

THE NIMMONSBURG WITNESS

Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church
918 Upper Front Street, Binghamton, New York 13905
Rev. Harold Wheat (607) 724-5421
May 2024

Church Growth and the Cross Principle



Jesus placed discipline, suffering, and loss at the center of his path of leadership. Those who watched him were “*amazed,*” and “*those who followed were afraid*” (Mark 10:32). As his disciples reorganized themselves after his resurrection, the community they grew continued to amaze people, and yet many were fearful and avoided committing themselves to the Way. Luke records this in the book of Acts, “*many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles... [yet] None of the rest of them dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem*” (Acts 5:12-13).

It is common for us to hope that the church will grow. Interestingly enough, the writers of the Bible were not concerned about that. They knew that when we come together as a community of individuals struggling with Jesus’ invitation, “*If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me*” – when we embrace the cross principle as a way of life expressing love of God and neighbor, we can expect that power will come upon us (Luke 9:23). Love has healing power; grace is truly amazing. Lives are changed with God, abundance is found and lived.

The next time you feel yourself yearning for the church to be filled with power (and people), remember the cross principle and offer a prayer that Jesus may lead you into your next level of self-denial, divine discipline, and even loss (see inside for opportunities to sign up for the disciplines of study and/or service). As we focus more fully on the kin-dom of heaven, Jesus has promised that the doors of God’s abundant love will open before us, “*seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well*” (Matthew 6:33).

General Conference 2024



Just like our local church has leaders designated and entrusted to make decisions that will affect us all, our worldwide United Methodist Church has elected and appointed leaders who come together every four years to make decisions to guide our life together. Our General Conference meets from April 22nd to May 3rd to offer prayer and make decisions together. Please be in prayer for our United Methodist Church, and be on the lookout for updates about how the conversations flow at this important gathering.

Our May Celebrations!



Birthdays!

5/7 - Champagne Burish

5/8 - Randi Austin

Phyllis Bartlett

Pastor Harold Wheat

5/18 - Peter Boigeol

5/19 - Erin Hagerman

5/21 - Dakota Hennings

5/23 - Sabina Morrell

5/30 - Russ Sanaeko

Anniversaries!

5/18 - Rachael & Justin Hagerman

5/19 - Eva & Steve Randall

Please make sure that you let the office know if we don't have your birthday or anniversary.

We all want to celebrate with you!

Sky Lake Summer Camp—Get Transformed!



Calling all kids and youth for another “Transforming Experience” this summer at Sky Lake. Summer is just around the corner (we hope), and with summer comes Sky Lake.

Since the first session of camp in 1947, Sky Lake has offered a Christian camp experience for children, youth and families. In the late-1960's, the camp and retreat center was one of the first to offer camping opportunities for persons with special needs. Even though Sky Lake looks a little different than it did 75 years ago, the focus continues to be on helping campers be transformed through living in Christian community... so they will be in a position to help transform the world. That transformation begins by recognizing and embracing our oneness in Christ. At Nimmonsburg UMC, we believe every child and youth should have an opportunity to attend a camping session at this beautiful lakeside center.

So, even though the groundhog may have seen his shadow; it's not too early to start planning a summer camp experience. Parents, we ask you to work with your kids to plan and set aside time on the calendar for a Sky Lake camping experience this summer. You will be hearing more in coming weeks about the available camps and how to register for a Campership Scholarship. In the meantime, check out the available camps and dates on the Sky Lake website: www.skylakecenter.org

Once again, the church will be offering scholarships based on a family's ability to pay. Joanne Tregaskis, for whom the campership fund was named, firmly believed that no Nimmonsburg child should be denied access to camp at Sky Lake. Let's honor her memory by participating in the Sky Lake Campership program and donating to the fund to ensure our church can support all eligible kids and youth.

Be sure to mark your donations as designated funds for the Sky Lake Campership Fund.

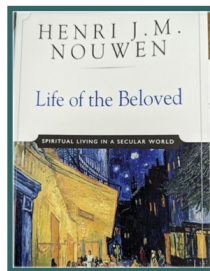
Releasing a Transforming Love (Parts I & II)

Sometimes the love of God comes so powerfully that all we need to do is release it and watch what the Lord will do. But, where does one go to learn how to open the eyes of our hearts to see what God is doing? And how do we stay focused on the power of God’s love while also seriously attending to the suffering of the world?

These are questions maturing disciples of Jesus Christ wrestle with as we pray and seek to partner with the Holy Spirit in the labor of transformation.

The following classes will be offered as a two-part series with Part II building on the work we share in Part I.

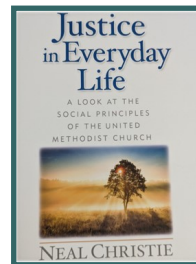
Part I—Life of the Beloved



Over the course of five weeks, we will read together Henri Nouwen’s short book “*Life of the Beloved*”, and take time to discuss the questions and insights it raises for our spiritual growth.

Considered a new spiritual classic, this little book has already sold over 200,000 copies as it helps people understand more deeply what it means to be God’s beloved children.

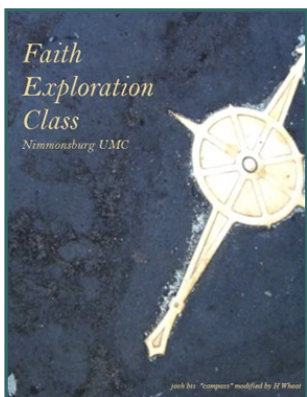
Part II—Justice in Everyday Life



The Holy Spirit has directed Pastors to equip the people of God to change the world as we allow God’s yearning for righteousness and justice to resonate in our lives (Ephesians 4:12).

This class is designed to help participants develop the spiritual maturity to partner with the Holy Spirit in employing the power of love to right some of the wrongs we see around us.

Each part of this two-part series will consist of five one-hour sessions. Please sign up in the Church Entryway or see Pastor Harold for information about the scheduling.



Faith Exploration Class

Regularly offered throughout the year, this class is designed to resource those who are new to practicing faith, new to following Christ in a United Methodist community, or simply desiring a refresher on the basics.

With themes of grace, covenant, sacraments, social principles (new this session), and shared decision-making, this class can be used as preparation for membership, or simply as a tool to help participants pursue our deepest questions through conversation with Scripture, tradition, experience and reason.

Five one-hour sessions beginning at 11:45 am on Sundays (following worship). Please see Pastor Harold about joining or sign up in the Church Entryway.



Apply Now for Endowment Funds



It's time now to apply for Endowment Funds for 2024. The guidelines are as follows:

1. Requests can be received from Chairpersons or any member of our Christian family.
2. **All requests should be in writing and submitted to Rex Decker, Chairman of Endowment, or Russ Sanaeko, Treasurer of Endowment by May 12, 2024.**
3. Requests shall include the date, person or committee requesting money, amount requested, date needed, and a brief description as to how the funds would be used.
4. The Endowment Fund Committee will submit their recommendations to the Administrative Board. The Board's decisions will be put in writing and sent to the persons or committees which made the request(s).

Endowment Funds are distributed in four categories:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Special Needs | 2. General Expense |
| 3. Building & Maintenance | 4. Missions |

Typically, each category receives 1/4 of the funds available, plus any unspent funds from previous years. The total funds available in each category this year are:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Special Needs—\$977.20 | 2. General Expense—\$977.20 |
| 3. Building & Maintenance—\$977.20 | 4. Missions—\$1,848.60 |

Please contact Rex Decker or Russ Sanaeko with any questions you have.

2024

Please let Pastor Harold know if there are any people associated with the Church who will be graduating from high school or college this June. We want to make sure to remember them!

United Methodist Night at the Ball Game

Thursday, June 27th at 6:35 pm

Mirabito Stadium

Grandstand Reserved tickets are \$11



FUN TIME FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
Please sign up in the Church Entryway



Here are some of the United Women in Faith putting together health and school kits for Church World Service. Boxes of these kits, from many churches, are received by the Broome County Council of Churches, and sent by truck to a Maryland warehouse where they will be sent out as needed.

Thank you all for your support for this important project.



Thank You

Thank you to the donor of the Palm Sunday Banner. It added to the beauty of our altar.

AED/CPR Training



Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church is offering an AED/CPR Training Session on **May 4th from 9:00 am to Noon.**

This is an important training where you will learn how to save a life, or refresh your previous AED/CPR training. You'll receive a student manual, instruction by a certified AHA instructor, and a certification e-card valid for two years.

Please sign up for this training class in the Church Narthex, and contact Bruce Kellett if you have any questions.

RoboHornets Place First!

The Harpursville Robotics Team, the RoboHornets, placed first in the qualification round and won the Excellence Award in the semifinals of the Northern NY State VRC Over/Under Championship on March 9th at Queensbury High school. The team consisted of Jacob Rueffer, Liem Donahue, Alex Afify and Glenn Miller.

The team headed to the VEX Robotics World Championship in Dallas on April 28th where they competed at the middle-school level with other 14-year-old teams.

Nice job RoboHornets! *(Jacob Rueffer is the grandson of Mark and Cherri Rueffer.)*



From left: Harpursville RoboHornets team members Alex Afify, Jacob Rueffer, Liem Donahue, Glen Miller Photo Provided By Harpursville Central School District

Save The Date



The United Women in Faith's **Spring Rummage Sale** is scheduled for June 7th and 8th in the Wesleyan Room. Any items you have for the Rummage Sale may be brought to the lower level starting on Monday, June 3rd.

And don't forget to stop by at the sale for some great buys, and the "Bag Sale" on Saturday!

UWIF Mother and Child Banquet

The Nimmonsburg United Women in Faith are planning their annual **Mother-Child Banquet** for **Tuesday, May 14th at 6:00 pm**. The banquet will be catered by Cline's Catering, and Actress Lonna Pierce will portray Laura Ingalls Wilder from the "Little House on the Prairie" series for our entertainment after dinner.

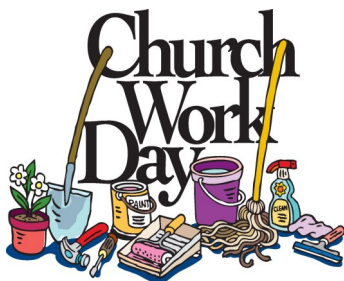
The cost is \$12 for adults, \$7 for children 12 and under, and free for children 5 and under.

Mothers of all ages are invited, with or without their children. If you are not a mother, you are definitely a child, so please plan on coming too!



The Dinner Summit

Mark your calendars for **June 2nd during Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour**. The Dinner Summit is coming! There have been rumblings, rumors and even the voice of yearning for NUMC to have some sort of regular dinner effort. Your Pastor only asks that all involved take time to pray, talk, and envision together what we hope to accomplish. Can it be a "no strings attached" dinner for the hungry of our community? Spiritual food dinner in which we combine worship or teaching and good cooking? Church dinner? A meal for us to fellowship with one another? BBQ for the community? (There is a good looking BBQ pit out there!) There are lots of possibilities but a limited amount of time and energy. Where are we called to focus our love of cooking at this time? Come be part of the conversation on June 2nd!



Trustee Led Church Workday

The Nimmonsburg UMC Trustees are looking for your help for our **all church workday** on the **22nd of June from 9:00 am until noon**. There will be opportunities to clean, organize, and do a variety of projects to help spruce up the church. Hope you can make it! Pizza to follow

Answers to Mom Jokes:

1. Because their kids have to play inside.
2. Stop being knotty.
3. "Look Ma! No hands!"
4. "Where's Popcorn?"
5. It's pasture your bedtime.
6. Tracy
7. Starbucks
8. When its mom is in a jam.
9. Its mom was a wafer too long.
10. You rocket.
11. Slippers

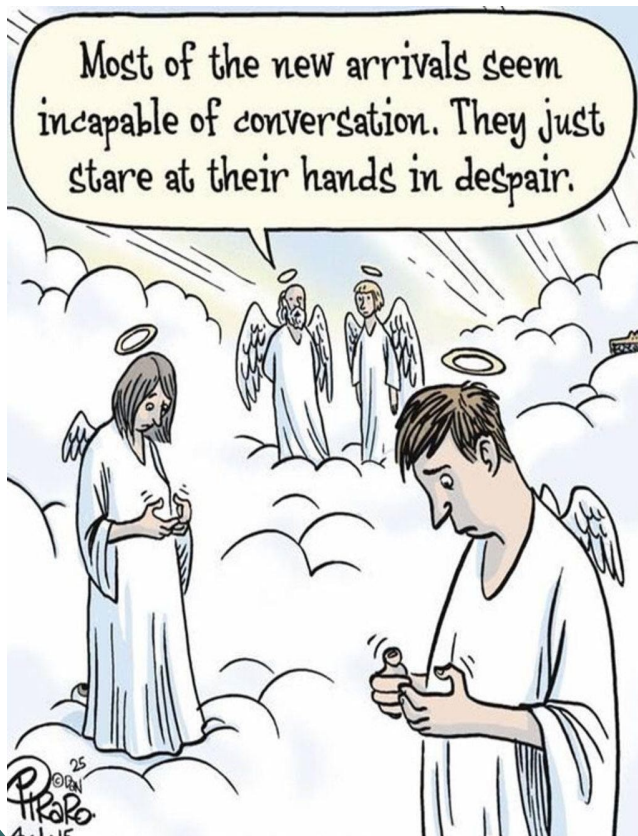
How about some Mom Jokes!

1. Why do mother kangaroos hate rainy days?
2. What did the mom rope say to her child?
3. What did the digital clock say to its mom?
4. What did the baby corn say to the mama corn?
5. What did the mom say to her foal?
6. What do you call a mom who can't draw?
7. What do alien moms like to drink?
8. What stresses a baby strawberry out?
9. Why was the cookie sad?
10. How do you put a baby spaceship to sleep?
11. What kind of shoes do mama bananas wear?



Answers on Page 6

May 11th is **National Eat What You Want Day**. It's the perfect excuse to treat yourself to something a little more decadent than you would normally eat. Maybe pizza loaded with toppings, a dense chocolate cake or a BIG bowl of ice cream? Enjoy some of your favorite foods today!



KEEPING OUR DOORS LOCKED



It is important that everyone who has a key to the church be aware of keeping the doors locked after you come inside. If you have a meeting or event scheduled, please make sure that you lock the doors once you are finished.

Remember that you can ALWAYS get out the church doors, even when locked.

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(607) 724-5421



Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church

		E-Mail:	Phone:
Bishop:	Rev. Héctor Burgos	BishopsOffice@unyumc.org	Ofc: (315) 898-2020
Dist. Superintendent:	Rev. Robert Kolpik-Campbell	BinghamtonDistrict@unyumc.org	Ofc: (607) 748-0662
Pastor:	Rev. Harold Wheat	Haroldwheat@gmail.com	(607) 339-8200
Office Manager:	Marjorie McCoy	ChurchOfficenumc@gmail.com	Ofc: (607) 724-5421
Chair of Trustees:	Bruce Kellett	Brucekellett@gmail.com	(607) 725-3897
Chair of Ad Board:	Shelly Schaffer	schafferrshelly@gmail.com	(607) 727-5009
Chair of SPRC:	Judy St. John	estjohn@stny.rr.com	(607) 206-3827