

KEEPING UP WITH THE CREEK
LAUREL
CREEK UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

During the holiday season, the love of God shines brightly in our hearts and homes. It is a time to reflect on the blessings we have received and to share that love with others. As we gather with family and friends, let us remember the true meaning of this season and spread joy and kindness to all those around us. May the love of God guide us in all that we do, bringing peace and goodwill to all.

Reverend Keyla Edwards

Mission: Making Disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World.

Vision: Love in Action through service and inclusiveness.

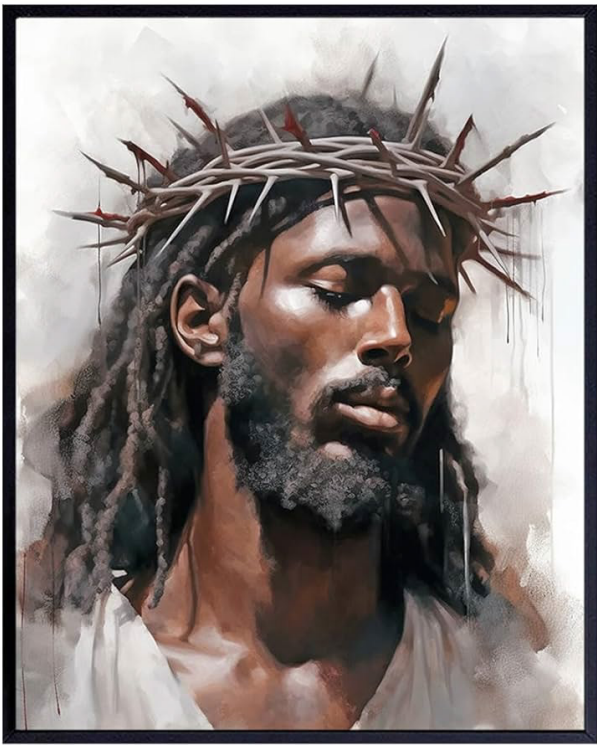
Pastor's Office Hours:

Tuesday- Friday 1:00 - 5:00pm

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Spotlight

Jesus Christ (c. 4 BC – c. AD 30) was a spiritual Teacher, who preached a gospel of faith, love and forgiveness. His life and teachings led to the emergence of a new religion – Christianity, which became the dominant religious force in the western world.

The Christian religion reveres Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Jesus is also an important prophet in Islam, and his teachings are widely admired by other religious traditions.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Judea – then part of the Roman Empire, under the rule of Herod. Jesus was born into a Jewish family; his parents were Mary and Joseph of Nazareth.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem because his father had to travel to his place of birth to take part in the Roman census. Because of over-crowding due to the census, the family were offered a place in a stable, and hence Jesus was born in the humblest of surroundings – in a manger surrounded by animals.

Not much is known about Jesus' early life, the Gospels concentrate on the last couple of years when he was active in his ministry. However, Jesus is believed to have followed in his father's footsteps and trained to be a carpenter. Following his baptism, Jesus spent 40 days in the desert where he was tempted by the Devil. However, he passed the test and refused any temptations of wealth or worldly gain. He was beaten and taunted by soldiers and some in the crowd. Many others were weeping at the sight of Jesus being taken to his execution. He had to carry a cross and at one stage fainted – and was helped by Simon of Cyrene.

Jesus was nailed to the cross with an inscription above his head. "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" (INRI). He was crucified in between two thieves. Jesus died on the cross, with a Roman soldier puncturing his side with a spear to prove that he was dead. The Gospels relate that on the Sunday following the crucifixion, Mary Magdalene visited the tomb of Jesus to find it empty. His disciples come to realise that Jesus had risen from the dead. Though disciples like Thomas doubted Jesus' resurrection until he saw Jesus Christ in the flesh.

"At Christmas"

When it's Christmas man is bigger and is better in his part;
he is keener for the service that is prompted by his heart.

All the petty thoughts and narrow seem to vanish for awhile and the true
reward he's seeking is the glory of a smile.

Then for others he is toiling and somehow it seems to me that at Christmas he is
almost what God wanted him to be.

If I had to paint a picture of a man I think I'd wait till he'd fought his selfish
battles and had put aside his hate.

I'd not catch him at his labors when his thoughts are all of pelf, on the long days
and the dreary when he's striving for himself.

I'd not take him when he's sneering, when he's scornful or depressed, but I'd
look for him at Christmas when he's shining at his best.

Man is ever in a struggle and he's often misunderstood; There are days the
worst that 's in him is the master of the good, But at Christmas, kindness rule's
him and puts himself aside and his petty hates are vanquished and his heart is
opened wide.

Oh, I don't know how to say it, but somehow it seems to me that at Christmas
man is almost what God sent him here to be.

By Edgar Guest

Submitted by Banner Ramsey

Religious Symbols of Christmas



The tree's triangle shape represents the trinity, and it symbolizes Christ and new life.



Bells symbolize the joy of Christmas and reminds us that Christ is the High Priest.



The shape represents a shepherd's staff, and symbolizes the shepherds who searched for Jesus. The red strip symbolizes Christ's sacrifice, and the white background symbolizes His purity.



Angels are thought to be the messengers of God who bring comfort and aid in times of need.



The wreath symbolizes Christ's suffering and triumph over death.



Mistletoe is a symbol of life and strength because it remains fresh through out the year.



The star represents the star that appeared in the sky when Jesus Christ was born.



The poinsettia is a shrub that blooms in December, and its red leaves symolize the flower's inner buds.



Candles and Christmas lights represent Christ, the Light of the World.



Food for the Soul

North Carolina's Black-Eyed Pea and Collard Greens Soup

Ingredients:

2 cups dried black-eyed peas, Soak overnight and drained

1 bunch collard greens, washed and chopped

1 large onion, diced

3 cloves garlic, minced

1 smoked ham hock or 1 cup diced smoked ham

1 can (14.5 oz) diced tomatoes

6 cups chicken broth or vegetable broth

1 tsp smoked paprika

1/2 tsp crushed red pepper flakes (optional for a bit of heat)

salt and pepper to taste

1 tbsp apple cider vinegar

2 tbs olive oil

Instructions:

In a large pot, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the diced onion and saute until it becomes translucent, about 5 minutes. Add the minced garlic and cook for another minute, stirring frequently to prevent burning.

Add the smoked ham hock or diced ham to the pot, letting it sear slightly to release its flavors. Stir in the soaked black-eyed peas, diced tomatoes, smoked paprika, and crushed red pepper flakes (if using).

Pour in the chicken broth, bring the mixture to a boil, and then reduce the heat to low. Cover the pot and let the soup simmer for about 45 minutes, or until the black-eyed peas are tender.

Once the peas are cooked, add the chopped collard greens to the pot. Stir well to combine and cook for another 15 minutes, or until the greens are tender but still vibrant in color.

Season the soup with salt, perrerr, and apple cider vinegar to taste. The vinegar adds a delightful tang that enhances the flavors of the greens and peas. Serve hot, with a side of cornbread or a slice of crusty bread.

November Events



CPR
Class



Banner Ramsey, Pauline Roubaud, Debra Walker, Cassandar Rodgers, Pat Copeland, R.J. Aiken, Keyla Edwards, Petra Clay-Jones

Veteran's Honored



Michelle accepting for Alfred Wright not pictured, Banner Ramsey, William Scott, Jimmy Walker, Jr., Pauline Roubaud, Fred Carter, Walter Satterwhite, Jr.

INFORMATION

Tutoring Ministry

Attention parents and students!

Our church is excited to announce the launch of our Tutoring Ministry for students in grades K-8 (Math and Science) and High School Science.

Sessions will be held at the church every Tuesday from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM.

Our trained educator Ms. Jigna Desai, is equipped to teach up to 35 students at a time and is committed to helping students succeed.

What to Bring:

- Cromebooks
- Book bags

Parent involvement:

parents are encouraged to share Ms. Desai's email, jignadesai379@gmail.com, with their child's teacher for effective communication and support.

Let's work together to empower our students academically and spiritually!

Order free COVID test kits at

- www.COVIDtests.gov

For those who have difficulty accessing the internet or need additional support placing an order, you can call 1-800-232-0233 to get help.

Test will be mailed through the U.S. Postal Service starting January.



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Golden Glows Meeting 12/04 @11:00am
Bible Study Wed. @ 5:00pm
Food Pantry 12/11 and 25 @9:30am
Women of Faith Meeting 12/16 @ 10:00am
Christmas Program and Brunch 12/22
@ 10:00am

Intercessory Prayer Every Tuesday@7:00pm
Dial: (617) 691-8941

BIRTHDAY MONTH DONATION

Each member is asked to donate \$1.00 per day in the month of your birthday.
Example: if the BD month has 31 days, then you would make a one time donation of \$31.00 in your birthday month..

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