

Week of January 7, 2024



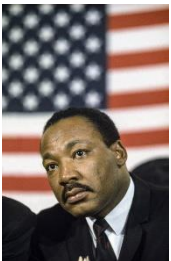
From Woody: I hope that we made the right decision yesterday with the snow. It wasn't that bad at around 10 am but certainly got worse in a hurry. We will hope for better weather next Sunday as we celebrate Martin Luther King Day. We are excited to have Joel Gill share his thoughts on this special day. Dr. King represented the best of taking the teachings of Jesus and using the power of those teachings to make the world a better place. He followed the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount to turn the other cheek and brought people together pledged to follow that nonviolent teaching. The Civil Rights Movement changed our country. Segregation, which was the new form of racial slavery after the Civil War, was finally ended due to the faith and courage of people of all different faiths and nationalities coming together to make our land more like a land of freedom for all. Racism remains and the struggles of today call us to take up his call once again to make our land and God's world a more Christ-like place for all people. Joel is both an author and illustrator of graphic novels on Black History as well as a college professor. We look forward to this coming Sunday and the inspiration we receive in remembering the wisdom and courage of Dr. King and the task that still remains calling us. Hope to see you Sunday and please feel free to invite your friends and neighbors.

Announcements

Session meets on Jan. 15 at 7pm, preceded by a 6pm meeting of the Church Life committee.



Annual Meeting: Will be held after church on **February 4**. This is a time when major decisions are made for the next fiscal year. We encourage everyone to come and bring a dish to share for lunch.



Martin Luther King Celebration: We look forward to having Joel Gill with us on Martin Luther King Sunday, January 14. He is Judy's son, a professor and both author and artist of graphic novels on Black History. Please invite friends to join us.



Valentine Serenades: Members of the choir are again offering Valentine Serenades for your valentines. The offering includes 1-2 songs by members of the choir, a box of handmade chocolates by the Trzepacz family, a flower, and a card. This will be offered February 3-14, 5-8 pm. Cost is \$35. Reservations can be made by calling or emailing Barbara Woodland 603-487-3643 or barbarawoodland@comcast.net. This is a fun and wonderful fundraiser for the church.



We are looking for volunteers in several areas for Sunday Worship. There are sign up sheets on the church bulletin board. Or you can let Barbara Woodland know (603-487-3643):



Greeters: We are looking for greeters for Sunday worship. The job includes lighting the candles, the front door. We have had a number of new people recently and we want them to feel welcome.



Sanctuary Flowers: Volunteers are needed to provide flowers for the altar on Sunday. There is a signup list outside the office door at church, or you can email Ellen at andersel@njms.rutgers.edu It is a wonderful way to contribute to the service; one can give in memory of someone or some event as well. Refreshments for



Coffee Hour: We are looking for people to provide refreshments after church for the coffee hour. They can be homemade or bought and do not need to be elaborate. Again, this is a way to make people feel welcome.



Peace Quote .. The bond of our common humanity is stronger than the divisiveness of our fears and prejudices.....*President Jimmy Carter.*