

# Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church

918 Upper Front Street, Binghamton, New York 13905  
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February 2024

## Pride in Christ is our History and Our Future



Though our spiritual tradition warns about the dangers of pride in ourselves, early Christian writers often remind us that we can and should be proud of what our divine partner is doing in and among us. At Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church, *we are proud of the way Christ has walked with us to help us be warm and welcoming, responsive to the needs of others, celebrate through music, and have real conversation about difficult social issues.* These insights are from a recent “What’s next church?” survey. In that same survey we asked, “What is one step we could take ...?” The answers were exciting and provide us with a range of possible efforts to explore. *Ideas ranged from launching an adult Sunday School, a monthly dinner with movie, outreach designed for families with children in the near-by development, clarifying servant ministry roles, and even the suggestion of an all-church retreat at Sky Lake!* Your Church Council will be reading through all the responses to our recent survey as we think carefully about how to lead the church into our next steps together.

If you haven’t yet responded to the survey and would like to, please hurry. Your Church Council will be meeting February 15<sup>th</sup>, and we will need the surveys by Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>. We ask that you would pray for our leaders as they seek to know how to invest our church’s energy to take the next steps in pursuing our mission to reach, resource, and release disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

*Pastor Harold*



Please join us for worship on February 11th for **Souper Bowl Sunday**. Bring 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 front of the Sanctuary. Our collection will go to CHOW.

Please also join us for Fellowship Time that day with delicious homemade soups and lots of “*football talk*”. There is a sign-up sheet in the Church Entryway if you would like to bring your specialty soup! Please contact Rebecca Olivet with any questions.

**AND, enjoy the game!**

## Celebrating our February Birthdays

**February 1 -** Laura Ryder  
**February 6 -** Helen Morgan  
**February 12 -** Breanen Rought  
 Burt Sturdevant



**February 13 -** Valerie Jones  
**February 16 -** Linda Vick  
**February 17 -** Elsie Lockhart  
**February 26 -** James Zweig

*We want to thank Michelle DeSario for sending out birthday and anniversary cards every month to everyone whose birthday/anniversary is listed with us. If you would like to see her "work", make sure your information is on file with the Church Office!  
 Nice job Michelle!*



### DONATIONS FOR SUNY-BROOME FOOD PANTRY

We are collecting items for the SUNY-Broome Food Pantry. Their pantry is near empty now, and there are many students needing help. There is a bin in the church hallway coat-rack area where you can donate food and personal care items for the Pantry.

**Please let the Church Office know if you have any perishable foods to donate so we can arrange for immediate pickup by the college.**



## Words of Wisdom

**Food Bank Volunteer Shares their Wisdom (after speaking with people getting food at the Food Bank):**

1. Everyone donates boxed Macaroni & Cheese. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure.
3. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too, or buy pop-tops.
4. Oil is a luxury.
5. Spices or salt and pepper are a real gift.
6. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
7. Sugar and flour are treats.
8. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
9. Eggs are a real commodity.
10. Cake mix and frosting make it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
11. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.
12. Kids love juice boxes.
13. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
14. Shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, soap, dental floss, diapers and wipes are always needed items.

*I thought these "words of wisdom" were helpful to keep in mind when donating. Thank you.*

**February is often spelled wrong and has the 'honor' of being one of the most misspelled words in English. A few years ago, the White House Press Office actually sent out several news releases with February spelled wrong.**



## Lent—2024

*February 14th through March 28th*

*Ash Wednesday—February 14th\**

*Palm Sunday—March 24th*

*Good Friday—March 29th*

*\*Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service will be at St. Francis of Assisi*

*Faith Exploration Class  
Nimmonsburg UMC*



Job's-bis "compass" modified by H.Wheat

## The Basics of Practicing Your Faith in the United Methodist Church

*What does it mean to be a follower of Christ in the United Methodist tradition?*

This class will be starting soon, and is designed to provide participants with the tools and teachings that will help you practice your faith.

Please sign up on the sheet in the Church Entryway. You can contact Pastor Harold if you have any questions.



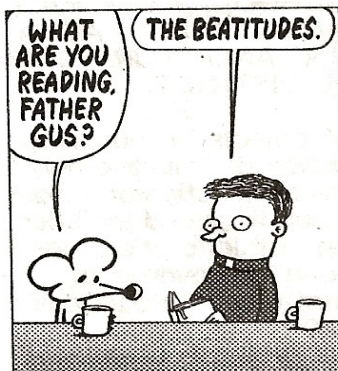
*A huge thank you from Pastor Harold and Marge for the amazing gifts we received for the holidays. We are proud to work at such a wonderful place, with such wonderful people!*



**Share the Love ...**

*Invite a friend or neighbor to come to church with you!*

## Pearls Before Swine by Stephan Pastis



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## Science (and/or/vs) Religion: The Search for God and the Quest for Truth



### A Collaborative Sermon featuring Professor Rachael Hagerman and Rev. Harold Wheat

What happens when a Scientist who believes in God sits down with a Pastor who respects science?

On **Sunday, February 11th**, we may find out as Prof. Hagerman and Rev. Wheat engage age-old and emerging questions of science in dialogue with religion. Given recent advances in our scientific understanding of how our bodies work, how to create and modify living beings at the genetic level, and how to navigate the interface between humans and our machines, questions abound.

We hope you can make it for this special service of worship featuring questions and conversation about science and religion.

## West Side Story Celebration



We were blessed with a powerful conversation about the ways that racism has caused harm both inter-personally and through institutional policies while watching an engaging musical. You can hear the tension in one of the classic song dialogues, *"I like to be in America, O.K. by me in America... Lots of new housing with more space. Lots of doors slamming in our face."* Thanks be to God who gives us in Baptism *"the freedom and power to resist evil, injustice, and oppression!"* We accept that power, and celebrate these opportunities to grow in our ability to identify and overcome racism. Many thanks to Cheryl Ryder for organizing this. Be on the lookout for our next installment of this series.

## Sunday School

At a recent meeting of Sunday School teachers and helpers, we took time to pray for the children of our church, organize our schedule, set our curriculum, and get to know each other a little better. We reflected on the way that teaching can help us to come to a deeper knowledge of the lessons our faith has to offer. Please be in prayer for our Sunday School and all the children whose lives we hope to touch with the story of God's love in Jesus Christ.



## SCAM ALERT:

Please know that Pastor Harold will NOT send you a text or an e-mail asking for money. If the Pastor needs money, he will ask you in person! Delete any scam requests you may get with his name by text or e-mail.

## Ramp It Up



As you know, Pastor Wheat is experimenting with a bi-vocational season of life and ministry. *Wheat's General Maintenance and Fine Carpentry* was launched in July of 2023, and has led to many productive collaborations on home repair and custom woodworking.

This summer, Harold will be slowing the pace of that self-employment to partner with the Broome County Council of Churches **Ramp It Up** program.

Harold has taken the position of Site Supervisor to guide volunteers in building wheelchair ramps for those who need them in our community.

What do you think church? *Can Nimmonsburg UMC supply enough hands to be part of one of those builds?*

## Lay Equalization Member needed for Conference



The Binghamton/Oneonta District Office is looking for those members who would be interested in serving as a Lay Equalization Member at the 15th Session of the Upper New York Annual Conference from Thursday, May 30th through Saturday, June 1st at the SRC Arena at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, New York. You must attend all three days. If you are interested, please talk with Pastor Harold.

## Lent Is Coming Soon!



Lent is a season of spiritual preparation for Christians. Historically, in the season of Lent, the church encouraged followers of Christ to internalize the story of Jesus entering into the wilderness at the start of his ministry. During that time he fasted, let go, and learned to say “no” to many of the demands of this life so that he could clearly say “yes” to God.

As the church has matured in our contemporary society, it has become fashion to experiment with new spiritual disciplines during this season. This year at Nimmonsburg UMC, we will be focusing on alleviating hunger by coming together as a church to bring specific food items for our community outreach ministry to the students at SUNY-Broome. See Page 2 of this Newsletter, and watch for Bulletin insert next week with suggestions for donation items for the students.

Let the PEACE  
of God rule in  
your hearts  
Colossians 3:15



## Beauty of a Winter Night



On a dark and placid night  
In the midst of winter's cold  
Shone the stars from heaven high  
Like bright lamps of purest gold.

Stately trees trimmed silver-white  
From the rage of winter storms  
Glistened in the starry night  
In majestic, eerie form.

All about there was a glow  
Steeped in solemnness profound;  
'Twas a beauty deep and grave  
That this winter walker found.

*George R. Kossik*

## Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service

February 14th at 7:00 pm

St. Francis of Assisi  
Catholic Church  
1031 Chenango Street  
Binghamton



ASH  
WEDNESDAY

## Church Women United World Day of Prayer

### Church Women United's World Day of Prayer Service Friday, March 1st at 10:00 am—NUMC



The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement that brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year. Through preparation and participation in the world service, we can learn how our sisters of other countries, languages and customs understand the Biblical passages in their context. We can hear their concerns and needs, and can join in solidarity with them as we pray with and for them. In this way, it is possible to enrich our Christian faith as it grows deeper and broader in an international, ecumenical expression.

Please join us for this Service. Everyone is welcome!



## American Civil Association Gift from NUMC

Early last summer at a visioning conversation, Dick Oakley asked, "What are we doing for the refugees?" This simple question started our church thinking, and soon our Church Council hosted leaders from the American Civic Association (ACA) to come and speak to us about needs and opportunities in the community for those who are beginning new lives here. One of the outcomes of that conversation was the decision by our Church to dedicate a special offering to the work of the ACA. That offering was in late December, and we were able to raise \$728. Thanks be to God for the generosity of our church!



## Just for fun!

What did the cucumber say to the pickle?

*You mean a great dill to me.*

Do skunks celebrate Valentine's Day?

*Sure, they're very scent-imental!*

What did one sheep say to the other?

*I love ewe!*

Why did the rooster get a tattoo?

*He wanted to impress the chicks.*

What do you call two birds in love?

*Tweet-hearts*

# Valentine's Day



# Word Search



K S Q S J I V R T D S R Q G K  
R Q Q T D M A B X U F N Q J J  
K G D A S N L Y E U S F S N S  
S V E E M B E R I G C E V O L  
Q W Q R Q Q N I A W R A O C G  
T Z E T G R T Z R E Y I N Q T  
D Q I E E O I K Z F D R E D J  
H O B N T P N W N O E F T G Y  
X U T H C H E H V X E A L A T  
N A G B P R E E Y B M T C B H  
F O M G T U S A R L R K U T Q  
I M T M Q S K U R A U N P E H  
C A R D S K A A E T W I I G U  
M C D I R R M H H X E P D P N  
W Q K L Y S R E W O L F J O J

CANDY  
CARDS  
CUPID  
DEAR  
DOVES  
FEBRUARY  
FLOWERS  
FRIENDS  
HEART

TREATS  
VALENTINE  
SWEETHEART  
RED  
LOVE  
KISS  
PINK  
HUG



## CHOCOLATE COVERED PETZELS



### Ingredients:

- ♥ Pretzels
- ♥ Chocolate—Either Milk Chocolate or Wilton Candy melts
- ♥ Sprinkles
- ♥ Wax Paper

### Instructions:

1. Melt chocolate in the microwave or double boiler saucepan.
2. Dip pretzels into the chocolate; top with sprinkles.
3. Place on wax paper and let dry.



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Binghamton, New York 13905



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