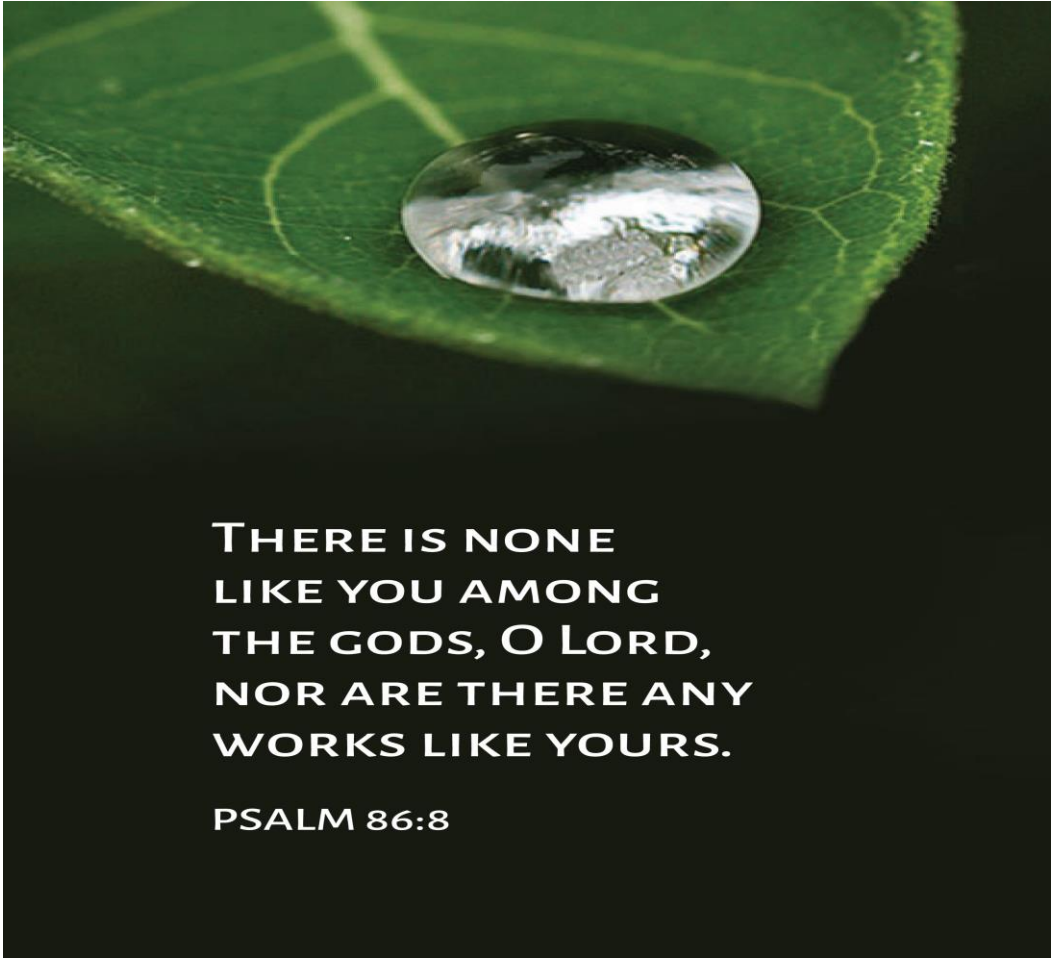


The Word



**THERE IS NONE
LIKE YOU AMONG
THE GODS, O LORD,
NOR ARE THERE ANY
WORKS LIKE YOURS.**

PSALM 86:8

Published by The United Ministry of Delhi

June 2023

Ministers Musings

The sun is out, the flowers are beautiful, the grass is long, and Rick is headed out soon to cut it. Even from behind a lawnmower, it's easy to give thanks to God on a day like this. 'Thanks, God, for the beauty of the peonies and the warmth of the sun.' But Obadiah and I were out walking late, two weeks ago, and it was dark, very dark. There was no moon, nor could we see the stars, and it was cold and damp. I felt alone, except for the company of my dog. On walks like that, I need to be deliberate about remembering the presence and love of God in my life. God's love for me doesn't change in the few hours between the cold night and the warm afternoon. God's love is a constant thing. The challenge for me is holding onto that truth when life isn't sunny and joyful. Sometimes life takes us to the uttermost parts of the sea, far from the security of home, far from the certainty of our chosen routine. You and I both know there are times when we feel far away from God and all that is good. Grief and sorrow, anger and shame can all seem to carry us far away from the joy we thought we knew in the love of Jesus Christ. Life can and does bring us difficulty and struggle, and at times it is our own choices whose consequences have brought us down. We can't always choose to be happy; we can't always choose to feel good. What we can do is make deliberate choices to remember, to hold on to the truth we know, that God's grace does not leave us alone. If music speaks to you, sing a hymn to yourself. Read the Psalms over again – Psalm 23, Psalm 139, Psalm 27. Our feelings are powerful, but they are not the ultimate arbiters of reality. God's love and grace are at the foundation of all that is. Yes, the irises and the lilacs shout their own version of 'Alleluia' to the goodness of God in the world, but I recommend that you store a soft 'alleluia' or two deep in your heart. Let them come out when fear or sadness threaten to overwhelm you. Let them remind you again just how deeply you are loved.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Cathy

Announcements

Camperships

Funds are available for kids, any kids, to attend church camps this summer. Talk to Pastor Cathy for more information.

Adult Ed

The book study will continue our discussion on the book of Ruth, Thursday, June 8 and June 15. For the summer, there will be informal Bible study on Thursday mornings at 10:30. We'll look together at the lectionary texts for the coming Sunday. We'll start a more scheduled book again in September. You are always welcome!

Denominational News

The Susquehanna Presbytery will meet online on Saturday, June 10 in Masonville, and also online. Featured at the meeting will be The Rev. Chali Yoseph, visiting from Ethiopia and speaking on the work of their church's partnership with our Presbytery. Rev. Yoseph will also be speaking at a pot-luck dinner at the Red Door Presbyterian church in Oneonta on Friday, June 9, at 5 pm. Information on the meeting is available from the church office or from Pastor Cathy.

The New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will meet

in person at Hofstra University, June 9- June 11. Pastor Cathy will attend.

Meetings like these allow us to stay connected to churches across the region, worship and praise God, and plan for new ministries and new opportunities to live out the love of Christ together.

Death

Eva Liddle died on Monday, May 29. She was 99 years old, and had been a member of the United Ministry for many years. A memorial service will be held on Friday, June 16, at 1 pm at the Funeral Home. Visiting hours are Thursday, June 15, from 4-7 pm.

Memorial Service

A memorial service for Joel Kazmierski, who died in January, will be on Saturday, June 17, at 11 am at the church. A luncheon will follow. There will be a display of Joel's woodwork at the service; if you'd like to share something of his work, bring it to church by Monday, June 12, and stick a small tag on it to identify it as yours to get it back to you after the service.

Memorial Plant

A miniature lilac bush has been planted in the front garden in memory of Leona Hunt, given by her daughter, Cheryl Hunt.

Highlights of May Parish Council

The May meeting of Parish Council opened with devotions led by Fred Onasch. Fred shared a reading about the Bible verse God so Loved the World.

As the Topic of the Month council members received their copies of the book 'A Generous Life' which will also be given to members of the Finance Committee. Everyone is invited to read the book. It was decided we would try to do a stewardship moment during worship on the last Sunday of every month starting with May. June 25th will be Faith Giving Sunday. Council members committed to reading the book by the July meeting with Rose Niles.

Eloise Henault reported that the Play School board would be meeting this Wednesday. School year is coming to an end with plans for an end of the year celebration. The recyclable can collection brought in \$388. Most of the current Play School class will be moving on this year so it will be mostly new families for the fall. They are planning events for Fair on the Square. Discussion was held on the Universal Pre-K and that it has taken some of the children that would have been coming to Playschool.

Fran Ackerly presented the Treasurer's report for April. She reported that we had received the \$3000 check from the O'Connor Foundation grant, and it had been moved to the music fund. She also said the report did not reflect the \$20,000 transfer but it has taken place. Fran was going to double check with Gideon as to which contributions by the congregation should go under pledged or unpledged. Most accounts are where we expect them to be this time of year. Parsonage utilities are currently higher than budgeted and that should be looked at when planning the next budget. Discussion was held about our current telephone bills and it was decided that Fran would review the bills with Deb Kearney and get back to council.

Gideon reported to the Trustees that they had met on May 9th. They had a successful Community Service Day with students cleaning tables and windows downstairs, gardens and doing yard work at the parsonage. Hot water boosters are completed and the leak in the Playschool was fixed as was the ceiling. Trustees are getting prices to paint the old section of the church as well as talking to masonry people about the front steps repairs. Gideon is going to try to set up a meeting with Amy Warner, ED of the O'Connor Foundation to talk about

opportunities for capital improvement grants as they relate to the building and its use by the community. Ed Chytalo is doing lawns at church as a donation.

Stephanie McCann reported that Finance met this month. There was a donation of \$100 for Kids Club which will go into the Kids Club account. An anonymous donation of \$3000 for fuel will be included in the new Fuel Oil fund which Fran will create. \$10K donation from November 2022 for fuel oil had \$4K used in 2022, \$6K used this year. Finance discussed the \$3000 grant from O'Connor needing to be used for "program expenses", not salaries. The decision was made by Finance to put that money into the Music Fund. We discussed the use of a credit card vs debit card for the Food Pantry purchases but it was decided to leave it as a credit card. Gideon offered to speak to Amy Warner about grants from O'Connor Foundation for building repairs. Barb Jones offered also to touch base with Amy Engels Braemer about opportunities for another grant for the food bank/food giveaway. Deb will be asked to compile the list of all the groups that use our building. We will observe Faith Giving Sunday on June 25th. The committee was reminded that we would be meeting with Rose Niles from New Covenant Funds for a day-long stewardship planning retreat on Saturday, July 8th. It was also decided that the financial reports from investments and banks would be done on the last day of the month, so it's easier to compare from month to month.

Barb Jones reported that SPR was meeting on Tuesday and was working on finalizing policy and the evaluation form process for employees. She will bring examples to the next meeting. The goal is to have these completed by June. They continue to discuss staff recognition in the fall.

Pastor Cathy presented in her report that she had missed church service on May 7th due to illness and hasn't been visiting because of that as well but has been keeping up via calls and texts. She has returned to the square on Wednesdays for Pastor with Coffee. Kids Club has been going well and is due to end this Wednesday for the year. She attended a wonderful continuing education event on 4/23 about Biblical power and principalities. Cathy reported she had started confirmation class with one young person attending but a number of factors have delayed the class. Plans for completing it are still up in the air. While discussing our absence of programs for our young adults Pastor Cathy suggested that we could possibly do a combination youth group with local Presbyterian churches but would need someone beside herself to lead it. She also reported that she will be

coordinator for the southern part of Delaware County Cooperative Parish, which includes 9 churches. She will continue to go to monthly meetings and maybe host one here. She will be a sounding board and will meet with other coordinators every few months. We are unique because we have a full-time pastor for one church. Carol pointed out this is important for our congregation to hear as we continue stewardship conversations. In our conference with 413 congregations only 6 churches have voted to disaffiliate and only 8 worship more than 100 on Sunday. Pastor Cathy is looking into getting new signs, mostly needed for UM tabling on the square. The Food Pantry also needs a lighter weight sign to place outside when it is open. There is a possibility of working with Deb Fleming. Cathy also discussed what we want to do for Fair on the Square this year. We decided to have a spot where we set up a corn hole game and give out cookies.

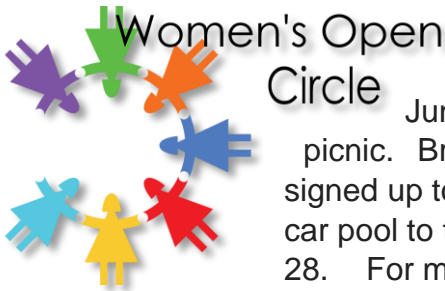
Carol reported for Nurture that Cathy Johnson turned over her paperwork for the directory to Deb. Carol along with Charle Cash will fill in by leading upcoming events including a reception after Baccalaureate and Joel's reception. Everyone is encouraged to sign up to host coffee hour as that time of fellowship is enjoyed by all.

Two building use applications were approved.

Our meeting was closed in prayer.

Any questions about anything that goes on at our council meetings? Please feel free to contact me or any member of council.

Carol Greene



Women's Open Circle

Women's Open Circle will meet Thursday, June 11 at noon for our annual end of year picnic. Bring your own table service. Bring the dish you signed up to fix. We will meet around 11:30 at the church and car pool to the home of Charle Cash on State Highway 28. For more information call Beth Hildreth at 607-746-3015.

Stewardship Note: Faith Giving

Did you know we have a Faith Giving line item in our annual operating budget? Several years ago, while working to balance the annual budget, the Finance Committee included Faith Giving as an income line – with faith that with God's help we would meet our budget and faith that the congregation would find ways to "go the extra mile." These funds get used for the expenses of running the United Ministry. While some members have continued to contribute to Faith Giving beyond their annual pledge, we have not formally dedicated specific dates to collect Faith Giving as in years past. **Sunday, June 25th 2023** will be our first Faith Giving Sunday of this year. Special envelopes will be available and collected during worship. If you are unable to attend on that Sunday, you can still contribute before or after that date, but be sure to clearly mark "Faith Giving" with your contribution, or save for the next date (Last Sunday in September)!



God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

Please join us for the

CLASS OF

2023

* *Baccalaureate*



Baccalaureate will be held for all graduating seniors along with their family and friends at The United Ministry Church.

A reception will be held following the service.

June 4, 2023 at 4:00pm



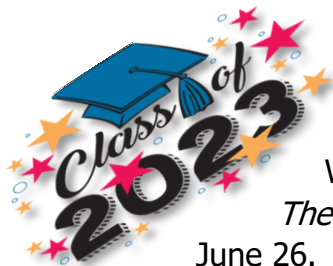
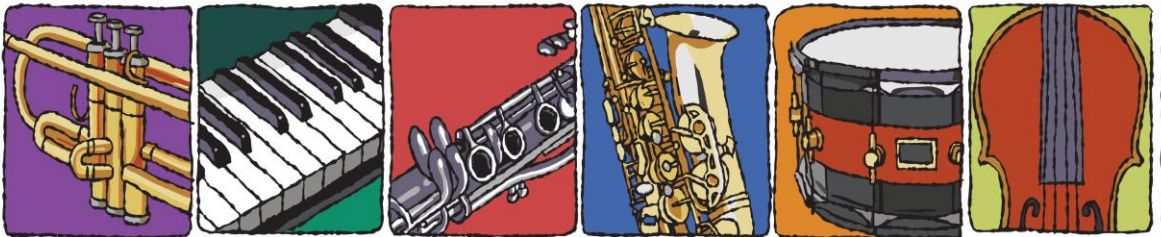
Summer Music Plea

Summer is upon us and the choir will sing it's last anthem of the season on Father's Day, June 18. We will resume on September 6. The Summer Special Music calendar is empty and I would love to be able to fill in some dates. If you would like to contribute it would add greatly to our Summer worship. Please contact me at 607-746-6258 or 607-437-0448 and we can choose a good time for you. **WARNING:** I may have to chase you down! No really, consider this and please add to our service. I can help with your selection,

I would like to take time to thank the members of the Chancel choir for their loyalty and commitment to our worship.

Thank you,

Pat Nabinger



Graduates?

Graduates/Parents of graduates – please send us a picture and a short paragraph about future plans! We'd like to recognize all graduates in our summer issue of *The Word*. The deadline for the July/August issue is Monday, June 26. Thanks!

Play School Update - June 2023

Pre-registration for the 2023-24 school year is now available, please contact Pam Savage at playschool.umod@gmail.com for more information. Student registration for the 2023-24 school year is growing and the banner has been hung. Families that we currently have on the Play School list have been notified and registration forms have been sent. If you know of anyone interested in preschool, please share our information with them. We would love to continue to offer this wonderful program for many more years to come!! Call 746-2191 ext. 206 or email us at playschool.umod@gmail.com

The Bottle and Can Drive Fundraiser Event was Sunday April 23rd from 1-4 pm and we had a great turnout. We collected 7,760 cans and bottles and raised \$388.00 for Play School. Please know that if you missed the event or have additional bottles or cans, Play School has an open standing account with Dutch Redemption that you can drop off or you can leave them at Play School and we can take them back for you. Thank you to EVERYONE who helped out and donated!! Your support is appreciated!!!

During May: We continued letter writing practice, shapes, counting, outside play, painting, coloring, chalk drawings, playtime fun, singing, dancing, and much more. We held our annual End of the Year Celebration with singing and certificates for the families. Bassett Nurse Amy was in for a germ/hand washing unit. Miss Tasha did her Mother's day unit at the beginning of May and Father's Day at the end of May. Miss Joanna helped out and had a fun painting project. One of the class members' family made a BBQ party for the kids. Mrs K. made her homemade "kid powered" ice cream. We are also looking for any other community members to share their special gifts and talents with the children in the classroom. If you would like to share something with our class, please contact Pam Savage at playschool.umod@gmail.com and we can plan a date. All are welcome!!

We are planning a couple of fun Play School Fair on the Square events in July. Please come down and join us as we kick off the start to a new year of adventures where ALL are welcome!!

Continued Thanks to everyone who has donated to Play School and has shared their time and support! This program has truly been a blessing for the children's learning, growth and development!! They are so curious to see what we

are going to learn about next! It's amazing to see the changes in the children from the beginning of the year to the end of the year!!

Wishing you all continued health and happiness!

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Savage

Play School Director

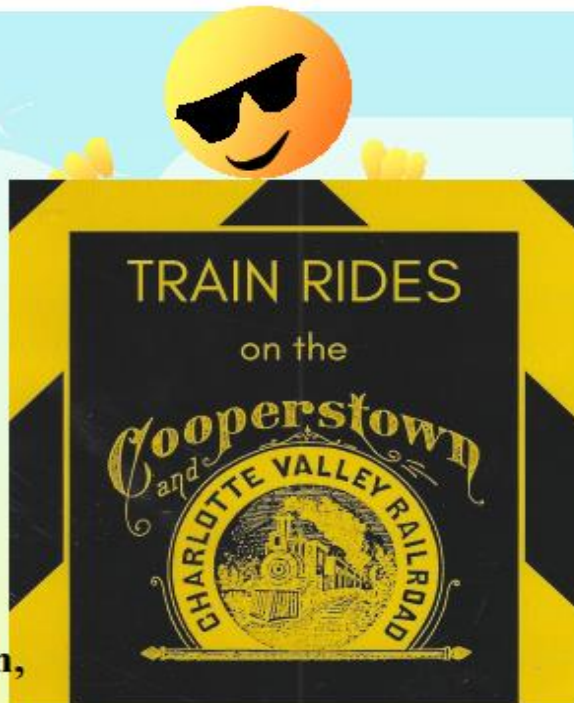


When: **July 30th**
1pm-3pm

Where: **At the station-**
136 East Main St.
Milford, NY

Cost: **Donations**
gratefully accepted.

What: **Hot dogs, popcorn,**
water, soda, and snacks
available to purchase on the
train. Or bring your own
picnic lunch.



Music by:
Darcy Gibson

Join First Presbyterian
Church of Delhi for a
summer train ride!

DAD, no one



STACKS up to you!
Happy Father's Day!



Amy Bishop	6/2	Deb Kearney	6/21
Latham Gielskie	6/4	Scott Oles III	6/25
Faith Savage	6/7	Leanne Nabinger	6/26
Allen Greene	6/9	Mark Chatterton	6/27
Gillian Fisher	6/9	Charlotte Hill	6/28
Abigail Tessier	6/14	Susan Ackeerly	6/28
Crystal Kennedy	6/18	Corinne Jones	6/28
Sandie Reynolds	6/20	Wyatt Frisbee	6/28
Evelyn Jacksto	6/20		



Coffee Hour Hosts & Flowers for the Sanctuary



Have you signed up to host Coffee Hour yet?

Coffee, tea, lemonade, and paper goods are supplied. Cookies are optional. Sign up on the sheet on the Bulletin Board or call the church office to pick your date.

Would you like to commemorate a loved one or special event in your life? Garden and wild flowers are always welcome! If you are uncomfortable creating the arrangement, call the office and we can make the arrangement for you.

Coffee Hour

June 4 _____
 June 11 _____
 June 18 _____
 June 25 _____

Flowers

June 4 _____
 June 11 _____
 June 18 _____
 June 25 _____

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office.

Word and Worship

June 2023

Sunday, June 4

Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13;

Matthew 28:16-20

Sunday, June 11

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7;

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:23

Sunday, June 18

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Father's Day

Genesis 21:8-21;

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Romans 6:1b-11;

Matthew 10:24-39

Sunday, June 25

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13

Romans 6:12-23;

Matthew 10:40-42

Pastor Cathy will at United Methodist Annual Conference on June 11.
Our guest preacher is The Rev. Patti Wolff.

Pastor Cathy will be at her grandson's baptism on June 25.
Our guest preacher is The Rev. Jeff Kellam.

Lectors

June

4 Carol Greene

11 Ann Peet

18 Rev. Rick Edwards

25 Gideon Frisbee

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