

# The Nimmonsburg Witness

Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church

918 Upper Front Street, Binghamton, New York 13905

Rev. Harold Wheat

(607) 724-5421

Nimmonburgumc.weebly.com

**Sunday Worship at 9:30 am followed by Fellowship Time at 10:30 am**

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 3

## The Winters of Our Lives: A Devotional

*My title sounds a little like a soap opera! Not that any of us really watch those things (wink, wink). At any rate, the long winter months can seem like a bit of a drama without a happy ending.*

*There are people who love the cold. Winter cannot come soon enough for them. These are the people walking around in shorts in thirty-degree weather. I get cold just thinking about it.*

*You can probably tell that winter is not my favorite season. Yet, I have come to appreciate it. The winter months can teach us much. There is something to be embraced during this season of fallowness. It is a time of rest.*

*The ground and trees have produced their harvest. Now, they sleep, having earned a much-needed Sabbath. They seem barren. But it is not so. To be barren is to not be able to produce at all. Yet we know in spring a bounty will come again. So, no, they are not barren. Rather, they are slumbering.*

*Their posture of rest and waiting teaches us the importance of doing the same. Sometimes life is as harsh as the winter winds, and in response all we can do is wait for spring to come again. Our waiting is an act of faith. We trust God to change the season in due time. But we should not rush the coming of spring because God still speaks in the winter. The winter season can be a time of growing closer to God as we simply rest in God's embrace listening to the heartbeat of the Trinity.*

***“Dear God, help us to be attentive in this season of slumber to the sound of your heart. Amen.”***

*Pastor Alicia Dixon-Garrard*



### **Lent—2023**

**Ash Wednesday—February 22nd**

**Palm Sunday—April 2nd**

**Good Friday—April 7th**

**Easter Sunday—April 9th**





## “A MIRACLE ON WATER STREET”

I have a joy! I was a *lady in distress* on a Saturday, December 3rd, and two “*angels*” from our church rescued me—Dan and Gene Abbey.

I took a taxi cab to Boscov’s to do some Christmas shopping. When I was ready to come home, I called the cab for over one hour and I couldn’t get through. So I walked through the Men’s Department to get to the street and hail one on Water Street. I saw Dan (*he works in the Men’s Department*) and I told him my story. I said “*I am stranded.*” He got on the phone and called Gene Abbey to come and pick me up. Dan said, “*she goes to our church and wears small hats*”. Gene did it so willingly, and took care of all of my shopping bags and shopping cart with a smile.

This was my “MIRACLE ON WATER STREET”. Thank you to my two angels, **Dan and Gene**.

- Helen LaBarr -

## Woman of Achievement



Church Women United has chosen **Cheryl Weeks** as their “**Woman of Achievement**” honoree for 2023! Cheryl will be honored along with honorees from other women’s organizations in the Southern Tier.

The event will take place at Traditions at the Glen on **March 25th at noon**. Reservation deadline is February 26th. If you are interested in attending, please see Phyllis Bartlett for details. Everyone is welcome!



**Life is what happens when your cell phone is charging!**

## Adopt-A-Family Thank You!

Thank you to everyone for your overwhelming generosity in support of our adopted family this year. We were able to provide winter boots, pajamas and several toys for each of the five children, along with a gift card for their holiday meal and groceries for the week. This would not be possible without everyone’s help. Thanks again!

*Debbie Hagerman*





## CHURCH WOMEN UNITED invites you to a WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

**Friday, March 3rd at 10:00 am**

Fellowship Hall at Chenango Bridge Methodist Church  
740 River Road, Binghamton

*Please enter and park in the rear of the Church—Handicapped Accessible  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!*

## National Chili Day—February 23, 2023



On February 23rd, the United States will be celebrating “**National Chili Day**” - a day to pay homage to the legendary dish that brings people together, AND can tear them apart. There are many heated arguments over chili, as people can be very passionate about their chili recipes. Some of the most common arguments in the “*great chili debate*” revolve around what type of meat to use, what beans to include and whether or not to add tomatoes. Maybe that is why chili is the ultimate “cook-off” dish! *Where do you stand in the great chili debate?* Most food historians, among them chili expert Frank X. Tobert, author of the classic, **A Bowl of Red**, agree that chili likely originated in Texas.

## Nimmonsburg Church Cookbooks

This chili is loaded with beef, tomatoes, beans, and lots of delicious spices! Perfect way to warm up on a winter day. Also works nicely with nacho chips for a warming snack! (See Page 95 of the cookbook.)

If you don't have a NUMC Cookbook yet, there are still plenty available. They cost \$10 each and are available from Jim Tregaskis or the Church Office.



### Chili

#### Ingredients:

|                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Small amount of Oil          | 1/8 t. Chili Powder |
| 1½ lbs. Ground Beef          | 1 medium Onion      |
| 1½ t. crushed Red Pepper     | 2 cups Water        |
| 1 (12 oz.) can Tomatoes      | 1 1/8 t. Cumin      |
| 1 1/8 t. Salt                | 3/4 t. White Pepper |
| 3/4 t. Garlic Powder         | 2 Beef Bouillon     |
| 2 (12 oz.) cans Kidney Beans |                     |

Saute onions in oil. Add meat and cook until browned. Add spices while sauteing. Then add tomatoes, kidney beans, water and bouillon cubes. Simmer for one hour. Enjoy!! (You can reduce red pepper for a milder chili.)



## A Note from Pastor Alicia

Hello, Nimmonsburg! I'm Rev. Alicia (uh-lee-c-uh) Dixon-Garrard (soft "g"), and I wanted to tell you a little about myself. I grew up downstate in Westchester County and came to the area to study at Binghamton University. I met my husband here at a local church. We both have been in Binghamton for thirty years now, and will be celebrating our twentieth anniversary in May.

Pastor Harold Wheat and I became friends a few years ago while I was a chaplain at a local nursing home. One of the members of his church resided at the home and needed his pastoral care. We stayed in touched even after I transitioned out of that position since we shared common interest in deep study, spiritual formation, and social justice.

I am ordained in the American Baptist tradition, and attended Northeastern Seminary in Rochester for my Masters of Divinity. Unlike Southern and Independent Baptists, American Baptists have embraced women preaching and in the pastorate. Lucky for me! Two key differences between Methodists and Baptists are in roots and polity. Most Baptists adhere more to John Calvin's theology whereas Methodists call John Wesley their theological father. Also, Baptists practice congregationalism which means that each church acts autonomously.

In spite of those variations, I have long enjoyed being ecumenical and flexible. I enjoy preaching cross-denominationally, visiting new churches, and making friends of diverse backgrounds. Some of my ministry experience includes children and youth ministry, chaplaincy with the elderly, heading Christian education and discipleship, and serving as an associate pastor. Every assignment blessed me with the opportunity to walk with people on their faith journey.

I was quite honored when Pastor Harold asked me to preach and help care for this congregation during his absence. I was available to help because I was not on staff at a church at the time. Pulpit supply had kept me busy, but I was free to fill in.

You all have been so welcoming and patient. I have appreciated your openness to my presence and preaching. It can be hard to adjust to the new and unknown. Yet, you have done so with grace.

I am certain that Pastor Harold is looking forward to his return. Though I won't see you regularly once he is back, I will keep you in my prayers as you move forward with your wonderful under-shepherd.

Please keep me in your prayers, as well. I will be starting a new position on March 1, 2023. I am excited about my new job. Yet, I will remember you and think of you fondly.

May God continue to bless and keep you and may the Lord's face continue to shine upon you!

*Pastor Alicia Dixon-Garrard*





## Note from Pastor Harold

I wanted to show you how much I have enjoyed all of the wonderful cards and thoughts you have sent to me during my absence, and let you know that I miss every single one of you.

*In grace, Pastor Harold*



## New Address for Zach Moyer

I got a note from Zach Moyer letting me know that he and Alyssa are moving. He asked that I give you all their new address as of February 1st:  
*70 Greco Lane, Apt. C-27, Dunkirk, NY 14048.*



## Valentine Smiles!

What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day?  
***I'm stuck on you!***

What flower gives the most kisses on Valentine's Day?  
***Tulips***

What kind of Valentine's Day candy is never on time?  
***Choco-late***

What do you call two birds in love?  
***Tweethearts***

Do skunks celebrate Valentine's Day?  
***Yes, they are very sentimental.***

What do you call a very small valentine?  
***A valentiny***

What did one lightbulb say to the other on Valentine's Day?  
***I love you watts!***



## Senior Social Club

Senior Social Club will be on **Tuesday, February 14th** (Valentine's Day) at **11:30 am**. Please wear "**red**" and "*share the love*". All seniors are invited to attend. Please RSVP with Denise Kellett.

## Happy Birthday Burt!

Burt Sturdevant will be turning "92" on February 12th and we thought it would be fun to give him a "*Birthday Card Shower*" to celebrate. You can send him a card at Good Shepherd Fairview Home #406, 80 Fairview Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13904.



Please join us for worship on February 12th for **Souper Bowl Sunday**. Bring along a can of soup and \$1 to worship. Rubber band the dollar to the can of soup and place it on the altar rail in the front of the Sanctuary. The soups and dollars will be donated to CHOW.

If you would prefer, you are welcome to drop off your soup and dollar at the Church Office during the week!!

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(607) 724-5421



## **Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church**

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Bishop:</b>               | Rev. Hector Burgos          | BishopsOffice@unyumc.org      | Ofc: (855) 424-7878 |
| <b>Binghamton DS:</b>        | Rev. Robert Kolpik-Campbell | BinghamtonDistrict@unyumc.org | Ofc: (607) 748-0662 |
| <b>Pastor:</b>               | Rev. Harold Wheat           | Haroldwheat@gmail.com         | (607) 339-8200      |
| <b>Office Administrator:</b> | Marjorie McCoy              | ChurchOfficenumc@gmail.com    | Ofc: (607) 724-5421 |
| <b>Chair of Trustees:</b>    | Bruce Kellett               | Brucerkellett@gmail.com       | (607) 725-3897      |
| <b>Chair of Ad Board:</b>    | Shelly Schaffer             | schafferrshelly@gmail.com     | (607) 727-5009      |
| <b>Chair of SPRC:</b>        | Judy St. John               | estjohn@stny.rr.com           | (607) 206-3827      |