

The Messenger

The Newsletter of the First United Methodist Church, Greene NY
October, November, December 2018 Edition



From Pastor Michele:

Greetings brothers and sisters in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

I hope and pray this message finds you doing well and enjoying God's abundant love to the fullest each and every day. Here we are in the final quarter of yet another year. Fall is finally upon us with leaves just beginning to change as summer heat wanes. Open windows allowing in the cool fall breeze is a welcome change as well. Soon it will be Halloween and All Saints Day and right on their heels will come Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. This is a glorious time of the year for us Christians as we give thanks for all things especially the birth of our Lord Jesus.

I've begun decorating both parsonages with Fall items and as I was looking through my stored things for the dining room table centerpiece I found a bit of a surprise instead. I thought my Thanksgiving decorations were securely packed away last year, but when I pulled out the pretty cornucopia something was different. Apparently, a few hungry mice had nibbled on the Styrofoam bread loaf and plastic apples, thinking they were a tasty treat. I had planned on using this as my table centerpiece just as I did last year but lack of proper packing had taken its toll and my centerpiece was now full of holes.

As I assessed how to repair the damage, I felt a holy nudge on my heart. It was a prompting for me to consider if I was concerned about the right centerpiece for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday and beyond. These days have been very full preparing for Charge Conference and all the annual reports that are due in this quarter and my heart has felt burdened under all the strain of meetings and planning. I'd fallen into a pattern of focusing on my problems and to-do list instead of taking time to give thanks to God for his goodness in my life each and every day. I always intend to keep Jesus as the center of all I do and say but somehow through all the busyness I haven't kept that commitment. My distracted focus reminds me of the Christians to whom the author of the book of Hebrews wrote, *"He's the centerpiece of everything we believe, faithful in everything God gave him to do."* Hebrews 3:2

These believers were in danger of losing their focus on Christ as their deliverer. People had begun putting their trust in prophets, angels and even Moses. So in Hebrews 3, the people are reminded that Jesus is the only one worthy of trust and is where our faith should be centered. The writer of Hebrews wanted Christians to stop putting themselves, other people, or material items, at the center of their attention, and instead draw their gaze back to Jesus.

Just like the people of that time, we can quickly get distracted, become busy, and inadvertently make our obligations and celebrations the focus of our attention. We gradually become self-centered instead of Jesus-centered. Hypothetically, we may put him in a box in the attic of our heart, only pulling him out when the time is "right." This eventually leads to a life off-kilter and a heart full of holes, as challenges and pressures nibble away at our joy and peace. It's one thing to believe in Jesus. It's another to make him the center of our lives. When we make that important choice and remember to focus on him and be thankful in all things, our hearts and lives stay in balance.

Alexander Whyte, the Scottish preacher, always began every prayer with praise. One brutally cold Sunday, his people filed into the church, wondering what the preacher could possibly find to praise God for on such a miserable day. Alexander Whyte stood, bowed his head and prayed, "O Lord, we thank thee that it is not always like this."

Are there times when you don't feel like praising God? Honestly, our feelings are irrelevant when it comes to praising God. Praise is not about us. Praise is all about God. Praise is a deliberate choice, a learned habit that produces contentment and an attitude of gratitude. Praise invites God to take up residence in the middle of whatever mess we are facing. Psalm 22:3 says, "But you are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel." Praise produces trust in God and strengthens our faith. Psalm 42:11 states, *"But, O my soul, don't be discouraged. Don't be upset. Expect God to act! For I know that I shall again have plenty of reason to praise him for all that he will do. He is my help! He is my God!"*

Praise is more than emotions or spoken words, singing songs or lifting up hands in worship. True praise is the celebration of God, his power, his works, and his greatness. Praise is the fruit of a committed heart, and the tool of a life completely surrendered to God.

When we are discouraged, praise reminds us that there is hope in God. When we are afraid, praise reminds us that no matter what happens, God is with us. When we are lost, praise reminds us that God has already been where he is leading us. When we are confused, praise reminds us that heaven is not in a panic.

This Thanksgiving, this Advent and Christmas seasons (and every day), let's praise God and commit to making Jesus Christ our focal point. When we choose to make Jesus the emphasis of our holidays and our lives, we are blessed with the most beautiful centerpiece of all.

Let us pray: *Lord, I never intended to put you on a shelf or allow life's distractions to alter my attention to you. Give me the spiritual desire to stay intently focused on you during the holidays to come and into the new year. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

Grace and peace, my friends,
Pastor Michele

Pastor Michele can be reached by cell phone: 910-260-0660 or email: revmicheleclark@gmail.com

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Food Pantry Updates:

Some of the items needed by the food bank are:

Canned Tuna Fish
Spaghetti Sauce
Peanut Butter
Juice (64 oz sizes)
Canned Fruits

Canned Chicken
Pasta (all varieties)
Jelly
Boxed cereals

Canned Tomatoes
Cake Mixes
Red Kidney Beans
Canned Vegetables



MISSIONS from Debbie Barnes



Your Missions Committee is collecting money on Communion Sundays for Sky Lake Camperships.

We are also collecting the following items for Rotary Christmas Baskets: toothpaste, tooth brushes, bars of soap, shampoos and body lotion, as well as food for the local food bank. The collection bin can be found in the Social Room.

All are welcome at our Missions meetings. Won't you please help us as we reach out to the community in the name of Jesus Christ.

xx

The Breast Cancer Walk in Binghamton is Sun. Oct 21st.

If anyone is interested in walking or sponsoring a walker or donating, see Joy Ketcham.

Please save used or new twist-ties:

Leave them on the island of the church kitchen. We use them to close the plastic bags for our Welsh Cookies.



from Kay Clark

Thursday, October 18

9:30am: quick meeting and then at 10am

10:00am guest speakers Bob and Carol Rosati will talk about their mission work in Africa.

Thursday, November 15: 9:30am for our regular meeting, devotions and snack.

Thursday December 13: Annual Christmas Party and Silent Auction.

Gather at 10:30am for a brief meeting, luncheon follows at Noon. Please bring a dish to pass and an item for the auction. Dessert and beverage provided. Watch for details as we get closer to the date.

LOOKING AHEAD: during cold winter months (beginning in January) our meetings will be held at the home of Kay Clark (114 Cutler Rd) to conserve on fuel.



From David Barnes

The 12th Annual UM Night at the Ballpark was June 28th of this year. Our Bishop and District Superintendent and their wives joined us, the weather was excellent, the game was great and a good time was had by all. It was recorded that at least 509 United Methodist's were in attendance and the proceeds realized were \$2,577 – our best year yet!

Proceeds from the game will be distributed as follows:

- \$ 300. to the Society of St. Andrew (the Potato Project) –
information is forthcoming on how our local men (and women) can assist
- \$ 300. to the Upper Room Prayer Center
- \$ 100. to HCA Johnson City
- \$ 400. to Truth Pharm
- \$1,200. to Southern Tier Mobile Pack

And mark your calendars now. The 2019 UM Night at the Ballpark is June 26th. See you there.

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES

Check out the website: Firstnationsdevelopmentinstitute.com
From Scott Clark

A Dakota Prayer

O God, when I have food,
help me to remember the hungry;
When I have work,
help me to remember the jobless;
When I have a home,
help me to remember those who have no home at all.
When I am without pain,
help me to remember those who suffer,
And remembering,
help me to destroy my complacency;
Bestir my compassion, and be concerned enough to help;
By word and deed, to see who cry out for what we take for granted.
Amen.

(from the students of Red Cloud Indian School)

The Hero In Me

She smiles, she laughs, she hurts,
she hurts, she cries.
She holds it all deep inside,
she lives, she flies, she soars, she dies.
She is the one I idolize.
She loves, she gives, she cares,
she is the one
I know I will someday be.
A hero, a mother, a child, a soul,
the woman inside of me.

(Isabelle 10th grade)

BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

3. Betty Cairns
6. Scott Clark and Logan Anderson
9. Corey Dietrich
12. Marjorie Sampson and Mary Orr
13. McKay Turner French
16. Bruce Detweiler
17. Christine Dierich
22. Kathleen Bovier
24. Dale Sortman
29. Terry Turner
30. Kevin Flohr

BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

2. Esther Williams
3. Nicole Flohr
5. Matthew Patrick
10. Evelyn Evans and Laurie Zaengle
12. Scott Lord and Natalee Cummings
13. Mary Webb
15. Earl Howell
16. Edie Miller
17. Pam Branigan
20. Lisa Rowe
22. Trevor Ketcham
23. Donna Baker
24. Bev Sternbergh
26. Bernie Rockwell
27. Jazmyne Mata
28. Charles Dietrich

BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

4. Valerie Stracquadano
7. Kegan Evans
11. Neil Fifield
16. Colin A. Evans
17. Zayden Bush and Joy Ketcham
19. Kay Clark and Denise Hebbard
20. Bob Miller
25. Bradley Rowe
27. Nathan Patrick
29. Thanna Howell
30. Judith Caruana

ANNIVERSARIES IN OCTOBER

8. David & Leslie Gorsline
12. Shaun & Lorraine Detweiler

ANNIVERSARIES IN NOVEMBER

None listed



ANNIVERSARIES IN DECEMBER

None listed

Not listed on our birthday/ anniversary list, or listed incorrectly? Please send an email to joycebesemer@gmail.com or put a note in mailbox # 11. Thanks!

COFFEE HOUR

from Kay Clark

October

- 7. Team #5
- 14. Team #6
- 21. Team #1
- 28. Team #2

November

- 4. Team #3 Turn Clocks back 1 hr
- 11. Team #4
- 18. Team #5
- 25. Team #6



December

- 2. Team #1
- 9. Team #2
- 16. Teams 3 & 4 Children's program
- 23. None or anyone bring
- 30. None or anyone bring

Team 1

Kay & Scott Clark
Jason Evans
Merelyn Rogers
Donna Baker
Julie Dietrich
Betty Dietrich

Team 2

Spech Family
Alan & Maryanne Lord
Judy Halstrom
Joy & Dana Ketcham Family
Kris, Sarah & Sadie Sexton
Corky & Bernie Rockwell (away in winter)
Peg Moxley & Cleon Salisbury (away in winter)

Team 3

Esther Williams
Jan Carr
Gloria Dayton
Lorna Eroshevich
Kristin Burghardt Family

Team 4

Millie Turner
Becky McMullen
Judy Kelly
Carol Faught
Jennifer Griffin Family
Jeanne Kennicutt (away in winter)

Team 5

Edie Miller
Sondra, Sarah, Jacob Acevedo
Kevin Rounds
Linda Gray
Lisa & Terry Loveless Family
Paul & Andy Estabrook Family
Jessie, Mark, Johnsy Fish

Team 6

Barbara Hinman
Dave & Debbie Barnes
Mary Webb
Eva Gibbs
Connie Smithka

Thank you to all for donating your time. Your service is greatly appreciated. If you are unable to serve for a Sunday you are assigned, please choose someone from the list to fill in for you.

ATTENDANCE

<u>July</u>	1	35
	8	47
	15	57 church picnic
	22	35

<u>August</u>	5	40
	12	45
	19	31
	26	39

<u>September</u>	2	32
	9	73
	16	66
	23	65

LECTOR SCHEDULE:

October

- 7. Youth
- 14. David Barnes
- 21. Esther Williams
- 28. Kay Clark

November

- 4. Youth (turn clocks back)
- 11. Leslie Gorsline
- 18. Lorna Eroshevich
- 25. Lisa Loveless

December

- 2. Youth
- 9. Ray Sullivan
- 16. Children Program
- 23. David Barnes
- 30. Esther Williams

October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1.	2 Hannah's Hope 10am Nominating 6pm Trustees 7pm	3	4 Soup & Scripture 6pm	5	6
7 Communion/ Coin Offering World Communion Sunday	8 Columbus Day	9 Hannah's Hope 10am Garden Club 6pm	10	11 Soup & Scripture 6pm	12	13
14	15	16 Hannah's Hope 10am	17 Finance 6pm Ad Council 7pm	18 UMW 9:30am Soup & Scripture 6pm	19	20
21 Laity Sunday	22	23 Hannah's Hope 10am	24	25 Soup & Scripture 6pm	26	27.
28 Reformation Sunday	29	30 Hannah's Hope 10am	31  Halloween Pit Stop			

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November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Soup & Scripture 6pm	2	3
4 All Saints Sun Communion/ Coin Offering DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS	5	6 Hannah's Hope 10am	7	8 Soup & Scripture 6pm	9	10
11	12	13 Hannah's Hope 10am	14	15 UMW 9:30am Soup & Scripture 6pm	16	17  Charge Conference @ Whitney Pt UMC 10am
18 Thanksgiving Sunday/ bless Food Pantry items	19	20 Hannah's Hope 10am	21	22  THANKSGIVING DAY	23	24
25  Hanging of the Greens	26	27 Hannah's Hope 10am	28	29 Soup & Scripture 6pm	30	

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December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1. World AIDS Day
2. First Sunday of Advent Communion/ Coin Offering	3.	4. Hannah's Hope 10am	5.	6. Soup & Scripture 6pm	7.	8.
9. 2 nd Sunday of Advent	10.	11. Hannah's Hope 10am	12.	13. UMW Christmas Party Soup & Scripture 6pm	14.	15.
16. 3 rd Sunday of Advent Christmas Program	17.	18. Hannah's Hope 10am	19. Finance 6pm Ad Council 7pm	20. Soup & Scripture 6pm	21. Blue Christmas Worship (time & place TBA)	22.
23. 4 th Sunday of Advent	24. Family Worship 4pm Candlelight Service 8pm Christmas Eve	25.  CHRISTMAS DAY	26.	27.	28.	29.
30.	31.	January 1, 2019	2	3	4  Epiphany Worship	5

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