

The Word



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Ministers Musings

I made corn salad for the potluck on Sunday. It was so good I made it again two days later. My husband declared that he'd never had corn salad before; in truth, neither had I. But in late August in Delhi, New York, the corn is abundant, fresh, sweet, and amazing. So you use it, and enjoy it. A macaroni salad seemed ungrateful, somehow. Using the gifts of God for the benefit of the community is the same thing. Keeping your kindness or your joy in check instead of sharing them shows a lack of appreciation for the gifts of the Spirit. I celebrate that this church does such a good job of sharing our space – with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, 12-step groups, play groups, etc. Our space is beautiful, precious, and useful to so many neighbors in the community. We use it well for our own ministry – meetings and choir and Play School and the Food Pantry, and we share it with others. I invite you to keep your eyes open this fall to wonderful things you and the church might share well with others. And eat the corn. It's fabulous!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Cathy

Announcements

We're taking on the book of Genesis on Thursday mornings. Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Jacob, Joseph – a lot of great stories to re-read and think about anew. The study book is ***Genesis for Normal People***. If you'd like to join us, please do. We meet at 10:30 in the Harder Room. Pastor Cathy has copies of the book.

Plan to stay after church on Sunday, October 1. We're throwing a **baby shower for Chelsea and Marcus Johnson**, whose baby is expected a few weeks later. Everyone is invited; more details will be forthcoming. But do plan to come and celebrate this new life on the way!

Coffee hour is an important part of our community life together. It's not hard to host it; all we really need is coffee and a little something else. There is wisdom available as to how to work the coffee pot, if that seems complicated (it isn't, really). Please consider finding a friend and signing up together to claim a Sunday to host. Thank you.

Highlights of August Parish Council

The August meeting of Parish Council opened with devotions. During Sharing Time we discussed the July Stewardship meeting and how to move forward. Some of our previous plans such as sending out giving/pledged statements with a cover letter are almost completed. Another statement will be sent at the end of the third quarter. Testimonials/ quarterly mission reports will begin in September with Pastor Cathy asking Pam Savage to speak about Play School. Edie will speak in October for the Food Pantry. Also, Carol will address the many uses of the building during one of the services. After discussion it was decided that we would rebrand the Stewardship as the Generosity Team. Gideon will seek members to meet during October in preparation for Stewardship Sunday in mid-November. It was brought up that churches that are thriving use all means necessary for outreach to community and congregation. There was discussion of a Visual/Narrative budget that tells the story of who we are and portrays the work of our church.

There wasn't a Play School report, but Pastor Cathy reported that the last she knew they had 7 children enrolled and another possible three. Play School was at the Fair on the Square two Fridays.

Laura presented the Treasurer's Report and reported that pledged contributions are only at 41% and expenses are at 50% but she is hopeful that people will catch up in the fall. At the next meeting she will have the updated memorial fund disbursements and the miscellaneous expenses breakdown. Funds donated in memory of Joel Kazmierski will be transferred to Play School.

Gideon Frisbee reported that Trustees have met twice since the last Parish Council meeting and have gotten bids for the painting of the exterior of the original church. They have a good bid for \$5000. (which does not include the Bell Tower) so they will likely proceed with that bid. Jim DeWitt has been doing work on the parsonage porch and back deck. The handrail has been installed in the hallway. They approved a transfer in July and another in August. They have been working on some odds and ends including getting an air conditioner for the bedroom of parsonage. The annual fire alarm inspection in July went well. They discussed the current fuel oil plan which they will likely continue with at Kiffs. Also, they are working on getting more hearing assistance components and updating the computer that Deb uses for live streaming. The current computer being used in

the sanctuary could be used to replace Pastor Cathy's computer. Chris Savage is officially part of Trustees and has already been helping.

Stephanie McCann reported that Finance Committee met in August. The debit card for the church was hacked and new one was being sent. The draw for \$20,000 happened at the beginning of August. Carol suggested putting an article in the local paper asking for donations for the Food Pantry since the number of people we are currently serving has increased tremendously. A photo shoot was taken of Edie receiving a check for \$1000 from the Walton Presbyterian Church for the food pantry. We will try and get a copy of that photo and forward it to the Reporter with an article. A discussion was also held by council about the Benevolence budget being in the negative and how we could handle that. Suggestions were made that will be carried back to Finance for their next meeting. The use of Memorial Funds was also discussed. Stephanie reported that giving statements are printed and stuffed and waiting for a cover letter before mailing.

Barb Jones reported that SPR met June 27th and were missing a few people. Pastor Cathy filled an evaluation form, and the committee went over it with her. There was lots of good feedback. She talked about the more challenging parts around visitation for Pastor Cathy especially knowing who to connect with. Feedback was shared about shortening Communion service by using two stations. The next thing will be meetings with staff. SPR will meet 8/22/23.

Pastor Cathy has been away several Sundays for vacation and would appreciate feedback about the visiting Pastors and who we should ask to return. The special service at Cabin Hill with other Presbyterian churches went well and had 13 members of UMC there. We will host the next one on October 5th and have a potluck afterwards. This coming Sunday is outdoor worship and a picnic. Bible Study will happen this fall with the reading of Genesis for Regular people. Rick has volunteered to teach a class on acolyting. Kids club will start on September 13th. Pastor Cathy is getting curriculum together, ordering snacks etc. Fred and Cathy are going to meet with the Stamford Presbyterian and Methodist churches who are wanting to merge. She also shared that there will be a Zoom class about food, faith and justice: shifting from charity to justice approach, more info to follow.

NOW Reports included: Fred Onasch (Witness) was pleased to report that we had a good showing at the Fair on the Square with many people stopping by for cookies and a visit.

Evelyn (Nurture) will be covering worship, hospitality and Christian Ed. We will continue to have coffee hours this fall. Beautiful photos from worship were shared.

Edie (Outreach-Food Pantry) The pantry is being well used. Since Hamden Food Bank does not have the grants, they have had in previous years they will not be able to provide us with turkeys and fixings at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Edie is starting to shop for and compile some supplies already and will put in the Newsletter other items we will be needing. She has heard from some people who have come into Food Pantry that they have been having trouble with the SNAP program, specifically completing the paperwork. Edie reported this to Kelly at Delaware Opportunities.

Other Business discussions including how to engage youth who have aged out of Kids Club. It was noted that a new church is being organized in Franklin and Tom Briggs is very involved along with Paster Betsy. Pastor Cathy involved youth in completing Health Kits at the beginning of August and delivered them but there are enough materials to compile more if we get hand towels donated. It was suggested that next month's Topic of the Month be the possible creation of a youth group.

Building use requests were approved for: Hospice Tree of Lights Memorial Service (tables, chairs, podium and Harder Room), Lutheran Church's Community Dish to Pass (use of tables and chairs, Mac hall in case of rain) Rural Health Network of SCNY hosting a 7 week Living Healthy Self-management workshop in McIntosh Hall, Little Delaware Youth Ensemble (Use of sanctuary, music room, Harder Room) Previous approval via email was given to DSS to borrow tables and chairs for an event to celebrate the adoption of 16 children and their new families. The event will take place in front of the courthouse.

There was another request by a private therapist to use the building once a week for Neurodivergent Play Therapy- part of adoption process for at-risk children. More information was requested as to whether Dottie Howe was a private therapist or whether she was working with an agency. Carol was asked to follow through

with Deb. Once it was established that this was an unusual circumstance in which the family adopting had to travel from Sullivan County and they needed a central meeting place and that it was not a therapist using the building for her practice, the Council approved the usage via an email vote.

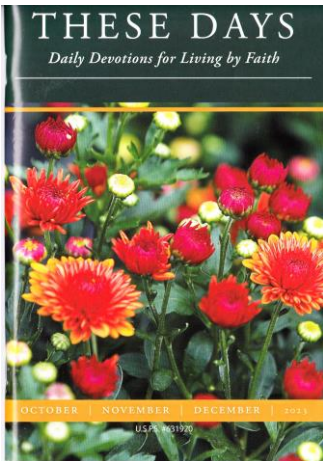
Our meeting was closed in prayer.

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

Carol Greene

Daily Devotional Available

Strengthen your faith with These Days! Each inspiring and uplifting issue of *These Days* features:



- Daily devotions
- Scripture suggestions
- Thought-provoking daily reflections written by clergy and lay leaders
- Inspiring prayers
- Poems, prayers and songs pertinent to the issue's theme
- Adult coloring pages
- Colorful artwork on the cover
- Information on the writers

*Source: <https://www.pcusastore.com/Pages/Default.aspx?ContentID=14604&Title=These-Days>

There are copies of *These Days* Daily devotional for the fall – October, November, December – are available on the small table outside the Pastor's Office. This devotional is published quarterly and offers a scripture, short reading, and a short prayer daily.

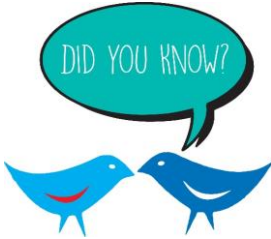
Faith Giving

Are you saving your loose change? Sunday, September 24th will be our 2nd Faith Giving of this year.

Envelopes will be available on the table at the front of the sanctuary and on the table outside the offices. They will also be distributed on Sunday, September 24th for your convenience.



Did you know . . .



. . . that an important mission for The United Ministry of Delhi is making our building available for use by people and groups that serve our community?

Some of the people that use our rooms are therapists that work with toddlers and young children that need just a little help achieving developmental goals. Neurodivergent Therapists may meet with families to introduce assistive tools, toys, or devices for children with varying needs, or they may meet for speech, occupational, or play therapy with the child.

Delaware County is a geographically large rural area with often difficult winter weather, which can make access to necessary services challenging. Being able to meet with the therapist in our building here in Delhi makes some services more available to families.

Music Notes

Chancel Choir will begin rehearsing on Wednesday, September 6th, 7:30 pm in the Music Room



We would love to welcome new members. There are definite perks in being a choir member: a “family” to be part of, a deeper understanding of many of the scriptures we hear and lessons given on Sunday, a spiritual break in the middle of the week and a true sense of enhancing the worship in a very special way. If you have some conflicts it is not a huge problem to miss a Sunday, we all have a life and I don't want you to feel restricted by choir. Please come and try it out. It is a special time to get away from the outside forces that are around us, renew our spirit and make music.

Play School News - September 2023

What a busy summer we have had! Play School was promoted at the Fair on the Square with two different events in July. The first event was the Scholastic Book Giveaway with an obstacle course for the kids and then Play School hosted a Silent Auction. There were several baskets and items up for bid. Basket/item went to the person with the top bid. At the Book Giveaway event there were 120 books given away and \$50 donated towards new books and at the Silent Auction we raised \$405.75 to be used towards the Play School Program. Thank you to everyone that helped out at these events, tried out the obstacle course, donated items or baskets and bid on them! We appreciate you all!!

A memorial for Joel Kazmierski was held in June and Play School received \$420.00 from Ruth Kazmierski in Joel's memory. We were also notified by Carol Greene that there are additional memorials of \$350 sent on behalf of Joel for Play School that need to be transferred to the Play School account. Play School plans to use these donations to update some of the Play School equipment and toys in Memory of Joel. Joel enjoyed popping down to Play School to see what we were up to, take pictures, help with any projects we needed (his height came in handy on some of these), and was a great advocate for the kids in the program! He truly knew the benefits Play School brought to the families in his community! I also loved that he made sure Ruth brought Tracy and I a holiday wooden pin that he made! Joel will be greatly missed!!

The Play School Program will be open for the 2023-24 School Year. Currently we have 8 students registered for the new school year. On Friday, September 8th we will have Play School Orientation and on Monday, September 11th is the First Day of School. Again this year we will collect donations of school supplies for this year's class. If anyone would like to donate some supplies, there is a School Supply list located on the bulletin board and a box outside Pastor Cathy's office by the church mailboxes. Monetary donations are also welcome. Please note in the memo section Play School Supplies. Thanks!!

This year we plan to work on the alphabet/ letters of the week, numbers and counting, colors, shapes, the calendar, weather, seasons, holidays, social interaction, gross and fine motor skills, projects, painting, stories, songs and music, to name a

few. We will reach out to the community and families and bring them into the classroom to share their knowledge and talents with the children. Celebrate holidays and include special events. We will also do a few field trips. So many fun things are planned to make this year special for the kids and their families! If anyone in the congregation would like to share something with the class, please let me know at playschool.umod@gmail.com and we can set up a date and time.

If you know of someone interested in the Play School Program for their child or a friend, Please pass along my contact information. Pam Savage (607)746-6869 (home), find us on Facebook at Play School of Delhi, email us at playschool.umod@gmail.com or contact through our webpage at <http://playschoolumod.wixsite.com/home> ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!!

Looking forward to a great year and growing strong together!!

Wishing you all the best,

Pamela Savage, Play School Director

Casual Café

Casual Cafe continued to meet over the summer. We meet in the Harder Room for lunch from about 11:30 - 1:30 - come join us as your time allows during that time. Beverage and dessert is provided - just bring your lunch and enjoy a time of fellowship with others! We visit, laugh and enjoy a time together. Plan to join us as your schedule allows - there is always room at the table

Women's Open Circle

The Open Circle is the organized women's group in our church. There is no membership roll, and all United Ministry women are encouraged to participate in the fellowship, programs, and outreach projects. Our stated purpose is to contribute to the life of the church. We take part in and support the programs and missions of the Methodist Catskill-Hudson District and the Women in the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery (PWP).

The Women's Open Circle will meet **Thursday, September 14th** in the Harder Room at noon. Bring your own lunch, beverage and dessert will be provided. The Agenda is unknown at this point because Beth will not be able to be with us, but we do want to get together!

Food Pantry

Some of you may have heard that we have been very busy. In June we had 53 families come in which totaled 110 people that we provided food for. July felt even busier with 50 families totaling 104 people.

In June Joe and Cheryl did a pick-up at Aldi's for us and in July Laura and Gary did 2 Aldi pick-ups. Each of the 3 pick-ups was over \$400 and of course 1ce or 2ce a week I continue to pick up perishables and health care items which probably averages another \$100 to \$150 a week. Kelly at the Hamden food bank continues to send us a delivery once a month. She has 15 food pantries to provide for and is being challenged to obtain enough food from the regional office while waiting on grants to come through. In early August Kelly notified us that Hamden would be unable to provide us with Turkeys and sides for both the Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes. Normally Hamden sends us 24 turkeys for Thanksgiving and with our numbers going up this summer we may have requests for even more. During the month of October pantry customers will be signing up. I have a space on the sign-up sheet that says *if available* Turkey or whole chicken for them to mark their choice. By the end of October I will have a count as to how many boxes we will be shopping for. That is also the time we may start and see some good Holiday sales at the grocery store,

Trying times for all but thanks to the generosity of the members of the United Ministry and the Delhi community in general we continue to feed our customers. Many of our customers when leaving will show their appreciation by saying thank you for all you do or God bless you. Managing the food pantry is a lot of work but also very satisfying.

Edie

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.

Coffee Hour

Sept 3 _____
 Sept 10 _____
 Sept 17 _____
 Sept 24 _____



Would you like to commemorate a loved one or special event in _____ 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.

Flowers

Sept 3 _____
 Sept 10 _____
 Sept 17 _____
 Sept 24 _____

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

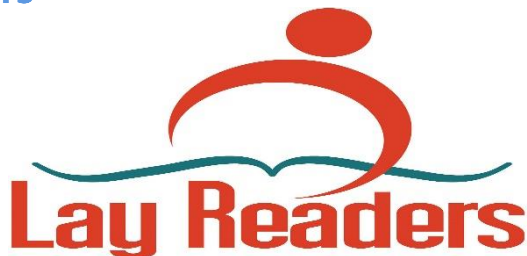
September Birthdays



Bill Cash	9/5
Michele Trelease	9/7
Bob Peet	9/10
Lisa Tessier	9/25
Ruth Kazmierski	9/28
Lisa Heckman	9/29

Lectors

Sept 3 Ann Peet .
 Sept 10 Carol Greene .
 Sept 17 Rick Edwards .
 Sept 24 Ruth Kazmierski .



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