**Join me,** Pastor McDowell, for a book study this Fall. In Six one-hour sessions, we will explore the chapters of this new book from Stephen Ministries St. Louis.

**Class limit:** ten people for each group. Two groups are offered, one daytime and one evening. Reserve your spot and order your book through our church office using the registration form below. A trial Discussion Guide will be used and evaluated for a half-off discount to benefit the church.

**Chapel Entrance,** room 12.

**Mondays:** Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30 & Oct. 7, 21.

**Morning Group:** 10:00 – 11:30

**Evening Group:** 7:00 – 8:30

*“The Gift of Empathy is filled with wonderful information to improve anyone’s relating. There are useful examples of what to do and what pitfalls to avoid, along with chapters on specific kinds of relationships—the one on empathy with children is particularly insightful. It’s an excellent resource.”* Margaret McKinney, Psychologist, Woodland Park, Colorado

*[ fill out this form and return to church office, 1034 W. Broad St. Horseheads, NY,]*

* Yes! Please sign me up for the 6 – week book study with Pastor McDowell. I have enclosed $14.95 for the book *(payable to First UMC, Horseheads).*
* Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* I will attend **(circle one):** DAYTIME CLASSES ***- OR -*** EVENING CLASSES
* I understand there is a class number limit and if full, I will get my deposit back.
* I understand if I cannot afford the book, I will alert the Pastor of this need.
* I understand I must be available to attend at least 5 or the 6 sessions.
* I understand I will help evaluate the new discussion guide as part of this study.

**Friday August 2nd: Please note that the church will be closed as there will be a private wedding here that day. The family will begin setting up around 8am in the morning and using the Fellowship Hall for the reception. (Reception does not end until after 6pm or longer.)**

**WORKING WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS**

 **ACTS** is ***A****rea* ***C****hristians* ***T****ogether in* ***S****ervice*. You’re invited to the ***ACTS Appreciation Breakfast Expo and Workshop*** on Friday, October 18th at the Clarion Inn in Elmira, New York. We will be celebrating, learning about, and supporting spiritual care services and those that make it happen!

 This year’s event theme is **Spiritual Care Today: Addressing Physical Needs.** The speaker panel consists of speakers from Catholic Charities, Potter's Hands, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Elmira College. Many service organizations will have booths set up for the expo so you can network and learn more about the care offered in our area.

 Come for breakfast at 8 am and stay for the workshop from 9:30-11:30. Breakfast is $10, and the workshop is free. Register at AOffice@ACTSTT.org by October 15.

**Knowing Other United Methodists**

A Pulpit exchange will occur this month with five area U.M. churches: Horseheads, Big Flats, Elmira New Beginnings, Webb Mills, and Elmira Westside. On August 11, Pastor Holly Strickland will preach and lead our service, and our Pastor McDowell will preach at Webb Mills and Big Flats. Listen for a different voice as we share the same gospel message of Jesus Christ!

WE ARE RECRUITING TEACHERS AND HELPERS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE FALL. PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR MCDOWELL IF YOU ARE FEELING CALLED TO TEACH OR TO ASSIST.

CURRENTLY WE NEED HELP WITH THESE GRADE LEVELS: PRESCHOOL; KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 5TH GRADE; 6TH – 8TH GRADE

**Parish Visitor/Cindy Ellis:** I hope you have been enjoying this summer. Some of our church families have been in the hospital and are recovering at this time. We pray for Linda Williams, Peg Peary, Ed Ryan, Denise Hamilton, Kevan Carichner. We also keep Joe Thresher, Hope Mayhew, Gerry Austin, Nancy Whitaker’s son Robert, in our prayers and for healing. Let us remember our “Friends at Home”, with cards, phone calls: Don Sommers, Bev Ring, Phyllis Naegely, Cynthia Stansfield, Susan Carpenter, Betty Hess, Carl Schnautz, Dick Brigger, Gladys Kucher, Letha Padgett, Dick Davies, Bonnie Flashphaler, Josie Knapp, Larry Madison, Carol Erway, Lucille Panosian. We keep our whole church family in prayer as we continue worshiping together in person and from our homes. May we all feel God’s nearness each day.

 **United Women in Faith** – Candy Kirkwood was delighted with the food items and other items we have been collecting for the Homeless in Chemung Co. The container is now empty – so let us fill it up again during the rest of the summer. We need to purchase socks, hand wipes, bottles of water, snack foods, small, canned fruit, small packages of tissues, reading books for children (you can read suggestions on the UWF bulletin board). She can also use the money for the meals she provides. You can make checks out to Cindy Ellis, and I will be sure to get the money to Candy. Thank you for your loving care for those who are in need. God’s blessings.

**Media Musings:** Miss Jan (Jan Przybylski) recently told a children’s story about a Porcupine using two of his quills to thoughtfully knit a scarf for his friend, Giraffe. **If Animals Tried to Kind** by Ann Whitford Paul is a fun book! Pig noticed sad Sheep so he started a lively conversation, then old Mr. Owl couldn’t see very well so Miss Hawk brought him a picnic lunch. The animals think of creative ways to be kind to others. Even Squirrel helps Dog diggity-dig find a bone! Children 4-7 would particularly enjoy this story and the lively illustrations. Actually, it is a fun book for all ages! It is available on the library table. You will love the colorful artwork. Thank you, Miss Jan!

Remember to sign up for our annual **Summer Reading Program**! It is open to ALL AGES! Sign-up sheets are on the library table just inside the library. Discover the hidden treasure of your church library! Read five books between June 23rd – September 8th! Check us out!

**Karren’s Clothing Cupboard:** Sign-up sheet for August is in the entryway, please sign up even if you are a regular worker. It helps to let others know when it is available to volunteer.

We are preparing a room to use as storage so we can put all of the clothing that is not out in one place. We cannot currently take clothing unless it is seasonal items for children. Thank you for your understanding.

**Stephen Ministry** has several care receivers at this point. We are looking at starting a new class sometime in the next few months. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Jeff, Jim Martin or Ande Tubbs

**Winter Fantasy** is several months away, very true, but it is never too early to think about it. A group of women from the church are planning on having a table of their donated crafts. The proceeds would go to the kitchen fund for needed improvements. Anything donated not sold we would ask you to take back, for you to use as gifts. Items should not include baked items because of our sweet shop. If you have any questions or suggestions contact Mary Jane Austin 607 7394928 or Ande Tubbs 607 739 7082.

**Upper Room:** Due to a problem with the subscription on the company’s end, it is finally fixed! You can find the Upper Room on the stand across from the office window. This is the July/August issue. The September/October issue will be put out as soon as it comes.

**5¢ Deposit Cans/Bottles:** If you would like to donate your clean soda/water cans/bottles, please bring them to the church and put in the large bin in the kitchen marked, can/bottle deposit only back by the microwave. Money raised will go to help with the kitchen upgrades.

**Prayer Garden Bricks**: If you would like to order a brick in memory or in honor of someone, you may fill out a form (found on the table in the narthex by the newsletter) and turn into the church office. A clay brick is $65 per brick and a Granite brick is $95 per brick. Write checks to the church with prayer brick in the memo line.

**Updated meeting/event information**

I will be putting Facility Request forms in your mailboxes toward the end of the first week in August. These need to be filled out by every group, church committee, person/s who use the building on a regular basis. Leadership changes, emails change and almost constantly the phone book changes. Please fill them out completely and return to the office mailbox or give to them to me. New on the forms is a line for door open/closed times you want them to work for your event/meeting.



**Becoming a “What If” Church**

The following are ideas God has inspired in our congregation over the month of July. The list will go to our Church Council at the August 28 meeting for further discernment and plans to enact them. To go from a dream to a reality will take a point – person to head it up, a team to help enact it and a ministry plan that fits into our overall vision for service to God and neighbor. Thank you for participating in dreaming big, and please pray for God’s vision and resources to emerge! What if we offer. . .

food to the poor / evening services / host a “cooling place” on hot days and “warming place” on very cold days / more flexible worship services with variety of music styles and instruments / community garden / host community group dinners, breakfasts / re-do outreach event at Thorn St. Park with free clothes & fun games / support groups for single parents, teen parents / offer Bible studies / sponsor a t-ball team / offer pickleball in our gym / 3 on 3 basketball events / welcome our LGBTQ siblings / include contemporary Christian music / organize to fully host outside groups using our building with love, snacks, help / have kitchen host for groups / building used 7 days a week for community needs / church karaoke night / Halloween trunk or treat / movie and game nights / coloring clubs for adults / special invitation cards to inactive members / grant writing for new initiatives / look inward before looking outward / children’s worship service during regular service / Sunday school apps on parent’s phones for children’s use / local youth mission to a household in our area / Friday service / consider the words we use and their impact before we use them / invite Elmira college students during their orientation / What if we… went back to passing the peace / food market for sharing the extra we have / cooking class on how to use fresh produce / class on cooking for 1 / cook together and share a meal / join with other churches to make connections, short and long – term / celebrate “World Communion Sunday” across the district / facilitate connections across district with “church buddies” / church partnerships with Elmira urban & rural churches to increase awareness and diversity / teach literacy and English as second language / community garden for those without land / work more with other churches “in Jesus’ name” / hire part time youth pastor (maybe share with Pennsylvania Ave. UMC / form small groups.

**Beloved Siblings in Christ,**

Greetings in the gracious name and with the love of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Friend.

 This week, the 2024 session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional (NEJ) Conference of The United Methodist Church met in Pittsburgh, PA in a spirit of holy conferencing to organize the life and ministry of our jurisdiction for the 2025-2028 quadrennium.

 Among the most important responsibilities of the jurisdictional conferences are the election of bishops, discernment of conference’s boundaries and episcopal areas, and the assignment of bishops. This year, the NEJ conference made difficult, yet faithful, decisions to adapt to our new ministry realities in alignment with the decisions made back in May by the postponed 2020 General Conference.

 This morning, on recommendation of the Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy, the NEJ Conference assigned me to serve as the episcopal leader of the Susquehanna and Upper New York area for the next quadrennium (2024-2028). This new assignment is effective September 1, 2024.

 First, I am grateful to continue serving as your bishop! Doing life and ministry together these past 18 months has been my absolute honor and an incredible blessing. My family and I are looking forward to deepening relationships and journeying alongside you as we continue living the gospel and embodying God’s love with our neighbors in all places.

 I am also excited to be assigned to serve alongside our siblings in the Susquehanna Conference. Like Upper New York, they are passionate about nurturing new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Though each conference will remain a separate entity, with its own history (some of which we share), leadership, and ministry plans, this joint assignment creates a new missional partnership between Upper New York and Susquehanna with great potential for fruitful collaboration and impactful ministry.

 I am filled with hope about the witness and mission of The United Methodist Church in the Northeastern Jurisdiction and about this new season of ministry alongside United Methodists of Upper New York and Susquehanna.

 Let’s join in prayer as we move forward together towards God’s future with joy and hope. Thanks for who you are and all you do share the good news of Jesus Christ and embody God’s love in your communities.

 Paz, **Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez,** The United Methodist Church, Serving United Methodists of Upper New Yorkand Susquehanna

