

The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Saugerties United Methodist Church

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February 2018

A Valentine's Blessing

Love is patient, love is kind.
it does not envy, it does not boast,
it is not proud, it is not rude,
it is not self seeking, it is not easily
angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
Love does not delight in evil but rejoices
with the truth. It always protects, always
trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13



From the Pastor's Desk

The State of the Church Address - 2018

When God created men and women, He did so with our heads sitting on top of our bodies. He gave us eyes to see and ears to hear and a mouth to speak. God did not intend for His creation to walk blindly through the world without reacting to our environment. In fact, He gave us dominion over our environment so that we could continue the process of creation taking what God has made 'good' and transforming it into a place where all people can live in peace and harmony. Unfortunately that did not happen.

It is very interesting to note that from the time of Adam and Eve, until King Solomon, there was no permanent home for God. During the reign of Solomon, God instructed him to build a temple in Jerusalem. For centuries, people built makeshift altars to make sacrifices to God, now they could go to the temple to worship God. But we all know what happened – the temple was defiled by corrupt priests and religious leaders and Jesus had to drive those people out of the temple.

In the Gospel of Matthew 16:18, Jesus tells Peter that He will build His church and that 'the gates of hell will not prevail against it.' But the church that Jesus is building is very different from the Temple. His church will not be a place for sacrifice, but of celebration, for with His sacrifice we have been forgiven, and He has opened the door to eternal life for us! But is the church today celebrating the Good News or merely going through the motions? What is the state of the church in 2018?

Our country has always been intertwined with religion and specifically Christianity. Many of the Mayflower voyagers were preachers. When the ship landed on Plymouth Rock, the passengers disembarked and held a service of worship, thanking God for bringing them to this new land. The growth of our country and the growth of the church went hand-in-hand. In 1900, our country was 86% Christian Protestant, churches were found everywhere. So what happened?

During and immediately after World War II, seminaries were filled to the brim with students eager to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ. The horrors of that war and the grim prospects of nuclear annihilation in the newly minted 'cold war' kept people going to church. Indeed, church attendance grew during that period and so did the number of churches in our country. But on the 22nd of November, 1963, our President was assassinated and our innocence was forever lost.

The free-for-all of the 1960's and 1970's were times of hedonistic pleasure seeking and wild abandon. This gave way to the Wall Street excesses of the 1980's and 1990's as chronicled in the book "Barbarians at the Gate." And as people turned towards individual goal seeking and personal fulfillment, church attendance began a long and deliberate decline.

Saugerties is microcosm of our nation. Many of our churches that had thrived decades before remain open only due to the dedication of a few people. Pews that were once filled with families now are

just a sad reminder of what once was. This scene is played out time and again throughout the land. And our children are suffering for it. What can we do?

We have to remember that the Good News is just as good today as it was two thousand years ago. We have to understand that Jesus still walks upon the earth – and He is walking right next to each of us! We have to believe in the Good News, and we have to embody it in the way we think, speak and act. We have to set an example as to how we have been transformed by Christ so that others will seek Him out too. We have to live a life of hope – because that is what seems to be lacking the most in the world today.

While I cannot be certain, I have always thought that when President Kennedy was killed, the hope he had come to personify died with him. Our country went into a decline that continues to this day; a decline that can be explained as people feeling hopeless in a world where war and corruption rage and where they feel they must look out only for themselves. Jesus desires us to be selfless, and to overcome the selfishness that is so pervasive requires us to be hopeful, and to let that hope radiant from within us.

So that is the state of the church today, a mirror image of our society and its persistent hopelessness. But there is always hope in the church - it can be found in the faithful, but it can no longer be hidden. We have to let our faith and our hope spring forth and let the world see that Jesus is alive and well and in His churches. Why not invite them in so they can see for themselves?

God bless you all,

Pastor Tony

A Quick Reminder – we will have our monthly Community Breakfast this Saturday the 3rd from 9:00 – 10:30 AM. See you at the buffet line!



For the March 3 meeting of the Book Club, our selection has changed. Because the first book we chose to read and discuss is currently out of print, we will be discussing the book 'Sing You Home' by Jodi Picoult. We will meet in the Church Lounge at 10:30 a.m. on March 3, and all are welcome to join us!

Women's Study

THE WOMAN'S STUDY GROUP will meet on February 8 & 22 in the lounge from 6:30-7:30 PM and is open to all women of the church and their friends. Please enter using the "choir door" on the Post St. side of the church. We are studying the book "The Shack".

United Methodist Women

We have candy for sale that was made by members of the UMW. We will be selling this after church on February 4 and 11. This is an opportunity to buy Valentine candy for someone special.

At our next meeting, February 20, we will have a special speaker. Barbara Sanborn, who is the District President of UMW. Barbara traveled to Zimbabwe for a special mission trip last summer. Barbara will describe her trip and what it meant to the young women she met. The entire church is invited to this special event. Karen Reynolds will be leading this meeting, so if you have any questions, please contact her. A reminder – the potluck supper starts at 5:30 and the program starts at 6:30.

ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER FUNDRAISER!!

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 5:30-7:30 PM



Our Youth Group will be once again hosting a Pancake Supper to raise funds for their Summer Mission Trip. Come for a selection of pancakes—buttermilk, blueberry and chocolate chip, sausage and fruit and support the youth of our church and have a yummy supper!

IT'S TIME TO PLAN OUR ANNUAL CHILDREN'S EASTER PARTY!!



Come for a planning meeting on Sunday, February 25 after worship in the Lounge. Bring your ideas and plans with you! This year the Easter Party (Unbunny) will be held March 17.

CRAFTING GROUP HAS RESUMED!



The Crafting Group has begun to meet on the second and fourth Wednesday afternoon of each month, from 1-3 PM in the Youth Room. The group is open to anyone who enjoys crafting! Please join us on February 14 & 28 to work on some fun projects! Questions? Contact Diane McDowell or Debbie Mecca.



Youth Group News!

FEBRUARY 4: LUNCH MEETING! Stay after worship, or be dropped off at 12:30 as we have a pizza lunch and talk about Valentine's Day and Love. (If you don't eat pizza, come anyway and bring your own lunch!) We'll end at 2:00.

FEBRUARY 11: MISSION TRIP MEETING! Everyone who wants to go on this summer's trip to Lynchburg, VA, must attend. We will try to decide on a theme for the week, T-shirts, fundraisers and more! From 6:30-8 PM.

FEBRUARY 13: PANCAKE SUPPER FUNDRAISER!! Everyone should report to the church kitchen by 4:00 PM to make batter, set tables and cook our yummy pancakes. Plan to stay until we are cleaned up--around 8:00 PM. The supper runs from 5:30-7:30. Please invite everyone you know to attend and support our Mission Trip. Free will donations will be accepted.

FEBRUARY 18: BIBLE OLYMPICS! Since we'll all be in the Olympic spirit, we'll play some games with a biblical theme. And since there is no school tomorrow, we'll stay a bit later too. Come from 6:30-9PM for some fun!

FEBRUARY 25: PAINTING OUR YOUTH ROOM WALLS! This will be your one opportunity this year to personalize a block on our wall. Come in clothes that can get stained with paint! From 6:30-8 PM.

BFF KIDS MEETS ON FEBRUARY 9 & 23!

BFF Kids is a youth group for kids in grades 4, 5 & 6! This month we are continuing to write the scripts for our May performance. If you know a child in grades 4-6 who likes to perform, make props, etc. this is the time for them to join BFF Kids!



A NOTE ABOUT THE WEATHER AND YOUTH GROUP: If the weather is snowy or icy, please check your email or Instagram to see whether or not our meeting will be held. (Debbie will post at least 2 hours prior to meeting start.) Please be sure Debbie has your current email address or add her to your Instagram account. Or if a group text is better she can do that as long as you give her your number!



Adopt-A-Bill

We have many bills that we have not been able to pay with the money that normally comes in on Sunday mornings. We are most concerned about the Central Hudson bill as we are in the middle of the heating season and this has been a very cold winter. As of January 14, we owed Central Hudson \$3184 and have received another bill since then. We are starting an adopt-a-bill campaign for the next few months. How will this work? There are envelopes posted on a board in the Narthex for varying amounts. We have broken down the Central Hudson bill into smaller units, so it is more reasonable that members can help. If you are able to help, please take an appropriate envelope and put your check in it and turn it into the office or put it in the collection plate. Your check should be made out to the church with a notation on the check. We will credit the amount to you on your annual statement.

Thank you for your help. --- The Finance Committee

The Rummage Sale is Coming!

Friday, March 9, from 9 – 4

Saturday, March 10, from 10 – 1

Items – clothing, toys, household goods, books, etc. - may be left in the basement for the sale. We cannot accept large furniture items, such as couches and beds. We will set up for the rummage sale on Sunday, March 4. Following the service on March 4, we will have a potluck lunch, and then begin to set up for the sale. Much help will be needed that week. For more information, see Al McDowell or Joan Robinson.



And continuing with items to be sold....

The Saugerties Antiques Center, on Main Street, has graciously offered showcase space to our church at no cost. We can display and sell articles, such as good costume jewelry, antiques, new clothing, interesting books and other items at prices higher than might be received at a Rummage Sale.

Do you have something in your closet or basement that you would like to donate? I know I have 50 year old wedding gifts I have never used, and probably will not start using now. Bring your items to the church office. Audrey Klinkenberg

Anniversaries & Birthdays

Anniversaries

6th Mary & George Pardonner

Birthdays

6th Vance Dyke

20th Dan Klinkenberg

11th Melanie Puertas

22nd Tyler Mentz

16th Al McDowell / Pastor Tony

24th Jamison Crowley

19th Carrie Tintle

There is more below.....

The Annual Choir Chili sale is coming!!



Pick up your chili at the church between 11 AM and 1 PM on Saturday, February 24th, or Sunday after church.

A limited quantity of cornbread will also be available for \$2.

If you are interested in buying a quart (or more) of our chili, please fill out the bottom of this page and either give it to a choir member or put it in the offering plate.

Name _____

Phone number _____

Pick-up day: Saturday ____, Sunday ____

Number of quarts of chili @ \$8 per quart
_____ Total =

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