

Loving God † Growing Together † Serving the World



Minetto United Methodist Church



December 2015 Newsletter
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PO Box 217
Minetto, New York 13115-0217
(315) 343-3465

On the web at www.MinettoUMC.org
Email: MinettoUMC@CentralNY.twcbc.com

From the Pastor

When people have close relationships, they feel less threatened, less alone, more confident and more in control. Knowing you have people you can turn to in times of need can provide some very important feelings of security, optimism and hope - all of which can be great antidotes to stress. What we believe about ourselves, what we believe about our purpose for living, what we believe about others - but the most important key to a great new year and a great new life is what we believe in Jesus Christ.

John, in the prologue to his Gospel, described Jesus as the Word become flesh; as the light that shines in the darkness which the darkness cannot overcome.

Shel Silverstein's story, THE GIVING TREE is a story about a tree that loved a little boy. In his younger years they played hide n' seek. In those carefree childhood days the boy ate the tree's fruits, swung from her branches, slept in her shade, and the tree was happy. As the boy grew, however, he had less time for the tree. He did return once as a young man, but he was not interested in swinging from the tree's branches now. He was interested in only one thing - money. The tree had a great idea. "Take my apples and sell them," she said. The young man did. The tree was happy. A long time passed before the young man came by again. When he did, he was not interested in play. He wanted to build himself a house. "Here, take my branches," cried the tree, "and build your house." He did and the tree was happy. More years passed. Now the young man was growing older. He was tired of his surroundings. He wanted to see the world. When he expressed his weary yearning to the tree, she exclaimed, "Cut me down. Take my large trunk and make yourself a boat. Then you can sail away." And that's what he did. The tree was happy. Many more years passed and an old man returns - too old, too tired to swing from branches, to pursue great riches, to build houses or boats. Says the tree to the old man, "I have a pretty good stump left, my friend. Why don't you just sit down here and rest?" He did and the tree was happy.

This little children's story speaks to me about the love of God revealed in Christ Jesus. How can we face this new year with a feeling of doom and despair when a God who loves us so much that He is willing to give of Himself is available to heal our hurts and to enable our endeavors?

"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever BELIEVES-there is that word again-believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." There is the absolute key to life for a new year. The awesome power of believing-believing in yourself, believing in a high and noble purpose for your life, believing in the worth of others, and most importantly, believing in Jesus Christ as your Redeemer, your Friend, your Savior and your Lord.

It's not what's happening to you that matters. It's what's happening in you that counts. May His love happen in us. Then we can be more than conquerors through Him who is the very Word of God.

Christmas blessings - Pastor Chuck (and Rohan)

Our Shut-ins List



Please lift up in prayer, members of our church family
who can no longer join us for worship on Sunday mornings.

George & Karen Eason	Mogens & June Hansen
Tom & Marilyn Putnam	Emily Dumas
Nancy Ravas	Catherine Salisbury
Violet Whitman	Bill & Daryl Martin

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 (NIV)



Dec. 2 Mary Cipra	Dec. 20 Garry Visconti	
Dec. 5 Julie Connor	Dec. 23 Alexa Hardesty	
Dec. 6 Jared Jaquin	Dec. 25 Lydia Tryon	
Dec. 8 Riley Jaquin	Dec. 29 Karen Eason	
Dec. 8 Michael Farden	Dec. 29 Braeden DePoint	
Dec. 8 Julius Pekarek	Dec. 30 Jordan Boyzuck	
Dec. 10 Jacob Tomlinson	Dec. 31 Rachel Boyzuck	
Dec. 15 Jace Jock	Dec. 31 Kolton Roy	
Dec. 17 Mason Kinney		
Dec. 19 Jacqueline Dodge		

Dec. 19	Douglas & Rhonda Taylor	45 Years
Dec. 28	Bill & Daryl Martin	52 Years
Dec. 31	Bob & Jill Bruns	20 Years



MyGod: Minetto Youth Group of Disciples

Meetings are scheduled after worship until 12 noon on the following Sundays: December 13 & 20. Any youth in 5th grade and higher is welcome to join in for some fun and a chance to spend time with other youth. Feel free to contact Debbie (Rockhill) Daby (343-8301 / ddaby@twcny.rr.com or Randy Dohse (343-6097) with questions or activity ideas.

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Worship Schedule for December 2015



December 6th 2nd Sunday of Advent/Communion
Advent Candle lighters: Jeff Margrey & Becky Cordone
Gospel Lesson - Luke 3: 1-6 'Theme – Peace'
Psalter – Luke 1: 68-79 (UMH 208)
Lay Reading – Philippians 1: 3-11

Greeters: Anne Miller
Acolyte: Noah Cordone
Lay Reader: Diana Rockhill
Counters: Debbie Daby & Mary Lou Bjorkman

December 13th 3rd Sunday of Advent
Advent Candle lighters: Bruce & Maggie Holman
Gospel Lesson - Luke 3: 7-18 'Theme – Joy'
Psalter – Isaiah 12: 2-6
Lay Reading – Philippians 4: 4-7



Greeters: Don Gifford
Acolyte: Braeden DePoint
Lay Reader: June Tryon
Counters: Vern Tryon & Mary Lou Bjorkman



December 20th 4th Sunday of Advent
Advent Candle lighters: Vern & June Tryon
Noisy Can: Operation Christmas Child

Chancel Choir & Friends Cantata
Lloyd Larson's 'Emmanuel – God with Us!'

Greeters: Donna Moody & Jerry Baily
Acolyte: David Cordone
Counters: Mary Lou Bjorkman, Sue Comerford, Bruce Holman

December 27th 1st Sunday after Christmas
Gospel Lesson - Luke 2: 41-52
Psalter – Psalm 148
Lay Reading – Colossians 3: 12-17

Greeters: Vern & June Tryon
Acolyte: Cailynn Barnhart
Lay Reader: Steve Salisbury
Counters: Mary Lou Bjorkman & Bruce Holman

Clothe yourself
with compassion
kindness
humility
gentleness
and patience
COLOSSIANS 3:12

Altar Steward: Mary Cipra



Barn Service Greco Farm 5 PM
 297 West 5th Street Road
 Oswego, NY 13126

Each year we gather together to celebrate the birth of the Christ child, and each year we anticipate his birth as we worship on Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve is a time of remembrance, as we recall the events of the New Testament telling of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. Over the years our Barn Service has held a special place in the schedule of events leading up the Christmas, not only for our church members, but the broader community, as people come from all around the witness the retelling of the nativity story.

This year, as we come together in that humble barn-setting, we will see once again the story re-enacted by the youth of the church; but this year the theme will include a message of peace, born of the words of the prophet Isaiah. Included in this year's nativity will be a host of characters not normally seen in the stable at Bethlehem. There will be a lion, a bear, a wolf all part of the Peaceable Kingdom, gathered as symbols of our need to work together to spread the message of the Christ child, the Prince of Peace. We will see Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men all gathered together with the wild beasts reminding us that our differences are just that, differences, but that we are all creatures of God's creation.

Again this year, Rev. Richard Sivers will stage the nativity with the help of members of the Minetto United Methodist Church. The Barn Service, as it has always been known, has been part of Christmas Eve for more than twenty years.



December 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 8 PM Advent
 Candle lighters: The Allen Family
 Gospel Lesson - Luke 3: 1-6 'The Proclamation of John the Baptist'
 Psalter - Luke 1: 68-79 (UMH 208)
 Lay Reading - Philippians 1: 3-11

Counters: Mary Lou Bjorkman & Vern Tryon

Missions Team

The Angel Tree is up. The cut off for returning your unwrapped gift is December 6th. The Joy of Christmas dinner will follow the Joy of Christmas Concert on December 13th. Dinner is salad, roll, stuffed chicken breast and potato casserole, beverage.



January's Noisy Can is for the American Heart Association and Go Red for Women campaign that is Friday, February 5th, 2016.

JOY OF CHRISTMAS DINNER RESERVATION FORM



Minetto United Methodist Church – 2015
Joy of Christmas Program, 4 pm on Sunday, Dec. 13

The dinner following the Joy of Christmas program on Sunday, December 13th will be BY RESERVATION ONLY. Please fill out and return this form and the money to Mary Lou Bjorkman, Frank Bickel or Carla Salisbury by Sunday, December 6th. The menu will include stuffed chicken breast, potato casserole, salad, roll, dessert and beverage.

Cost is \$9 per person.

NAME: _____

I would like to reserve _____ dinner (s) for December 13.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for the dinners.

Make check payable to Minetto United Methodist Church.

All proceeds from the dinner, along with the free-will offering from the Joy of Christmas program, will be used to purchase Christmas gifts for children in the Minetto School. Your help is greatly appreciated.



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form 2015

If you wish to order a poinsettia plant(s) to decorate the chancel area for Christmas, please fill out this form and give it, and the money, to Mary Cipra by Sunday, December 6th. Order forms will also be available on the display case in the hallway of the church. The plant(s) may be picked up after the Christmas Eve candlelight service.

Cost is \$12 per plant.

In memory or honor of _____

Given by _____

I would like to order _____ poinsettia(s).

Enclosed is \$ _____

Make check payable to Minetto United Methodist Church.

Finance & Stewardship Committee Report

Thanks to your faithful stewardship, we can celebrate a number of accomplishments during the month of October 2015:

- Our pastor continues to make good progress with his healing and rehabilitation and Rev. Rick Sivers has led several worship services with Betty Dingman, Steve Salisbury, and Debbie Daby assisting in various ways. Our church is richly blessed by all of them.
- The Salvation Army was given 42 pounds of groceries this month.
- A Confirmation class has been started with 11 young people enrolled.
- All bills, including our Ministry Shares assessment, were paid in full and on time.
- The October Noisy Can Offering of \$128.55 was given to Helping Hands Cupboard.
- A free dinner was held in October.
- Our back parking lot has been greatly improved by a layer of road millings.
- Very successful fall rummage sale and harvest dinner were carried out with much good fellowship and significant earnings — \$2,187.69 from the rummage sale and \$4,176.21 from the dinner.

These are some of the highlights from the November 11th meeting of the committee:

- Current expense income for October was above expectations by about \$8,500 and for the year-to-date, was above projections by over \$4,000. This favorable circumstance was primarily due to income from fundraisers.
- Most budget categories, e.g. Christian education, maintenance, etc., spent less than expected in October and all spent less for the year-to-date.
- Our year-to-date current expense income from all sources was about \$4,000 above expectations.
- Expenditures for staff other than pastor are nearly \$14,400 below expectations because of the losses in the services of secretary, custodian, and organist.
- Capital Campaign income for October was about \$730 and for the year-to-date over \$10,700.
- A follow-up Stewardship Campaign email message has been sent to parishioners with email.

The members of the Finance & Stewardship Committee continue to be grateful for your faithful attention to the financial needs of our ministries. Please remember that you can contribute to the Capital Campaign with a minimum of effort or expense on your part by:

- Depositing your unwanted used clothing in the collection shed behind the church
- Purchasing our commemorative Christmas ornaments and telling your friends and neighbors with a connection to our church or Minetto about them
- Using *Shop with Scrip* to purchase gift cards through our church account. Garry Visconti can answer questions about the program.

We welcome your suggestions and questions and invite you to attend any of our meetings. We normally meet at 7:00 P.M., on the third Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 16, 2015. Copies of our reports, minutes, or the budget will be provided upon request.

Speak to Marilyn Stephens if you would like to have envelopes for your Sunday offerings or Capital Campaign contributions. We encourage you to put your name on pew envelopes, if you use them, in order to receive credit for possible tax benefit.

Finance & Stewardship Committee members for 2015 are: Deborah Daby, chair Pastor, Staff, Parish Relations Committee; Dennis Dumas, Treasurer (598-9770); Rick VanPatten, chair Trustees; Steve Salisbury, lay leader and member of Annual Conference; Marilyn Stephens, Financial Secretary (216-6725); Vernon Tryon, chairman Finance Committee (343-9692, 529-0120 or Vernon@Tryon.com); Garry Visconti, chair Administrative Council; and Bruce Holman, at large member.

Church Calendar Abbreviations

ACG Area Clergy Group	MIS Mission Team
AdC Administrative Council	MyGod Minetto Youth Group of Disciples
BdT Board of Trustees	NCH Nurture, Care & Health Team
CCR Chancel Choir Rehearsal	NCO Noisy Can Offering
CoM Council on Ministries	NHB Oswego County New Horizons Band
CoN Concinnity Singers	NHC Oswego County New Horizons Chorus
Cubs Cub Scouts	NEWS Newsletter Deadline
EcD Ecumenical Dinner	Osteo RSVP Osteo Exercise
Edu Christian Education Team	PEO Philanthropic Education Organization
EvT Evangelism Team	P&S Prayers & Squares
FC Futuring Committee	SoB Sounds of Brass
F&S Finance & Stewardship	UR Upper Room Covenant Prayer Group
FM Free Meal Ministry	UMM Men's Group Breakfast
GS Daisy, Brownie & Junior Scouts	WF Women's Fellowship
LDT Leadership Development Team	WG Writers' Group
I1A In One Accord	W&M Worship & Music



December 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9 AM NHC 10:30 AM Osteo 4 PM SoB 6 PM Cubs 6:30 PM CoN	2 9 AM NHB 9 AM PEO 6 PM GS	3 10 AM UR 10 AM Osteo 6 PM GS 6:30 PM CCR	4	5
6 Worship Confirmation Class 2-5 PM	7	8 9 AM NHC 10:30 AM Osteo 4 PM SoB 6 PM Cubs 6:30 PM CoN	9 9 AM NHB 6 PM GS	10 10 AM UR 10 AM Osteo 6 PM GS 6:30 PM CCR	11 PEO Christmas Dinner	12
13 8:30 AM UMM Worship MyGod Joy of Christmas Concert & Dinner	14	15 9 AM NHC 10:30 AM Osteo 4 PM SoB 6 PM Cubs 6:30 PM CoN	16 9 AM NHB 6 PM GS 7 PM F&S	17 10 AM UR 10 AM Osteo 6 PM GS 6:30 PM CCR	18	19 3 PM Springside Ecumenical Service
20 Worship with Chancel Choir Cantata MyGod Free Meal	21	22 9 AM NHC 10:30 AM Osteo 4 PM SoB 6 PM Cubs 6:30 PM CoN	23 9 AM NHB 2:30 PM Springside Bible Study 6 PM GS	24 5 PM Barn Service 8 PM Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day	26
27 Worship	28 Office Closed Until January 4 th , 2016	29 Office Closed Until January 4 th , 2016	30 Office Closed Until January 4 th , 2016	31 10 AM UR 6:30 PM CCR Office Closed Until January 4 th , 2016		