

# The Nimmonsburg Witness

November 2022



## Ordinary Christians



On the surface “*special*” sounds good. It conveys value, appreciation and worthiness. Since we are all hungry for life-giving streams of affirmation, we often don’t stop to question the negative side of “*being special*.” Unfortunately, “*special*” carries an implied comparison with others who are “*not special*.” It also requires of us a continual extraordinary performance, a shininess that has to be maintained all the time. The Gospel conveys value, appreciation, and worthiness differently. The choice God has made to call us “*beloved*” is not influenced by our performance, nor are we more beloved than anyone else. The measure of God’s love for us is found in the life, healing work, death, and resurrection of Christ ... acts of love given to all.

This fall I have been deeply frustrated by the inadequacies of my performance in the role of Pastor. My health, compromised by rabies and then covid, has limited my ability to show up for many of the expected tasks of ministry. Your patience, though I imagine that you are often frustrated too, and kindness have reminded me that I don’t have to pretend to be special. I am an ordinary person who struggles, and like each one of you, there are moments when God gives me wonderfully shiny love to share. In the words of the Apostle Paul,

*“We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.”* (2 Corinthians 4:7)

Though I hope soon to be restored to full health, it has been powerful to find God in the midst of ordinary journeys.

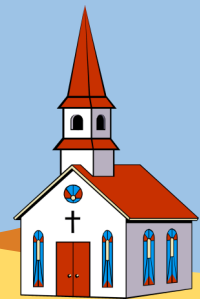
*Pastor Harold*



**Important  
DATE!**

The **Nimmonsburg UMC Church Conference** is our annual meeting to review the state of the church, and elect leaders for the coming year. This year we will meet at Chenango Bridge United Methodist Church at 740 River Road on **November 5 at 9:00 am**.

Because this is a “Church Conference” as opposed to a “Charge Conference”, all members of the church are invited to attend with voting privileges. This will be a chance to celebrate our many ministries, and the mission trip to Henderson Settlement with the larger UMC Connection.



Come and get your  
holiday shopping  
done early!

# Holiday Craft Fair

NOVEMBER 12TH  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

All Handcrafted Items—Talented Vendors!

Bake Sale and Lunch Available

Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church  
918 Upper Front Street, Binghamton



Call 607-724-5421 with any questions.

## CALLING ALL BAKERS!

Along with the Holiday Craft Fair, we're planning a **Bake Sale** table full of delicious cookies, jams, pies, candies, breads, cupcakes and brownies (just to name a few)! There are no better bakers in the area than NUMC bakers, so we are hoping you will help us out by baking something delicious for the Sale. We'll be at the Church on Friday night to accept donations, or you can drop them off on Saturday morning anytime after 7:30 am.



Thanks so much for baking for NUMC!



Fellowship Time after church is a wonderful time to share, converse and enjoy each other's company, and taking a turn doing Fellowship Time is a great way to talk with everyone as they pass through the line.

Now comes my request: **Would you be willing to host a Sunday?**

If you don't want to do it on your own, you could ask a friend to share hosting with you? We don't need a big spread — just a few cookies are fine. Afterwards we wash off the tables, and the serving platters need a quick "swish" in the sink. That's all!

The coffee pot will be on, and Fellowship Time will continue if you help! Please sign up in the Church narthex, or talk with me any time.

Thanks, and God Bless—Andi Fynboe

*P.S. Thank you to everyone who helps us continue this Fellowship time together.*

# Nimmonsburg Church Cookbooks



I noticed that this hearty soup was also a Diet Workshop recipe with 306 calories per serving, and thought it sounded good too. Thanks to Judy Halavich for submitting this recipe which is perfect for this time of year!

Our Nimmonsburg Church Cookbooks are \$10 each and are available in the Church Office.



## Hamburger Soup

### Ingredients:

1 lb. ground beef	2 cups sliced cabbage
1 (46 oz.) can of tomato juice	1 bay leaf
1 cup stewed tomatoes	2 cups chopped celery
1 t. garlic powder	2 t. basil
1 cup sliced carrots	2 t. onion flakes
1 T. Worcestershire Sauce	2 t. oregano
2 cups green beans (any kind)	
1 cup canned mushrooms (drained)	

### Directions:

- ① In large pan, brown beef. Drain well.
- ② Combine all other ingredients and add to beef.
- ③ Simmer for 2 hours.

## Trees Removed from Behind Church

You may have noticed that the oak trees behind the Church were damaged and diseased by emerald ash borer (*beetle that feeds on ash*) and they had to be taken down for safety reasons.

The trees were removed in early October.



## Silver Bells Project



As we have done in the past, we will be receiving **Silver Bells** this year.

The **Silver Bells Project** is for *homebound seniors with little or no family in the area.*

A simple gift and just knowing that someone is thinking of them during the holidays can mean a lot.

On **November 20th** we will be placing TAGS on the Bulletin Board with the names of each person, their age, and their Christmas wish. Simply select a tag, sign the sheet (*so we know who is doing what*), do your shopping, and return it to the Church by **December 12th**. Faith in Action volunteers will wrap and deliver all of the gifts.

**Thank you!**



## Letter to Nimmonsburg UMC

These are times of change in the United Methodist Church. Your attention, prayers, and presence as members and friends of the Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church (NUMC) are requested as we enter into an initial discernment of our relationship with the United Methodist denomination. At issue is an opportunity created by the Special General Conference of the UMC in 2019 that provides a process for individual churches to disaffiliate from the UMC for reasons of conscience while retaining their church building/s and financial resources.

The formal process of church wide discernment conversation, negotiation of financial obligations to the Annual Conference, and various levels of approval, will be costly in terms of time, energy, and money. Yet, it is possible that this path towards the Global Methodist Church (GUMC) is exactly where God is calling us to walk. Or, it could be that when we come together for conversation we discover that the Spirit is leading us to stay with the UMC. Either way, we need to know where we stand, and why. Pastor Jenni did a wonderful job of beginning these conversations. Our next step is to continue conversation, and take an informal anonymous poll that will help our Ad Board discern whether it is time to invest our time in a more formal process of discernment. Here is the way we will enter into an initial discernment.

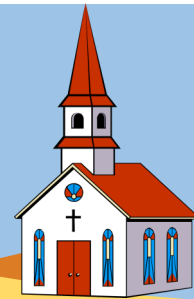
First, on **November 6 at 4 pm**, Pastor Wheat will facilitate an informational session to help clarify the issues for the congregation. He will invite two colleagues that feel very strong about their decision, one to stay in the United Methodist Church and one to join the Global Methodist Church. He will ask them a series of questions that will provide the congregation context for each position. He will then ask those in attendance a series of thought-provoking questions to help us discuss as a body our thoughts and beliefs. We will then have an opportunity to join our hearts in worship, give our desires to God, and take time to listen together for the Spirit's leading. The congregation will be given a week to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider the information discussed.

Second, at the service on **Sunday, November 13**, an anonymous ballot will be distributed with the bulletins in order to take a straw poll of the membership. The ballot will have three options: stay with the United Methodist Church, move to the Global Methodist Church, or I don't have enough information to make a decision. We ask that each member of the church complete the poll, fold it, and place it in the offering plate. If you are unable to attend church that day, please feel free to drop off your vote in the church office until Wednesday, November 16th; Marge will tally the votes.

Third, the results will be discussed at the Ad Board meeting held on Thursday, November 17th. A majority of 2/3 or greater in favor of exploring disaffiliation or in need of more information, will guide our Ad Board towards initiating a more formal exploration process.

Our church stands at the juncture of a critical decision. As a membership, it is important that we all learn what the decision means and how it will impact the future of our church, prayerfully and thoughtfully consider our position, and communicate that position to the Ad board. We appreciate your time, prayers, and participation in this critical decision. If you have any further questions, please contact Ad Board Chair Shelley Schaffer or Pastor Harold Wheat.

Link for additional information:  
[Upper New York Annual Conference Disaffiliation Process](#)



# What's New with United Women in Faith

*(formerly United Methodist Women)*



We have just completed our Fall Rummage Sale which was well attended, and it looks like we met our goal of making \$1,000 for our Christmas giving to local charities. We want to thank all the people who donated items, worked to set up and run the sale, and the clean-up. We can't do it without help from all of the church.

Our next project will be to provide Fellowship Time after worship on November 13th. We will collect money for Blanket Sunday to help Church World Service give blankets to those who need them during disasters or cold winter.

The Sunday before Christmas, December 18th, will be our Christmas Tea. It is a day of relaxation for women during hectic holiday preparations. There is no charge except to bring a food item for CHOW. We will have a selection of desserts with tea, coffee or punch and then go into the sanctuary to hear music by nonagenarian Russ Lockwood. He plays piano and accordion, and promises to get us singing some carols.

Other holiday projects will be collecting calendars and greeting cards of all kinds for the Greater Binghamton Health Center. We will also put together shoe boxes for children in the area. Details of that project will be forthcoming.

At some point in December we will have a meeting to decide which charities will receive our money for their activities. We only retain enough money to pay for the Christmas Tea and to start the New Year with minimal funds. We also pay dues to Church Women United and the Binghamton District United Women in Faith. All women of the church are invited to join in.

*Cheryl Weeks*

## ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

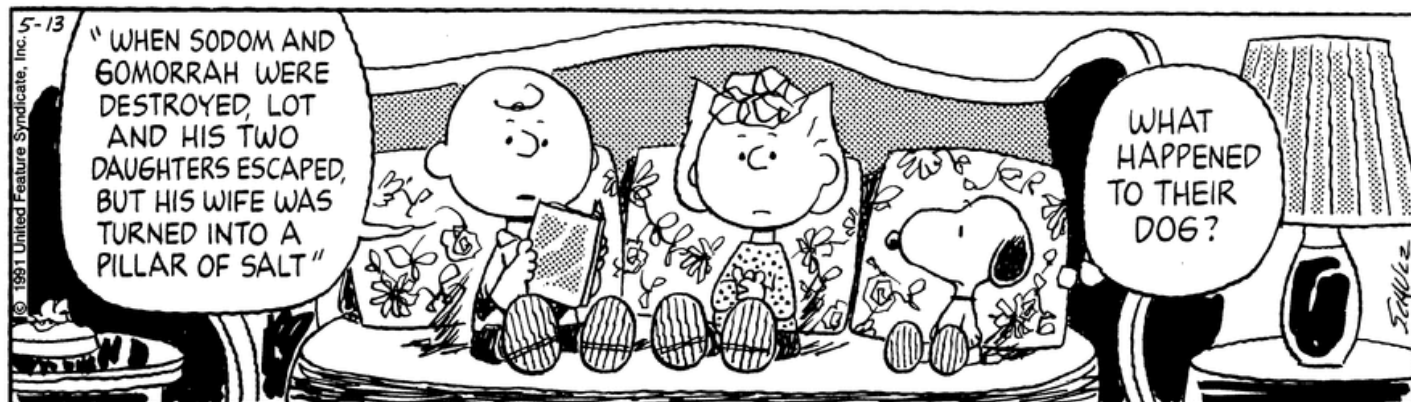


### ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP DAY

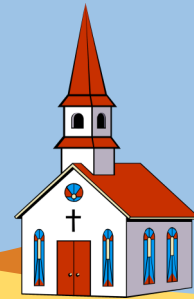
Saturday, November 12th at 10:00 am

Meet at Dr. Lalor's Parking Lot

Please see Bruce Kellett if you can help. Thanks!



**Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church**  
**918 Upper Front Street**  
**Binghamton, New York 13901**  
**(607) 724-5421**



## **Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church**

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<b>Chair of Trustees:</b>	Bruce Kellett	Brucekellett@gmail.com	(607) 725-3897
<b>Chair of Ad Board:</b>	Shelly Schaffer	scafferrshelly@gmail.com	(607) 727-5009
<b>Chair of SPRC:</b>	Judy St. John	estjohn@stny.rr.com	(607) 206-3827