean Life* in a statement that “it was, indeed, a joy to have participated in the 132nd anniversary” commemoration.

“By all indications, Fenimorians have proven to be gracious and spirit-filled body of believers,” he said. “As we journey together in this season of the life of the church and in the community, may we always remember that the enduring grace of God, manifested

in the saving love of our Lord Jesus Christ, is with us by way of the in-dwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

“Our doors are open, our hearts are open, and God has and will continue to be at work in us and through us, as we diligently pursue leaving an indelible footprint in serving our community,” added Rev. Jackson, quoting the Apostle Paul in Philippians 1:6: “Being confident of this that He who has begun a good work in you (community) will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Art from the Heart



Featuring: Sister Linda Brown



Background: *Now how did my love of poetry start? Well, when I was around fourteen years old, in the month of May with Mother’s Day fast approaching, my sister and I had not made any extra change to get Mom anything. One year we gave her a plant and another year a crystal candleholder. Suddenly, out of the “blue” a light bulb turned on in my head and I said, I know what to do. I’ll write a poem!! As my sister pressed my hair, I wrote my very first poem. I must say that it was very well received on Mother’s Day and shortly afterwards my paternal grandmother from Jamaica visited the United States for the first time and my Mom proudly showed it to her. My grandmother couldn’t believe I had written such a poem. And so, a poetess was born!! Following is one of my more recent poems.*

**There’s a bright new day that is dawning
We can’t see it yet but it’s there,
All we have to do is remember God’s promises
And make sure we do not forbear.**

**For trouble don’t last always
And we have a God that is true,
If he wasn’t he wouldn’t have sent his Son**

Continuation on pg. 6 column 1 (Art from the Heart)

Continuation from page 5 column 2 (Art from the Heart)

To heal and save me and you.

**With Jesus as our guiding light
We will see that bright new day,
For we shall have his spiritual might
To help us on our way.**



Wellness Empowerment Segment



Featuring Sister Zuria Thorpe



Are women in our society today influenced by social media platforms? Does the shape of a woman's body or the length of her hair define who she really is or what she is capable of becoming? Women and young adults are often influenced by what they see. The negative influence of the media should not be the only future young girls envision. Young adults and girls are often impacted mentally by media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, Tik- Tok, etc. The influence from these platforms makes it seem as though the image viewed in the mirror can be changed by a click of a button. Historically women in the United States due to their gender, and the perception of their perceived role and importance in society have had a difficult time. Women were not given the ability to vote, hold certain jobs and the list goes on and on, however beginning in the mid-19th century, several generations of women

suffrage supporters lectured, wrote, marched, lobbied, and practiced civil disobedience to achieve what many Americans would consider a radical change of the Constitution. Change had to come through the passage of laws commencing with women's suffrage. In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution granted all American women the right to vote. They could no longer be denied this right based on their gender. Unfortunately, few early supporters lived to see this final victory in 1920.



The acceptance and expansion of women in the workforce with increasingly responsible positions has progressed slowly as the years have passed by although significant changes have been seen in the last few decades. Women now serve in all branches of the government, serve in the military and hold powerful and influential positions in corporate America. In spite of this there continues to be image problems that still plague women and specifically younger girls due to social media influences.

We must be willing to look back at our history to see what should have been done differently and make changes in our society for women and young girls today. Coming together with a solution is the biggest way to decrease the negative perception of women on social media. Communities can come together to build and support different programs such as Big Sister, mental health awareness, tutoring and sports. These programs can encourage and support young girls in their transition to adulthood and combat the negative influences of social media



Yummy Scratch Dishes:



A Pinch of this
and dash of
that

(Featuring Sister Lola Clarke)



Background: Sis. Lola Clarke grew up in a family of 12 in St Mary, Jamaica WI. From a young age she always enjoyed watching her mother cook but she was not allowed to do any cooking herself. At the age of 15 she got her chance in the kitchen and has never looked back. Lola cooks for the joy of it! She loves the cooking process and she loves having people eat her food. Lola has been a member of Fenimore Street United Methodist Church for over 40 years. She started cooking for individuals at the church and when they saw her gift, she was asked to cater church events and later to cook for the homeless families that were being fed at the church. She has received several awards from different groups at the church for her cooking and a Certificate of Appreciation for feeding the homeless from then borough President Eric Adams.

Escovitch Fish Recipe

Ingredients for the fish:

Fish
Lemon juice
Vinegar
Black pepper
Old bay seasoning
Garlic powder
Oil for frying (not Olive oil)
Salt if needed

Instructions:

- 1) Soak and wash fish in cold water with vinegar and lemon juice. Let drain on paper towels
- 2) Season to taste with black pepper, old bay seasoning and garlic powder (Add salt to taste if needed)
- 3) Heat the oil over medium heat until very hot. Add fish but do not crowd. Cook until fish can be easily lifted with a spatula, flip fish and fry on other side until cooked through. Remove fish and set aside to drain and cool.

Ingredients for escovitch marinade:

Vinegar
Red and green sweet peppers
Scotch bonnet peppers (optional)
Water

Instructions:

Cut up onions and peppers into strips, add to pot with water and vinegar and bring to a boil.

Pour over cooked fish and serve.





“Loving God and Loving People” was the foundation from which our Mission, Vision and Core Values Statement was birthed.

The meditation scripture for this edition speaks to our Mission Statement.

Matthew 28:19-20, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations. Baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I command you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Mission Statement:

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are saved by grace, ready, willing and able to share the love of Christ in thought, word and deed to everyone, everywhere.

How might you use the gift that God has given you to fulfill the Great Commission’s command of you?



Test Your Bible Knowledge



Can you find the individuals that are paired together in the bible by separating and unscrambling the letters into 2 names?

Sample: AEVEMDA

Hint: lived in the garden of Eden

ADAM and EVE

#		HINT	PLACE ANSWER HERE
1	LILSONEDAHSAM	Had his head shaved	
2	NABAIELC	First Brothers	
3	AABHZEBELJE	King & Queen Bael Worshippers	
4	HEALLEAHCR	Married to the same man	
5	HAMSARAHABRA	Had a child later in life	
6	LCHARHTEBZZEEAIAHI	They knew someone who ate locust and wild honey	
7	SEPHARYMJO	Son was born in a manger	
8	ZOUTHABA	Married a kinsman redeemer	
9	LEAMHSICAASI	Had the same father	
10	MMRAARYTHA	Loved their brother	

* Answer key appears on last page



**Test Your Bible Knowledge
Answer Key**

1. Samson & Delilah
2. Cain & Abel
3. Jezebel & Ahab
4. Rachel & Leah
5. Abraham & Sarah
6. Elizabeth & Zechariah
7. Mary & Joseph
8. Ruth & Boaz
9. Isaac & Ishmael
10. Martha & Mary

***We celebrate our January and
February Fenimorians
birthdays, may they receive all
of God's blessings and
experience His love, peace and
grace!!***

*Newsletter Ministry:
Kim Jackson and Gillian Prince – Co-Editors
Sophia Eversley, Cynthia Grant, Rev. Roger Jackson, Arma Jones*

