**Pastor’s September Notes **

Why have a **car show?** Why have any of the activities we host here at church? Many organizations do good things, fun things, and interesting things. *When we follow Christ, we allow God to transform our normal, everyday lives into opportunities to share God’s love.* I once heard from a preacher: “you are not a teacher, you are an ambassador for Christ, cleverly disguised as a teacher. You are not a steel worker, you are an ambassador for Christ, cleverly disguised as a steel worker.” All that we give our time and attention to can be a chance to show other people the love of God. We had over 60 cars of all eras and types at our First Car Show. The area Model A club which meets in our church came with eight cars! We learned ways to do a car show more effectively in the future. We raised money for the Food Bank as well as Meals on Wheels, through donations and food sales which our Faith Builder Team hosted. We tried something we had never done. But the point of it was to give something to our community, bring people together and interact with folks outside our regular membership. In this way we showed the love of God. What is ahead? Our “What If Church” campaign gave us tons of ideas. Now it is up to our leaders to discern what God is calling us to be and do. Everything we decide to do should give opportunity to demonstrate God’s love through Jesus Christ, either overtly or more subtly.

**Children and youth are in need.** This church has gone from having a half-time paid position in Christian Education, to a volunteer director, to none currently. Finances make it difficult to fund a paid position again. The church council is in discernment for how to grow our church and reach the public across the board, while being fiscally responsible. We have advertised for Sunday School teachers to begin September 9th for K-5th and 6-8th grades, with only one person coming forward. We are in a critical juncture in our church where we stand to lose our ability to educate families with children at home in the love of God through Bible teaching. A church this size normally has a youth group meeting regularly as well as active and full Sunday School classes. The Family Resource Center and Happy House preschool use our building, and this is great, but this is not specifically Christian education. Perhaps there are other way to reach out to our community. Please keep all this in prayer and come forward with any ideas you may have, as well as any offers to help with the teaching and leading. Let us together find ways to expand our reach with God’s love.

**Christian Stewardship** is a main calling for the church, especially in mainline denominations in America. This means we take care of all that God has given us as though we are caring for God’s house. Our trustees do a great job of caring for the properties, but they rely on the help of many. Our lawns are mowed with a team of volunteers, saving the church money. Painting and minor repairs are often done behind the scenes while larger projects are being prioritized with funds raised for them. Our investment committee stewards our holdings, managing them for the best returns and overseeing their use. I encourage us all to take a larger view of all that God has blessed us with so we can bless others through those gifts, in the love of God.

In Ministry with you, Pastor Jeff McDowell

 We currently have two men and four women trained as Stephen Ministers, with three Stephen Leaders (including the pastor) facilitating the training and overall program. To date, four of the six Stephen Ministers are assigned to a care receiver, visiting once a week for an hour or more, providing Christian care during times of difficulty. Each of our people involved in this ministry are in regular peer supervision, helping them hone their listening and caring skills. If you need a caring, confidential Christian caregiver, or are considering being trained as a Stephen Minister, contact pastor McDowell at pastorjeffmcd@yahoo.com or call the office.

**Stewardship – Kitchen Improvement Fund interim status:**

**$2,816 Gifts**

**$ 520 Cookbook Fundraiser**

**$ 768 Spring Flower Fundraiser**

**$4,104**

**($4,226) Spent to date, including new countertops.**

**COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT: Do you know what the committees in the church are about?**

**This month we celebrate the Worship Committee.**

**Worship Committee:** Together we work with the Pastor by reviewing our vision and sharing our gifts and our passion for supporting the worship life of the congregation. Making sure the congregation has the things it needs for worship each Sunday. The committee includes music, the tech team, the altar guild, the Communion Team, Ushers, Acolytes, and Liturgists. We look ahead to the calendar preparing for upcoming liturgical seasons and special Sundays. We have our Tech team which has enabled 1st UMC to stream and reach those members that are unable to attend in person or those who are searching. Producing the weekly Sunday bulletin requires gathering ever-changing content, from a variety of sources, and then combining them into an approved cohesive format to aid the pastor, the designated participants, and church committee representatives to provide a meaningful worship service for the congregation. (All items for the bulletin are due by Wednesday at 11am.) Our role is to lead the entire congregation in worshiping God.

**The Holy Grounds kitchen:** We will begin serving for the rummage sale starting Friday, Sept. 27th. We’re excited to be working in our Church kitchen with so many new upgrades. It won’t be long before the sign-up sheets will be posted in the vestibule (entranceway). Please take the time to help us out by signing up for items or homemade dishes to bring in (you know the drill). One small change is that we need everything delivered by Monday, Sept. 30th. And as a reward for all our hard work…those ever-popular root beer floats!

**Christmas in July:** Thank you to all the early Christmas Angels who donated to the Outreach Christmas Giving in July. Blessings to one and all. The Outreach Committee

**Behind the scenes at Horseheads First United Methodist Church**

**???The Questions???**

***HAVE YOU SEEN THE SIZE OF OUR LAWN?***

Question: Do you know who works in the hot sun each summer to keep our lawn looking as wonderful as it is? Do you know who mows the yard each week? Do you know who does the trimming around the yard? Do you know who needs to buy the gas, string, fixes the lawn mower and other machines needed to keep the grass cut? Do you know who cleans the machines? Who oversees this part of our church? Who does the schedule? Do you know these are all volunteers? Would you like to help? Continue reading the newsletter to learn the answers.

**Parish Visitor/Cindy Ellis:** What a crazy August. Summer one day, Autumn weather the next!! Now it is time for activities at church to begin. We need to keep our church family in our prayers as we move into fall responsibilities.

 We pray for those recuperating at home: Kevan Carichner, Ed Ryan, William Hagios, Linda Williams. Others we keep in prayer are Audrey Wills, and her brothers, Alan, Larry, Walter, who have health issues. Peg Peary, Hope Mayhew, Joe Thresher, Denise Hamilton, Andy Gillette, continue to need our prayers for healing. So many others of our church family members find it difficult to come to church worship. They are: Don & Barb Sommers, Betty Hess, Carl Schnautz, Bonnie Flashphaler, Carol Erway, Dick Davies, Phyllis Naegely, Bev Ring, Josie Knapp, Lucille Panosian, Mary Mack, Letha Patchett, Dick Brigger, Gladys Kucher, Bonnie Belcher and Dick Smith, Tom Peck. Let us keep the family and friends of Susan Carpenter in our prayers.  Sue passed away on Sunday, August 18.  Please keep the family of Deborah Madison in your prayers. She passed away on June 29th. She was Audrey Wills’ sister-in-law. Please keep the family of Walter Price in your prayers. He passed away on July 30th. Please keep the family and friends of Marolyn Hackett in your prayers. She passed away on August 5th. Please keep the family and friends of Edward Moonschein in your prayers. He passed away on Monday, August 19.

--- This is a reminder to everyone, If you want a church visit from Pastor Jeff or myself, please contact the church office (607)739-1943. We keep our whole church family in prayer as we continue worshiping together in person and from our homes. God’s blessings.

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

 Wednesday, September 18, Noon, in the large Conference Room.

 Bring a salad of your choice to feed 2-3. We will share these salads.

 The program will be led by Hope Mayhew and Myrna Flatt

 Hostesses are Virginia Miller and Cindy Ellis

 Table service, Beverages and dessert will be provided.

 ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH AND FRIENDS

 ARE INVITED TO OUR GATHERINGS ANYTIME

The Mountainview District United Women in Faith fall annual meeting will be: Saturday, September 21, 9:30am to 2:00pm at the Painted Post church, 201 N. Hamilton St. Painted Post. Theme: A SEASON FOR EVERYTHING. We will have a short business meeting. In the afternoon we will have memorial service for UWF women who died in 2023-2024. We will end the day with communion. ALL women are invited to come to this gathering. It is always so nice being with women from our whole district. Contact Cindy Ellis for further information.

We continue to gather items for the Homeless in Chemung County. A box is under the United Women in Faith bulletin board for your gift. It is located near the church kitchen. Candy Kirkwood said socks, individual snacks, wipes, bottles of water, canned fruit are great items. The entire list is on the bulletin board. Thank you for helping God’s children who live a different life than ours.

**Our Annual Charge Conference has been set by the Superintendent for Saturday, September 28 at 1:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary.** All members of the Church Council are expected to attend, as the Charge Conference is the main governing body of our church, the decisions of which are carried out throughout the year by the Council. All our church members and attenders are encouraged to attend. Members have voice and vote. This meeting will be presided over by our District Superintendent the Rev. Suzanne Block. We will be joining with three other area churches for a combined conference.

**MEDIA MUSINGS FROM THE LIBRARY**

 Do you know who was the first woman to serve in the US presidential cabinet? **Becoming Madam Secretary** by Stephanie Dray is a neat historical fiction story, recently donated by Mary Jane Austin. The bulk of the events take place from 1933-1945 under Franklin D. Roosevelt’s leadership. Frances Perkins went from serving poor children in the crowded tenements in Hell’s Kitchen to serving President Roosevelt and our country. Frances Perkins navigates a political world dominated by men, the Great Depression, as well as balances the demands of marriage and motherhood. Personal tragedies and political attacks are very real experiences. Here is another compelling story and should be super appealing to all readers. Becoming Madam Secretary is displayed on the library table and is ready to be signed out and read!

 Hope Mayhew recently donated another delightful novel by Marie Benedict. **Carnegie’s Maid** is a mesmerizing tale of how a poor farmer’s daughter could have inspired and influenced an American dynasty. What may have started as a ruse, Clara’s hard work, her intelligence, and diligence become indispensable to her famous employers, Andrew Carnegie and his steel-hearted mother. With captivating insight, **Carnegie’s Maid** tells the story of one brilliant woman who may have spurred Andrew’s transformation from a ruthless industrialist into the world’s first true philanthropist.

 **Our** **Summer Reading Program is in full swing!**! Discover the hidden treasure of your church library! You have until September 8th to finish your five books. Keep reading!

Just a bit of time till the end of the event and look, the board is in need of more names!



**Our Young Children:**

Too old for the Lullaby Room and learning to sit through the church service? This might be your child. Maybe your child would enjoy Children’s Church. Leaving before the scriptures and going to Fellowship Hall will provide children ages 4-8 a time of age-appropriate lessons, stories, and activities. Tara Miller, acknowledging the need, approached Jan Przybylski offering to help restart this program. Now we need volunteers to help set up a schedule to cover this time during the service.

Sarah Woodard, in the Lullaby Room, is also in need of a second person to help each week to fulfill the Safe Sanctuary requirements. With a group of volunteers, no one would have to be there each week.

Your help is important for our young people learning to be a part of the church. Extra hands to help make the workload easier to manage. If you are able to spare a half hour for Children’s Time or an hour for the Lullaby Room now and then, please contact Sandy Crane in the office or see Pastor Jeff McDowell.

**Thank You!** Our church family is the best. From the great number of cards, I received and the visits at the manor to the offering and giving of rides even to Sayre, you have taken care of me with my broken hip and bleeding eye. Thank you thank you dear helpers. Hope Mayhew

**Our Church and United Women of Faith have donated to send Azziza to school.**

****Dear First United Methodist Church, Horseheads,

My name is Azziza, and I live in Namunkanaga - Kigulu village. When I was little, my father left our family, and my mother has been working very hard on our small farm to take care of us. But it was hard to have enough food, and we couldn’t pay for my school fees. Then, Divine Hearts Foundation helped us because of your donations. Now, I can go to school again, and I am so happy! I want to be a great engineer when I grow up because I love math and science. Thank you so much for helping me and my family. I hope you can help other children like me too. Your kindness has changed my life, and I pray that God blesses you for all the good you are doing. With thanks, Azziza                     [www.divineheartsfoundation.org](http://www.divineheartsfoundation.org/)

**Aging with Grace:** I love the fact that so many people in our church are aging with grace. At some point in our lives most of us will need to move from our current living situation into a higher level of care. But most of us will wait until there is a health crisis or worse to make plans for that move. In reality, most people do not plan for the downsizing of their possessions, future housing or increased health needs before a crisis occurs. It is better to plan ahead and save us and our family members from making hard decisions quickly in a crisis. We have partnered with Office for The Again of Chemung County to get word out about what you can do to prepare to ***Age with Grace.***In our church office we have handouts explaining Advance Directives such as Health Care Proxy, New York Living Will forms, the MOLST (Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment. We also have a larger document titled, “Your Conversation Starter Guide.”

 Please use these and other resources from Office for the Aging, take the time to update your will, and plan ahead now for the downsizing that will naturally be a part of most of our lives. Let us set the standard for **Aging with Grace** here in our church and community.

**The Answers**

Each person is assigned a 2-week time slot. The Church Lawn is to be mowed Thursday, Friday, or Saturday. Cleaning out the lawnmowers/equipment is the responsibility of the one mowing the lawn. Gas is the responsibility of the mower. If you see these people in church give them a warm thank you for keeping our ground well-manicured and beautiful. If you would like to be part of these awesome volunteers, (And yes, we need more help) call Gordon at 607-562-3328 or when you see him say, “Hey Gordon, I’d like to be a part of this!” Thank you all for your dedication and hard work!

Gordon Gillette, Dave Kallenborn, Art Carichner, Steve McIntosh, John Young, Joe Colvin, Guerry Howard, Dalton Flatt, Dave Rouse, Brent Arnold, Rich Preston and Tim Walker!