

The Bell Ringer

of the
United Methodist Church of Cooperstown
66 Chestnut Street, Cooperstown NY 13326

Telephone: (607) 547-9540 DECEMBER 2017 Email: ctownumc@gmail.com
Editor: Brenda Alton stdx06@gmail.com



ADVENT OFFERING

Advent Offering envelopes are included with this newsletter. In the weeks of this Advent Season be in prayer for our church, our church family, our mission and ministry and our vision for the coming New Year. Your Advent Offering will help us create "Good Will To All People" we serve in the name of the Christ Child.



CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD

Send a Christmas Card to all your church friends the easy way! A form is included with this newsletter for your donation to Ministry Shares. Your name will be on the "card" and sent to the church family in a special mailing. Please return the form by Sunday, December 10th.



THE BELL RINGER

We will not have a January Newsletter. Please have all items for February The Bell Ringer to Brenda by January 27th.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Sunday 12/24: 10:30 a.m. Worship for the Fourth Sunday of Advent;
Sunday 12/24: 7:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service;
Sunday 12/24: 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service and Holy Communion



ADDRESS CHANGE

Mary June Dickinson, St. Mark's Terrace, 110 Chapel Street, Apt. 102, Penn Yan, NY 14527-1138.



CHRISTMAS TEA & BAZAAR

December 2nd 1-4 PM. Preparation Sunday,
Nov. 26th-Fri., December 1st.



GIVING THANKS

To all who contributed food and helped with the Church Family Thanksgiving Dinner. Generous donations to Ministry Shares totaled \$1,265.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jose Neill	02 nd
Beverly Hensle	10 th
Lana Calhoun	11 th
Howard Berg	14 th
Lorie Hillhouse	15 th
Jessica Collier	16 th
Jeremiah Hillhouse	17 th
Daphne Morgan	20 th
Ashley Kiuber	20 th
Katelynn Kiuber	22 nd
Willis Monie, Jr.	23 rd
Helen Moore	27 th
Steve Collier	28 th

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Mike & Susan Otis	21 st
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STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The end of the pledge year is drawing near. The last Sunday to give that will be credited to 2017, will be January 7, 2018. Please be sure that your check or envelope is clearly marked 2017 or it will be credited to 2018. So far we have 25 pledges for a total of \$59,524 Thank you.

The special envelopes for Advent and Christmas that you receive inside your copy of The Bell Ringer do not have numbers on them. If you wish for your donation to be credited to you, for tax purposes, do not remain ANONYMOUS. Please be sure to put your name on the

envelope before slipping it into the collection plate.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY was November 13th. If you did not receive your Stewardship letter, there are extras at the back of the Sanctuary, near the mailboxes and elsewhere in this newsletter. Thank you Laurie Glockler. 607-547-5061



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This year Mary Beekman delivered 32 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child to Community Bible Chapel, Cooperstown. A huge thank you for your enthusiastic support and generosity. Your gifts will bring joy and hope to many children.



LITURGISTS NEEDED

Liturgists are needed for the 10:30 AM worship services. Please check your calendars and call Judy Green, 293-7527, if you can serve.

GREETERS/USHERS NEEDED

Always looking for greeters and ushers. Need more help for ushering, as children are in Sunday school. Thanks to all who have helped. A sign-up sheet is outside the Fellowship Room or call Joan Ackerman 965-8778 to volunteer.



SATURDAY'S BREAD

- JANUARY 27, 2018
- MARCH 10, 2018
- MAY 5, 2018
- OCTOBER 27, 2018

PLEASE, PLEASE SIGN UP OR CALL RENA AT 547-5149 TO VOLUNTEER.



DEVOTIONAL READING

Please help yourself to the devotional reading material in the literature racks in the church entrances. Take a copy to a homebound church member.



FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry continues its appeal for non-perishable food to keep the shelves stocked and meet a growing need for food. Cash donations are also appreciated. Checks may be made payable to Cooperstown Food Pantry and mailed to 25 Church Street, Cooperstown, NY 13326. There is always a collection box in the back of the UMCC sanctuary -- please double bag. To volunteer, call Ellen St. John at 547-9653.



UMW NEWS

The November 13th meeting was held at 11:30 AM with a program entitled Hopeful hearts Community by Brenda Waters of Portlandville Methodist Church. She explained how using recycled materials can be used to give back to the community. She presented a notebook of many ideas of which a group meets at their church and works to collect and make items to give to sick, lonely or shut in's. They also recycle old jewelry and sell it to be able to raise funds to help others. We have contributed shoes, neckties and jewelry to this worthwhile project. If you are receiving envelopes in mailings we will be collecting them as well as toilet tissue rolls.

Our second Program consisted of a mother grandmother and grandchildren who participate in local native Indian Pow Wows and performed their songs along with a history of them. They were from Milford where the children go to school.

As we enter the Christmas season, I thank all who participated in the Christmas Tea, one of our special times with each other and families as we reflect on what's to come and enjoy some time before the rush.

Sunday December 3rd at 12:30 we will meet at Sandy's home for lunch and disbursement of UMW funds and planning for the coming year. Please RSVP if you plan on being there. Anyone is invited and hopefully the weather cooperates. This is the last meeting of the year and any other business will be published in the bulletin.

There is no meetings in January or February.



IN GOOD COMPANY

The fellowship of **Coffee Hour** after the worship service continues. Iced tea, coffee or juice and a light snack are enjoyed. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board downstairs.

The **Men's Breakfast Fellowship** meets Fridays at 7:30 a.m. at Doubleday Café on Main Street.



2017 CHURCH FUNDRAISERS

APRIL 27 , 2018 UMC PORK DINNER

MAY, 26, 2018 HOF CLASSIC, CHURCH PARKING , (RENA LULL AND DAWN DIETZ

JULY 29, HOF CHURCH BAR-B-QUE, CHAIR: WINNIE DENNY SMITH

JULY 30, CHURCH AND CHURCH PARKING : RENA LULL AND DAWNE DIETZ.

NOVEMBER, 2018 HARVEST DINNER
?????????



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!

JOIN OUR C.C.C.

(CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD)

Send a Christmas card to all your church friends the easy way! Instead of buying cards, addressing them and paying postage, donate that amount of money to Ministry Shares, your church's mission arm. The Outreach Committee will send our "card" with the names of those who contributed to all members and friends of the Congregation to wish them a joyous Christmas. Help us to help others as we witness the true spirit of the season.

Please fill out this form and return it to 66 Chestnut Street, ATTN: Brenda or place it in the weekly offering plate by Sunday, December 10th. Make your check payable to the Cooperstown United Methodist Church and designate "Church Christmas Card". We will have a special mailing for our Church Christmas Card.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD

Please include my/our name(s) as printed below:

Enclosed is a contribution of \$ _____ for Ministry Shares.

Please return by Sunday December 10th to:

Cooperstown United Methodist Church
66 Chestnut Street
Cooperstown, NY 13326

Commitment Sunday



"Bring the best of the first fruits of your soil to the house of the LORD your God. - Exodus 23-19

Our celebration of Commitment Sunday, November 8th, reminded us once again, of how truly blessed we are as a community of faith - blessed by God's faithful presence and generosity, blessed by the life that we live together as God's people and blessed by the possibilities and promises of the days to come. Commitment Cards received so far, total over \$72,000 - a wonderful beginning for our campaign.

Our financial commitments witness to our blessings and help us to plan ministries for the coming year. If you have not yet submitted your commitment card, please consider doing so today. Every gift makes a difference. You may complete your giving form (below) and mail it to the church office or place it in the Sunday offering plate.

Please be in prayer with all of us for the outcome of this important giving program and the promises it will offer for the coming year.

United Methodist Church of Cooperstown

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP GENERAL FUND COMMITMENT CARD

Giving Year: January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

"Freely you have received; freely give." - Gospel of Matthew 10:8b

MY/OUR COMMITMENT IS

\$ _____ per week times 52 weeks equals \$ _____ \$ _____ per month times 12 months equals \$ _____

A single sum of \$ _____ Other _____
(Such as shares of stock)

Envelopes: *I/We will use ones we have.* *Provide me/us with new ones.* *I/We do not use them.*

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone (_____) _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____ Email _____

If you need to change your commitment, at any time, simply inform the Financial Secretary, Laurie Glockler,

Pastor's Page

Rev. Thomas LeBeau
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I heard a wonderful prayer recently at a Conference ministry training event. I found it to be so simple, yet so profound. The prayer was, “God, thank you for stepping out of eternity and into our reality.” That’s it! That’s the whole prayer. I thought, “Wow! That sums up the whole Christmas season: Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, doesn’t it?” Here’s what I mean. Advent prepares us for celebrating God’s stepping out of eternity into our existence, our circumstances, indeed, even into our human our flesh. Christmas is the specific joyful observance of that “most stupendous event in human history” (Malcolm Muggeridge). Epiphany (loosely meaning enlightenment) continues that celebration, rejoicing in the meaning of the Incarnation, the “enfleshment” of God, a God that is too often thought to be inaccessible and unapproachable. However, contrary to the thinking of agnosticism, we Christians believe that God didn’t just act like a grand clock maker creating the universe, winding it up and dispassionately letting it go. God invested Himself in creation. Bible scholar William Barclay said, “The fact of Jesus’ coming (into the world) is the final and unanswerable proof that God cares.” God cares! To use a modern, if perhaps crude phrase: God “has skin in the game.” In fact, “God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son...” (John 3:16). There is certainly a lot of darkness this time of year, for daylight is limited and nights are long. There also seems to be a lot of darkness culturally and politically at this time in our land and in the world. However, John 1:5 says so: “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never overcome it.” There is hope because God truly does care. God cared enough to step out of eternity and into our reality. God cares about you, about me, about each and every person on earth. And because God cares, you and I are inspired, given hope to care, too. We are inspired to care in innumerable everyday circumstances where small acts of kindness and generosity may make a difference far beyond the results we may see. For as we care, others are inspired to care. To use the “pebble tossed in the pond” analogy, the ripples of our kindness spread out far beyond their original effect. That is putting into practice the Scripture that says, “We love because God first loved us,” (John 4:19). That is incarnating in our lives the prayer, “God, thank you for stepping out of eternity and into our reality.” May you each have a peaceful and hope-filled Advent because God cares!

-Pastor Tom