

Minetto United Methodist Church



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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

The Good Neighbor Church

By Sue Nilson Kibbey

Sue Nilson Kibbey, who works with missional church initiatives in Ohio, shares the story of a church that engaged the mission field immediately around its building by forming a “Good Neighbor” team. The team’s sole purpose was to get acquainted with every person or family within sight of their church building.

A congregation nestled comfortably in the midst of a two-mile radius of middle-class homes strongly desired to reach new people for Christ. They had deep hearts of compassion and felt God speaking to them to become invitational. To accomplish that goal, they had been investigating the possibility of planting a new worshipping community on the city’s outskirts, 13 miles away in an area filled with young professionals. A preliminary estimate of the cost to support this plant for the first three years added up to a few hundred thousand dollars.

I asked a simple question and the answer surprised us all. “Have you researched how many of your current members happen to live within six blocks in any direction of the church here?” The pastor responded immediately, “Yes, we have done the work of plotting where our congregation lives. Only one family attending here lives within six blocks. Interestingly, though, no one else does. Everyone else drives in from other neighborhoods.”

Do you know your immediate neighbors?

“Do you happen to be acquainted with who lives in the houses on either side of the church, or the three houses right across the street? Your neighbors, so to speak?” The room was silent. “How about the four houses along your parking lot in back? Have you met any of them? What are the names of their children, their pets? Do they have any needs the church could care for, or any way the church could be good neighbors to them and build friendships with them? Do they even go to church anywhere?” More silence.

After further contemplation, the pastor and leadership realized it wasn’t necessary to drive miles to the outskirts of the city and invest significant funds to reach the churchless. They had a mission field immediately around their existing church building that was completely untapped. Perhaps launching a satellite campus in the upscale suburbs seemed trendier and more glamorous, but simply walking across

the street or parking lot to meet and get acquainted with the church’s neighbors was intimidating yet free — with eternal reward potential.

A Good Neighbor Team

A “Good Neighbors” team was formed, composed mostly of the church’s newest members. The team’s single purpose was to get acquainted with every person or family whose home was within sight of the church building, a two-block square. The Good Neighbors team would gather to prayer walk the “Neighbors Square” as they nicknamed it, introducing themselves to the residents who happened to be outside. They identified themselves as being from the church and simply asked, “How can our church be a good neighbor to you?” They also asked, “Do you have anything we could pray about for you?”

Their goal was to make friends. Sometimes they took plates of homemade cookies to share. They learned the names of children, of cats and dogs. They heard about griefs, challenges, and joys. They occasionally helped change a flat tire. One on the Good Neighbor team went to a court hearing in spiritual support of a church neighbor. Others on the Good Neighbor team decided to start a quarterly neighborhood birthday party in the church fellowship hall, and invited the church’s immediate neighbors and their families for one afternoon of celebrating every neighbor’s birthday at the same time. Many others in the congregation attended and brought cards; some even brought small gifts. A few neighbors from houses down the street — not on the Good Neighbors team’s route — heard about the party and unexpectedly showed up as well. They were immediately added.

Eventually several of the church’s neighborhood residents were spotted sitting in worship with their new friends from the Good Neighbors team. Some of the children attended Vacation Bible School. And at the fall all-church vision dinner, the pastor had two members of the Good Neighbors team share stories of their experiences. The congregational response was so enthusiastic that his church eventually developed several additional Good Neighbors teams to befriend an entire six-block square area around itself. The teams each took spiritual responsibility to help the church become a loving, relational neighbor to those living in its immediate mission field. A few months ago, the pastor baptized a mother and her four children whose home he can see from the church’s office window, and they have all become deeply involved in church life. A weekly Good Neighbors Bible study has started on three of the blocks, led by individuals serving on those teams.

Who are your church’s neighbors, literally?

*This article is adapted from Sue Nilson Kibbey’s book Flood Gates: Holy Momentum for a Fearless Church (Abingdon Press, 2016).
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Eight Signs Your Church May Be Closing Soon

By Thom S. Rainer

There are eight clear signs evident in many churches on the precipice of closing. If a church has four or more of these signs present, it is likely in deep trouble. Indeed, it could be closing sooner than almost anyone in the church would anticipate.

1. There has been a numerical decline for four or more years. Worship attendance is in a steady decline. Offerings may decline more slowly as the “remnant” gives more to keep the church going. There are few or no conversions. Decline is clear and pervasive.
2. The church does not look like the community in which it is located. The community has changed its ethnic, racial, or socioeconomic makeup, but the church has not. Many members are driving from other places to come to the church. The community likely knows little or nothing about the church. And the church likely knows little or nothing about the community.
3. The congregation is mostly comprised of senior adults. It is just a few years of funerals away from having no one left in the church.
4. The focus is on the past, not the future. Most conversations are about “the good old days.” Those good old days may have been 25 or more years in the past. Often a hero pastor of the past is held as the model to emulate.
5. The members are intensely preference-driven. They are more concerned about their music style, their programs, their schedules, and their facilities than reaching people with the gospel. Their definition of discipleship is “others taking care of my needs.”
6. The budget is severely inwardly focused. Most of the funds are expended to keep the lights on and/or to meet the preferences of the members. There are few dollars for ministry and missions. And any dollars for missions rarely include the involvement of the members in actually sharing the gospel themselves.
7. There are sacred cow facilities. It might be a parlor or a pulpit. It might be an organ. It could be pews instead of chairs. It might be the entirety of the worship center or the sanctuary. Members insist on holding tightly to those things God wants us to hold loosely.
8. Any type of change is met with fierce resistance. The members are confronted with the choice to change or die. And though few would articulate it, their choice by their actions or lack of actions is the choice to die.

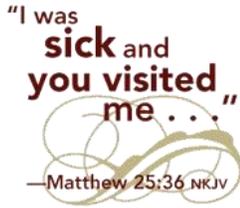
Churches with four or more of these signs have three choices. They can embark on a process of change and revitalization. Or they can close the doors for a season and re-open with a new name, a new vision, and some new people. Of course, the third choice is to do nothing. That is the choice to die.

In September, I will be inviting all of you to a Church-wide planning meeting to discuss the future of our Minetto UMC. Look for more articles on this subject in the summer newsletter.

Blessings, Pastor Chuck

Our Shut-ins

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



June Baxter Mary Cipra Fred & Emily Dumas Karen Eason
June Hansen Betty Mangano Bill & Daryl Martin Nancy Ravas
Marie Smith Joan Waterbury Violet Whitman

"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)

Transitions

May 6th, 2017: KENMORE, NY – **Pastor Chuck** received a grade of 94/100 on successful completion of his Bible I Seminary Course.

May 18th, 2017: **Jerry Bailey** spring internment took place at the Peck Cemetery, County Route 4. Burial was with full military honors.



David P. Graham Sr., 90, of Fairmount, father of Carrie Fellows, passed away May 23rd at home. Born in Waltham, MA, he lived in Fairmount since 1968 and was a Navy veteran. David owned and operated the David P. Graham Co., which specialized in banking supplies.

Surviving are his daughters, Carrie Fellows of Fulton, Daryl (Mark) Hanifan of Syracuse, Sheila (David) Milden of Phoenix and Gwen (Stan) Leffler of St. Charles, MO; sons, David Jr. of North Carolina, Geoffrey (Megan) of Huntersville, NC, Bradley (Carolyn) of Braintree, MA, Gary (Marie) Vertigan of Syracuse and Peter (Suzanne) of Mansfield, MA; 22 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and several cousins.



TENNESSEE — **Deborah Ann Fellows**, 63, of the Glendale Community, died Wednesday evening at her home. She was a hairdresser and had been employed by J.C. Penney and Laughlin Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Fellows attended Notre Dame Catholic Church.

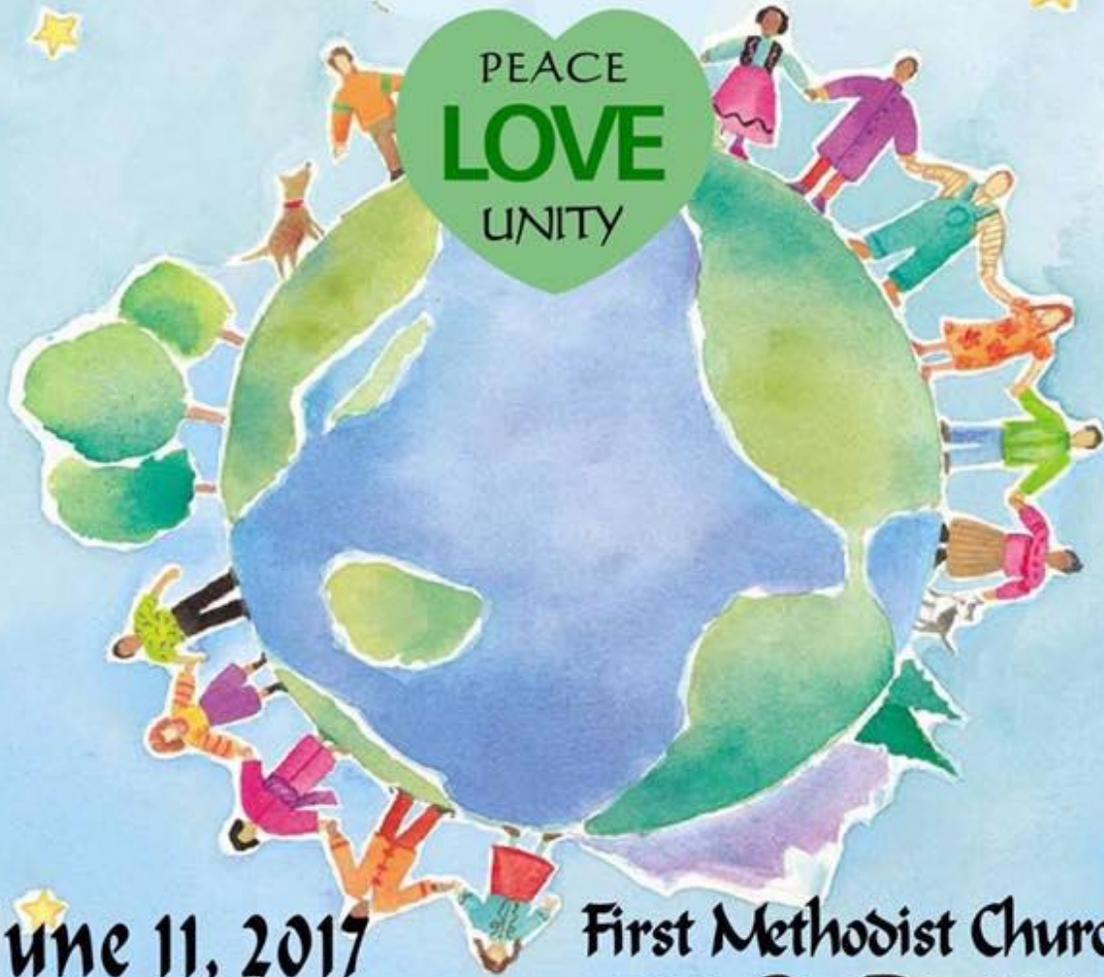
Survivors include her husband of 45 years Joe Fellows (brother of the late Jeffrey Fellows)

May 27th, 2017: **Ryan Pekarek** wed Erica Encarnacion at Rainbow Shores in Pulaski. Service was performed by Pastor Chuck Forbes. Ryan and Erica will reside in Minetto.

Concinnity presents

VISIONS OF HOPE

featuring Con Brio, Kindered Spirits, Harborfest Alumni Musical Singers and songwriter Maria Gillard



June 11, 2017
3:00 PM

First Methodist Church
711 St. Rt. 104
Oswego, NY

Free Will Offering

This concert is presented by Concinnity in conjunction with Zonta International.

Worship Schedule for June 2017

June 4th

Pentecost/Communion Sunday
Gospel Lesson: John 7: 37-39
Responsive Reading: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Lay Reading: Acts 2:1-21
Greeter: Lucille Becksted
Lay Reader: Randy Dohse
Counters: Mary Lou Bjorkman & Bruce Holman



June 11th

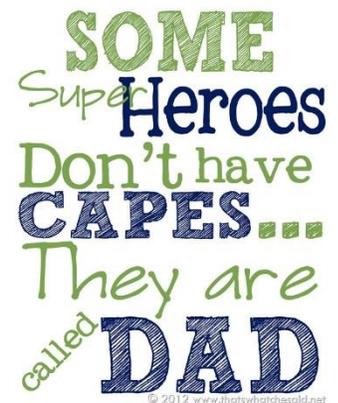
Trinity Sunday/Communion
Gospel Lesson: Matthew 28: 16-20
Responsive Reading: Psalm 8
Lay Reading: 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13

Greeter: Vivian DeMent
Lay Reader: Sean Simonson
Counters:



June 18th

Father's Day/Noisy Can/Concinnity
Gospel Lesson: Matthew 9: 35-10:8
Lay Reading: Romans 5:1-8
Greeter: Bruce & Maggie Holman
Lay Reader: Steve Salisbury
Counters: Sue Comerford, Mary Lou Bjorkman,
Nancy Prarie



June 25th

3rd Sunday after Pentecost/Ordinary Time
Pastoral Reading: Genesis 21: 8-21
Responsive Reading: Psalm 17
Lay Reading: Romans 6: 1b-11
Greeter: TBA
Lay Reader: Linda Rosché
Counters: Deb Daby & Mary Lou Bjorkman



Altar Stewards:

Kris & Kaitlyn Armstrong

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June 2017 – Birthdays

2 nd	Alan Craig	20 th	Mark Becksted
3 rd	Robin Tryon	22 nd	Jeff Shappee
12 th	Niya Emmons	23 rd	Sandra Eby
15 th	Susan Caruth	26 th	Randy Dohse
17 th	Pam Kuczawa	26 th	June Tryon
18 th	Mikayla Hardesty	29 th	Lynnette DePoint



June 2017 – Anniversaries



8 th	Reuel & Valerie Todd	49 Years
17 th	Greg & Pam Kuczawa	28 Years
19 th	Matt & Beth Busch	24 Years
22 nd	Terry & JoAnn Stoutenger	34 Years
27 th	Rick & Cathy VanPatten	58 Years

MyGod: Minetto Youth Group of Disciples

Meetings are scheduled after worship until 12 noon on the following Sundays: June 4th & 11th. 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.



Becoming Our Lord's Disciples



Nurture Care & Health

Every Sunday after church there is coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall. This is a wonderful time to converse with others and enjoy some delicious treats. There are still spaces available to sign up to host. Nurture and Care supplies the paper products and drinks. All you have to do is provide some goodies.

The next Friendship Brunch will be July 16th right after church. The theme is patriotic. We hope everyone will join in for great fellowship and delicious food!

The next Prayers and Squares meeting will be June 23 in the Fellowship Hall 10 AM to Noon. Everyone is welcome!

Have a wonderful summer!

Karen Poole, Nancy Prarie, Gloria Bickel

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Spring Rummage Sale Results

You'll be happy to know that the grand total for the Spring Rummage Sale came to \$2,375.97. The sub-totals were as follows:



Bake Sale:	\$ 263.15
Rummage Sale Luncheon:	\$ 686.00
Rummage Sale & Knick Knacks:	\$ 958.50
Bag Day (Saturday):	\$ 468.32

Great Job everyone!

Marilyn Stephens, Church Financial Secretary

Note: The Fall Rummage Sale will be held October 6th and 7th, 2017.

Looking Ahead

June 1-3 Pastor Chuck and Steve Salisbury will be attending Annual Conference at the OnCenter in Syracuse.

June 4th is Pentecost Sunday. Communion will be served. Wear **RED**

June 11th is Trinity Sunday. Communion will be served.

June 18th is Father's Day. Concinnity will be performing.

June 25th is the Free Meal. The menu will be roasted chicken, mash potatoes, toss salad, bread, dessert



June Graduates

Oswego High School

Alexa Hardesty, Jordan Tryon,
Riley Jaquin, Samantha Gardner

Fulton High School

Cole Rothrock

Cayuga Community College

Stacy LaVere

Cole Rothrock is this year's recipient of the 2017 Harold & Mildred Clark Memorial Scholarship.

Finance & Stewardship Committee Report for the June 2017 Newsletter

We should be grateful for all the ministries that were accomplished in the month of April 2017, including:

- † The pastor is leading monthly ecumenical services at Springside
- † The Noisy Can Offering yielded \$1,188.
- † Our free dinners in April yielded \$140.00.

The following are financial highlights for the month of April 2017:

- † Contributions from those that pledge and those that contribute but do not pledge, amounted to \$10,314.00 and was over budget by \$146.75. However, income from all sources was \$564.57 less than the amount budgeted for.
- † Total current expense expenditures however, were \$2,268.00 less than expected.
- † Minetto UMC has received sufficient funds during the month and all bills have been paid.
- † \$643.75 was contributed to our Capital Campaign Fund in March 2017.

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. Speak to Marilyn Stephens or Vernon Tryon to make purchases.
- † Using *Shop with Scrip* to purchase gift cards through our church account. Garry Visconti can answer questions about the program.

For anyone that uses the pledge envelopes or pew envelopes for your tithes and offerings, please remember to write your name on the envelope. This will save the individuals' time when counting the Sunday offerings because they must write the names on the outside of each envelope in order to make sure each contributor is credited for their offering. In addition, the Treasurer will greatly appreciate the effort and make her work easier. Thank you for your cooperation.

We are pleased to announce that the sanctuary sound system which was recently repaired is working extremely well. We now have a total of ten listening devices on hand for those that require them to better hear the services at Minetto UMC.

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, June 21, 2017. Copies of our reports, minutes, or the budget will be provided upon request to Bruce Holman.

Speak to Marilyn Stephens if you would like to have envelopes for your Sunday offerings or Capital Campaign contributions.

Church Calendar Abbreviations

TSched 9:00 AM New Horizons Chorus
 10:30 AM Osteo Exercise
 4:00 PM Sounds of Brass
 6:00 PM Cub Scouts
 6:30 PM Concinnity

WSched 9:00 AM New Horizons Band
 6:00 PM Girl Scouts

ThSched 10:00 AM Osteo Exercise
 6:00 PM Girl Scouts
 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Summer Schedule:

TSched 9:00 AM New Horizons Chorus
 10:30 AM Osteo Exercise
 4:00 PM Sounds of Brass
 6:30 PM Concinnity

WSched 9:00 AM New Horizons Band

ThSched 10:00 AM Osteo Exercise
 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal



June

June 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 ThSched In One Accord 1pm 2017 Annual Conference	2 Syracuse	3 Syracuse
4 UM Men's Breakfast 8:30am 10 AM Pentecost Sunday 11am MyGod	5 6:30 PM Worship & Music	6 TSched	7 WSched	8 ThSched	9	10
11 10 AM Trinity Sunday 11am MyGod 3 PM Visions of Hope Concert	12	13 TSched	14 Flag Day  WSched	15 ThSched	16	17 Ecumenical Service @Springside 3pm
18 Noisy Can Father's Day 10 Worship Concinnity	19	20 TSched	21 WSched Finance 7pm	22 ThSched	23 10 AM Prayers & Squares	24 High School Graduation Weekend
25 10 AM Worship Summer Schedule Begins 4:30 PM Free Meal	26	27 TSched	28 WSched John Wesley's Birthday	29 ThSched	30	

Secretary's Office Hours Monday-Friday 1:30-4:30 PM
 Pastor's Office Hours Monday-Thursday 8:30-4:30
 Evening Appointments available upon request

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