

The Brooke ~ February ~ 2022

Dear Church Family,

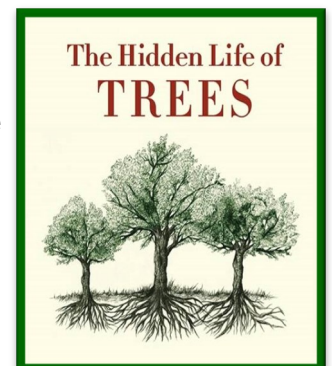
Psalm 46 is one I often read when I need a reminder of God's presence. It begins, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble." What an interesting phrase – "very present." These last few months it has seemed that so many difficult things were "very present" in our world – fear and grief and illness and loneliness. If you have found yourself feeling overwhelmed or discouraged, you are in good company. Perhaps it has been challenging to feel that God is also very present, closer to us than anything else. One way of reminding ourselves of this is to pray another line from Psalm 46: "Be still, and know that I am God." Take your time to focus on each word and open yourself to feeling that God is indeed very present. Try reading it this way, with a breath after each line:

Be still, and know that I am God
Be still, and know that I am
Be still, and know
Be still
Be
Be still, and know that I am God

However you have been feeling today, whatever stresses and worries you are carrying, *God is very present with you*. Part of being a Christian is taking time to remember that and letting our lives be changed by that knowledge. I have personally been reflecting on what it means to feel God's presence even when our whole family had covid at the new year, or when our wonderful newborn daughter Imogene preferred to be wide awake at three in the morning and show off her impressive lung capacity. There are so many days and nights when things are just hard. God's presence doesn't magically solve all of our problems, but it does give us the strength to get through even the hardest times because we are never alone and we are loved more than we can imagine.

You all have been an amazing church family while I have been on maternity leave and I am so thankful for the ways in which you have cared for each other and embodied God's love. I am especially grateful to Pastor Norma Lee and Pastor Mario who have filled in for me, and Pastor Joe who has gone above and beyond in serving. God has been very present through each of them and I know you have been blessed by their ministry.

I'll be back in the office on February 7th and am looking forward to learning how you are doing and how you have been experiencing God. And because I think we could all use a little hope and wonder during these cold days, I've put together a sermon series on a fabulous book I recently read called *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben. Throughout February we'll reflect on God's incredible creation of tree families and how they're connected in so many more ways than we may realize. It will also prompt us to think about how we are all connected below the surface, and what shared roots we have as a church family, a community, and a world. I'm eager to be back with you soon and am looking forward to a Lenten Bible study in March, special guest musicians, and of course – introducing you to Imogene! We have so many joys ahead together this year and I can't wait to see you. God bless you!



-Pastor Violet

February

Anniversaries

1st Gene & Sharon Semple
11th Lloyd & Charlene Mason

Birthdays

3rd Becky Groff	19th Kim Winger
4th Jan Cook	21st Jerry Johnson
Joanne McKinney	23rd Victoria O'Connell
6th Ann Phillips	27th Sandy Moderhack
7th Richard Coppoletti	28th Jill Below
16th Lyla Flynn	

Our Military

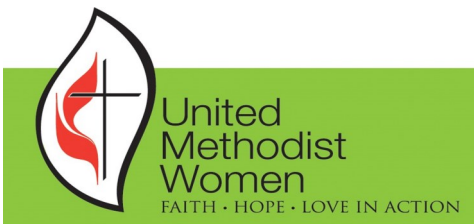
Matt Cowan, Matt Crabtree, Scott Dickson, Thomas Helser, Will Hoyum,
 Ian Long, Joshua Mattson, Jonathan Modler, Jerry Nettles, Stacy Huser,
 Christine Tornow, Tommy Turnure, Ryan & Kate (Vowles) Levack

Family and Friends

Erma Albee
 Dave Bargren
 Pastor Norma Lee
 Boots Baxter
 Chris Beebe
 Richard Coppoletti
 David Denicolais
 Addilynnn D'Angelo
 Hazel Dyke

Emerge Church
 Mario, Fabiola, Paulina and
 Pedro Grandon-Mayer
 Debbie Hintzsche
 Pastor Violet, Kyle,
 Lincoln and
 Imogene Johnicker
 John Pippel
 Marge Rose

Ron Ross
 David Satek
 Family of Robert Shaver
 Vivian Schwab
 Phyllis Stafseth
 Charlene Taylor
 Children of Jordan Thomas
 Tom & Cynthia Zolk
 Maxine Zolk



Six women braved the cold but sunny weather for our January meeting. The theme of the meeting was Hope Emerges. Judy led us in the Bible Study from the January-February 2022 **Response**. As United Methodist Women, we have “An Urgent Legacy” to be aware of our history so as changes in our lives occur, we do not move back. Both John the Baptist and Jesus followed God’s call; will we? In February, we will learn about **Palliative Care** from Whitney Mulroomey from Serenity Home and Hospice.

Meeting Date: February 8, 2022 Meeting Time: 1 P.M. Meeting Place: Brooke Road UMC

Monthly Finance Update

The Finance Committee has provided the following Current Fund information:

December 2021 income: \$10,509.39 **December 2021 disbursements:** \$11,672.69

This information is always available by contacting Judy Parks (Finance Chair) or Sandy McCallum (Treasurer).

February

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

		1 7:00pm AA	2 7:00pm AA	3 7:00pm AA	4 7:00pm AA	5 7:00pm AA
6 10:00am Worship 11:30am Swahili Worship 2:00pm Emerge Worship 2:00pm Girl Scouts 0176	7 7:00pm AA	8 1:00pm UMW 5:30pm Finance 6:30pm Trustees 7:00pm AA	9 7:00pm AA	10 7:00pm AA	11 7:00pm AA	12 9:00am SPRC 7:00pm AA
13 10:00am Worship 11:30am Swahili Worship 2:00pm Emerge Worship 2:00pm Girl Scouts 0176	14 7:00pm AA	15 6:00pm Council 7:00pm AA	16 7:00pm AA	17 7:00pm AA	18 7:00pm AA	19 7:00pm AA
20 10:00am Worship 11:30am Swahili Worship 2:00pm Emerge Worship 2:00pm Girl Scouts 0176	21 7:00pm AA	22 7:00pm AA	23 7:00pm AA	24 7:00pm AA	25 7:00pm AA	26 7:00pm AA
27 10:00am Worship 11:30am Swahili Worship 2:00pm Emerge Worship 2:00pm Girl Scouts 0176	28 7:00pm AA					

Our Mission at The Brooke Is.

to transform lives
through faith, love, and service.

Our Vision for The Brooke is.

to be a transforming congregation
of believers to serve the community,
renew lives, and build faith.

**BROOKE ROAD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

1404 BROOKE ROAD
ROCKFORD, IL 61109

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Worship Services at 10:00am

In person

OR

Facebook Live
[facebook.com/thebrookerockford](https://www.facebook.com/thebrookerockford)

OR

call 1-312-626-6799
and when prompted
enter code 810-0983-5011

Nursery

Available for newborn - 4 years

**Pastoral Care during
Pastor Violet's Maternity Leave**

January 16 - February 12

Pastor Mario Mayer 618-553-7191

Beginning February 13

Pastor Violet 847-651-4857
violet@the-brooke.org

Church Office

Phone 815-398-8914

Email brookeroadumc@outlook.com

Website the-brooke.org

Address 1404 Brooke Road
Rockford, IL 61109

Hours M - Th ~ 9:00am - 3:00pm

Social Media Links

[facebook.com/TheBrookeRockford](https://www.facebook.com/TheBrookeRockford)
[instagram.com/BrookeRoadUMC](https://www.instagram.com/BrookeRoadUMC)
twitter.com/BrookeRoadUMC