

Loving God † Growing Together † Serving the World



Minetto United Methodist Church



February 2016 Newsletter
Version 6, Issue 2

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From the Pastor

Wasn't it just Christmas? Wasn't it a time of celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior? Some (including me) still have Christmas decorations up! And, now it is Lent? Why is it early this year?

Lent depends on the date of Easter. Easter follows a lunar, rather than a solar, calendar and is celebrated on the Sunday that follows the first full (called paschal) moon after March 20 or 21, the vernal (spring) equinox. Therefore, Easter cannot fall earlier than March 22 or later than April 25. The date of Easter this year is March 27th. To calculate Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, you count back 46 days and that will be Ash Wednesday – February 10th this year. There are 40 days in Lent and six Sundays.

Why do we begin Lent with such a stark reminder of death as Ash Wednesday? Precisely because we are, during this season, preparing ourselves to live out the vows of the baptismal covenant more faithfully.

Lent begins with all of us together, disciples with decades of experience and those just now coming to the way of Jesus, enacting exactly what it takes for us to take this journey of discipleship. We acknowledge how overrun by sin our lives still are. And we take on the ashes as a sign of our mortality and sinfulness. We all begin this journey on that level playing field. We acknowledge we are dust, and to dust we shall return.

That is why these two actions—embracing our mortality and acknowledging and turning from our sin—are the heart of this service. They are our primary preparation for Holy Communion that follows, and the most appropriate ritual beginning for our personal and corporate disciplines of discipling and growing in discipleship, in death to self, throughout this season.

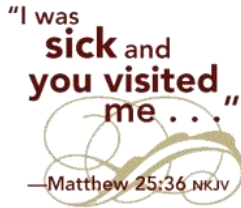
So now that you know when Lent is, come join us on Ash Wednesday at 7 PM for the imposition (applying) of ashes and Holy Communion. The Chancel Choir will be providing special music this year.

Wednesday, Feb. 10th Ash Wednesday with Communion
Pastoral Reading – Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
Responsive Reading – Psalm 51: 1-17

Shalom,
Pastor Chuck (and Rohan)

Our Shut-ins

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



George & Karen Eason
Emily Dumas
Violet Whitman
Marie Smith

Mogens & June Hansen
Nancy Ravas
Bill & Daryl Martin
Joan Waterbury

Tom & Marilyn Putnam
Rev. Catherine Salisbury
Betty Mangano

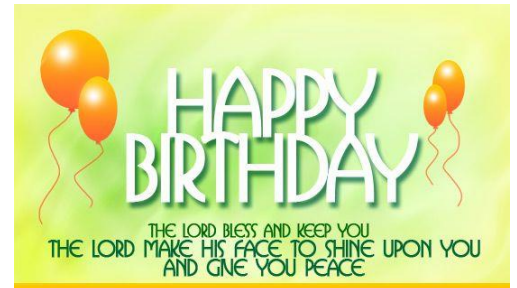
“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

A Message from Rev. Rick Sivers

A thank you to the congregation of the Minetto United Methodist Church for the generous gift at Christmas. It has always been an honor and privilege to serve the people who call this their church home and your support and grace toward me is greatly appreciated. I look forward to a prosperous year for the church and am at your service at any time you call on me. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you as I have. Rev. Rick Sivers

February 2016 Birthdays

Feb. 2 nd	Angela Stoutenger	Feb. 13 th	Brian Stoutenger
Feb. 3 rd	Mary Lou Bjorkman	Feb. 17 th	Douglas Taylor
Feb. 3 rd	Marilyn Putnam	Feb. 19 th	Jen Reese
Feb. 7 th	Cora Finn	Feb. 21	Ralph Spencer
Feb. 8 th	Amanda Evans	Feb. 23 rd	Dan Tryon
Feb. 10 th	Carol (Buske) Crowell	Feb. 23 rd	Katrina Boyzuck
		Feb. 23 rd	Terry Stoutenger
		Feb. 27 th	Garrett Kinney
		Feb. 28 th	Wynnette Dohse



February 2016 Anniversaries

Frank & Gloria Bickel	February 8 th	19 Years
Robert & Chris Whitman	February 16 th	36 Years

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Worship Schedule for February 2016

February 7th Transfiguration Sunday/Communion

Gospel Lesson - Luke 9: 28-43
 Psalter – Psalm 99
 Lay Reading – 2nd Corinthians 3: 12-4:2

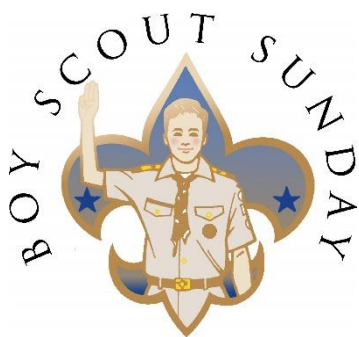
Greeters: Dennis & Janet Dumas
 Acolyte: Nolan Busch
 Lay Reader: Megan Rothrock
 Counters: Mary Lou Bjorkman & Debby Rockhill-Daby



February 14th 1st Sunday in Lent/Boy Scouts Sunday

Gospel Lesson - Luke 4: 1-13
 Psalter – Psalm 91
 Lay Reading – Romans 10: 8b-13

Greeters: Bruce & Maggie Holman
 Acolyte: Jeremy Barnhart
 Lay Reader: Marc Barnhart
 Counters: Mary Lou Bjorkman & Bruce Holman



February 21st 2nd Sunday of Lent

Noisy Can: United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

Gospel Lesson - Luke 13: 31-35
 Psalter – Psalm 27
 Lay Reading – Philippians 3: 17 – 4: 1

Greeters: Betty Dingman
 Acolyte: Braeden DePoint
 Lay Reader: Collin Dohse
 Counters: Mary Lou Bjorkman, Nancy Prarie, Vern Tryon

PHILIPPIANS 3:14
 I press on toward the goal
 to win the prize
 for which God has called me
 heavenward in
 Christ Jesus

January 24th 3rd Sunday of Lent

Gospel Lesson - Luke 13: 1-9
 Psalter – Psalm 63
 Lay Reading – 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13

Greeters: Kris Armstrong
 Acolyte: Jeffrey Barnhart
 Lay Reader: Caitlynn Barnhart
 Counters: Mary Lou Bjorkman & Vern Tryon



February Altar Steward: Karen Poole

Mardi Gras 2016

Friday, Feb. 5 – 7 pm
Minetto United Methodist Church

\$8.00 per person
Dessert Buffet at Intermission

Master of Ceremonies Rick Sivers



Sounds of Brass

Announcing the return of
Brother Harmonious

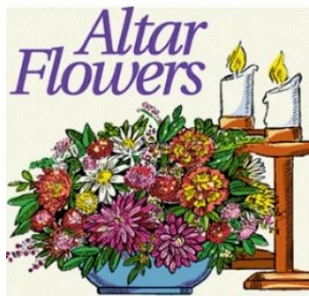
“Monk On a Mission”



Again this year we will host a Mardi Gras before the start of Lent. This year's celebration will be on Friday, February 5 at 7 pm. There will be a show and a dessert intermission. Rick Sivers will serve as Master of Ceremonies, the Sounds of Brass will play and Rick has promised to bring back Brother Harmonious for another of his intoxicated trips through life in the monastery. Cost will be \$8.00 per person and you are urged to get your reservations in early.

Come out for an evening of fun, fellowship and laughs.

In Memorial Altar Flowers



At times throughout the calendar year, some members of our congregation have specified certain Sundays when they wish to remember loved ones by placing memorial flowers on the altar. The person(s) being honored and the donor(s) names will be recorded in that Sunday's worship bulletin. If you would like to participate, please let Pastor Chuck know the date and who the memorial is in honor of. More than one person can be remembered on the same date.

February 2016 Memorial Altar Flowers

In memory of Clarence Blunt, father of Karen Poole,
and Catherine Campney, Karen's sister.

MyGod: Minetto Youth Group of Disciples

Meetings are scheduled after worship until 12 noon on the following Sundays: **February 14 & 21**. 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.

Christian Education

The Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes went to two different continents. Some went to the Ukraine in Europe and some went to India in Asia. We sent out 56 boxes this year. So now, 56 children and their families will be able to attend a 12 lesson program called "The Greatest Journey" in their language. It is currently written in 76 different languages with more being added every year. Our shoebox could impact a child way more than the actual physical gift. Wynnette Dohse has already started shopping for bargains as they come along for this year's shoeboxes. Please keep the recipients of these shoeboxes in your prayers physically and spiritually.



Our middle Sunday School group will be starting a 6-week program on the Life of Moses. We are looking at ways for them to share their study. They just finished the 12-week program of the Greatest Journey that our shoebox recipients get.

We have been working on decorating blizzard bags for the church's current mission project in our Sunday School classes.



We are always looking for teachers for any of our Sunday School groups. You could teach for a week to help us when we are in need of a fill in teacher or for 3 weeks as we rotate teachers with the youngest and oldest group. Please consider this rewarding experience to work with our children and youth as they embark on their journey of faith.

Nurture, Care & Health



Fellowship Brunch:

We had a wonderful turn out January the 10th for our first Fellowship Brunch of the year. What a wonderful way to celebrate our new year gathering with so many friends. The food and the fellowship were outstanding.



Prayers & Squares Quilt Ministry

The Prayers & Squares Ministry:

Our next Prayers & Squares workshop is February 9th, 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. If you have not yet attended one of our workshops this would be a great beginning. Come and share the fun and fellowship. We will be sorting new fabric that has been donated to our Prayers & Squares Ministry.



Nurture, Care & Health Team 2016

We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful team. Donna Moody, Nancy Prarie, Lynn Visconti, Sheila Seeley and Daryl Martin describe the words nurture, caring and health.

Co-chairs Gloria Bickel & Karen Poole welcome anyone who would like to join our team. Our Nurture, Care, & Health Meeting Dates for 2016 are Tuesday February 2nd, Tuesday August 2nd and our 2017 planning meeting is October 4th. All meetings are held at 6:30 PM in the Mowry Lounge.

Friendships are sewn... one stitch at a time

Any questions or concerns please contact Gloria Bickel at 343-5791,
e-mail fgbickel36@aol.com or Karen Poole 343-0826, email kpoole4@twcny.rr.com



Finance & Stewardship Committee Report for February 2016

The Finance & Stewardship Committee did not meet in December 2015, so this report follows its January 20, 2016 meeting and constitutes a final summary report for the year 2015. Highlights of the year's financial performance include the following:

- An outside auditor examined our 2014 financial records and found no errors or need for changes in procedure — thanks to the good work of our Financial Secretary Marilyn Stephens and our Treasurer Dennis Dumas. They do a great deal of work for us, mostly behind the scenes, and deserve our sincere appreciation.
- Current expense income for the year 2015 from all sources totaled \$123,913.75. We had expected total income to be \$117,511, so we exceeded our projection by \$6,402.75.
- We expected our total current expense expenditures to be \$152,862.96, but they were, in fact, only \$121,781.24; a difference of \$31,081.72. All of our expense areas, except fundraiser expense, came in under budget. However, vacancies in the positions of custodian, secretary, and nursery attendant were the major reason for our reduced expenses. It should also be noted that we spent over \$6,000 less for maintenance than expected, possibly because of the effects of maintenance projects we completed in recent years.
- 2015 was the final year of our Capital Campaign and, again, we did not achieve our goal. However, it must be remembered that we have managed to complete a number of major projects that have improved the health and safety conditions in our buildings. Contributions to the Capital Campaign amounted to \$13,379.90 in 2015. It is our hope that parishioners will continue to support the campaign so we can complete our list of projects and restore our reserve fund for future emergencies.
- We ended the year 2015 with a checkbook balance of \$7,667.99, and a Capital Campaign fund balance of \$21,657.68. We have \$30,557.41, held in checking and CDs, that is designated for a dozen specified purposes, e.g. Harold & Mildred Clark Memorial Camping & Scholarship Fund, Memorial Fund, etc. Finally, we have \$42,468.95 in CDs held in reserve.

The members of the Finance & Stewardship Committee continue to be grateful for your faithful attention to the financial support 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, February 17, 2016. Copies of our reports, minutes, or the budget will be provided upon request to Vernon Tryon.

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 2016 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.US); Doug Buske, chair, Administrative Council; and Carla Salisbury and Bruce Holman, at large members.

Church Calendar Regularly Scheduled Meetings:

<u>Tuesday Schedule</u> 9 AM New Horizons Chorus	<u>Wednesday Schedule</u> 9 AM New Horizons Band
(TSched) 10:30 AM Osteo Exercise	(WSched) 6 PM Cadette Girl Scouts
4 PM Sounds of Brass	
6 PM Cub Scouts	<u>Thursday Schedule</u> 10 AM Osteo Exercise
6:30 PM Concinnity Singers	(ThSched) 10 AM Upper Room Prayer Group
	6 PM Daisy Girl Scouts
	6:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice

All of the above meetings occur every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. In order to save space on the calendar, these meetings will not be listed every week unless there is a cancellation on a specific date.

February 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 TSched 6:30 PM Nurture, Care, & Health	3 WSched	4 ThSched	5	6
7 10 AM Transfiguration Sunday Communion	8	9 TSched 6:30 PM Prayers & Squares Workshop	10 WSched 7 PM Ash Wednesday Service	11 ThSched	12 Girl Scout Lock-in	13 Girl Scout Lock-in
14 1 st Sunday of Lent Worship Boy Scout Sunday Confirmation Class 11 AM MyGod	15 Midwinter Recess	16 TSched	17 WSched 7 PM Finance	18 ThSched	19	20 3 PM Springside Ecumenical Service
21 2 nd Sunday of Lent Worship 11 AM MyGod	22	23 TSched	24 WSched 2:30 PM Springside Bible Study	25 ThSched	26	27
28 3 rd Sunday of Lent Worship Confirmation Class Free Meal	29					