**Pastor’s Notes:**

What is happening in our church? Quite a lot! Sitting on all the committees, I see decisions which are made but are not always conveyed to the congregation. Your leaders are elected at the annual Charge Conference, and they work hard on your behalf throughout the year. I will share here some recent decisions and events which are helping us manage our ministry and make disciples of Jesus Christ. Please read the whole newsletter to get more information.

**Kitchen.** Our church council approved use of the kitchen and fellowship hall for the high school swim / dive boosters as well as monthly spaghetti supper fundraisers for the various school booster programs. In doing so we looked again at safety and food service regulations to ensure we are complying with all that is needed. On Thursday, 9/7 we had the privilege of a former executive chef and current pastor, Rev. Mike Kelly, review our kitchen setup and explain the health department regulations. This was very helpful, as our kitchen and food service are used extensively. We are forming a kitchen committee this year to oversee food preparation and kitchen maintenance. Let me know if you have an interest in this. Every group cooking and serving food will be given the health department’s rules. When we have fellowship meals or snacks, they can be made at home and brought in. When we serve the public, we must follow all the rules pertaining to food preparation in the church kitchen or use outside catering. To learn more, contact our office.

**Stewardship.** Our expenses are continuing to be more than our income this year. This, with one staff position vacant in Christian Education. We have a goal of a balanced budget for 2024. We will hold a campaign this fall from October 15 - November 19. Look for information in the morning worship services and a letter coming to your home during this time. What difference does our church make in the lives of people? We are reaching out in many ways to the last, the least and the lost here and around the world! Money follows mission and we are doing the mission with great faithfulness!

**Charge Conference.** Come to our Annual meeting Saturday November 11, 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the New Beginnings UMC in Elmira. Here we will ratify salaries, set our nominations, celebrate our ministries, and receive encouragement and oversight from our new District Superintendent the Rev. Suzanne Block. All committee chairs and all members of the church council are expected to attend. All church members are invited to attend and have voice and vote.

**Sunday School has begun,** and we are doing well with adults helping in most grades, however we have an ongoing need for volunteers in the nursery, both during worship and the Sunday school hour. If you can donate for one Sunday per month or per season helping our paid nursery worker Sarah, please sign up just outside the nursery! We will see growth once we commit to fully staffing our nursery. Confirmation class began with seven students!

**Stephen Ministry** training by our leaders Ande Tubbs and Jim Martin will begin Wednesday October 18, with seven people signed up to learn Christian caregiving. This training will go through January, followed by a formal commissioning of our first class of Stephen ministers. They will then be assigned one – to – one for confidential care to those in need, both within our church and outside it.

**Room use** must be reserved for all teams, committees, events so that building security and ease of use for all can be achieved. Please fill out a form through the office for all your planned ministries. ***Please do not block open*** any outside doors or fire doors.

**Usher and Greeter Orientation** will be led by pastor McDowell on Tuesday Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Wesley Room. We will build on the basics, get input from those who have done these jobs and use growth enhancing tools from the book ­­Becoming a Welcoming Church by Thom Rainer. All are invited.

**Mid-week Fellowship Wed. October 11 AT 5:30**, featuring Mark and Deirdre Zimmerman, missionaries to Nepal. An Octoberfest - style meal is being planned so just bring yourself!

**Pastoral Counseling** is always available by appointment with me, providing confidential spiritual care for souls within and outside the church membership. Such sessions are limited in scope and referrals are made to mental health professionals when appropriate.

**FALL RUMMAGE SALE**

**to benefit missions**

Horseheads 1st. United Methodist Church, 1034 W. Broad Street. Horseheads, NY

Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 5:00pm – 8:00pm, Free dinner available

Thursday, October 5, 2023, 9:00am – 4:00pm, ½ price for each item purchased.

Friday, October 6, 2023, BAG SALE, 9:00am – Noon, $2.00 pr. Bag

BRING OWN BAGS NO PRE SALES

**RUMMAGE SALE GUIDELINES:**

We will have our Spring rummage sale with the following strict guidelines for people who would like to donate items:

1. No items to be brought to the church until Friday, September 29, 2023, after 10:00am
2. DO NOT PUT ANYTHING IN THE CHURCH GARAGE OR LEAVE OUTSIDE THE 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 take the items to the church.

RUMMAGE SALE DROP OFF DAYS AND TIMES

 You can bring items on Friday, September 29 after 10:00am

 Saturday, September 30 and Monday, October 2, from 9:00am – 4:00pm

 Tuesday, October 3, 9:00am – NOON (no items accepted after noon)

**Summer Reading** went well with many people participating. Of course, we would always like to have more people enjoying our books, especially our little ones and their older brothers and sisters. Congratulations to the following people who each read 5 books and cheers to those who started but were unable to finish.

Adelaide Woodard 3yrs.; Allison Aiello 7yrs.; youth- Aubrey Scott; Adam Scott. Jan Aiello, Mary Jane Austin, Ida Beard, Carolyn Bolt, Rita Colvin, Kay Coombs, Margaret Cooper, Carol Crandell, Sandy Crane,

Mary Daniels, Carrie Davidson, Betsy Doan, Betty Drake, Cindy Ellis, Carol Erway, Dalton Flatt, Myrna Flatt, Pam Fluent, Connie Gillette, Hope Mayhew, Louise McIntosh, Ginny Miller, Maureen Nicolo, Christina Peklak, Jan Przybylski, Ann Rouse, Elaine Saunders, Linda Scheck, Carol Smallback, Barbara Sommers, Ande Tubbs.

**Parish Visitor: Cindy Ellis**

Fall is here – won’t be long before we see the beautiful colors.  Let us remember those who are ill or recovering from their illnesses: Bob Joralemon, Joe Thresher, Mike Nicolo, Kevan Carichner, Jeanne Wayland.  Gerry Austin continues to deal with foot issues.  Phyllis Naegely fell and is in Bethany Manor for rehab.  Cynthia Stansfield & Sue Carpenter live at Elcor – and would love to receive cards.  Bev Ring & Jean Jones are at Bethany Manor.  Those in their homes who would love to be remembered are Bernita Oppenheim Letha Padgett, Bob Weiss, Carol Erway, Tom Peck, Gladys Kucher, Barb and Don Sommers, Bonnie Flashphaler. We send our prayers of sympathy to Harold Smith and family on the passing of his sister, Ruth. Let us keep the Coombs family in our prayers as we remember Wanda Coombs who passed away Sept. 22.  Let us keep Donna Sauer and family in our prayers on the passing of her son Christopher on Sept. 21. We are joyful on the birth of Fynn Lee Sullivan, daughter of Corey &Jenna Sullivan, granddaughter of Janell & Monty Sullivan and great granddaughter of Bev Ring!

**Sunday School at 10:30**

* **Kindergarten-5th grade** meeting in the Fellowship Hall (gym)
* **Middle school/Confirmation**: meeting in the Chapel, The confirmation class is focused on our spiritual journey of following Jesus Christ through membership in the church. This 14-week experience for grades 6-9 is interactive and taught by Pastor McDowell and Jamie Olcott in the chapel, 10:45-11:45 a.m. Sundays.
* **High school**:  meeting in Room 18, The senior high class is focused on God's relevance and accessibility in the 21st century. This year long journey for grades 9-12 is interactive and taught by Chad Miller and Karen Peterson in the youth room, 10:45-11:45 a.m. Sundays.
* **Parent Class:** meeting in Room 21
* **Adult Sunday School**: Large Conference Room
* **Nursery** available for those 4 and under.
* The confirmation class is focused on our spiritual journey of following Jesus Christ through membership in the church. This 14-week experience for grades 6-9 is interactive and taught by Pastor McDowell and Jamie Olcott.

**Finance/Stewardship:***A man died and went to heaven. He is at the Pearly Gates by St. Peter, who led him down the golden streets. They walk by mansions after beautiful estates until they came to the end of the road where they stopped in front of a little shack. The man asked St. Peter why he got a simple hut when there were so many mansions where he would be more comfortable. St. Peter replied, “I did the best with the money you sent us.”* ***Dick Williams***

**All Saints Sunday:** On November 1st our church will celebrate All Saint’s Sunday to remember family and friends we have lost during the past year.  A candle will be lit, and the name of each person will be read.  Please submit the names of those you would like to be remembered to the church office by Monday, October 23, 2022.  Each candle will have a label with the person's name. We encourage you to take your candle after the service.  Candles will be available for you to pick up at the church during the following week. Find them on the office window ledge.

**Oct. 11th, Mark and Deirdre Zimmerman** are medical missionaries to Nepal who've been sent by the United Methodist Church (and supported by First Horseheads for some years). They've been in Nepal for around 30 years, and most recently Mark has been a physician / teacher at Patan Hospital while Deirdre has worked in dietetics both in Patan Hospital and in community-based nutrition. They left Nepal (for good) this past July and will come to share how God has led them through this journey. We (Faith Builders) plan to provide a meal Wed. Oct. 11, at 5:30, in the Fellowship Hall with the presentation at 6:15 or so.

**Oct. 13th, HFRC is turning 15 years old**, and we would love for you to celebrate this milestone with us! We’ve been honored to partner with the church for all these years and we look forward to many more!

We are planning a family-friendly celebration and fundraiser at the church on Friday, Oct. 13 from 5–8pm. We will have a bounce house obstacle course, fun & games for the kids, along with food, drinks, & dessert.

We will also have an online auction from 7pm Oct. 6 through 7:30pm Oct. 13 with lots of great items to bid on. Anyone can participate in the auction, even if they can’t come to the event. The auction link is: <https://www.32auctions.com/HFRCis15>.

All funds raised will be used to support our work in the local community. The money raised is crucial as HFRC depends upon charitable grants, individual donations, and fundraising to continue operating. Our goal is to raise $15,000 for our 15th Birthday.

We would love for you to help us celebrate this milestone! Tickets are available through our website: HorseheadsFamilyResourceCenter.org and in our playrooms starting Sept. 18. Ticket prices are Adults $8, Kids $5, and Family $20.

We hope to see you on October 13th!

**Oct. 18th, United Women in Faith:** Sisterhood in Grace circle meeting will be Wed. October 18, noon, in the large conference room.  Bring own lunch, beverages will be available.  Hostesses, Margaret Cooper and Jen Hillman.  **Program:  Guerry Howard, Dale Cleveland & Deb Sabura will do a presentation on their time in Balize this summer.**  Do come and bring a friend.

**Oct. 18-20th: Michael and Glenda Miller, Missionaries for Border Buddies Ministries Inc., Tegucigalpa, Honduras**

Dear Horseheads UMC; Glenda and I have been so blessed by your church in all the support that you have given us throughout the years. We haven't been home in almost four years and miss seeing everyone. Pastor Andy Pollock and his congregation at Fresh Start has graciously offered for us to use their Miracle Mile Campus at 2447 Elmira-Corning Rd. (the Miracle Mile) in Elmira Heights. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Andy at: 585-483-5039 or email: pastorandy@freshstartumc.com. **“Reconnection Tour” at”** Fresh Start Campus on the Miracle Mile, 2447 Elmira-Corning Rd. (the Miracle Mile) in Elmira Heights. When: October 2023, Wednesday 18 -Thursday 19 - Friday 20, Worship starts at: 6:30pm. <http://www.borderbuddies.org>

 **Spiritual Care Today –**

**Be There Wherever There May Be**

**Friday - October 20, 2023**, Elmira Clarion Inn. Two events are open to all interested in celebrating, learning about, and supporting spiritual care services. 8:00 am, Spiritual Caregivers Appreciation Breakfast, 9:30 am, Spiritual Care and Mental Health Workshop, Event information webpage: <www.ACTSTT.org/SCT23>

The breakfast price is $10 per meal for all registered attendees. Please call Stephanie at 607-737-5280 Ext.207 prior to 10/17/23 to register for each event.

The October 20,2023 Spiritual Care Today event will be held at the Clarion Inn Elmira. It is located at: 760 East Water Street, Elmira, NY 14901. This location is the former Holiday Inn. Events are open to all interested in celebrating, learning about, and supporting spiritual care services. Please call Stephanie at 607-737-5280 Ext.207 prior to 10/17/23 to register for each event and for questions.

The 8:00 am Spiritual Caregivers Appreciation Breakfast is hosted by: Area Christians Together in Service Twin Tiers (ACTS) website: [actstt.org](http://www.actstt.org)

The $10 per breakfast price will be collected at the door from all pre-registered attendees. Others who do not wish to eat are welcome to fellowship with us at no cost. Rev. Brian Baker, Director of Spiritual Care Arnot Health and Rev. Larry Jennings Jr., Dir. Pastoral Services Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital will provide updates relating to the last years SCT22 Chaplaincy workshop. This website describes details of last year’s event: <ACTSTT.org/SCT22>.

The 2023 Spiritual Care Today Workshop will run from 9:30am to 11:30 am. This presentation will focus on Spirituality, Mental Health, and other care opportunities in our area. The agenda for the morning will include Expo tables for each of the SCT23 event Promoters, ministries, and other service providers who agree with the Spiritual Care Today focus and priorities.

**Oct. 29th: Soup to Go is back!**

We would like to thank everyone who donated to Sunday soups to go. Jamie Olcott and I enjoyed the last few years doing the soups and those who asked if they could help in any way. I believe we had a successful 2022 -2023 yr. Putting In the general fund $.1129.00 but feeding over 163 people; hope this year will be just as successful.  If you have a soup you would like, let Jamie know and we will try and make it. October soup is loaded potato or Hank’s pumpkin soup. We will be starting up October 29 to March 24. Dates have been set so mark your calendar, 10/29,11/26,12/17 or 31, 1/28, 2/25, 3/24.

There is no set price, just a donation! Remember your neighbors who can’t get out or a friend you would like to share lunch with. Thank you and God Bless Jean Paul

**Karren's Clothing Cupboard** sign-up sheet for the month of October is in the airlock. If you have never helped before and are interested in helping, sign up, you’ll never be alone. We will be closed the first week of October for the rummage sale. Thank you to all who play a part in KCC. We will no longer be open on Monday evenings.