

September 2023

# Nimmonsburg Witness

**Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church**

918 Upper Front Street, Binghamton, NY 13905

(607) 724-5421 - Pastor Harold Wheat



## SEASON OF RETURNING AND REST

In the memory-making season of summer, it's common for us to travel, share time with loved ones, and have adventures. In the fall, routines begin to take hold again.

In the Christian community, it is our privilege to create a culture in which worship is part of our routine. That is not to say that worship is routine! The Living God has a way of making our ordinary commitments overflow with life, humor and a taste of divine glory. In fact, the deeper we go into our spiritual maturity, the more our experiences of divine visitation accelerate, the more astounding God's love really is.

We hope to experience that divine love together at Nimmonsburg UMC this fall. Come, let us lean into our faith and offer God's love to our community in this new season!



## SUNDAY SCHOOL IS STARTING!



Faith doesn't grow by accident. When you see someone whose faith you admire, you are seeing the result of many people's patient labor. Though it's true that as we mature God makes us increasingly responsible for caring for our own spiritual care and feeding, all of us begin life as spiritual infants who must be carefully fed and nurtured.

This fall we will be resuming our efforts to pass on the faith to younger generations through our Sunday School, and we are looking for help with this work.

If you, or someone you know, feels a call to be a teacher or a helper in this inspiring work, please contact Pastor Wheat or our Administrative Assistant, Marge McCoy.



## Our September Celebrations



### Birthdays:

9/4 - Denise Kellett  
 9/5 - William Vick  
       Richard Heuther  
 9/15 - Stan Forsyth  
       Gene Shoemaker  
 9/17- Kathy Nabinger  
 9/18 - Don Birtch  
 9/19 - Judy Halavik  
 9/24 - AriA Williams  
 9/27 - Rebecca Olivet  
 9/30 - Nancy Stockholm

### Anniversaries:

9/8 - Holly Sensenig & Diane  
       Schaumberg  
 9/16 - Ann & David Wolcott  
 9/17 - Gwyn & Jeff Oakley  
 9/21 - Judy & Andy Halavik  
 9/28 - Nancy & Alan Stockholm

***Did we miss your birthday  
 of anniversary? Please let  
 Marge know so we don't  
 miss it again!***

## Helping Out Refugees



The American Civic Association (ACA) is receiving legally-processed refugee families into their Resettlement and Placement Program. They find apartments for them, seek donated furniture and kitchen items, help them find employment and fulfill other needs to help the families settle in to their new land. *(See the list of needed items in the Church narthex.)*

The ACA also needs monetary donations. The NUMC Administrative Board voted to ask our church family to help by donating to the *ACA Resettlement and Placement Fund* on the 5th Sunday of October and with our Coffee Hour donations during the month of October.

The ACA and the new families will be most appreciative of our caring and concern in helping them adjust to their new life.

## Paper Bag Mission



Our "Mini Mission Project" was a great success, and Karen Holman was able to deliver many bags to local soup kitchens needing them for takeout meals. Pictured here is a volunteer from Samaritan House accepting bags that we collected. Nice job NUMC!!

## Pie & Ice Cream Social

*"Back by Popular Demand"*  
 September 8th from 5-7 pm  
 Vestal Center UMC  
 478 West Hill Road, Vestal



Donations  
 accepted.  
*Your choice of  
 yummy pies and  
 ice cream!*



## Phone Scams

People lose a lot of money to phone scams—sometimes their life savings. Scammers have figured out countless ways to cheat you out of your money over the phone. In some scams they act friendly and helpful. In others they might threaten or scare you. One thing you can count on is that a phone scammer will try to get your money or personal information to commit identity theft. Don't give it to them. Here's what you need to know:

### How to Recognize a Phone Scam

**Phone scams come in many forms, but they tend to make similar promises or threats, or ask you to pay certain ways. Here's how to recognize a phone scam.**

**There is no prize.** The caller might say you were “selected” for an offer or that you've won a lottery. But if you have to pay to get the prize, it's not a prize.

**You won't be arrested.** Scammers might pretend to be law enforcement or a federal agency. They might say you'll be arrested, fined or deported if you don't pay taxes or some other debt right away. The goal is to scare you into paying. But real law enforcement and federal agencies won't call and threaten you.

**You don't need to decide now.** Most legitimate businesses will give you time to think their offer over and get written information about it before asking you to commit. Take your time. Don't get pressured into making a decision on the spot.

**There's never a good reason to send cash or pay with a gift card.** Scammers will often ask you to pay in a way that makes it hard for you to get your money back: wiring money, putting money on a gift card, prepaid card or cash reload card, or using a money transfer app. Anyone who asks you to pay that way is a scammer.

**Government agencies won't call to confirm your sensitive information.** It's never a good idea to give out sensitive information like your Social Security number to someone who calls you unexpectedly, even if they say they're with the Social Security Administration or IRS.

**You shouldn't be getting all these calls.** If a company is selling something, it needs your written permission to call you with a robocall. And if you are on the *National Do Not Call Registry*, you shouldn't get live sales calls from companies you haven't done business with before. Those calls are illegal. If someone is already breaking the law calling you, there's a good chance it's a scam. At the very least, it's a company you don't want to do business with.

### Examples of Common Phone Scams

**Here are some common angles phone scammers like to use:**

**Imposter Scams.** A scammer pretends to be someone you trust, like a government agency, the IRS, a family member, a love interest, or someone claiming there's a problem with your computer. The scammer can even have a fake name or number show up on your caller ID to convince you.

*(Continued on Page 5)*

# Welcome to our New Members



What a wonderful day it was on August 13th when we received six (6) new members to our congregation!

Welcome to (from left to right excluding Pastor Harold) **Joanmarie Stietz, Jennifer Beebe, Judy Zwick, Maria and Andy Supa, and Bruce Mills!**

If you would like to be a member of Nimmonsburg UMC, please see Pastor Harold. We would love to have become part of our Nimmonsburg Church “family”.

## Sharing the Blessing of Being in Mission

As United Methodists, we share one mission: *“to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”* All around the world, we see people fed physically and spiritually the way that Jesus fed his disciples and his community.

On August 20th, we were blessed to hear Rev. Fernando Matsimbe speak about how our focus on the prosperity of the whole community, as well as the individual, is what makes our United Methodist Church such a powerful influence in the world. His projects of founding churches, an orphanage, a school and a hospital in Tanzania show how the church is leading people to care for each other and grow in a sustainable interdependence.

What a joy to have him lead us in worship and in imagining God’s reign here on earth!

**NOTE:** *If you would like to contribute to Rev. Matsimbe’s mission, you can make a check payable to Nimmonsburg UMC and designate the check to Advance #3022396. This will go directly to Rev. Matsimbe’s mission.*



*Rev. Fernando Matsimbe and his wife, Olivia*



*Rev. Matsimbe and Pastor Wheat*





## Phone Scams (Continued)

**Debt relief and credit repair scams.** Scammers will offer to lower your credit card interest rates, fix your credit or get your student loans forgiven if you pay their company a fee first. You could end up losing your money and ruining your credit.

**Charity scams.** Scammers like to pose as charities. Scams requesting donations for disaster relief efforts are especially common on the phone. Always check out a charity before you give, and don't feel pressured to give immediately over the phone before you do.

**Extended car warranties.** Scammers find out what kind of car you drive and when you bought it so they can urge you to buy overpriced or worthless service contracts.

**“Free” trial.** A caller might promise a “free trial” but then sign you up for products (sometimes lots of products) that you're billed for each month until you cancel.

**Loan scams.** Loan scams include advance fee loan scams where scammers target people with poor credit history and guarantee loans or credit cards for an up-front fee. Legitimate lenders don't make guarantees like that, especially if you have bad credit, no credit, or a bankruptcy.

**Prize and lottery scams.** In a typical prize scam, the caller will say you've won a prize, but then say you need to pay taxes, registration fees or shipping charges to get it. But after you pay, there is no prize.

### How to Stop Calls from Scammers

**Hang up.** Even if it's not a scammer calling, when a company is calling you illegally, it's not a company you want to do business with. When you get a robocall, don't press any numbers. Instead of letting you speak to a live operator or remove you from their call list, it might lead to more robocalls.

**Consider call blocking or call labeling.** Scammers can use the internet to make calls from all over the world. They don't care if you're on the National Do Not Call Registry. Your best defense against unwanted calls is call blocking. See what services your phone carrier offers for call blocking. For cell phones you can check out reviews for different call-blocking apps in your online app store.

**Don't trust your caller ID.** Scammers can make any name or number show up on your caller ID. That's called spoofing. So even if it looks like it's a government agency or like it is from a local number, it could be a scammer calling from anywhere in the world.

If you have lost money to a phone scam or have information about the company or scammer who called you, report it at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud). If you didn't lose money and just want to report a call, you can use streamlined reporting form at [DoNotCall.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/DoNotCall).

*(Adapted from Federal Trade Commission Consumer Advice)*



***Look at all these smiling faces!!***

This picture was taken on August 13th after our Worship Service. This was the day that we welcomed our new members!

## Yellow Squash Soup

Delicate and lemony, this yellow squash soup recipe would be great for a lunch with friends. It's the best of late summer in a bowl.



### **Ingredients:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 6 medium yellow summer squash, seeded and cubed (about 6 cups) | 1 medium leek (white portion only), chopped |
| 2 large sweet onions, chopped                                  | 6 garlic cloves, minced                     |
| 2 tablespoons olive oil  | 4 fresh thyme sprigs                        |
| 4 cups reduced sodium chicken broth                            | 2 tablespoons lemon juice                   |
| 1/4 teaspoon salt  | 1 tablespoon shredded Parmesan cheese       |
| 1/8 teaspoon hot pepper sauce                                  |   |
| 2 teaspoons grated lemon zest                                  |   |

### **Directions:**

1. In large saucepan, heat oil over medium heat. Add onions and leek. Cook and stir until crisp and tender (about 5 minutes). Add squash and cook and stir 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook for a minute longer. Stir in broth, thyme and salt. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 15-20 minutes until squash is tender. Discard thyme sprigs and cool soup slightly.
2. In a blender, process soup in batches until smooth, and return to pan. Stir in lemon juice and hot pepper sauce, and heat thoroughly.
3. Sprinkle each serving with cheese and lemon zest.



*Recipe courtesy of "Taste of Home"*



## ***The Character of Discipleship in a Distressed World***

*By Rev. Harold Wheat*

Often interpreters have forgotten Jesus' teaching (Acts 1:7) and gotten caught up in trying to figure the Revelation out as a predictive text. When we do that, we miss the rich resource of the text to help us deepen the character of our discipleship in a troubled world. What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus Christ in our hurting world?

*(75-minute class sessions weekly on Thursdays at 10:00 am starting on September 14th)*



## ***Faith Exploration Class***

*By Rev. Harold Wheat*

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

Through conversation of grace, covenant, Holy Communion, Baptism and holy conferencing, we consider themes in Scripture and talk about how our life experience has led us to talk about what it means to belong here. Whether you are just beginning your faith journey or looking for a refresher, this class is designed to provide participants with tools and techniques that will help you practice your faith.

*(Five 75-minute class sessions; schedule to be announced shortly)*



United  
Women  
in Faith

### **Upcoming Events:**

United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) will hold their annual Sunday Worship Service on **September 24th**.

The Fall Rummage Sale will be held on **October 13 and 14**. You may bring items to the church the week prior to the Sale.

United Women in Faith will be hosting Fellowship Time on **November 12th** to collect donations for Church World Service blankets ahead of the winter season.

The Christmas Tea will be held on Sunday, **December 17th**, so save the date.

### **Results of Favorite Worship Music:**

1. On Eagle's Wings
2. He Lives!
3. Beneath the Cross of Jesus
4. The Church's One Foundation
5. Here I Am Lord
6. Up From the Grave
7. Hymn of Promise
8. Lord of the Dance
9. Great is Thy Faithfulness
10. Let There be Peace on Earth
11. It is Well With My Soul
12. I Can Only Imagine
13. I Will Remember



**Nimmonsburg United  
Methodist Church**  
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# Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church

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