**Pastor Jeff:** Change comes slowly in organizations, especially in established churches in America. At times of change it helps us as Christians to consider three questions: *“Where have I come from; Where am I now; Where am I going?”* When we think of our spiritual life, we can put this in the context of God walking with us all throughout our life. The famous poem “Footprints in the Sand” reminds us that God is with us in the good times and hard times even when we don’t feel His presence. Lent Begins this month and that is a great time to ask ourselves these three questions as a church. We cannot move forward until we honestly embrace our heritage, face our present reality and embrace God’s call to change. Below I will list a few items for you to look for in this newsletter and around our building. Great things are happening as God’s people embrace spiritual growth in Christ!

* *Ash Wednesday services will be at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel.*
* A New Hospitality Ministry is starting in our church.
* Our United Women in Faith gave $11,485 in pledge to missions and another $11,240 to various local and world missions, in 2024.
* We are in need of leaders willing to head various ministries, new and established.
* Our giving and attendance were up slightly for last year.
* Membership classes are being offered this month.
* Talent & Interest Survey is in this issue; please fill one out!
* Our ministry with children is down markedly; we are looking for new models of Christian education.
* Mission giving is at an all-time high. Keep it up!
* A New Ministry with Seniors is starting in our church.
* A Friday game group has really taken off, loved by church and community members.
* Trustees are looking at safety, security and repairs throughout the entire properties.

Friends, one goal I have in conjunction with the Church Council is to coordinate all communications / promotions of events, fund drives, etc. through the church office administrator and me before they are published. This will help us send consistent messages which are more effective in helping our ministries thrive. Please bring all promotional materials to the office before you post them or publish them in the media. We can help get the message out!

As God leads this congregation forward, please know that each new idea needs a vision, a point – person to gather others around them, communication with other leaders, a timeline and a launch date. What might God be calling you to take part in and lead?



**Visiting Pastor!** The Rev. Carl Johnson was pastor here from1993 – 2000.

 He will visit us and preach the sermon on Sunday March 30,

 leading the 9:30 service along with Rev. McDowell. Please join us for the great reunion!

**Would you like to become a member or just know more about our church and our beliefs as United Methodists?** Sign up now through our church office for the series of four classes to meet after church service on Sunday mornings: March 9, 16, 23, 30 from 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. This class will be led by Parish Visitor Cindy Ellis using the new membership book titled “Belong.”

**Parish Visitor/Cindy Ellis**

How do you like ice skating right in your own back yard?? What crazy weather. This too will pass, and spring will come. Let us keep warm and take time to pray for our friends and family.

Shirley Weston is in a lot of distress. We pray for her, Dan Flatt, Jen Hillman, Betsy Hull and Andrea Haradon, Gerry Austin, Denise Hamilton, Karen & Galer Perrault, Marion Avery, Laura Peck, Jerry Przybylski, Larry, Walter and Alan Madison, Dick Brigger was able to go home. We pray for Sharon Joralemon as she heals from surgery. We keep our “At Home” friends in prayer: Don Sommers, Bev Ring, Phyllis Naegely, Bonnie Flashphaler, Kevan Carichner, Betty Hess, Tom Peck, Carol Erway, Letha Padgett, Gladys, Kucher, Josie Knapp, Nancy Whitaker, Carl Schnautz, Evelyn Catlin, Anne Bargesser, Bob Blackall. Do send cards to a few of these folks. They love to hear from you. We keep the family and Friends of Dick Davies in our prayers. He passed away last month. We also keep the family and friends of MaryLou Peterson in our prayers. She passed away last month. Elaine Hasty passed away last month. God bless all who loved and cared for these members of our church family. Blessings and peace to all.

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH:** Out next circle meeting is:

 Wednesday: March 19, Noon in large conference room

 Hostesses: Liz Newbury & Ida Beard

 Program – “Call to Prayer & Self Denial” Cindy Ellis, Leader

 Bring your own lunch - beverage and dessert provided.

ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO OUR GATHERINGS ANYTIME

We continue to gather items for the Homeless in Chemung County. This has been such a cold winter we invite everyone in the church to contribute to this cause. A box is under the United Women in Faith bulletin board by the kitchen door for your gift. Check the list of items needed – posted on the bulletin board. Thank you for sharing with God’s children who can use our gifts throughout the year.

**Membership Committee**. This is the last month I will be giving you the names of members who have moved and we don’t have their current address. If you know any of these people and have their address or phone number, will you contact the church office (607-739-1943)? Sheila Brown, Donald & Sharon Beigun, Sandy & Christine Bussard, Amy D’Angelo, Sandra & William Felthousen, Dianna Kitzmann, Nancy & Charles Knapp, Margo Kohan, Michael Leonard, Richard Lintal, Diane & Eric Pratt, Stephen & Deborah Seeley, Sandra & Richard Swartz, Elizabeth Vondercheck, MaryJane & David Walton. Thank you for your help.

**A New Hospitality Ministry is starting in our church.**

In the Bible, loving our neighbor is mandated. Often, we don’t know our neighbors. But the Greek word for hospitality literally means “love of strangers.” Ten people are currently reading a workbook with pastor Jeff on how to launch a comprehensive Hospitality Ministry here. Are you organized, a clear communicator and / or an outgoing and positive person? If so, come to an orientation on the subject to find out more about this exciting area of service. Areas of impact: signage; worship style; online presence; lobby setup; building access; education; outreach; advertising; and mission. **Open Meeting** Monday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m. in Wesley Room,led by Pastor Jeff. RSVP to office@horseheadsumc.org. Copies of the book will be available in the church office and at the meeting. (Reading before coming not required.)

**Thank you! Thank you to everyone who sent get-well prayers and cards. I am doing fine and improving each day.**

 **Kay Coombs.**

A New ***Ministry with Seniors*** is starting in our church.

People in and around our church have needs specific to aging and we can join with programs already in place as well as create new ones. Healthcare, transportation, housing, financial planning and spiritual needs can all be changing as we age. *Do you have a heart for people* going through tough life changes? Are you a *connector*, willing to reach outside our normal ways of doing things to help others? Are you an *educator,* able to help people find the resources they need? Are you a *caring* person, helping our church do more to address the needs of older adults? If so, come to an orientation on the subject to find out if this area of service will match your gifts and schedule. **Open Meeting** Monday, March 17 at Noon and at 7:00 p.m. in Wesley Room,led by Pastor Jeff. RSVP to office@horseheadsumc.org.

**MUSINGS FROM YOUR LIBRARY**

Our longest living president, Jimmy Carter, passed away in December 2024. Many feel he embodied the ideal model of post-presidential life. He emerged as a champion of human rights and worked for several charitable organizations, most notable, Habitat for Humanity. Amazingly, in his post-presidential life, Carter wrote over thirty books, many of them Faith based. Our library has three of his books available.  **An Hour Before Daylight: Memories of a Rural** Boyhood recreates his Depression-era boyhood on a Georgia farm before the civil rights movement forever changed the country. He writes about the five most influential people in his life, three of whom were Black.

**Sources of Strength: Meditations on Scripture for a Living Faith** is a super insightful and moving collection of fifty-two short meditations written for all of us average Joe Christians. He includes personal stories, delightful humor, and inspiring experiences in these weekly faith encounters. Your faith will be enriched by perusing these humble but sincere readings.

**We Can Have Peace in the Holy Land: A Plan That Will Work** was written by Jimmy Carter in 2010. This is an enthusiastic, bold, and timely book by this famous Nobel Peace Laureate dedicated to achieving peace in the Middle East. Why can’t we make it work?

 The Jimmy Carter books are on the library table ready to be borrowed and read! We have a wonderfully warm and welcoming library with tons of books for all ages! Would you give us a try?

**Soup-to-Go: Wow!** Thank you for all the support with Soups-to-Go. As of January, we have served about 230 soups and deposited about $755.00 in the kitchen fund and general expenses. February soup was requested to be stuffed pepper and Italian wedding. March request is split pea and vegetable. We enjoy making you soup-to-go every month! Jean Paul and Jamie Olcott.

**Karren’s Clothing Cupboard** has had a slow time since Christmas, the weather has taken its toll. We have seen a few brave souls but nowhere near the number we had before Christmas. Please don’t hesitate to share information about Karren’s on the internet. In March we will start switching out clothing for Spring and Summer. The volunteer sign-up sheet for March is in the entranceway. Come join us!

**Note from the Office**: Please email or call the office each time your event or group is not meeting at a scheduled time. This applies to all groups using the church. Any group following the school schedule needs to call/email the office and let me know you will not be here each time you do not meet. Thank you, Sandy Crane, Secretary. Contact Information: Phone: 607-739-1943, Email: Office@horseheadsumc.org

**Guess what was found?!**  Cleaning out the church office I found a box of Cookbooks! Yes we still have some! Buy one for $15. See Bob Aiello with any questions.

**Bulletin Boards in the Narthex:**

**Food Pantry Cart Location:** If you are donating food to the food pantry, please find the grocery cart in front of the Outreach Committee bulletin board (side by the water fountain).

**Women of Faith Homeless Collection**: Please do not put food in the cart that you wish to donate to the food pantry. The UWF cart is under their bulletin board (by the kitchen door).

**Community Events:** Please see any community events on the Event Bulletin Board by the water fountain.

**Altar Flower Sign up Calendar and Monthly Calendar:** Please find these on the bulletin board on the kitchen door side.

**Board and want something to do?** 20-minute stretching exercises for seniors in the Wesley Rm. every Wednesday. Woman’s Bible Study each Wednesday in the Wesley Rm. Book Club on the 3rd Monday of the month at 1 o’clock in the Wesley Rm. Games on Fridays at Noon in the LCR. Praying Knit Wits every Thursday at 11am in the Large Conference Rm. Quilting at 9am every 3rd Monday of the month. (No experience needed). Scrapbooking/Crafts, 3rd Saturday of the month (schedule changes sometimes) at 10am. Need information on any event, please call the church office.

**March Events in Church and around the Community!**

**Youth Gathering**: Saturday, March 8th from 4-7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Ande Tubbs at

607-739-7082 as soon as possible if you plan to attend. We'll be working on finishing one quilt and working on another, making personal pan pizzas and basketball again. You are welcome to invite a friend.

There may be another day in March to help with a mission dinner. When I get the information, I will pass it on. Ande Tubbs



**Lenten Suppers**

**Please join us each Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 for**

**a light meal and a presentation based on the book,**

**The God We Can Know, by Rob Fuquay.**

 **March 12th First UMC, 1034 W. Broad St., Horseheads,** Speaker: Rev. Susan Husted (retired)

**March 19th Elmira Heights UMC, 212 Oakwood Ave., Elmira Heights,** Speaker: Rev. Pat Hubman (New Beginnings)

**March 26th New Beginnings UMC, 300 Miller St., Elmira,** Speaker: Rev. Holly Strickland (Webb Mills UMC)

**April 2nd Webb Mills UMC, 1623 Pennsylvania Ave., Pine City,** Speaker: Pete O’Neill (Oakwood UMC)

**April 9th Our Savior’s Lutheran, 2872 Westinghouse Rd., Horseheads,** Speaker: Rev. Jeff McDowell (First UMC)

Border Buddies

Spaghetti Dinner

March 22, 2025

4-6pm

A $10 donation to help buy materials to the building of the

Escuela Arturo Quezada School!

Border Buddies Mission Trips! Do you ever wonder what Border Buddies is about? Did you ever think you would like to go on a mission trip? Talk to Sid Spencer and he can answer all your questions!



 **Border Buddies are having a spaghetti dinner on March 22, from 4-6pm in the**

 **fellowship hall. A $10 donation will go to help buy materials for the building of**

 **the Escuela Arturo Quezada School!**

 **For the dinner, we need your help. We are looking for 6-8 cakes (any flavor) in a 9x13 cake pan.**

 **For the meal, we need help serving, set up, cleaning up, and dishes. Please**

 **see the sign up in entranceway. Thank you in advance,**

 **Jamie Olcott and Sid Spencer**

**Talent & Interest Survey (page 1 of 2)**

The First United Methodist Church in Horseheads is conducting a brief survey of our members and friends to help serve you and the Church better. It is a short 2 - part survey. Part 1 is identifying skill sets, expertise and talents that our members and friends have that can help the Church. Part 2 is identifying areas in the Church that you may be willing to help with.

Part 1 – Skills/Expertise/Talents

The Church takes the efforts of many to keep the facilities functional year-round. We are looking to identify individuals between our members and friends who have specific skills, expertise and/or talents that they are willing to use to help us. The more that can help with project specific tasks will help maintain the facilities and lessen the financial commitments.

I have the following skills, expertise and/or talents.

(Check all that apply and indicate your level of experience as Certified / Licensed / Trained OR General knowledge.)

Electrical

Plumbing

Carpentry

General handy person

Lawn / Horticultural / Plants

Web design & maintenance

Audio / Visual

Graphic Design

Finances

Part 2 – The Church has many active functions and committees that help perform all the services offered at our Church. Every member is a volunteer, and every group is always looking for more help.

Please select the group(s) that you are either interested in or would like more information about.

**Talent & Interest Survey (page 2 of 2)**

Check all that apply.

Hospitality Ministry

Work with a team to develop new ways to make our building and events user-friendly, and coordinate lobby and other promotional materials.

Greeting

Meet people on Sunday mornings in the parking lot and lobby to welcome them and orient newcomers to our church. Arrive 9:00 a.m.

Usher

Help people find seats, handout bulletins, take offering and guide the congregation.

Liturgist

Periodically lead worship with pastor and read scriptures during service.

Education

Help develop programs and curriculum for children and adults.

Karen’s Clothing Cupboard

Work with a team to sort and distribute donated clothing.

Trustee

Oversee properties and assets of the church, meeting monthly.

Stephen Ministries

Take a 50-hour course to provide Christian caregiving to people in crisis.

Outreach

Develop and carry out hands- on provisions for the poor and needy in our community.

Choir

Meet weekly to rehearse and lead worship music with choir director.

Instrumental

Offer special music on instruments or vocally as an act of worship.

Parsonage Care

Help with repairs and planned maintenance of the pastor’s house next door to the church.

 Prayer Garden Upkeep

Develop a team to care for the garden and its plants year – round.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this to the church office, 1034 W. Broad St. Horseheads, NY 14845.