

The Nimmonsburg Witness

Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church

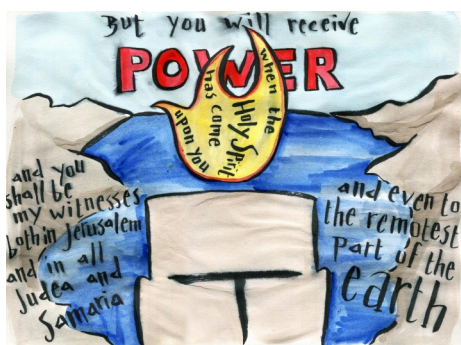
918 Upper Front Street, Binghamton, New York 13905

Rev. Harold Wheat (607) 724-5421

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APRIL 2024

“The Power We Need”



Jesus came to his disciples, convinced them of the power of Resurrection, and then left them with instructions to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. These were his words, *“you will receive power when the holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses”* (Acts 1:8).

From the Oxford English Dictionary, power is *“the ability to do something or act in a particular way, especially as a faculty or quality... or the capacity or ability to direct or influence the behavior of others or the course of events.”*

Consider what power you need in order to notice, give thanks for, and learn to tell the stories of Jesus’ presence in your life, in the life of our church?

How have you witnessed Jesus transforming the structures of the world around us?

This kind of power was given to those who were intentionally waiting for it. As we enter into the season of preparation for Pentecost, please take time to consider the ways that you may be called to draw nearer to Christ in faith and engage in that active waiting that the early disciples modeled.

General Conference is this Month!

Just like our Church Council meets once a month and there are certain questions that can only be decided at that meeting, our worldwide United Methodist movement meets once every 4 years in General Conference to decide issues of church structure, doctrine, and social principles. The next General Conference begins in Charlotte, NC on the 23rd of April. As a backup alternate delegate, Pastor Wheat has been involved in much of the conversation and preparation for this meeting. Please be in prayer for our delegates, Bishops, and all the people working very hard to make sure this is a Spirit-filled and productive meeting.

Our April Celebrations

Please let us know if we missed your birthday or anniversary! We want to celebrate with you!

Birthdays:

4/3 - Amy Morgan
 4/4 - Edith Stalker
 4/8 - Skylar Rovere
 4/12 - Rachael Hagerman
 4/13 - Mary Pease
 4/14 - Simon Austin
 4/15 - Declan Rueffer
 4/17 - Peter Contro
 Karen Holman
 4/19 - David Hagerman
 Norma Letterman
 4/21 - Corey Hagerman

4/23 - Taylen Burish
 Jordan Oakley
 Jenna Shoemaker
 4/24 - Caden Hoyt
 4/30 - Eric Moyer

Anniversaries:

4/26 - Shirley & Tom Savage
 4/28 - Denise & Bruce Kellett



All requests for Endowment Funds should be in writing and include the name of the person or committee requesting funds, amount requested and a brief description as to how it will be used.

★★★

Submit requests to Rex Decker, Endowment Chairperson

Apply for Endowment Funds

Endowment Funds are distributed each year in four different categories:

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

Anyone may make a request for funds, and each request should include a brief description as to how the funds would be used. Once submitted, the Endowment Committee will review all requests and submit their recommendations to the Administrative Board for approval.

Deadline for submissions is May 5, 2024

Fellowship/Coffee Hour with UWIF

Nimmonsburg United Women in Faith will be hosting coffee hour after church on **April 7th**. We will be collecting donations to support Church World Service's kits program. Because of the strict guidelines on what type of items go into their school and hygiene kits (the two kits we supply), we have decided to collect money for shopping, but we do the actual shopping and packaging so we meet their strict specifications.

Please plan on helping us support this worthwhile program. Church World Service sends a truck to the CHOW Warehouse at the end of April to collect kits in the Binghamton area. Also, each kit has a \$2 processing fee, so any donation will really help out! *We promise extra good goodies in return!*



Greetings from Sky Lake!



Rejuvenate Retreat May 3-5, 2024 “Let’s Play, Find Joy in Each Day”

At this retreat, we will insert some fun and playfulness into our mindsets. Our leadership team is planning a weekend filled with “*mild and wild*” activities. You might hike in the woods, cozy up by the fire, make cheese from scratch, experience massage therapy, paint with watercolors, craft a Shrinky Dink trinket, laugh yourself silly with “Laughter-cise”, toss a corn hole bag, or learn a gardening skill. You’ll set your own pace as you take time in solitude in the great outdoors or take time to join with other women for activities. You’ll dine on delicious and healthy meals prepared by our foodservice team.

This retreat is one of our “*Ladies of the Lake*” retreats. Learn more and register online at <https://skylakecenter.org/event/rejuvenate-2024/>

St. Patrick’s Day Tea!

**Nimmonsburg UMC
Adopt-a-Highway
Cleanup Day
Saturday, April 20th**
Meet at 10:00 am at
Dr. Laylor’s Parking Lot
Coffee and Donuts After!
Please sign up in the Church
Entryway



SUNY-Broome Revamped Hornet Hope Center



On Thursday, March 24th, campus and community members celebrated the official unveiling of the revamped Hornet Hope Center, SUNY-Broome’s on-campus food pantry and clothing closet. Pastor Harold was invited, and attended the grand opening!

Spearheaded by Lorie Brewer, Supplemental Support Services Coordinator and Homeless Liaison, the Hornet Hope Center is staffed by employee and student volunteers, work-study students, interns and alumni who cover shifts throughout the week.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony concluded with dedication of the Hornet Hope Center to the memory of the late Deborah Hibbard. While working in Counseling Services, Deborah witnessed firsthand the impact of food insecurity within the campus community. Together with her partner, Dr. Virginia Shirley, Deb was committed to feeding those in need, first from her car, then from a closet in her office, and finally through an official campus food pantry.

The Hornet Hope Center continually accepts food, clothing, personal hygiene, household items and more. **They are extremely appreciative of the great job we have done at Nimmonsburg UMC collecting food pantry items.** In the last few weeks, NUMC has donated more than 200 pounds of food during our Lent collection for them, with a lot more still to be sent over.



Thank you Nimmonsburg UMC!

Acceptable Behavior—Safe Sanctuaries

When the church is at its best, we are the community called by God to be a spiritual family. That can be amazing, full of affection, joy and safety. And, for all of this we give thanks.

However, it is important to be aware that behaviors of the world keep trying to come into our church. Because we understand the potential for unacceptable behaviors to show up here, we have policies in place. For example, sexual harassment is unacceptable in our community of faith. Defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as *“behavior characterized by the making of unwelcome and inappropriate sexual remarks or physical advances in a workplace or other professional or social situation”*, sexual harassment can cause profound harm to the trust we so often take for granted. If you or someone you know becomes aware of this behavior showing up, **please report it right away.** We have a poster on our Bulletin Board with contact information for people here at Nimmonsburg UMC who can help you.



Bible Quiz—”SLEEP”

1. Who slept in a small boat during a great storm? *(Luke 8:23-24)*
2. Who once had a stone pillow to sleep on? *(Genesis 28:11)*
3. Who slept at the feet of her future husband? *(Ruth 3:8)*
4. Who slept under a juniper tree? *(1 Kings 19:5)*
5. Who slept while they should have been watching, while danger threatened the one they loved? *(Matthew 26:40)*
6. What excuse did the guards at Jesus' tomb make when the stone was found to have been rolled away and Jesus was gone? *(Matthew 28:13)*
7. Jesus once said, “She is not dead, but sleepeth.” Of whom was he speaking? *(Luke 8:52)*
8. Who said, when finding the disciples asleep, “Could ye not watch with me one hour?” *(Matthew 26:40)*
9. Who once fell asleep in church, with disastrous results? *(Acts 20:9)*



Lemon Poke Cake

For a deliciously soft, moist, light and refreshing cake, this Lemon Poke Cake is the way to go! It's the perfect blend of sweet and tart lemon flavor, and a dessert that your family will love!

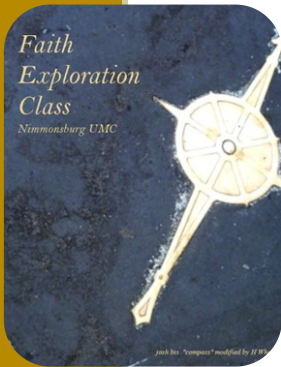
Ingredients:

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|--|---------------------------|
| 1 box lemon cake mix | 1 cup water |
| 1/2 cup vegetable oil | 3 large eggs |
| 2 cups cold milk | 8 oz. container Cool Whip |
| 2 (3.4) oz. packages instant lemon pudding mix | |



1. Preheat oven to 350° and spray a 9x13 inch pan with non-stick cooking spray.
2. In large bowl, combine cake mix, water, vegetable oil and eggs. Mix until combined.
3. Pour into prepared pan and smooth into an even layer.
4. Bake for 25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
5. Cool for about an hour.
6. Use the handle of a wooden spoon to poke holes over each inch of the cake. Set aside.
7. In a medium bowl, combine pudding mix and milk. Whisk together until smooth.
8. Pour pudding over cake and spread evenly.
9. Cover and refrigerate cake for one hour.
10. Spread Cool Whip over the pudding layer.
11. Top with lemon slices and/or lemon zest. Serve.

Faith Exploration Classes



New Classes Starting! Faith Exploration Class is 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 a preparation for membership, or simply as a tool to help participants pursue our deepest questions through conversation with Scripture, tradition, experience, and reason.

This class consists of five one-hour sessions beginning at 11:45 am on Sundays after church. Please sign up in the Church entryway, or see Pastor Harold with any questions.

Dismantling Racism Movie Discussion

The movie discussions that are an expression of our Church Council's decision about how we will continue to work on dismantling racism will continue with the movie, **Selma**.

According to Wikipedia, *"The film was nominated for Best Picture and won Best Original Song at the 87th Academy Awards. It also received four Golden Globe Award nominations, including Best Motion Picture – Drama, Best Director and Best Actor, and won for Best Original Song."* And, it will provide us with a strong platform for conversation about how Jesus and his teachings can give us strength and purpose as we seek to dismantle racism and heal the terrible wounds it has caused.

Please save the date: **Sunday April 21st** right after church until 3:00 pm. Luncheon information will be coming soon!



Sky Lake

We have programs for children and youth completing grades K-12, and persons with special needs, ages 15-65. These programs vary in length from a couple of days to a week long. In addition to all of the "Camp favorites" like swimming and boating, arts and crafts, hiking, volleyball, and four-square, we offer tons of unique activities including sleeping out under the stars, cooking a meal in the woods, 9 Square in the Air, kayaking and corcling, ultimate frisbee, and more! For more information, visit <https://skylakecenter.org/summer-camp/>

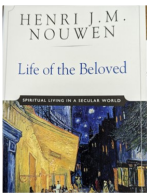


Releasing a Transforming Love (Parts I & II)



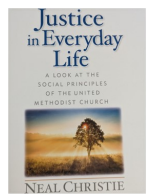
Sometimes the love of God comes so powerfully that all we need to do is release it and watch what the Lord will do. But, where does one go to learn how to open the eyes of our hearts to see what God is doing? And, how do we stay focused on the power of God's love while also seriously attending to the 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. Each will consist of five one-hour sessions with a schedule to be determined.

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 has helped 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, written by Rev. Neal Christie, is designed to help participants develop the spiritual maturity to partner with the Holy Spirit in employing the power of love to make right some of the painful wrongs we see around us in the world.

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



"Alright, Smenkins ... who misspelled 'message'?"

Hello April

A good day isn't always
 Perfect. It challenges you to
 Release your potential and
 Inspires you to appreciate the
 Little, amazing things in life

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