



Message from the Pastor:

A friend of mine, Doug Spencer, a retired pastor, writes a weekly commentary on at least one of the Lectionary scriptures, (a list of proposed Bible readings for churches to use in worship). This week He wrote about the third chapter of 1 Samuel (the ninth book of the Old Testament). He got me thinking about prayer, and what God can do. Samuel is a child who has been dedicated to the service of God, and lives in the Temple and spends his time as an “altar boy” for the Priest, Eli. In Samuel’s time “the word of the Lord was rare.” In the third chapter of 1 Samuel, the boy begins to hear God’s call on his life to be a Prophet, one who speaks the word of God. His first prophecy is a word to Eli, the priest. It is bad news, though true, for Eli and his sons (I’ll let you read about it in the Bible). Samuel goes on to be the leader of the people for a time, and the prophet to Saul and David, Kings of Israel.

But the story of God’s work in the life of Samuel begins long before.

Hannah, a woman who longs to bear a child, comes into the temple to pray for a pregnancy and the birth of a child. She prays so fervently that Eli, the High Priest at the time, thinks she is drunk. God’s answer to her prayer is the child Samuel. She expresses her gratitude to God by giving the boy into God’s service. God responds by allowing her to give birth to 5 more children. Further, God responds by working through Samuel to bring a revival of the life of his nation: politically, militarily, and spiritually. Just as his mother’s emptiness, disappointment and sense of loss was healed through her prayers, the spiritual and social barrenness and loss of his people were also healed, as an unforeseen work of God – the result of her prayer and sacrifice.

Jesus said: "I came that [you] may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10: 10)

The witness of the Bible is that it continues to be the will of God to bring us goodness and abundance of life when we are willing to enter into relationship with God through prayer and sacrifice. It is not the will of God that our trouble continue to define us. I invite us to be in prayer for ourselves, for those around us in need, and for our church as we experience loss and a need for new direction. Our prayers should be as fervent and heartfelt as Hannah’s. I invite us to offer not only our prayers, but our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. These are the pledges that we make as we become members of the church. These are the ways that God uses to work in us and through us.

Let’s see what God can do – through us.

Pastor Matt

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Salem Nutritional Center
Tuesday, February 17th
9:00am—2:00pm
Please join us for a
morning of serving us.



Donations Needed:

40 cans of Tuna
5 Jars of Mayo
5 Pies
Plastic Shopping Bags
Empty Coffee Cans

Worship Schedule for February:

Worship Services - 9:00 a.m. & 11:00am



What follows are the Lectionary Readings for each Sunday. Each week, the theme of the services will usually emerge from one of the prescribed readings (often the Gospel). We invite you to read through the lessons prior to Sunday morning. It can be a healthy discipline and enhance the experience of worship.

2/1:	Deuteronomy 18:15-20 1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Psalm 111 Mark 1:21-28
2/8:	Isaiah 40:21-31 1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c Mark 1:29-39
2/15:	2 Kings 2:1-12 2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Psalm 50: 1-6 Mark 9:2-9
2/22:	Genesis 9:8-17 1 Peter 3:18-22	Psalm 25:1-10 Mark 1:9-15

A PRAYER CHAIN REMINDER: We have an active prayer chain, both through e-mails and phone. You're invited to be part of that; just call Bill and Gail Mason at 453-9038. Also, if you have a prayer concern of any kind that you want to share, contact Bill and Gail at the number above or by e-mail at wmason@rochester.rr.com. We only send out prayer concerns when we receive direct requests.



Altar Flowers: If you like a formal arrangement placed in honor/memory of a loved one, call Betty LaMonica. Arrangements are \$25.



Anniversary Ministry: Please contact me of your special day at dham1@rochester.rr.com
Thank you, Dick Hamblin



Birthday Ministry: We would love to recognize your special day. Please e-mail Mandy in the office to let us know if your birthday is not on our calendar.
greeceumc@frontiernet.net



Deadline for all newsletter articles is the 15th of each month by 5:00pm. Please e-mail to Deb Babbage at dbabbage@rochester.rr.com. Thank you.



Thoughts from Deacon Dee: Article from Ministry Matters. Why do good churches die?

From an article written By Rebecca Simon Peter. I'm not talking about churches that have an apparent fatal flaw like mean or nasty people, terrible location, clergy sexual misconduct, uninspiring worship or the like. Churches can and do recover from all of those things.

No, I'm talking about good churches that care about people, hold decently inspiring and cohesive services, are doing their best to reach out and respond to a changing world, are led by a committed leader and backed up by laity who truly care. Good churches. Why do *they* die?

Theories abound, including changing demographics, young people leaving the church or not being raised in church at all, the rise in the spiritual but not religious crowd, the appearance of "nones" and "dones" — those who have no religious affiliation or once did but have now retired from church — and the changing culture around us. Yes, these factors all play a part. But churches can and do transcend these factors too.

There is one hidden reason why churches that seem to be doing it all right still die. I want to share that with you today, plus four hints to help you discover if this hidden reason is operative in your church, and what to do about it.

The secret reason good churches die is they lack a vision. In fact, I believe 100% of church decline and demise is due to this.

Here's how you know you lack a vision:

1. Your current vision doesn't expand assumptions about what is possible. Instead, it describes what you are already doing. For example, let's say your church's vision is "Extending the love of Christ to the heart of our community." Let's say in the past, against all odds, you started an outreach to the homeless with food, clothing and prayer. Once upon a time it seemed impossible to do. But now you are doing it on a regular basis. Guess what? It's no longer a vision. Now it's a program. Time for a new vision. Because a program, no matter how positive, won't keep a church alive.

2. Your questions change from "Who is God calling us to reach" to "How can we avoid losing what we have?" The first question is forward-looking, outward-focused and risky. The second question is backward-looking, inward-centered and cautious. It's a sign that maintaining structure has become more important than doing real ministry. Also, that fear has become more important than the gospel.

3. You have not put your own credibility on the line when articulating what's next. In other words, you are trying to look good, be liked, not rock the boat, save your job or save the church. Jesus put his own credibility on the line when he cast his vision that the kingdom of heaven was at hand. So much so that Rome crucified him for sedition as "King of the Jews." But his vision worked! Here we are 2,000 years later, still organizing around it and implementing it. I'm not saying we will be crucified for having a vision. I am saying that putting our own credibility on the line, for the sake of the vision, is the only way we can be agents of transformation.

4. You are waiting for someone else to come up with a vision. If you are leading in any capacity — whether you're in charge of the Rugsats Ministry or you lead a team of 20 denominational executives, it is your responsibility to come up with a vision. That's what leaders do. Waiting for someone else may be a sign that it's time to retire or to retool your understanding of leadership.

You can tell when you are in the presence of a visionary leader, congregation or denomination. It's exciting, invigorating and a little bit scary. You sense purposeful movement, forward direction and perhaps more faith than you yourself currently possess.

Here's the point: If they can do it, you can do it! Good churches don't need to die. And good leaders don't need to let them! Envision a future that expands assumptions about what is possible, get back to asking the right questions, take risks and be the one to get the ball rolling. This has the power to unify even the most disparate group.

Then, new life is not only possible, it's inevitable!

From Dee: What's next will require the Church to Be the Church and for people to step up and regroup.

Blessings to you.

Dee

Message from SPRC:

As you may know, a congregational meeting was held on Sunday January 11. The major issue before this Church Conference was the SPRC recommendation that we reduce Deacon Dee's Nurturing Ministries Coordinator position to ½ time, starting in July and that we eliminate Amada Lowell's position of Church Secretary as soon as possible. Approximately 100 people attended, listened to a detailed presentation, and participated in a lively discussion period. The recommendation was adopted.

These changes were motivated by a recognition that, due to moves and deaths, the church's income for this year will likely be substantially lower than what is needed to function as we have in the past. The changes reduce the personnel budget in ways that will have the smallest possible impact on programs, services and attendance and will allow a more balanced budget for 2015.

We all deeply regret that these steps were necessary and our hearts go out to Mandy Lowell and her family and to Deacon Finch as they face change and uncertainty. We thank Mandy for her many years of professional service.

These changes also represent a challenge to all of us. I believe that if we continue to support our church and its programs and services with renewed commitments of time, talent and money, GUMC can survive and grow and spread the word of God's grace in the coming months and years.

-- Tom Hinterman, Chair SPRC

In addition to explaining the financial issue, the material that was presented at the Church Conference includes a listing of opportunities to serve. If you would like a copy, contact me at 225-7789, Hinteman.Tom7@gmail.com, or leave a note in the SPRC box in the Commons.

Anyone You Recognize?

Fred Everybody, Thomas Somebody, Peter Anybody, and Joe Nobody were neighbors, but not the type that most would want to know. They were odd people, troublesome, and difficult to understand. The way they lived their lives was a shame. These men all went to the same church, but most would not have wanted them as parishioners. Everybody went fishing on Sundays or stayed home and spoke with his friends. Anybody wanted to worship, but he was afraid that Somebody would speak with him. Thus, guess who went to church - that's right, Nobody. Actually, Nobody was the only decent one of the lot. Nobody did the parish census; Nobody joined the parish council. One day there was a call in the bulletin for people to apply for a position as a teacher in the religious education program. Everybody thought Anybody would apply; Anybody thought Somebody would apply. So, guess who applied? You are right - Nobody! My friends, let's not be an everybody, somebody, or anybody. Rather, let us truly strive to be a nobody. In such a way we empty ourselves so we can be filled with the amazing power of Christ, who died to set us free and, thus, will always be our brother, friend, and Lord.

Richard Gribble, CSC, *Sermons on the Gospel Readings: Sermons for Sundays in Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, New Beginnings in Christ, CSS Publishing Company*

2015 Lent Schedule

- 2/18: Ash Wednesday Service—7:00pm
3/29: Palm Sunday Services—9:00am and 11:00 am
4/2: Maundy Thursday Dinner 6:00 pm / Service—7:30pm
4/3: Good Friday Service—7:00 pm
4/5: Easter Sunday: Services—7:00 am / 9:00 am / 11:00 am
Easter Breakfast 10:00—11:00 am



MARCH MUSIC MADNESS

MARCH 15, 2:00 P.M.

GREECE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Please join us as the groups of our Church and our special guests-Juke Vox and The Treble Clefs bring you an “afternoon of delight”. This year our featured group will be The Treble Clefs as they celebrate their 90th Anniversary!

They will be performing a variety of their favorite selections from over the years.

The concert is free, however, there will be a free will offering taken.

There will be a Taco Bar provided for your dining pleasure before the concert.

The lunch will start at 12:00 p.m.

I hope you will consider joining us for this “stress-free” afternoon of good food and song!

Pastor Matt’s Lent Study— Exploring the Number 7 Thursdays at 12:00 at GUMC and 7:00 pm at Villages at Unity Starting February 19th

Join Pastor Matt as he explores the number 7 and it’s biblical significance throughout the Bible. Please bring your Bibles to class.



Pretzel Sunday Sunday, February 22nd

10:00—11:00 am

Fellowship Hall

We are looking for volunteers to contribute dough. Please see Jean Lee for recipe.

Pasta Dinner, February 25th

4:30 - 6:30pm

Adults \$9/ Children \$6

Served Buffet style -Spaghetti,
Angel Pasta and Penne
Salad Bar/Dessert Bar
Bread/Beverages

*Proceeds benefit
church budget*

Bring/Invite a Friend



Dinner and Devotion with Dee and Deb

Let's come together to break bread and reflect on God's presence in our lives. Dee and Deb will provide a soup and salad dinner, along with some treats.



Participants can, if they want, bring a soup/dessert to share. Contact Dee.

February Meetings: 2/11 & 2/25

5:30—6:30, Fellowship Hall

Page Turners Monthly Book Club:

February Selection:

If All Rochester Reads:



The Age of Miracles

By Karen Thompson Walker

Spellbinding, haunting, *The Age of Miracles* is a beautiful novel of catastrophe and survival, growth and change, the story of Julia and her family as they struggle to live in an extraordinary time. On an ordinary Saturday, Julia awakes to discover that something has happened to the rotation of the earth. The days and nights are growing longer and longer, gravity is affected, the birds, the tides, human behavior and cosmic rhythms are thrown into disarray. In a world of danger and loss, Julia faces surprising developments in herself, and her personal world—divisions widening between her parents, strange behavior by Hannah and other friends, the vulnerability of first love, a sense of isolation, and a rebellious new strength. With crystalline prose and the indelible magic of a born storyteller, Karen Thompson Walker gives us a breathtaking story of people finding ways to go on, in an ever-evolving world.

Please join us **Thursday, February 26nd at 10:00am** in the Kerrison Room as we discuss this year's Rochester novel.

Author Karen Thompson Walker will be at the Greece Public Library, Friday, March 20th 7—8:30 pm to discuss *The Age of Miracles*.

March Selection: *A Replacement Life* by Boris Fishman

Grand Sweep Bible Study

Ever want to read the Bible cover to cover and could not do it? 360 days in the Bible with a source written to guide you along and a monthly discussion group to make sense of it all.

Would you make a commitment to read and reflect on the Bible and be part of discussion once a month?

Contact Deacon Dee if interested.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 2nd 7-9:00pm



Tuesday Book Group:

A Bead and a Prayer: A Beginner's Guide to Protestant Prayer Beads

By Kristen E. Vincent

Do you ever struggle with prayer? Maybe your mind wanders, you wonder if God even hears your prayers, or you just don't know what to pray.

A Bead and a Prayer introduces Protestant prayer beads as a tool for connecting with God. This 4-week Bible study is designed for people with no experience in using prayer beads. Praying with beads may be exactly what you need to stay focused in your prayers.

All are welcome to this group which meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:00am in Room 9. New Book - TBA

For books or if you have questions, contact:
Linda Hoffman, facilitator
lmhoffman@rochester.rr.com

Bagel and Book Study:

New Book for January!



Slowing Time: Seeing the Sacred Outside Your Kitchen Door

By Barbara Mahany

The sacred is all around, within a finger's reach—here to be gathered, culled, and collected, through simple yet complex art of paying attention, savoring the moment, of cultivating stillness. Noticing the seen, revealing the unseen, and pinpointing the divine in both, one needs not to venture far to find what matters most.

**Group meets Wednesday @ 9:30-11:00am
Soho's Bagel Café, Stone Ridge Plaza
Contact Deacon Dee for books.**

Greece United Methodist Women:

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Mon., February 23rd at 7:00 p.m., Room 9.
Linda Hoffman, President.



Circle Meetings:

Miriam: Mon., February 9th at 7:00 p.m., Room 9.
Pot Luck Supper and Health Kits.

Ruth: Tues., February 10th at 12:00 noon, Room 9.
Pot Luck Lunch and Valentine's Party.

Church Women United: World Day of Prayer, Fri., March 6th at 1:30 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 800 East Ridge Rd., Rochester, 14621. The host country is The Bahamas. The main biblical text is based on John 13:1-17. "Do You Understand What I Have Done For You?" Refreshments and conversation after the service. No registration needed and no fee.

UMW Sunday was on January 18th-this year. Our guest speaker, Deacon Sue Russell, spoke on "Love In Action". The Installation of Officers took place at the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Congratulations to our new president, Linda Hoffman, and the following officers:

President	Linda Hoffman
Vice President Co-Chairs	Gale Huber & Sally Lepi
Secretary	Jean Lee
Treasurer	Sharon Neary
Sec. of Program Resources	Phyllis Miller
Mission Coordinators:	
Spiritual Growth	Neva Benson
Social Action	Gale Huber
Education & Interpretation	Margaret Call
Membership	Neva Benson & Sally Lepi
Local Church – Ticket Sales	Karen Ingle
– Kitchen Events	Linda Hoffman
Kitchen	Sue Sepkowski
Communications Coordinator	Arlene Martin
CWU Rep	All UMW Members
UMW District Liason	Phyllis Miller
Nominating: Chairperson	Judy Rushforth ('15)
Committee:	Carol Guild ('16)
	Lisa Kostyshak ('17)
Bazaar Co-Chairs	Karen Klingenberger & Sharon Neary
Miriam Chairperson	Neva Benson
Ruth Chairperson	Shirley Hardy

Did You Know:

that there are 55 UMW members who belong to 2 circles here at GUMC?
that there are 27 UMW members-at-large?

New Grief Forum/Parental Loss

**Our meeting will be Sunday,
February 8th at 10:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

Any questions, contact Sally Lepi.



Widows and Widowers Group:

**Next meeting:
Sunday, February 15th
@ 2:00pm.
Fellowship Hall**





STEWARDSHIP



At the recent charge conference, we voted to eliminate the Church Secretary position as paid staff and to reduce the Deacon position to half time effective July 1st, 2015. While this brings our budget in balance, it puts more emphasis on the need for congregational stewardship, especially in the time/talent categories.

At the conference several questions were raised and, hopefully, satisfactorily answered. There certainly are ways we could avoid some of these changes. It was estimated that a 25% increase in our individual giving would cover the current budget gap. One time extra donations would cover the gap for this year, but wouldn't solve the fiscal problem for the long-term. The conclusion was that the only practical solutions were those that were approved.

How can you help? First of all, see what you can do to increase your annual giving either through increasing your commitment or making additional donations as you can manage. Secondly, consider where you can help. Stewardship of time and talent are necessary; here are some examples of stewardship opportunities for dedicated leadership or support from the Charge Conference presentation:

Education: Sunday School, small group studies, vacation adventures (VBS), Nursery, Youth activities

Hospitality: Fellowship hour, Greeting/welcome center, memorial service receptions

Fellowship/Family Life: Game nights, special events

Caring for Others (Heart to Heart): call on homebound and hospitalized, take communion to those same people.

Mission beyond our walls: Food and clothing projects, Bible classes for elderly, mission trips

Lead or support fundraisers: Chicken bbqs, pig roasts, pasta dinners, etc., Church community meal gatherings, Summerfest, etc.

Other tasks: Keep outside sign current, promote camp and retreat opportunities, coordinate communication and publicity

Church Office: Phone and physical coverage daily (9:00am-1:00pm), computer skills, produce worship service bulletins and inserts, coordinate volunteers, manage supplies inventory, keep master office calendar, update web calendar, maintain shut-in list and do bulletin mailing, maintain college student list, maintain church pew materials, filing, maintain membership records and produce reports, and other responsibilities as needed.

That's a long list of areas where you could help (bet you didn't realize just how much is being done everyday at our church). If there are areas you feel you can be of help, contact the church office and let them know of your area of interest.

Like most main-line churches today, the challenge boils down to getting new members. Again, our committee leaders are trying new things to appeal to potential members, i.e. the new Sunday schedule, adding a contemporary worship. There are a lot of things we can do as existing members, including taking a second look at our commitment for next year, increasing our budget gap giving, supporting new programs, being an open, friendly, welcoming congregation, sharing ideas with committee leaders and just plain old fashioned filling the pews on Sunday mornings.

If you have not yet submitted your commitment for 2015, please do so as soon as possible to help the finance committee determine exactly where we stand so we can plan for the year.

Thanks for your ongoing support.

Bill Mason

Message from Outreach:



"Alone, the candle is a fragile, flickering light. Shared by millions, it becomes a shining beacon of hope." This quote appeared on a card sent to Outreach in appreciation of the Thanksgiving basket her family received. Other notes included thanks from the Volunteers of America, from Saving Grace Ministries, and from another family receiving food: "Thanks for all your loving help and thoughtfulness. I am blessed"



On MISSION SUNDAY, February 22, we have yet another opportunity to be that beacon of hope, supporting a variety of needs both locally and globally. Watch for a letter in the mail soon, detailing our Outreach budget, and providing a pledge card for your generous offerings!



As always, school nurses were excited to receive the recently-delivered donations of undies. During March and May, let's fill up the big green undies basket in the Commons again!

An old man, walking along the beach, gently tossed stranded starfish back into the ocean. A young man who was watching questioned these actions, saying even if the old man worked all day, his efforts wouldn't make any difference at all. Listening calmly, the old man bent down to pick up another starfish and lofted it into the sea, then replied, "It made a difference to that one."

Small steps, small opportunities, small actions can lead to big differences!



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



We continue to push for a groundbreaking in early Spring 2015, and are awaiting a lot and family assignment from the local Habitat chapter. In the meantime, our group of churches continues to look at ways to raise the necessary funds and to find other ways to make the community aware of our efforts. We recently added another church to our group; as a reminder, here are the participating churches at this time: Aldersgate UMC, Bethany Presby, Greece Baptist, Greece UMC, Hope Lutheran, John Knox Presby (our newest addition), Messiah Lutheran and Trinity Episcopal. In addition, Holy Cross R.C. participates in our annual pie sale

Hope Lutheran holds Wednesday night dinners during Lent and generously opens that time to groups for fundraising. We will be doing a pasta dinner on the first Wednesday of Lent, Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18th. We could use volunteers to help with the advance preparation on Tuesday the 17th from 3:00pm to about 5:30pm and also to help prepare (3:00pm-5:00pm), serve and clean up (5:00-7:00pm) on Wednesday. *If you're interested in helping please contact me asap, at 453-9038, or wmason@rochester.rr.com.*

Once we know the lot and get closer to groundbreaking, we'll be looking to support the project by asking for donations to sponsor a sq. foot, buy a box of nails, etc. In the meantime, you can help by placing used clothing in the St. Pauly shed in our parking lot, used print cartridges, batteries, etc. in the Imaginelt box inside the main entrance and with your prayers.

Bill Mason

Sunday School Mission Project—"Stamp Act" for Curriculum— through April 2015

Once again, the Sunday School classes are joining with the Alliance Stamp Ministry in collecting and recycling cancelled stamps. The proceeds go toward publishing Spanish language Sunday school materials and distributing them to churches in Latin America. Help us by collecting your used envelopes and trimming them so the stamps have at least a 1/3 of paper left around them. If you are not comfortable trimming the stamps, just bring in the used envelopes in and our volunteers will trim them for you.

Thank you in advance for helping us spread the God's word to others in the world.





Sub Sale



**ORDER YOUR SUBS
TODAY**



Pick up on Sunday, February 1
10:00 AM / 11:00 AM / 12:00PM

**ORDER/DROP OFF AREA
IN THE COMMONS –
ORDER YOURS TODAY!**

Going to a Super Bowl Party? Take some with you!
Order for your neighbor or friend.

\$\$ to help get GUMC Youth to Nicaragua



Sub Sale
February 1 - Super Bowl Sunday

Pick Up Time
_____ 9:30
_____ 10:30
_____ Noon

_____ $\frac{1}{2}$ Sub (\$6)
_____ Whole (\$9)



BREAD

_____ White
_____ Wheat

MEAT

_____ Turkey
_____ Ham
_____ Salami
_____ Assorted
(ham, turkey, salami)

TOPPINGS

_____ Lettuce
_____ Tomato
_____ Onion

CONDIMENTS

_____ Mayo
_____ Italian
_____ Mustard

CHEESE

_____ American
_____ Provolone
_____ Cheddar Cheese

**Orders/Payment
needed by 1/30
Drop off in basket
in Commons**

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Sub Sale
February 1 - Super Bowl Sunday

Pick Up Time
_____ 9:30
_____ 10:30
_____ Noon

_____ $\frac{1}{2}$ Sub (\$6)
_____ Whole (\$9)



BREAD

_____ White
_____ Wheat

MEAT

_____ Turkey
_____ Ham
_____ Salami
_____ Assorted
(ham, turkey, salami)

TOPPINGS

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CONDIMENTS

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CHEESE

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**Orders/Payment
needed by 1/30
Drop off in basket
in Commons**

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Save the Date!!! Annual Books and Bake Sale

June 18th, 19th, and 20th

Did you know that we raised over \$700 for our ministries last June. Are you ready to make this year's book sale even better?

Do you have books laying around that you read this cold and snowy winter that you're looking to get rid of? Look no further.

We're looking for new or gently used books, CDs, DVDs, Blue Rays, and puzzles to sell at our annual book sale*. We are hoping to collect enough to have another three day sale. Tell your friends. We need lots of books! Proceeds to benefit the church ministries.

**(Please no VHS tapes, magazines, encyclopedias, or textbooks.)*

We are looking for a volunteer to organize the bake sale portion of the Books and Bake Sale. If you are interested in helping out in this area please contact Debbie Babbage at dbabbage@rochester.rr.com

Early Book Collections:

Sunday, February 8th

Sunday, March 8th

Sunday, April 12th

All month for May and June



Bunk0 Night

Saturday, February 28th—6:30 pm

Bunker is a fun, fast paced game where you can meet new friends while switching in and out of small groups to play.

No skills needed

Sign up in the Commons if you plan to come. (It will help in the planning of numbers. Come anyway if you decide last minute. Bring snack to share

Contact Sharon Neary (797-3777) if you have questions.

***GUMC IS SENDING A GROUP
OF MISSIONARIES***

***FEBRUARY 14TH, 2015
TO NICARAGUA .***

***THEY NEED YOUR
PRAYERS***

Meet this year's Volunteers:

Dee Finch,

Chris Collins,

Jonathan Standhart,

Missy Symonds,

Emily Kester,

Rhyse & Ellegra Nier

Congregation Updates

New Members:

Natalie Lowell
Barbara Mueller
Michelle Stevens

Membership Transfers:

Zelma Kostyshak
Joyce Bennett

Passings:

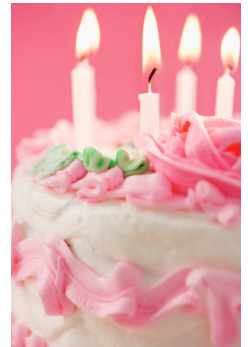
Mike Charney 1/1/15



New Office Hours
Monday–Friday
9:00am–1:00pm

February Birthdays

**Not available for
Web edition.**



February Anniversaries:

**Not available for
web edition**



Letter of Gratitude:

Thanks to the members of Greece United Methodist Church from the children and youth from the Villa of Hope. Your gifts and mittens and scarves helped to make a Merry Christmas for many of us. We appreciate your remembering us. You made a difference for us. Thank you so much. May you have a Happy New Year.



Finance Monthly Report:

The numbers through December 2014 are as follows:

1. Usable income was \$320,451.99.
2. We spent \$320,173.59 and had \$6,520.00 yet to spend.
3. Total of \$326,173.69 total to spend. This left a deficit of \$6,242.20 for 2014.
4. We continue with the "dining out" fund raisers at Carmines and Ruby Tuesday's. In 2014 the church collected \$348.26 from these fund raisers.
5. The first week in 2015 we collected \$26.56 from Carmines.

We still have 19 pledges still out. Please contact me if you want to fill out a pledge. This is necessary to establish the 2015 budget.

Hope you have a great New Year.

Bill





Sunday Morning Worship

Nursery:

2/1: Kim & Carolina Whittemore
2/8: Janice & Erich Ruppert, Jr.
2/15: Phyl-Ann Helmes & Karen Ingle
2/22: Barb Miroff & Kali Iachetta

Projectionists:

2/1:
2/8: TBA—schedule unavailable at newsletter
2/15:
2/22:

Ushers:

9:00 Worship: Don & Betty Lamonica, Al & Garrett Royter
11:00 Worship: Brett Zeller's Team

Liturgists: 9:00 Worship

2/1: No Liturgist
2/8: Neva Benson
2/15: Holly King
2/22: Gale Fischer Huber

Greeters:

2/1:
2/8: TBA—schedule unavailable at newsletter
2/15:
2/22:

Counters:

2/1: Chris Collins, Norma Rapini, Melissa Dunn
2/8: Chris Collins, Norma Rapini, Melissa Dunn
2/15: Cindy Lane, Keineth Stone, Sally Lepi
2/22: Cindy Lane, Keineth Stone, Sally Lepi



Worship Committee

The Worship Committee is looking for people who want to aid their fellow worshipers each Sunday. See below how you may help enrich our worship time:

Altar Guild: Members serve for a month to care for the chancel; filling the candles, changing the paraments as required, and preparing for baptisms. This work can be done any time during the week, with the candles being checked between services. If you are interested, contact Phyl Ann Helmes.

Communion Stewards: This is a once a month obligation (and most likely only a few times a year). If interested, contact Mary Vande Logt.

Greeters: We are looking for people who would like to greet people 15 minutes before 9:00 and 11:00 Worship. Anyone can be a greeter, individuals, family groups, youth. If interested, contact Melissa Dunn.

Ushers: Interested in serving your congregation in a small but significant way? Why not become part of one of the ushering teams? Groups of four members serve for a month once or twice during the year. Contact Tom Hinterman in person, Hinterman.Tom7@Gmail.com

Nursery: Sally Lepi, Nursery Coordinator is looking for people to help serve a week in the nursery during worship. Could you sign up? We need to be able to give people with young children the option during both 9 and 11am for childcare.

February 2015—As of 1/15th

Please see Website for updates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Carmine's Sunday church fundraiser 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Traditional Worship Service 9:00 AM Fellowship Hour & Education for all ages 10:00 AM Praise & Worship Service 11:00 AM	2 Carmine's Church Fundraiser AA 12:00 PM Silver Squares Square Dancers 12:30 PM Guitar Music Lessons 2:30 PM Cub Scouts #173 6:30 PM The Grand Sweep Bible Study 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	3 Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Tuesday Book Study 10:00 AM Guitar Music Lessons 2:30 PM Weight Watchers 5:30 PM Education Team 7:00 PM Treble Clefs 7:00 PM Praise Band practice 7:00 PM	4 Bagels and Book Study 9:30 AM AA 12:00 PM Bell Choir 6:15 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM	5 Atria Sr Bible Study 10:30 AM Women's AA 11:00 AM Pastor Matt's Bible Study/Exodus 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #195 7:00 PM Pastor Matt's Bible Study/Exodus 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	6 AA 12:00 PM Creative Hands 1:15 PM AA 7:30 PM	7 Adult Girl Scout Winter Gathering 9:30 AM
8 Carmine's Sunday church fundraiser 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Traditional Worship Service 9:00 AM Trustee Committee meeting 10:00 AM Fellowship Hour & Education for all ages 10:00 AM Praise & Worship Service 11:00 AM	9 AA 12:00 PM Silver Squares Square Dancers 12:30 PM Guitar Music Lessons 2:30 PM Cub Scouts #173 6:30 PM Miriam Circle 7:00 PM	10 Tuesday Book Study 10:00 AM Ruth Circle 12:30 PM Guitar Music Lessons 2:30 PM Weight Watchers 5:30 PM SPRC 7:00 PM Treble Clefs 7:00 PM Praise Band practice 7:00 PM	11 Bagels and Book Study 9:30 AM AA 12:00 PM Dinner and Devotions 5:30 PM Bell Choir 6:15 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM	12 Atria Sr Bible Study 10:30 AM Women's AA 11:00 AM Pastor Matt's Bible Study/Exodus 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #195 7:00 PM Pastor Matt's Bible Study/Exodus 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	13 AA 12:00 PM Creative Hands 1:15 PM AA 7:30 PM	14 Project Chacocente Emmaus Gathering 8:30 AM

February 2015—As Of 1/15th

Please See Website for Updates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
15 Newsletter Deadline Today Project Chacocente Carmine's Sunday church fundraiser 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Traditional Worship Service 9:00 AM Fellowship Hour & Education for all ages 10:00 AM Praise & Worship Service 11:00 AM Widow/Widower Group 2:00 PM	16 Project Chacocente AA 12:00 PM Silver Squares Square Dancers 12:30 PM Guitar Music Lessons 2:30 PM Ruby Tuesday Church Fundraiser 4:30 PM to 10:00 PM Greece Choral Society Rehearsal 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM Cub Scouts #173 6:30 PM	17 Project Chacocente Salem Nutrition Center 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM Tuesday Book Study 10:00 AM Guitar Music Lessons 2:30 PM Weight Watchers 5:30 PM Finance Committee 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM Treble Clefs 7:00 PM Praise Band practice 7:00 PM	18 Project Chacocente Bagels and Book Study 9:30 AM AA 12:00 PM Bell Choir 6:15 PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM	19 Project Chacocente Atria Sr Bible Study 10:30 AM Women's AA 11:00 AM Boy Scout Troop #195 7:00 PM Pastor Matt's Bible Study/Exodus 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	20 Project Chacocente AA 12:00 PM Creative Hands 1:15 PM AA 7:30 PM	21 Project Chacocente
22 Carmine's Sunday church fundraiser 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Traditional Worship Service 9:00 AM Fellowship Hour & Education for all ages 10:00 AM Praise & Worship Service 11:00 AM Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting 6:00 PM	23 MS Society Support Group 10:30 AM AA 12:00 PM Silver Squares Square Dancers 12:30 PM Guitar Music Lessons 2:30 PM Cub Scouts #173 6:30 PM	24 Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Tuesday Book Study 10:00 AM Guitar Music Lessons 2:30 PM Weight Watchers 5:30 PM Treble Clefs 7:00 PM Praise Band practice 7:00 PM	25 Bagels and Book Study 9:30 AM AA 12:00 PM Dinner and Devotions 5:30 PM Bell Choir 6:15 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM	26 Page Turners Book Group 10:00 AM Atria Sr Bible Study 10:30 AM Women's AA 11:00 AM Boy Scout Troop #195 7:00 PM	27 AA 12:00 PM Creative Hands 1:15 PM AA 7:30 PM	28 Konarski birthday party 12:00 PM to 5:30 PM Bunko 6:30 PM