



## United Methodist Church of Cooperstown

66 Chestnut Street Cooperstown, NY 13326

Telephone: (607) 547-9540

### **SERVICE THROUGH MISSION**

#### **Saturday's Bread**

Saturday's Bread is a hot meal program provided without cost for anyone who would like to share it. The program provides nutritious food in the friendly atmosphere of the Greater Oneonta community. Dining facilities are provided by First United Methodist Church, located at Chestnut and Church Streets in Oneonta.

The program began on May 23, 1992 during a worship service AT First United Methodist Church, Oneonta. Its purpose is to feed the hungry and to provide a sense of community for everyone involved. It is a total communal effort to feed all who come to the table without regard to economic background or religious affiliation.

#### *The Program:*

- is an unselfish offering provided by the individuals and organizations that support it.
- is free to all who attend.
- is officially recognized as a "Soup Kitchen" and is eligible to purchase and receive food from the government.
- serves 52 Saturdays a year from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., and take-out service is available for all patrons, their families, and neighbors.

The Menu is planned in advance for 300; 150-200 patrons are served and the balance is packaged for take-out. The meal is prepared on Friday by a cook and volunteer crew. The food for the buffet is cooked on Saturday and served by the kitchen crew.. Twelve volunteer waiters/waitresses each Saturday serve soup and salad, beverage, and dessert. Takeout service includes two sandwiches, a hot dish, and bread.

Many civic, business, educational, community and religious organizations contribute their time, finances, food, supplies and love to make the program a success.

UMCC shares in supporting Saturday's Bread. Four times a year, 12 volunteers from our church work at the program. They set up and wait on tables and clean up from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.. To volunteer, contact Rena Lull.

#### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Shawls are symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving God. Shawls are knit with prayers, blessings or wishes in mind for the recipients. They are given to people in need of spiritual comfort, persons who are ill, suffered a loss, are in the midst of a life crisis, or to celebrate a milestone. They wrap, enfold, comfort, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify. If you know of someone who could use a shawl, please let us know.

On our prayer list are church members, families, and friends in the community. Keep them in your prayers – perhaps a shawl will provide comfort.

For knitters, there is a book of instructions and patterns for prayer shawls on the display case in the back of the sanctuary. Feel free to borrow it. If you give a prayer shawl, be sure to pick up a printed prayer with envelope to enclose with it.

### **Prayer Chain**

The United Methodist Women coordinates a Prayer Chain that connects our church family to offer special or immediate prayer needs.

### **Vacation Bible School**

The origins of Vacation Bible School can be traced back to Hopedale, Illinois in 1894. Sunday School teacher D. T. Miles, who also was a public school teacher, felt she was limited by time constraints in teaching the Bible to children. She started a daily Bible school during the summer. The first school enrolled forty students and lasted four weeks. A local school was used for classes while an adjoining park was used for recess.

In 1989, a Baptist Church in New York City started an “Everyday Bible School” for slum children. Dr. Robert Boville of the Baptist Mission Society, became aware of the summer programs and established a handful of schools which were taught by students at the Union Theological Seminary. In 1922 he founded the World Association of Daily Vacation Bible School. The following year, Standard Publishing produced the first printed VBS curriculum, with enough material for a five-week course for three age levels.

Today, many churches run their own Vacation Bible School programs. Some churches opt to use themed curriculum programs from their respective denominations or independent publishing houses. (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

In Cooperstown, the Ecumenical Council of Churches assists in planning and coordinating a one-week VBS program for children pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The location rotates among the village churches. There is no fee, however, donations of money, supplies, and snacks are welcomed. Adult and high school volunteers from area churches create the props, conduct lessons and music, and serve snacks. Themes have included Jerusalem Marketplace, Fiesta, Avalanche Ranch, High Seas Expedition, Gifts of the Creator.

### **Jail Ministry of Otsego County**

For 50 years Christ’s love and that He came to set the prisoner free has been proclaimed at the Otsego County Jail. The ministry began in 1959 under the direction of the former Cooperstown Council of Churches. Rev. Fred’rick W. Connell, retired pastor of UMCC, was the first Chaplain in the 1970s. Presently there is a team of clergy and laity from more than twelve different churches throughout Otsego County that carry out the ministry.

#### Ministries in the Jail

One on one clergy visits on Wednesdays  
Sunday afternoon worship services  
Wednesday morning men’s Bible study  
Christ Centered 12-Step Program on Wednesdays

Wednesday morning women's Bible study  
Distribution of Daily Bread Devotions and other materials  
Distribution of free greeting cards supplied by American Rehabilitation Ministries

### Ministry to Families

Gifts from the Heart (Christmas)

Visit the website: [www.jmoconline.org](http://www.jmoconline.org)

### **Cooperstown Food Pantry**

In 1977, Ellen St. John of Cooperstown started the Cooperstown Food Bank – in a closet at the village library. In 1992, the First Presbyterian Church provided space which now includes the entire basement of the Church House. The name Food Bank is still used though technically it is a food pantry which is a newer designation for its membership in Feeding America (formerly America's Second Harvest), a network of over 250 huge, regional food banks serving all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Cooperstown is a member agency of The Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY located in Latham, near Albany.

#### *Where does the food come from?*

- 90% purchased through the Regional Food Bank which receives donations from manufacturers, retailers, wholesalers and farmers
- Local farmers, gardeners, Cooperstown Farmers Market
- Local grocery store
- Additional bulk purchases: \$1.00 purchases about \$10.00 worth of items
- And you.

#### *Tuesday Delivery Day*

A large team of volunteers gathers once a month at the Food Pantry to unload 8 tons of food ordered from the Regional Food Bank. Several generous Cooperstown businesses offer the use of their huge trucks to pick up the food in Oneonta.

#### *Who Is Served?*

The Pantry serves people living in the northern two thirds of Otsego County. About 47% of clients visit just once a year. Visits are prompted by unemployment, underemployment, illness, injury, divorce, domestic violence, unexpected bills, and car repairs. Often those seeking help are outside the Social Services system.

The Food Pantry requires no referral, never accepts any form of payment, and never turns anyone away.

Clients receive 5 days worth of food, 3 meals a day, for each person in the household. Also included are diapers, baby food, day old baked goods and personal care products as needed. There are milk and egg vouchers, Farmers Market vouchers, and WIC information.

#### *Volunteers*

Thirty volunteers and 14 substitutes serve regular 2-hour shifts, 10-12 and 2-4 every weekday and 10-12 on the last two Saturdays of the month. There are detailed directions for stocking and maintaining the food supplies, quality and safety rules, processing client visits, and food selection guidelines.

New volunteers are always needed to fill shifts and be substitutes. Many hands make light work on Delivery Day. If you would like to help, please call Ellen St. John 547-9653.

### **UMCC Food Pantry Month**

October is UMCC Food Pantry Month to provide non-perishable food and cash donations. There is a collection box in the back of the sanctuary. Donations may also be delivered directly to the Food Pantry year around.

### **Angel Network**

The Network is coordinated by Cooperstown Central School which deeply appreciates support by members and volunteers throughout the year. Generous contributions of food, gift cards, clothing and Christmas gifts help meet special needs of school children and their families to make a difference in trouble lives.

When a pickle jar, peanut butter jar, Mason jar or whatever jar you have at hand is filled with your spare change each day, it becomes a Christmas Jar. During the week before Christmas, the jar is given to the Angel Network and distributed anonymously to an individual/family with a special need.

*Christmas Jars* was written by Jason F. Wright – a wonderful story that will make your heart happy!

At UMCC, donations are coordinated by Rena Lull. Requests are announced in the Bulletin and newsletter.

### **Ecumenical Council of Churches**

The Cooperstown Ecumenical Council of Churches brings area churches together in visible Christian unity, common witness, and Christian service to people in need. Participating churches include United Methodist Church of Cooperstown, First Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, St. Mary's Lady of the Lake Roman Catholic Church, Christ Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The Council encourages support of the Cooperstown Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity and Jail Ministry of Otsego County through work groups or by individuals. Ecumenical worship services are held on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise, and Thanksgiving. The Council conducts the Cooperstown Central School Baccalaureate service in June, and assists in the planning of Vacation Bible School and special relief projects. The Ecumenical Men's Bible Study is held from 6-7 a.m. on Wednesdays at Christ Church Parish Hall, Fair Street. Contact Fred Wyckoff if you would like to participate in the Study group