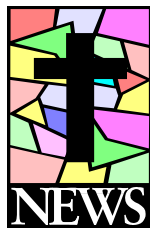


The Bell Ringer

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

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RALLY DAY

Sunday September 10 (the Sunday after Labor Day) we will return to our regular schedule of Worship at 10:30am. Please encourage your children and grandchildren to be with us on that Sunday so they can be included in our Back-to-School Blessing during worship. We will give thanks for them and for all the adults who help them to learn and grow (teachers, administrators, coaches, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodial staff).



9/11 SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

We will mark the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks with an Ecumenical Service Monday, September 11th at 6:30 PM. Readings, prayers and remembrances will help us reflect on the losses and honor the sacrifices of that difficult day. All are invited to attend.

Volunteers are needed on Friday, September 8th at 5:30 PM to place American Flags around the church yard. Dismantling will take place on Sunday, September 17th after church.



ECUMENICAL WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

The United Methodist Women will host the Annual Ecumenical Women's Covered Dish Luncheon at CUMC on Monday, September 18th at 11:30 AM. Women from area churches and communities are invited to attend the fellowship meal and program. Everything will be provided. Video on Heifer Project will be shown



END OF SUMMER PIZZA PARTY!

On Sunday, September 10th we are planning a Pizza Party during our usual coffee hour to celebrate the end of Summer and the beginning of another school year. A variety of pizzas and beverages will be available (with a donation basket to collect a free will offering to help cover the costs). Plan to be with us and join the party!



FLOWERS on the altar for September are given by Mary Beekman in memory of all those who died on September 11 and in honor of her son, Mark, a New York City Firefighter.

RUMMAGE SALE— Friday, October 7th, 9AM-4PM. Bag Sale: Saturday, October 8th, 9-11AM



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Winnie Smith	02 nd
Gail McShane	02 nd
Peter Kiuber, III	02 nd
Rachael Kuch	05 th
Katie Hull	06 th
Brandon Shelley	07 th
Alisa Davine	15 th
Bill Glockler	18 th
Robert Alton	20 th
Lois Warrell	24 th
Laurie Ruthe Glockler	30 th

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Michael & Susan Malota	05 th
Jose & Heidi Niell	12 th
Donald & Anita Clark	27 th
Brett & Sue Sisson	30 th



SUNDAY SCHOOL, for the children ages 3 years to 12 years will begin September 10. For the month of September, Rena Lull will be the “teacher” and Judy Green will be the “helper.” Two adults (teacher and helper) are needed each month to teach and help with the Sunday School Program. The success of the Sunday School Program depends on the help from the congregation. The Sunday School Schedule will go from September, 2017 to the end of May, 2018. It will be up to the teacher (female or male) and the helper (female or male) of the month they signed up to decide if there will be Sunday School during a school vacation. The sign-up sheet will be downstairs during the week and in back of the church on Sunday mornings.



A GREAT PICNIC!

Thanks to everyone for your help in setting up, bringing food and cleaning up. Mary Beekman



HARVEST DINNER

The annual Church Harvest Dinner scheduled for November 11, 2017 needs a chair and or co-chairs. If no one signs up to chair the Harvest Dinner, then, the dinner will be cancelled for 2017. Please let Rena Lull know within the next several weeks if any member of the congregation is interested in chairing the dinner.



SATURDAY’S BREAD

Our final obligation for 2017 volunteering at SATURDAY’S BREAD is October 28, 2017. Please put the date on your calendar.



2017 CHURCH FUNDRAISERS

October 6 & 7 UMW Fall Rummage Sale
 November 11, 2017 Harvest Dinner
 December 2, 2017 UMW Christmas Tea



DEVOTIONAL READING

“Upper Room” (also large print edition), “Alive Now,” and “devozine” (for teens by teens) are in the literature racks in the church entrances. Please help yourself to this devotional reading – take a copy to a homebound church member.

For information to receive a free subscription in the mail to “Our Daily Bread,” contact Merrilyn O’Connell 547-9515.



UMW NEWS

On Monday, August 14th, the UMW met at Jackie's Restaurant at 11:30 AM. Following two prayers from the Response Magazine about today's events and prayers for the future, a very productive meeting was conducted by President Sandy Chase. All enjoyed the meal afterwards. Business conducted was the announcement of Bakeless Pie Sale total of \$587+ and we thank all who donated so generously for our mission to women and children.

***A change: September's Ecumenical meeting will be held September 18th with an 11:30 soup and sandwich, dessert and beverage luncheon prepared by our Methodist women's unit. Carol Highfield will invite all area church women by invitation/poster. Friends and neighbors all welcome. A video about the Heifer Project will be shown. We are handicapped accessible.

RUMMAGE SALE—Jan Kerr, Chairperson. We will need many hands as we expect many items coming in due to not having a sale in the Spring. The beginning drop off date is September 25th and nothing will be accepted after Wednesday, October 4th. Workers will be needed to set up after church Sunday, October 1st. We could use some man power to set up. Workers will begin sorting and pricing. An hour or two here and there would be appreciated. Sale is October 6th and 7th.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16TH, UMW Meeting in the Fellowship Room from 10 AM-3 PM, bring a bag lunch. We will be making nifty/gifty Christmas gifts for the Tea. Anyone can attend to help put together items such as baskets for a night of movie watching, baby baskets, wedding baskets, shower baskets, etc. To make this a success any donations for these baskets may be left in the back of the Sanctuary in the appropriate labeled box. We are also looking for people who are good with wood projects. If enough participation, other items will be shared and more workshops will continue. The Christmas Tea and Bazaar on December 2nd will take on a new look as we enjoy the Tea and Cookies and Christmas Shop all on one level, downstairs.



FOOD PANTRY

The need for donations of non-perishable food items continues throughout the year. The number of people served has greatly increased. Food items (double bagged) may be left in the collection box in the back of the sanctuary or dropped off at the Food Bank located in the Presbyterian Parish House (back entrance, downstairs) on Church Street, M-F 10 AM-4 PM and last two Saturdays of the month 10AM-Noon.

Cash donations are also appreciated and offering envelopes are available on the collection box. Checks may be made payable to Cooperstown Food Bank, mailed to 25 Church Street, Cooperstown, NY 13326, or placed in the offering plate and they will be delivered. To volunteer, call Ellen St. John at 547-9653.



USHERS AND GREETERS

Joan Ackerman is our coordinator of greeters and ushers. If you would like to volunteer for either/both, please call her at 965-8778. If no one has signed up on a Sunday and you are in church and could fill in, it would be much appreciated.

LITURGISTS

Judy Green is our coordinator of liturgists. Youth and adults are invited to serve during worship. Please call her at 293-7527.

Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

I REMEMBER 9/11

The Bravest

The first plane hit the tower, right after I
came in,
It left a gaping, fiery hole where offices had
been.
We'd stood and watched in horror, as we
saw the first ones fall,
Then someone yelled "Get out, get out!
They're trying to kill us all!"
I grabbed the pictures from the desk and
joined the flight for life.
With every step I called the names of my
children and my wife.
And then we heard them coming, from
several floors below,
A crowd of fire fighters with their heavy gear
in tow.
Now every time I try to sleep, I'm haunted
by the sound,
Of firemen pounding up the stairs,
while we were running down.
When we met them on the stairs, they said
we were too slow.
"Get out, get out" they yelled at us,
"the whole thing's gonna go!"
They did not have to tell us twice, we'd seen
the world on fire.
We kept running down the stairs,
while they kept climbing higher.
So now I go to funerals for men I never
knew;
The pipers play "Amazing Grace," as the
coffins come in view.
They must have seen it coming when they
turned to face the fire.
They sent us down to safety, then they kept
on climbing higher.

Pastor's Page

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I just read a very interesting article from an unexpected source, "A Social, Not Solitary Religion—John Wesley, 1743." (Online article published June 30, 2012, by the First Baptist Church of Perryville, Md.) It explained how Wesley often preached to rag-tag, open air congregations who were enraptured by his message of regeneration and new life in Jesus Christ. Outdoors was Wesley's frequent venue because fellow ministers often refused to allow him to preach from their pulpits. Despite having thousands of eager listeners, hecklers and other troublemakers hounded him wherever he went, running through the crowds screaming, banging pots and pans together, even throwing rotten eggs and fruit to silence his preaching. One intoxicated fellow even tried to run down Wesley's listeners with a horse. After the fellow was subdued, Wesley asked who the man was. He was shocked to learn it was a clergyman from a neighboring parish! The article explained why Wesley received such a negative reaction:

Wesley's message evoked such vehement response because he called on Christians to do more than merely recite their creeds once a week. He expected the gospel of Jesus Christ to change their hearts, and, from there, to reform their lives and ultimately, their society. 'Christianity is essentially a social religion,' he said, and 'to turn it into a solitary religion is indeed to destroy it.'

The article explained that Wesley publicly addressed nearly every social and cultural issue of his day. He addressed Britain's thriving slave trade and advanced the abolition movement in Britain. He urged a peaceful solution to the conflict with the American colonies, advocated Christian business ethics, railed against the social and cultural degradation of his day, championed the poor, and castigated Britain's aristocracy for wasting and hoarding their goods. He condemned the lucrative liquor traffic which reduced Britain's impoverished labor force to a drunken stupor. He also rebuked abuses in the legal system perpetrated by greedy lawyers and judges. The article observed,

Secular or religious, sacred or profane, no department of human affairs was exempt from the word and command of God... To be sure, Wesley suffered scorn for his down-to-earth practical Christianity, but the Lord used his faithful, persevering labors to build a world-wide Christian movement.

Wesley held that being a Christian involved "lively piety and charity." "Piety" for Wesley meant more than solitary religious practices. It meant having a vital personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ that included prayer, Bible study, worship and sacraments. In Wesley's words "charity" meant more than giving to the poor, it meant, "Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can." It meant having concern for social justice.

The United Methodist Church has a long history of concern for social justice. In next month's article I will focus on our denomination's Social Principles and Social Creed, two documents that voice our commitment to Wesley's "lively piety and charity." For now, may you have a blessed Labor Day, end of summer, and beginning of fall.

Pastor Tom