



Minetto United Methodist Church



February 2018 Newsletter
Version 8, Issue 2

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From the Pastor

For the past two years, the United Methodist Commission on a Way Forward has been meeting behind closed doors in an attempt to fulfill two almost impossible tasks: (1) producing a plan to definitively resolve the deep disagreement over The United Methodist Church's sexual ethics; and, (2) maintain some semblance of church unity.

The Council of Bishop's (COB) fondest hope for the commission is for it to propose a plan that definitively resolves the acrimonious debate over the church's sexual ethics (that has been going on for many years) and keeps the church united. Many United Methodists across the theological spectrum share the COB's hope, as do I. However, most acknowledge it is a very tall charge, some think it an impossible one.

As a former delegate to General Conference in 2004 and 2008, I have witnessed firsthand the animosity between those who support LGBTQ+ persons, and those who do not want them in 'their' church. There is also another group in this disagreement and that is the people in the pews. You are being given a chance to voice your opinion on the issues and I urge you to attend the sessions our bishop has scheduled. Please read the articles on the Commission on a Way Forward on pages 7-8 of this newsletter.

It is a pleasure to announce the officers for the 2018 Board of Trustees and the Staff-Pastor/Parish Relations Committee:

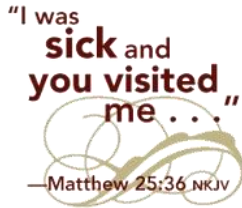
Chair of the Board of Trustees	Wynnette Dohse
Vice-chairs	Bob Bruns, Charlie Zawisza
Secretary	Jill Bruns
Chair of the SP/PRC	Shawn Allen
Vice Chair	Randy Dohse

Please thank these people when you see them for their commitment to the ministries of our church.

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.



June Baxter
June Hansen
Marie Smith

Emily Dumas
Bill & Daryl Martin
Joan Waterbury

Karen Eason
Nancy Ravas
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)

February Free Meal

February 25th, 2018
4:30 – 6:30 PM

The menu is ham with raisin sauce, oven roasted potatoes, vegetables, bread. Volunteers to help with the serving, cleaning, and preparation are always welcome.



Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 4th, 2018



Let us help our local food pantries on Souper Bowl Sunday by donating non-perishable food items, especially soup. A box for your donations will be located just outside the sanctuary doors. You can begin to drop off your donations Sunday, January 28th. Thank you for all you do year-long to support the local food pantries.

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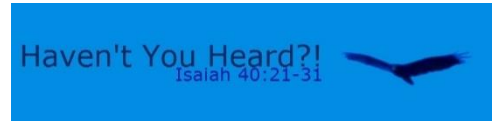
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Worship Schedule for February 2018

Feb 4th
(white)

5th Sunday after Epiphany/Communion at the Rail
Pastoral Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31
Responsive reading: Psalm 147:1-11, UMH #859
Lay Reading – 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Greeter:
Lay Reader: Randy Dohse
Counters: Mary Lou Bjorkman & Sean Simonson



Feb 11th
(white)

Transfiguration of the Lord/Communion
Pastoral Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12 & Mark 9:2-9
Responsive reading: Psalm 5:1-6, UMH #783
Lay Reading – 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Greeter:
Lay Reader: Megan Rothrock
Counters: Mary Lou Bjorkman & Sean Simonson



Feb 14th
(white)

Ash Wednesday/Lent Begins/Communion
Pastoral Reading: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Lay Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17;
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10



Feb 18th
(purple)

1st Sunday of Lent/ Noisy Can
Pastoral Reading: Mark 1:9-15
Responsive reading: Psalm 25:1-10 UMH 756
Lay Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22
Greeter:
Lay Reader: Sue Comerford
Counters: Susan Comerford, Nancy Prarie,
Mary Lou Bjorkman



Feb 25th
(purple)

2nd Sunday of Lent
Pastoral Reading: Mark 8:31-38
Responsive reading: Psalm 22:23-31 UMH 752
Lay Reading: Romans 4:13-25
Greeter:
Lay Reader: Carrie Fellows
Counters: Mary Lou Bjorkman & Sean Simonson

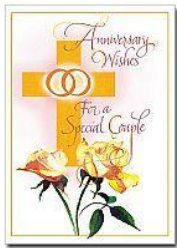


Altar Steward
Karen Poole

Loving God † Growing together † Serving the World

Feb 2018 – Birthdays

Feb. 2 nd	Angela Stoutenger	Feb. 22 nd	Karen Poole
Feb. 3 rd	Mary Lou Bjorkman	Feb. 23 rd	Dan Tryon
Feb. 7 th	Cora Finn	Feb. 23 rd	Katrina Spicer
Feb. 8 th	Amanda Evans	Feb. 23 rd	Terry Stoutenger
Feb. 10 th	Carol (Buske) Crowell	Feb. 27 th	Garrett Kinney
Feb. 13 th	Brian Stoutenger	Feb. 28 th	Wynnette Dohse
Feb. 17 th	Douglas Taylor		
Feb. 19 th	Jen Reese		



February 2018 – Anniversaries

Frank & Gloria Bickel	February 8 th	21 Years
Robert & Chris Whitman	February 16 th	38 Years

MyGod: Minetto Youth Group of Disciples

Meetings are scheduled after worship until 12 noon on the following Sundays: February 4 & 11. 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 (315-343-8301 / ddaby@twcny.rr.com) or Randy Dohse (315-343-6097) with questions or activity ideas.



Nurture, Care, & Health

The January Friendship Brunch was well attended. We had lots of delicious soul-warming food and wonderful conversation. The next brunch will be **April 15**. There are still empty spaces on the coffee hour sign-up sheet for this year if anyone would like to contribute.

A big thank-you to everyone who took the Christmas shut-in gift bags and visited some of our shut-ins. We had wonderful feedback on the contents of the gift. Our shut-in friends are lonely and miss church. Visits at any time by anyone would be greatly appreciated.

Prayers & Squares will have the first meeting on **February 23rd from 10:00-12:00**. Anyone can request a prayer quilt by contacting Gloria Bickel at fgbickel35@aol.com

Easter is early this year! Easter gift bags need to be assembled **February 23** and distributed to our shut-ins **March 18-28**.

We will have a **Nurture, Care & Health meeting on February 20 at 6:30** in the Mowry Lounge. Everyone is welcome and feel free to share your ideas!
Blessings to all,
Karen and Nancy

Volunteers Needed for 2018

Your church has a need for you to step forward and volunteer to be a part of some of our ministry areas. If you feel called to participate, please contact Pastor Chuck at the church office.



Operation Christmas Child

Our 68 shoeboxes this year went to the country of Togo. It is a country located in West Africa with a population of 7.9 million. 40% of the country's population is 14 years old or younger. 310,080 shoeboxes were designated for Togo this year bringing the number distributed there to 1,553,947 since the year 2000.

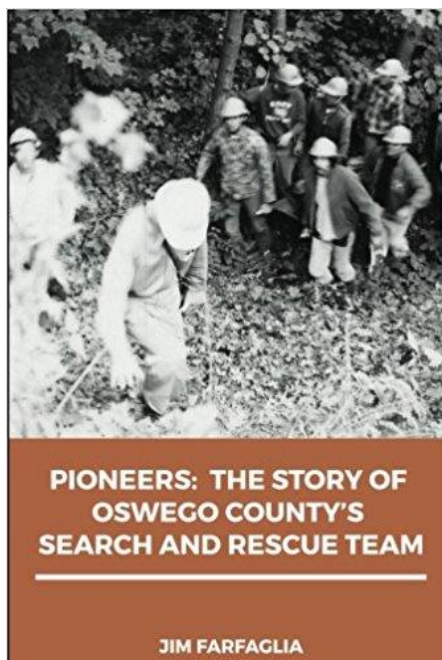
Remember that a child only receives one Operation Christmas Child shoebox in their lifetime. Each shoebox delivered is only the first step to transforming a young life for eternity. Every shoebox delivered by Operation Christmas Child is a tangible expression of God's love. Every child is then offered a 12 week program, "The Greatest Journey" in their own language to learn about Jesus Christ and how to have eternal life. Please continue to pray for these children as they are beginning their journey of faith.



CONGRATULATIONS

Our church is one of only sixty-three churches out of 876 churches in our Annual Conference that contributed to all six of the General Church's Advance Specials on 2017. Thank you for supporting the world-wide ministries of the United Methodist Church.

Pioneers: The Story of Oswego County's Search and Rescue Team.

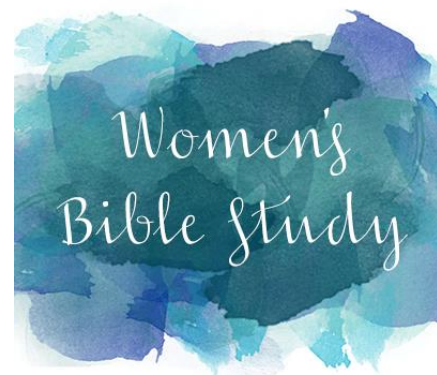


Recently 5 members of our church who belong to the same book club, read *Pioneers: The Story of Oswego County's Search and Rescue Team* by Jim Farfaglia. We were so impressed with this local volunteer organization which has become New York State's first professional volunteer search and rescue team, that we wanted to share our copies with anyone in the church who would like to read the book. There are a lot of local people you will know and since it started in Fulton you will most likely know of a lot of their searches and rescues. Our very own church is mentioned as are other local places. It is truly an inspiring story about how a group of dedicated people to a cause, can make such a profound difference. Kudos to our very own Barb Bartholomew, whose husband Bart was the founding father of the group. We were all amazed that we did not know about something so important and inspiring as this story. Feel free to borrow the book from any of us: Wynnette Dohse, Karen Poole, Nancy Prarie, Nancy Zawisza, Linda McFall.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study led by Rev. Linda Harris started on Monday, January 22 with 7 attending. They have established a meeting time of 9:00 to 10:30 on Mondays. There will be some Mondays that they will not meet due to holidays, weather, etc. (if in doubt call 315-343-6097 or email wkdoehse@gmail.com).

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us. We have a study guide we are following which is \$7.00 but Rev. Harris adds devotions and much more to our group! There are 12 women in this study with a lesson for each that are deeply practical, holding up a mirror to our lives and souls that can help us better understand our own story.



- Eve (lasting contentment) January 29th
- Rebekah (free of feminine stereotypes)
- Leah (rejection and insecurity)
- Hannah (surrendering in waiting)
- Abigail (dealing with confrontation in relationships)
- Gomez (learning to accept unconditional love)
- Mary (moving from comfort to courage)
- Mary Magdalene (transforming from outcast to follower)
- Mary of Bethany (putting our faith into action)
- Martha (finding our identity in Jesus)
- The Woman at the Well (turning our messes into messages)
- The Syrophoenician Woman (approaching God with persistency and boldness)



The Commission on a Way Forward was proposed by the Council of Bishops (COB) and approved by the 2016 General Conference to do a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph of the Book of Discipline (the book of rules of the UMC) concerning human sexuality and explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the church.

Mission

The Commission will bring together persons deeply committed to the future(s) of The United Methodist Church, with an openness to developing new relationships with each other and exploring the potential future(s) of our denomination in light of General Conference and subsequent annual, jurisdictional and central conference actions. We have a profound hope and confidence in the Triune God, and yet we acknowledge that we do this work in a climate of skepticism and distrust, from a human point of view. We are a connection, and we admit that our communion is strained; yet much transformative mission across our world is the fruit of our collaboration. The matters of human sexuality and unity are the presenting issues for a deeper conversation that surfaces in different ways of interpreting Scripture and theological tradition. The work is meant to inform deliberation across the whole church and to help the COB in their service to the next General Conference in finding a way forward.

Vision

The Commission will design a way for being church that maximizes the presence of a United Methodist witness in as many places in the world as possible, that allows for as much contextual differentiation as possible, and that balances an approach to different theological understandings of human sexuality with a desire for as much unity as possible. This unity will not be grounded in our conceptions of human sexuality, but in our affirmation of the Triune God who calls us to be a grace-filled and holy people in the Wesleyan tradition.

Scope

We should be open to new ways of embodying unity that move us beyond where we are in the present impasse and cycle of action and reaction around ministry and human sexuality. Therefore, we should consider new ways of being in relationship across cultures and jurisdictions, in understandings of episcopacy, in contextual definitions of autonomy for annual conferences, and in the design and purpose of the apportionment.

In reflection on the two matters of unity and human sexuality, we will fulfill our directive by considering “new forms and structures” of relationship and through the “complete examination and possible revision” of relevant paragraphs in the Book of Discipline. We will give consideration to greater freedom and flexibility to a future United Methodist Church that will redefine our present connectionality, which is showing signs of brokenness. If we ignore this work, fracturing will occur in more haphazard and even self-interested ways across the church. If we do this work only to address our preferences and self-interest, we will fail to place our complete trust in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness. If we do this work with complete surrender to God’s unlimited imagination and kingdom purposes, we will be blessed beyond our limited human imagination. God remains God; God is with us; God will never let us go. To God be the glory!

Current Status and What’s Ahead, written by Pastor Chuck

The Commission on a Way Forward is nearing the completion of its task of making recommendations of possible ways forward for The United Methodist Church regarding the inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons in this global denomination.

The 32-member Commission concluded its three-day meeting in Dallas, Texas, on Saturday (January 20th) after reworking sketches of possible models of the future of the denomination that will be part of the final report to the COB in May 2018.

With the mission of God through the risen Christ at the core, the bishops received an interim report from the Commission on a Way Forward that offered three sketches of models that would help ease the impasse in the church, noting that the power of the Holy Spirit trumps and guides all the church’s activities. The Commission serves the COB, helping prepare the COB to fulfill its mandate to make a recommendation for a way forward to the General Conference.

The COB is working together toward a final recommendation(s) to be presented to the Church and specifically the delegates of the 2019 special called session of the General Conference. Second, the three models presented by the Commission on a Way forward represent the work as of today. These models may represent the whole, portion or none of what the final recommendation(s) contain. Finally, the COB did not vote on any of these models. Currently there is no recommendation for a way forward. That recommendation will come sometime after the May 2018 COB meeting.

Between now and that meeting in May, our Bishop is committed to continuing to lead conversations throughout the Upper New York Conference that will add to and build upon the conversations we have engaged in previously. We will use the models offered by the Commission as a spring board for these deeper conversations. This commitment will be carried out with members of our delegation to the special session of the General Conference, as well as clergy and laity throughout Upper New York.

Clergy Session	Laity Session
February 1 st	March 5 th
Noon – 3 PM	6:30 – 8:30 PM

Sessions will be held at the Conference Center, 7481 Henry Clay Blvd., Liverpool, NY 13088

Loving God † Growing together † Serving the World

Church Calendar Abbreviations


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

WSched 9 AM New Horizons Band
 6 PM Girl Scouts

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



FEBRUARY 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 ThSched District Day for Clergy Noon-3 PM	2	3 Harris/ Lyon Baby Shower 1-4 PM
4 10 AM Worship with Communion 11am MyGod	5	6 TSched	7 WSched	8 ThSched	9	10 District Training Day Liverpool
11 8:30 AM UM Men's Breakfast 10 AM Worship (Cub Scouts assisting) 11am MyGod	12	13 TSched	14 WSched 6:30 pm Service  ASH WEDNESDAY	15 ThSched PC @ dCOM 10:30 AM	16	17 Springside Service 3pm
18 10 AM Worship Noisy Can Offering	19	20 TSched	21 WSched Finance 7pm	22 ThSched	23	24
25 10 AM Worship Boyzuck Baptism 4:30 PM Free Dinner	26	27 TSched	28 WSched			