

## PASTOR JEFF'S PAGE

What is church, after all? This is the gate of heaven. This is home to the family of God. This is the church of Jesus Christ. This is Christ's Body: voice, hands and feet. This is the house of the Lord, God's workmanship. This is the fellowship of the faithful. This is the congregation of believers. This is the church.

Here's what I observe:

- Christians visiting the sick and the needy
- Christians caring enough to transport others to worship, and groceries
- Christians serving strangers in foreign lands
- Christians studying God's word together
- Christians reading about their faith and heritage
- Christians from many different walks of life and faith traditions gathering here
- Christians praying for each other and our world
- Christians managing the properties, cleaning and decorating, advertising events
- Christians giving money to support all the ways we serve here and across the globe
- Christians learning from one another and listening to God's Spirit
- Christians offering their talents and gifts to God through human service

Did you note that the building we call "our church" did not come up in these activities? That is because the building is just a vessel, a tool, and a location where church happens. I have been in churches which rented a space for their services and I have been in buildings built and owned by congregations, both quaint and grand.

As we travel into the Fall season, much is happening in our church. But don't confuse any activity or building with the people we are, called according to God's purpose. It is all about the people. And we can make everything we do more open to more people who are looking for a place to belong and a God to serve. Ask yourself this Fall season, who can I invite to take part in our church? Who wants to become active in service and find a spiritual home? Who is a stranger in our area and what innovative ways can we invite them? Who might be hurting and in need of something we provide?

This is how we build a church. This is how we can do the work of Christ in this wonderful place.

Working with you, *Pastor Jeff McDowell*

**P. S. We NEED** Christian servant positions filled for 2026. We will onboard and train you. Apply to Pastor Jeff by email ([pastorjeffmcd@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorjeffmcd@yahoo.com)) or in person!

- **Financial Secretary (accounting and record keeping)**
- Church Council members (strategic thinkers, visionaries)
- Staff Parish Relations Committee members (personnel, policy, staff interactions)
- Mission and Outreach team members (collecting and distributing funds, organizing trips)



### PARISH VISITOR/CINDY ELLIS

Welcome to September – Even during the summer we kept our church family in our prayers.

We pray for continued healing for Joe Thresher, Bob Olcott, Fred Daniels, Amber Storm, Donna Sauer, Alberta McAtee, Connie & Gordon Gillette. Others are dealing with health issues – we ask for God’s nearness for them. We also keep our “Friends at Home” in our prayers. At Bethany Manor are Bev Ring, Phyllis Naegely, Gladys Kucher and Jen Hillman. Walter Madison is now at Elderwood in Waverly. Bob Blackall and Edna Elbertson live at Bethany Courtyards. Others at their homes are Betty Hess, Dick Brigger, Carol Erway, Alan and Larry Madison, Kevan Carichner, Bonnie Flashphaler, Bob Sauerzoph, Tom Peck, and Betsy Hull.

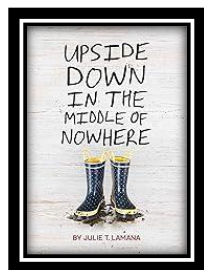
We keep Dan Flatt and family in our prayers. He is now at Elcor Nursing Facility – Hickory Knoll, 48 Colonial Dr., Horseheads. Dan and all of our at home folks would love notes of cheer.

We keep the family and friends of Letha Padgett in our prayers. She passed away on August 18.

We keep Jen, family and friends in our prayers. Harry Hillman passed away August 19.

Please keep MaryJane Austin and family in your prayers on the passing of her sister, Nina.

We are a caring, loving congregation. We keep our country and those experiencing devastating floods, fires, mass shootings in our prayers. We also pray that God will be with those in war zones. May peace come to all. God’s nearness today and each day.



### MUSINGS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

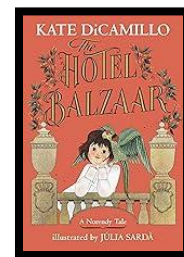
*We have a wonderfully inviting and welcoming library with tons of books for all ages! Our library is always open for browsing and visiting!*

#### What’s New!

Want to read a gripping story of courage and survival? **Upside Down in the Middle of Nowhere** by Julie T. Lamana is an amazing and heartbreaking story about one family’s hardships through the loss of their home and loved ones due to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. This story celebrates the power of hope and love in the face of the unthinkable from

the viewpoint of a middle school aged daughter. This is a captivating novel based on the author’s Hurricane Katrina experience. We are most grateful to Diane Brown for this thoughtful donation. Look for the NEW BOOK tab in this book on the library table.

Kate DiCamillo, a popular young people’s author, has penned another fun mystery novel, **Hotel Balzaar**. Young Marta roams the hotel where her mother works when she meets a mysterious countess with a parrot. The countess relates seven tales, each in a special order. Marta thinks the countess just might know the secret to Marta’s soldier father’s disappearance. It is up to Marta to untangle these tales and find her father. This donated novel will pique the interest of middle school students and anyone who enjoys a fun mystery!



**What do you like best about birthdays?** For those who struggle to make ends meet, even a cake might make them smile. The Outreach Committee would like to collect cake mixes and frosting in September for the Horseheads Food Pantry (Sept 10<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup>). Look for the wrapped birthday boxes by the entrance to Fellowship Hall and any donations can be placed there. We can share our birthday wishes with others. Many thanks to all who support the committee as we reach out to others in Christian Love.

**Newsletter deadline:** Always the third Wednesday of the month unless there is a holiday that week then it is the Wednesday before. **Bulletin announcements deadline:** Wednesday mornings by 10am.



### To my church family,

It doesn’t seem like enough to just say THANK YOU for all the support I have received from this wonderful church. The many cards, calls, meals and visits have brought me through some tough times this year. Please know how much I appreciate your caring and concern for my family. God Bless, Bonnie Belcher

**STEWARDSHIP:** A midyear financial report for our church follows. Revenue so far is in good shape, thanks in large part to a very generous gift from one of our members. Our expenses are higher than we planned, primarily due to snow plowing/salting, and also NYSEG gas and electricity costs, partly weather related and partly due to significant rate increases. Our building funds are in good shape. Generous gifts, Winter fantasy gains from last December, and a favorable stock market have more than offset project spending so far this year.

Stewardship	July 2025 YTD	Finance Report	
<u>Revenue</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Gifts and Tithes	\$181,050	\$177,160	\$3,890
Usage Fees	\$8,656	\$7,700	\$956
Transfers - Living Endowment	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0
Other Income / transfers	\$1,046	\$2,100	-\$1,054
<u>Interest Income</u>	<u>\$1,047</u>	<u>\$1,050</u>	<u>-\$3</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$197,799</b>	<b>\$194,010</b>	<b>\$3,789</b>
<u>Expenses</u>			
Salaries & Benefits	\$119,403	\$119,650	-\$247
UNYAC Ministry Share	\$31,505	\$31,055	\$450
Administrative Expenses	\$12,013	\$12,271	-\$258
Maintenance & Insurance	\$23,062	\$19,095	\$3,967
Utilities	\$17,770	\$13,458	\$4,312
Education	\$216	\$875	-\$659
Missions	\$0	\$490	-\$490
Worship	\$2,096	\$1,592	\$504
<u>Other Ministry Expenses</u>	<u>\$402</u>	<u>\$665</u>	<u>-\$263</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$206,467</b>	<b>\$199,151</b>	<b>\$7,316</b>
<b>Building Funds</b>	Karren Harter	Facility	
	<u>Bequest</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance 1/1/25	\$176,329	\$88,208	\$264,537
Giving		\$11,247	\$11,247
2024 Winter Fantasy transfer		\$10,000	\$10,000
Major expenses/improvements		-\$17,347	-\$17,347
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$176,329</b>	<b>\$92,108</b>	<b>\$268,437</b>
2025 Investment gains	\$14,074		\$14,074
Balance 7/31/25	\$190,403	\$92,108	\$282,511
<i>Comment: Maintenance overage due to winter plowing/salting expenses</i>			

**Would you like something to do? Do you know all that happens at the church where everyone is welcome to join in at any time! There is a place for you!**

**Library:** Open all day for you to borrow a book or just sit and read!

**Praying:** Every Monday morning at 10am

**Quilting:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 9am.

**Book Club:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 1pm.

**Tai Chi:** Every Wednesday at 10am.

**Karren's Clothing Cupboard:** Help needed on Tuesdays from 10 to 12 and Thursday from 1-3.

**Knitting:** Thursdays at noon.

**Cards** every Friday at noon.

**Scrapbooking** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at 9:30am.

**Saturday: Singing beautiful music every week! (Choir practice!)**

**Sundays! Greeters, liturgists, ushers, communion servers. (Interested in any of these, please call the office at 607-739-1943 and Sandy will lead you to the right person.**

**Men's Bible Study, Thursdays at 10am.**

**\*Woman's Bible Study starting September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11am.**

**NOT SURE YOU COULD DO TAI CHI?** Tai chi for seniors is a gentle, low-impact exercise that focuses on slow, flowing movements, deep breathing, and mindfulness to improve balance, strength, flexibility, and reduce the risk of falls. It's particularly well-suited for older adults because it can be adapted to different fitness levels and can be practiced sitting or standing. So please come join us!

**\*New Bible Study** titled *Living a Purposeful Life* begins Wednesday Sept 3 @11am in the Wesley Room. Books are \$5. and all are welcome. Contact Louise (607-739-1954) if you have any questions or concerns.

Summer vacations have almost come to an end and Committee Meetings Resume!	
Are you looking to help a committee out? Call the church office or see Pastor Jeff! Help is needed in all areas!	
3 <sup>rd</sup> :	Faith Builders meeting has a New Time: 12:30 in the Small Conf. Room
4 <sup>th</sup> :	Outreach Committee at 6:30 in the Large Conf. Room
9 <sup>th</sup> :	Trustee Committee at 7pm in Rm. 11
16 <sup>th</sup> :	Worship Committee at 1pm in Small Conf. Room
17 <sup>th</sup> :	United Women in Faith meeting at Noon in the Large Conf. Room
	Missions Committee at 2pm in the Large Conf. Room
	*Midweek Fellowship: See details below
	Stephen Ministry at 5:30 in room 12
	Staff Parish at 6:30 in the Large Conference Room
23 <sup>rd</sup> :	Stewardship Committee meeting at 7pm in Room 11
24 <sup>th</sup> :	Church Council Committee meeting at 6:30 in the Large Conference Room



Our next meeting is:

Wednesday, September 17, Noon in the large meeting room

Bring your lunch – dessert and beverages will be provided.

Co-Hostesses: Connie Gillette & Pam Fluent

Program: Hope Mayhew, Mryna Flatt and the book review women.

Please remember the Homeless in Chemung Co. with prayers and items to help their living conditions. This is a project for our United Women in Faith, but we hope any in the congregation will add items such as nutritious snacks, wipes, socks, juice boxes. A list for suggested items is by the container near the kitchen door. Our Pledge is to help women, children and youth and to be aware of social justice issues. Homelessness is certainly a social concern for all of us. Thank you for your gifts for those in need.



**September 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm, MID WEEK FELLOWSHIP sponsored by Our Senior/Adult Ministry group!**

We will be hosting a workshop presented by Roth Elder Law on September 17, 2025, at 5:30 PM. The workshop will be on Critical Estate Planning Documents. There is a flyer and sign-up sheet posted in the Foyer, if you are interested, please sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Crandell. (See Flier below)

**September 20<sup>th</sup>:** The second annual Cruise In Car Show here in our church parking lot. Scout troop 84 will be selling food, Kool Treats will be here selling Ice Cream! Brad Smith's band, A Few More Faithful, will be here playing live music! Everyone is welcome to come, look around, show a car, eat and have fun! (See Flier below)

**September 21<sup>th</sup>:** The Art Circle meets weekly at the church and will host an Art Exhibit in the lobby on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Come early or stay after service to enjoy the artwork, including pieces by our own Doris Vaughn. Some paintings may be available for purchase.

**September 26<sup>th</sup>:** Our famous RUMMAGE SALE set up begins! See Rummage Sale Guidelines below.

**RUMMAGE SALE GUIDELINES:**

We will have our Fall Rummage Sale with the following guidelines for people who would like to donate items:

1. No items to be brought to the church until Friday, September 26, 2025 after 10:00am
2. DO NOT PUT ANYTHING IN THE CHURCH GARAGE OR LEAVE OUTSIDE CHURCH DOORS.
3. All items need to be clean and usable. This includes clothing, children's items, kitchen items, etc.
4. We will not accept TV's, computer equipment, mattresses, bed pillows.
5. We cannot pick up large furniture – you need to get the items to the church.

**RUMMAGE SALE DROP OFF DAYS AND TIMES**

You can bring items on Friday, September 26, after 10:00am

Saturday, and Monday, September 29 from 9:00am – 4:00pm

Tuesday, September 30, 9:00am – NOON (**no items accepted after noon**)

**RUMMAGE SALE BEGINS:**

Wednesday, October 1- 5:00pm – 8:00pm Full Price

Thursday, October 2 – 9:00am – 4:00pm ½ Price

Friday, October 3 – 9:00am – Noon \$2.00 pr. Bag

Holy Grounds Kitchen Staff generously provides food for the workers each day of set up.

Food donations accepted. They will have food on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during the sale for customers.

This sale is a fund raiser for United Women in Faith. The proceeds apply to our Mission Pledge for mission work for Women, Children & Youth around the world.

Thank you for your donations, help with the sale and purchases.



## Questions?



Do you know what the liturgical colors mean and why they change throughout the year? Did you know they're called *paraments*—the cloths on the pulpit and across the Bible on the altar? These colors mark the seasons of the Christian year.

- **Purple** – Royalty and penitence (Advent and Lent)
- **White** – Purity and joy (Christmas and Easter)
- **Red** – Fire (Pentecost) and the blood of Christ (Holy Week)
- **Green** – Growth (Ordinary Time)

Have you ever wondered who changes the paraments, checks the candles, and prepares the altar each week? Or who carefully drapes the cross above the altar during special seasons?



### Hello Everyone,

Your Trustees have been working this summer. We sponsored a workday in June and had a nice turnout. Thank you to all who participated. Trustees are doing monthly inspections of the whole church property and problem areas are noted. In coming months, we will work to address these issues we have found. If you notice anything, please let me or any trustee know. Doing God's Work, John Palme

## Answers: 🤔

Each week, the altar team checks the Liturgical Color Calendar to determine the appropriate colors and often consults David Peckham for confirmation. They come in during the week to prepare for Sunday service. Candles are checked every 4–5 weeks to ensure they burn brightly—thanks to Mary Jane Austin, Beth Brewer, Sandy Crane, Jan Przybylski, Janell Sullivan and JoAnn Hunt. For special occasions like Advent, Pentecost, and Holy Week, Dennis Tubbs volunteers to drape the large cross. If you're interested in learning how he does it or to help drape the cross, talk to Dennis—he'd be happy to show you.



THE SUMMER READING PROGRAM is coming to an end on September 7<sup>th</sup>. You still have time to join in or finish reading your favorite books! See our friendly library staff for details!

*Horseheads First United Methodist Church  
1034 West Broad Street  
Horseheads, NY*



## *Second Annual Cruise In*

*September 20<sup>th</sup>*

*9:00 a.m. to 1:00p.m.*

*All Cars are welcome!*

*Live Music from A Few More Faithful Band*

*Food by Scout Troop 84*

*Kool Treats Ice Cream Truck*

*Art Exhibit in the Church Lobby.*

*Benefits Meals on Wheels program of Chemung County*



## Critical Estate Planning Documents



- Does your estate plan include all five of the critical estate planning documents?
  - Do you know what happens if you don't have one or more of these documents?
  - Are you sure you have protected your family and loved ones?

**Wednesday, September 17, 2025**

Horseheads United Methodist Church  
1034 W. Broad St., Horseheads, NY

This workshop will begin at 5:30pm  
Please R.S.V.P by calling 607-962-6162  
or email [info@rothelderlaw.com](mailto:info@rothelderlaw.com)

*(Church members please sign up for this workshop in the entranceway.)*

At this workshop you will discover the five critical estate-planning documents that should be a part of every estate plan.

- Learn what these five documents do, why they are so important and what could happen if you don't have these documents in place.
- Discover other legal documents you may need.

*Estate Planning, Elder law, Estate & Trust Administration.*

*Trusts, Wills, Advanced Directives. Long Term Care Planning, Crisis Medicaid Planning, Medicaid Applications. Probate and Administrations, Trust Administrations, Estate Tax Returns.*

*Patrick J. Roth, Esq. Roth Elder Law, PLLC, 109 W. Water St. Painted Post, NY 14870*