

GraceNotes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OTISVILLE-MT. HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WINTER 2016 – VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

Touching Others

- Jeff Farley

If you were to invite someone new to come to worship, who would it be and why them? And if you did invite them, and they came, what kind of experience would you want them to have?

All this matters because living in a culture that is increasingly unchurched, we always need to be thinking about why folks who don't come would come and in that, see if we have something special to offer to new folks.

We know, most of us, why we come. But very few of us know why those who don't, don't. And there is a huge problem. If we don't know why they don't come, then we can't do anything to change the barriers in their way!

A few months back, I suggested a bible study to a group of 20 year olds. That didn't sound all that interesting, until I told them it would be called "Bible & Brew" with a weekly tasting of a different micro breweries best offering. Then all of the sudden getting to bible study sounded a lot more interesting!

I haven't managed to put that on the schedule, because as often happens in church life, the regularly scheduled stuff gets in the way of new stuff—ultimately a really bad strategy. What's new, and what might reach new people, ought to be the top priority, but with one pastor (teaching elder), it is hard not to do what needs to be done to maintain the existing church.

But if we are to have a future church, we have to start focusing on doing new stuff, starting new groups, and as they say, "thinking outside the box" that is, trying stuff we've never tried before just to see if in fact, there are new possibilities.

Of course, I am also thinking of getting a tattoo for my birthday, so maybe some coloring outside the lines is already under way. In any case, what is new that the Spirit is calling us to do, try, experience? And who could we invite to come with us and follow Jesus?

Mark Your Calendars

- 1/3—Communion
- 1/10—Renewal of Baptism
- 1/17—Ordination & Installation
- 1/24—Paint & Donate
- 1/29—Food, Friends & Fellowship Dinner
- 2/7—Communion
- 2/10—Ash Wednesday
- 2/21—Pancake Breakfast
- 2/26—Food, Friends & Fellowship Dinner, Youth Lock-in
- 2/28—Black Heritage Sunday, Paint & Donate
- 3/5—Roast Beef Dinner
- 3/6—Communion, Youth Group Family Game Night
- 3/13—Spring Ahead (time change), Youth Group Laser Tag
- 3/19—Coffee House
- 3/20—Palm Sunday
- 3/24—Maundy Thursday
- 3/25—Good Friday
- 3/27—Easter Sunday

Christmas Thank You

- Marilyn Komstedt

Once again as a Church Family, we have shared a most Blessed and Wondrous Christmas Season. As always there are so many people to thank. Each one of you play an important part in sharing the glorious Christmas Spirit. Thanks to Jeff for all of the wonderful Advent and Christmas Services, his spirit filled teaching and guidance. To Sue and Mike and all those that share in our great musical program. The choir's Christmas Concert, Children's choirs, musicians, soloists, our Sunday School Christmas Pageant and the Live Nativity all filled us with the Love, Joy and Peace that is Christmas. Thanks to all who worked together to decorate, build the stable for the manger, help with costumes for the pageant and refreshments that were served. To the Ketchams and Piersons for bringing animals for our Live Nativity, the beautiful poinsettias that were donated to beautify our sanctuary, and to all that came to be part of these wonderful celebrations and share the message of God's Love. Each of you are truly one of God's Special Blessings!



*Sing to the LORD
a new song...
Psalm 98:1*

Ordination and Installation

In a Presbyterian Church, ordination is the process by which individuals are consecrated, that is, set apart to perform particular tasks in the local church and for the PC (USA) the liturgy used at an ordination is sometimes referred to as an ordination. Ordination in the PC(USA) is for life, but installation is for specific periods of time, normally three years.

On Sunday, January 17 we ordained (and by ordination for the first time installed as well): **Elder:** Phil Yohe, **Deacons:** Lisa Grainger, Maureen Dineen, Cori Grainger, and installed **Elders:** Neil Lisberg, Roger Norton; and **Deacons:** Ashlee Wilbur, Barabara Maurizzio.

Security

For the safety of all, we have security cameras in our church buildings. They record all persons entering and leaving the church. The records will be reviewed if there is a problem with security or safety.

Flowers in Worship

We are no longer using the Flower Calendar on the wall in the sanctuary. Instead you will find new envelopes on the back table. Please fill them out completely, insert payment, and return to the offering plates or to the church office. Open calendar dates will be listed in the church bulletin or you can call Alice at 386-3851.

Life in the Church

Yoga Saturdays

We will be starting a beginner's yoga class on Saturdays from 10:30 to 11:30 AM in the fellowship hall. Classes will begin January 23rd until March 12th. Classes will be \$5.00.

You will need to bring a mat and water. For more information, please see Allison Wilbur. If you are interested in coming and need child-care, please let us know.

Paint & Donate

Have you ever wanted to try out your artistic talents? Well, here is your chance. And there will be a little guidance, too. On Sunday, January 24 at 1:00pm in the fellowship hall Mitch Saler lead a painting class. All materials were provided plus some light snacks. For \$30.00 we learned how to paint a snowman on a wintry background and we got to keep our masterpiece. The profits from this event will go to help defray the cost of our hanging system in the fellowship hall. We will be holding another Paint & Donate on February 28th—subject will be Owls..

There will be a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall or email Allison at emlee@hvc.rr.com.

Food, Friends & Fellowship (FFF)

We started the New Year with a gathering at the church on Friday, January 29th at 6:30pm. We will start

the evening with some sparkling cider and hors d'oeuvres. Then have salad, choice of entree (stuffed pork loin, chicken cordon bleu, baked butter crumb cod or Penne a la Vodka) and dessert.

Also on the "menu" was a fun gift exchange. Folks brought in a Christmas gift they received that they thought wanted to share with someone else. Everyone had fun in picking, exchanging and stealing (allowed in the game) each other's gifts. If you loved everything you got and can't part with anything, pick-up a small delightful present for one of your friends.

Mark your calendars for February's FFF on **February 26th** (restaurant TBA).

Coffee House

March Coffee House—
Saturday, 3/19 at 7:30 PM

April Coffee House, featuring a Christian band and International desserts will be held on Saturday, 4/ 16 at 7:30 PM.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is February 10th this year, which is the beginning of the 40 days of penance and reflection until Easter (minus the Sundays).

There will be a service at 7:00 PM.

Often in our culture, people will ask you, "What are you giving up for Lent?" What will your response be?

Blanket Sunday

... will be on Sunday, February 14th.

New Members Class

The next New Members class is planned for Sunday, February 21st at 1:00pm. If you have not joined the church and would like to, this may be a good opportunity. Please call the church office at 386-3851 or email Jeff at Otisvillepres@hvc.rr.com and let us know you are planning to come.

Roast Beef Dinner

The ever-popular Women's Auxiliary Annual Roast Beef Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 5th at 5:30 PM. The menu includes rolls, salad, roast beef, gravy, mashed potatoes, a vegetable and for dessert, homemade apple cake. Take-out dinners will be available starting at 5:45 PM.

For tickets contact, Gerda Krogslund, Anita Goldsmith or any Auxiliary member. The tickets go extremely fast, so don't hesitate to ask for yours!

If you would like to help at the dinner, see Candy Burnett. We are always happy to have extra help!

Mark your calendar for the next dinner: Ham Dinner on May 7th!

Anniversary and Birthday Celebrations

JANUARY

Anniversaries

Jaclyn & Nicolas Chase

Birthdays

Henry McGinnis
 Kari McGinnis
 Rebecca McGinnis
 Laurelei Terwilliger
 William Lynch
 Sara Howarth
 Frank Ketcham
 Mukoko Kinzonzi
 Briana Moore
 Brenda O'Connell
 Kristina Santacruz
 Ryan Steixner
 Todd Schwartz
 Sean Addy
 Micah Hayes
 Jason Ketcham
 Emma Voorhees
 Peyton Smith
 MacKay Lynch
 Connor Lynch
 LaVella Simpson
 Mark Frank
 Nicholas Vermeulen
 Janell McCombs
 Caroline Pierson
 Alice Halstead
 Marie Defazio-Schultz
 Brianna Knecht
 Kimberly Dolson
 Karen Ketcham
 Lucas Vance
 Nathaneal DeYoung Jr.
 Jason Swaine
 Jennifer Swaine
 Leah Lisberg
 Logan Lisberg
 Jeff Farley
 Jemnyha McCline
 Mya McCline
 Katie Dullaghan
 Mack Morley
 Samuel Tucker
 Harry Willis

FEBRUARY

Anniversaries

Charles & Gerda Krogslund
 Orrin & Jackie Pierson
 Mike & Allison Wilbur Sr.

Birthdays

Grace Andrews
 Katelyn Hums
 Katie Ketcham
 Rita Pierson
 Tammy Decker Kirby
 Tootie Canonico
 Luna Star Card
 Tyler Gibbs
 Gavin Hoolan
 Leah Hoolan
 Andrew Green
 John Dineen
 Dolores Duffy
 Charles Krogslund
 Michaela Rufino
 Robert Komstedt
 Emily Chase
 Kaitlyn Eisentraut
 Stacey Baisley
 Amy Parliman

MARCH

Anniversaries

Wendy & Mike Fisher
 Suzanne & Justin Wicke-Coamey
 Joseph & Linda Salvati

Birthdays

Samantha Chsae
 John Goldsmith
 Liam MacClugage
 Jacob Miedema
 Duane Dolson, Jr.
 Nicole Komoncz
 Eric Halstead
 Joe Persampieri
 Edgar Hayes
 Donald Lewis
 Brittany Petak
 Kristy Ketcham
 Grace Marsh
 Jacob Yourman
 Shawn Franck
 Andre Perry
 Patricia Pierce
 Ashlee Wilbur
 Grace Carmody
 John-Lukas Terwilliger
 Wesley Hunter
 Lindsey Hart
 Melissa Jones
 Robert Schultz
 Riley Grainger
 William Goldsmith
 Crystal Grebeldinger-Cardone
 Lauren Marsh
 Bettsye Hunter
 Luke Robinholt
 Emma Edwards
 Michael Loundsbury
 Charles Howarth
 Alana Mae Klussman



We're getting a head start on our Spring Cleaning!

Newsletters...emails...special mailings...announcements...and so much more!! With all the information we need to share with everyone, we need to make sure we know how to reach you. So we need your help!! We want to update our records and ensure we have your current contact information on file. Please complete the following data sheet and **return to the office or leave in the offering plate**. Thank you for updating your personal information!

Personal Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Email: _____

Birthday: ____ / ____ / ____ Anniversary: ____ / ____ / ____ Baptized: Yes / No

Spouse: _____ Spouse's birthday _____

Child(ren) & birthdates _____

Can we publish your birthday? Yes No ***Can we publish your anniversary?*** Yes No

Emergency Contact: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Work Phone: _____

Church Office or Role: (circle **A** if current/active role or **I** if prior/inactive role; list choir name)

Elder A / I Deacon..... A / I ERT:A / I

Stephen Ministry: A / I Sunday School: A / I Director:A / I

Choir(s): _____

Other: (please list) _____

Other Interests, Groups:

New Moms: Women's Auxiliary:

Recreation: Weekly Bible Study:

Other: (please list below)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sign me up to receive: (check all the apply)

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More Space?

Did you know that when attendance reaches 90 on any Sunday morning, at any service, attendance goes down! That's because at 90, the sanctuary is beyond 80% full and people's reaction is "there is no room for me." They may come for a while, but eventually they look for a more comfortable setting, maybe at home!

It's exciting for us as regular churchgoers to see the church full; but then we have a seat! Visitors and newer folk see a full sanctuary and find themselves having to tough it out and sit with people they don't know, when they would much rather sit with people they do know and like.

And since it is hard enough in our culture to get people to come to worship in the first place, we really need to work hard to make whatever experience they have here one they will want to repeat. So what on Sunday morning are the most inviting pieces for people who are visiting for the first few times and can we make them even more inviting? That's the key. Share your thoughts with Jeff.

