

Friendship Connection

January 2019

A Monthly Publication of the Honeoye Falls United Methodist Church

“Exercise daily in God — no spiritual flabbiness, please! Workouts in the gymnasium are useful, but a disciplined life in God is far more so, making you fit both today and forever.”

(1 Timothy 4:7, The Message (MSG))

Have you ever made a New Year’s resolution? If you have, are you like me, and then find yourself going through the cycle of optimism, trying hard, faltering, getting discouraged, and ultimately giving up on your New Year’s resolution? (Interestingly, most people who make a New Year’s Resolution have given up on their resolution by mid-February. Which leads many people to dumping the whole idea and saying, “I don’t make New Year’s Resolutions!” Is it any wonder then that many of us are a bit pessimistic about the whole issue of making resolutions, since so many good intentions are followed by a history of past failures?

We stand at the dawn of a new year, 2019. Many folks look on a new year as a fresh beginning, as an opportunity to kind of start over, to overcome a habit, or do a better job of something we see as important and/or that needs improvement. It might be for example, developing different priorities, using our time better, or a multitude of other things that we’d like to change.

I’d like to challenge each of us, individually and as the church, to take a slightly different approach as we begin 2019. Spend time in pray asking what the Lord wants to do in our life, and how we can work with Jesus Christ to grow and/or mature in that particular area of our lives. After all, as disciples of Jesus, aren’t we continually striving to be more devoted to Jesus Christ?

Many Christians make New Year’s resolutions to pray more, to read the Bible every day, and to attend Worship more regularly. These are fantastic goals. However, these New Year’s resolutions fail just as often as the non-spiritual resolutions, because ultimately there’s no power in a New Year’s resolution. Resolving to start or stop doing a certain activity has no value unless we have the proper motivation for stopping or starting that activity. For example, why do we want to spend time reading the Bible every day? Is it to honor God and grow spiritually, or is it because we’ve just heard that it’s a good thing to do?

So, what sort of New Year’s resolution could we as Christians make? Here are some suggestions:

- pray to the Lord for wisdom regarding what resolutions, if any, to make;
- pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives us;
- rely on God’s strength to help us;
- find an accountability and/or prayer partner who will help us and encourage us;
- don’t become discouraged with occasional failures; instead, allow them to motivate us further;
- don’t become proud or conceited, instead in all things give God the glory.

An important part of any spiritual training program is meditating on Scripture. To meditate on Scripture is more than reading it. And it’s different than studying it. When we meditate on Scripture, we **pray** while soaking in God’s Living Word, and applying it to the struggles and opportunities of our life. We become like a bumblebee that stops on a flower and lingers, staying on the flower to suck out the nectar and using it to make sweet honey. *“Your word is so pleasing to my taste buds — it’s sweeter than honey in my mouth!”* (Psalm 119:103, Common English Bible (CEB)).

May each of us, in 2019, discover more sweetness in Scripture and use it to live for loving God and loving others as God loves us. My prayer for each of us for 2019 is to continue to grow in our love for God and others.

Blessings & Shalom, Pastor Mary

Three men on a mission

An article published on the UNY Conference website

Power tools echo throughout the entire first floor of 473 Birr Street, located in the Northwest quadrant of Rochester, NY. This neighborhood is home to hundreds of refugees from Burma, Nepal, Somalia, Ethiopia, Togo, South Sudan, and several other countries.



Walt Mathias of Honeoye Falls UMC is using a jigsaw to cut a hole into what will become a kitchen sink counter; Leon Perkins of Rush UMC is drilling screws into the counter, and Peter Baldwin is cutting wood with a circular saw in what would be an eventual dining room.

Walt, Leon, and Peter volunteer together rehabbing houses two to three days a week when they are not on mission trips. Walt said, "This is our retirement and I couldn't think of anything better."

Walt continued, "We're called the Three Musketeers, the Three Stooges, the Three Methodist boys among other things."

Leon chimed in, chuckling, "Our wives tell us we go on play dates."

How did three retired men from three different United Methodist churches come to be a modern-day example of the Ecclesiastes 4:12, "a cord of three strands is not easily broken."



Walt said, "Leon and I first met about four years ago now. Our pastors introduced us to each other. Our church had a team that went down to the Southern Tier (to do disaster relief work) every three to four weeks after the Susquehanna River flooded. The entire area was massively devastated."

Leon said, "Rush (UMC) had been going to (Louisiana to clean up after Hurricane Katrina for a number of years, but we decided we wanted to do something local as well, so we got involved down in the Southern Tier with Walt's church."

After Walt and Leon met, they immediately clicked.

Walt said, "After we were done with the Southern Tier cleanup, we were brainstorming about what more we could do on a regular basis. The Rotary Club introduced us to Mike Coniff and we got started with the project here."

Mike Coniff is the Executive Director of the Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services. One of the services this organization provides is housing; they buy foreclosed houses and rehab them for refugees to rent. Some refugees get to a point where they can buy one of the homes.

Mike said, "Rochester Refugee Resettlement has been around for about six or seven years and we work with refugees in a secondary resettlement situation. People have been here a while. We want to try to get them jobs. We want to help their families and kids do well in school and have a career path. One of the major components is housing. It was very fortunate four or five years ago when Walt and Leon showed up at the door because it is virtually impossible to do the work that needs to be done in these houses without volunteer support."

Peter joined Walt and Leon on their efforts three years ago.

Peter said, "Three years ago, I retired from Kodak. Walt and I share the same pastor. He goes to Honeoye Falls; I go to Ionia. The Honeoye Falls parsonage needed a new kitchen and they were looking for volunteers so that's where I met Walt and

Leon. I volunteered to go and help to work on that kitchen and we completely hit it off. I think after the first day, Walt said, 'Let's go to the city. We need to go look at a house for Mike (Coniff).'

Peter smiled, and continued, "We've been working together on these houses and going on several mission trips together ever since. It's been a great retirement for us."

473 Birr street is one of dozens of houses that Walt, Leon, and Peter have completely remodeled rooms from the studs.

Koreh Set will soon be the owner of this home. He is one of the refugees employed by Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services to help rehab homes. He had zero construction experience prior to this position.

Koreh said, "I'm from Burma. When I first moved to America, I lived in Tennessee. Then, in 2016, I moved from Tennessee to Rochester. Before I came here, I learned about Rochester Refugee Resettlement, so I went to meet Mike Coniff. He asked if I needed a job and I told him that I did. He asked if I could help fix houses and I said I can learn. This is the first time I learned construction. I used to drive a big truck, delivering green beans. I learn quickly and now I can do drywall, painting, and ceiling work."

Walt, Leon, and Pete are Koreh's teachers. Now Koreh's 24-year old son Moe also helps with drywall and painting.

Another refugee that works on homes for Rochester Resettlement Services in a leadership role is Djifa Kothor—he first volunteered at the organization after college and then was hired to help with the remodeling. He came to the Rochester area from Togo as a 12-year old in 2000; an interesting connection is that it was Honeoye Falls UMC that sponsored Djifa and his family. This was before Walt was a member.

Djifa said, "Walt, Pete and Lyon are like saviors...the three of them are just amazing. For them to drive far (from outside Rochester's city limits) whether it's a snowstorm, heat, or whatever is just incredible. And they have helped Koreh so much. Without them, I don't think we would have acquired as many properties as we have and keep them up to code. They are the best volunteers you could ever ask for so I'm beyond thankful."

The relationship that Walt, Leon and Peter have showcases the beauty of the United Methodist Connection. Their good work demonstrates one way that the Upper New York Conference is fulfilling its vision to be God's love to our neighbors in all places.

Church in the Diner is Back!

Mother's Day, 2016 – That's when we last had the opportunity to experience worship while enjoying brunch. You'll soon have another chance so see why this form of worship generated considerable discussion. On Sunday, January 27th, we'll have an informal time of worship at the same time as the mission brunch. We'll meet in the church basement. If you wish to arrive early, brunch will be available beginning at 10:45am. It will continue to be served during the worship service. Worship will start at the usual 11:00am time. Be sure to mark your calendar and invite a friend.



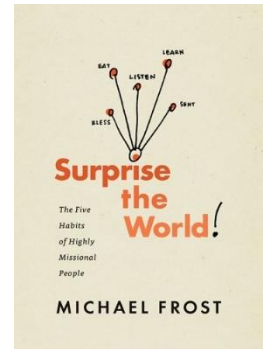
Surprise the World!

The Five Habits of Highly Missional People

An Adult Group Study beginning January 23rd, 2019.

Christians throughout the world have found renewed enthusiasm for missional outreach in their communities by using Michael Frost's BELLS model.

- We **BLESS** people both inside and outside the church.
- We **EAT** together, sharing meals with believers and unbelievers alike.
- We **LISTEN** to the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit.
- We **LEARN** about Christ as our leader and model.
- We see ourselves as **SENT** by God to everywhere life takes us.



Surprise the World! Is a practical tool for cultivating simple habits in our lives. "Mike has simplified the way of Jesus for our world today. Grab some friends, commit, and watch the kingdom become tangible." – Hugh Walter.

The study will be held on four Wednesday evenings, beginning January 23rd and ending February 13th. We'll meet at the Thompsons' home, 2630 Clay Street, Lima, at 7:00pm. The book, *Surprise the World* by Michael Frost, upon which the study is based, will be available for purchase. It's not necessary for the study but will be available if you'd like one. If you have any questions, please contact Gary Albright, 582-1473, or Duane Thompson, 739-5427. Contact Gary if you'd like a copy of the book before the study begins.

Informed to Transform 10- Leadership Training Day

The Genesee Valley District of the Upper New York Conference of the United Methodist Church will hold its Informed to Transform Leadership Training on February 2, 2019 at Asbury First UMC (1050 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14607) from 8:30am – 3:00pm.

Register between December 3, 2018 and January 28, 2019. The cost is \$20.00 per person. Registration fee includes: worship, morning and afternoon workshops, morning beverages: fruit and baked goods, and a simple lunch of: soup, salad and bread. Childcare will be provided with advance registration (no later than 01/18/2019).

We hope to see you all there! This year we will be offering churches a chance to assist in assembling kits for Mission HUB. Please contact the district office for more details on how you can help with this mission. To register, please call (585)340-9525 or email geneseevalleydistrict@unyumc.org!





Pub Theology continues Monday, January 14th at 7:00pm, CB Craft Brewers. "Beer, conversation & God"- all perspectives are welcome. For more information contact Duane Thompson.



Dear HFUMC Congregation, Thank You for your kindness and thinking of me this holiday season. Wishing everyone joy for 2019! ~Anita Forney

Dear people of the Honeoye Falls United Methodist Church, Thank you for the Christmas card and gift! It was very kind of you to think of me. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! ~Ellen Hallahan

Thank you so much for the Christmas card and gift! I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas! ~Jill Lloyd

Darrell and I would like to thank our church family for all your thoughts, prayers, and hospitality that you continue to share with us. We'd also like to thank you for the very generous gift that you gave us during this Christmas season. We look forward with anticipation to what God has planned for us as we share in ministry with you during 2019.



THANK YOU, MEMBERS OF THE HONEOYE FALLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

YOUR DONATIONS OF FOOD AND GIFT CARDS ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATED!

YOUR DONATIONS HAVE SUSTAINED & DELIGHTED THE LOCAL FAMILIES WE SERVE

GRATEFULLY, VOLUNTEERS OF THE FISH COMBINED COMMUNITIES FOOD CLOSET

Celebrate!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS...



- 1/5 - Erin Denslow
- 1/7 - Nancy Vidler
- 1/12 - Mary Jo Stahl
- 1/13 - Dale Vidler
- 1/17 - Emily King, Sharon Barnes, Ben Start
- 11/21 - Walt Mathias, Bill Connor
- 1/23 - Kristen Parham
- 1/25 - Brad Barnes
- 1/30 - Jeff Burdett, Dave Fritz



January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4	5
6 9:45am – Adult Sunday School 11:00am – Worship	7 7:00pm Leadership Meeting 7:45pm Mission & Outreach Meeting	8 7:00pm Bell Choir 7:45pm Operations Meeting	9 11:45am Women’s Daytime Bible Study	10	11	12
13 9:45am – Adult Sunday School 11:00am – Worship	14 7:00pm Pub Theology, CB Craft Brewers	15 7:00pm Bell Choir	16 11:45am Women’s Daytime Bible Study	17	18	19
January 15 – January 30: Pastor Mary on vacation						
20 Human Relations Sunday 9:45am – Adult Sunday School 11:00am – Worship	21 7:00pm SPRC Meeting	22 7:00pm Bell Choir	23 11:45am Women’s Daytime Bible Study 7:00pm Adult Group Study, 2630 Clay St., Lima	24 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	25	26
Pastor Mary on vacation – For Pastoral Emergencies, contact Rev. Helen Hadley at 585-394-6686						
27 9:45am – Adult Sunday School 10:45am – Brunch 11:00am – Church in the Diner/Brunch (Church Basement)	28	29 7:00pm Bell Choir	30 7:00pm Adult Group Study, 2630 Clay St., Lima	31		
Pastor Mary on vacation						
Sunday Volunteers						
January 6	January 13	January 20	January 27			
Greeters: Carole Eckhardt & Lynn Albright Lector: Carl Vullo Sound: Chris Hunt; Hospitality: Mission Brunch Counters: Sarah Mathias & Donna McCagg Flowers for Altar: Snow Removal: McCagg	Greeters: MaryJo Stahl & Joe Menear Lector: Carole Eckhardt Sound: Ken Forney Hospitality: Shafer/Thompson Counters: Duane Thompson & Sub Flowers for Altar: Snow Removal:	Greeters: Duane & Marie Thompson Lector: Sarah Mathias Sound: Rick Shipe Hospitality: McCagg/Connor Counters: Tom Sellman & Bob Winans Flowers for Altar: Snow Removal: Gregory	Greeters: Jess McMakin & Lynn Albright Lector: Duane Thompson Sound: Drew Moore Hospitality: coffee only Counters: Rick Shipe & Sub Flowers for Altar: Snow Removal: Albright			

**“God specializes in giving people a fresh start”
- Rick Warren**

PRAYER CLOSET



The "Prayer Mail" Email Address is hfumcprayer@gmail.com

If you notice that you haven't gotten a prayer email in a while, please check your junk or spam folder to see if they went there. Please add the email address in your contact list to ensure delivery in the future. If you think you may have been dropped from the list or would like to be added, please note this on the blue cards Sunday morning or contact the church office.

Strength, Healing and Guidance:

Bob & Kathy Wilkins (Sis Burton's brother-in-law & sister),	Upper NY Annual Conference & our church leaders,
Pastor Samuel and Community UMC (Uganda),	Joyce Connor (Bill Connor's mother),
Debbie Bastow,	Patty Parham Debruin & Rhett Parham (Carole Eckhardt's children)

Sympathy:

The Family of Chuck Vick,	The Family of Colleen Dunn	The Family of Otis Marlowe
The Family of Hilda Ferguson,	Robbins,	The Family of David Minick,
The Family of Flora (Sis) Burton,	The Family of Carol VanDusen,	The Family of Gladys Rublee (Darrell's mother),
	The Family of Clair Schaffner,	The Family of Agnes Marlowe
	The Family of Roland Lyle (Eric's father)	

Women and Men Serving Our Country:

Stephen Battle USA	Jeffrey Krulick,	Tim Rowlinson USA,
Dennis Bonavilla,	Peter J. Lang USMC,	Mike and Charniah Smrekar
Joseph Bonavilla,	Douglas Ninkovick,	USN, S
Curtis Clark,	Airman Poffard,	Steven Tschiderer USA,
Michael Fanton USN,	Michael Pullen USA,	Greg Dewey USN
Scott Flood USA,	John Rider USAF,	

College Students:

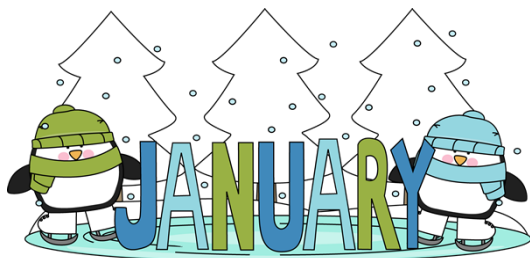
Acadia Fairchild,	Liam Lyle,	Gwen Peters,
Willow Finch,	Sophie Lyle,	Madison Sellman
Clayton Firster,	Lee Matthews,	
Sarah Forney,	Riley O'Flynn,	



**HONEOYE FALLS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
31 East Street Honeoye Falls NY 14472**

Address Service Requested

“Choose This Day Whom You Will Serve”



- ✦ Pastor's Note
- ✦ Three Men on a Mission, Church Diner
- ✦ Adult Study & Informed to Transform Leadership Training
- ✦ Community News & Celebrations
- ✦ Calender of Events
- ✦ Prayer Closet

If you no longer wish to receive the Newsletter please contact the church office at 624-3387 or office.hfumc@gmail.com.

Thank you!

WEEKLY SERVICES

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN 10:15AM**

SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:00 AM

PASTOR: Rev. Mary Rublee
585-497-7041 rev.maryrublee@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE: Secretary: Jillian Lloyd
585-624-3387 office.hfumc@gmail.com
Website: www.honeoyefallsumc.org

Office hours are posted weekly on the Church St. door and in the Sunday bulletin.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Joe Blackburn 244-3538

MINISTERS: EVERY MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION

LEADERSHIP TEAM: Sarah Mathias 615-0305