

Nimmonsburg Witness

Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church
918 Upper Front Street, Binghamton, NY 13905
(607) 724-5421 - Pastor Harold Wheat

August 2023



Pride in the Connection

Part of what it means to be United Methodist is that we are connected across time and space with others who have chosen the discipline of following Christ as a community of believers in the Wesleyan way. We share the yearning to witness together what God is revealing among us and within us in the church. As a church connected across the globe and down the street, the glimpses we can catch of God's movement are amazing, and work we can accomplish when we join our efforts together is satisfying to celebrate.

Recently our denomination has entered a season of discernment and grief, which is *hopefully* heading towards a renewed clarity of vision and joy. I refer, of course, to the fact that this year many churches have discerned a call to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. Here at Nimmonsburg UMC, we had conversations to which everyone was invited (the latest was November 6th, 2022), took the temperature of the community with a straw poll, and learned that there was a strong desire among respondents to remain United Methodist. Our Church Council has since directed our leadership conversation toward the vision we have for fulfilling the future God has for us as a United Methodist Church.

Because any decision of this nature is bound to hold a variety of feelings, both Pastor Wheat and our Church Council remain open to discussing any questions you may have about the decision to stay UMC.

One of the joys of being a United Methodist follower of Jesus Christ is the way our church embodies John Wesley's teaching on embracing difference. In his sermon, "*The Catholic Spirit*", Wesley offers this invitation:

*"If thy heart is right, as my heart is with thy heart ...
give me your hand. I do not mean, be of my opinion."*

We are going to have different opinions. And, with the power of our Savior helping us, we can love one another, join together in mission, work together in the kitchen, and share the Good News that God is in our land. It is that discipline of loving one another and being gentle with each other in our differences that will continue to form us a people on the path toward fulfilling the hope God has for us.

Pastor Harold Wheat

Pastor's Vacation: It's that time. Having missed visiting with my family for Thanksgiving and Christmas because I was ill, I've got some catching up to do. I will be away from July 31st thru August 6th. During that time, Rev. David Wickins will be available for urgent pastoral care at 716-499-8819. Don't worry, I'll be back in time for the Picnic!





Anniversaries and Birthdays

BIRTHDAYS

- 8/1 - Eva Randall
- 8/2 - Janice Kienzler
- 8/4 - Dottie Benjamin
- 8/5 - Taylor Lindsey
- 8/7 - Chris Nabinger
- 8/10 - Diane Schaumberg
- 8/16 - Maria Supa
- 8/17 - Deborah Edwards
Judy Poit
- 8/19 - Andrea Pickney
- 8/20 - Bernadette Yotter
Dee Seeley
- 8/21 - Paetyn Burish
Dorothy Forsyth
- 8/22 - Dick Oakley
- 8/25 - Steve Herrick
Freya Randall
Avery Rovere
- 8/29 - William Poit
- 8/30 - Helen LaBarr
Andy Supa

ANNIVERSARIES

- 8/10 - Lynne & Jim Ruth
- 8/11 - Judy & Russ Sanaeko
- 8/17 - Patti & Paul Derr
- 8/18 - Marilyn & Steve Herrick
- 8/23 - Dottie & Wally Benjamin
- 8/25 - Elizabeth & Craig Button



NIMMONSBURG UMC

Church Picnic

Sunday, August 13th

11:15 am

Rain or Shine!

Please sign up in the Church narthex if you can attend, and what "dish to pass" you will be bringing.

Hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks will be provided.

Please bring your own table settings.



Tips to Stay Cool in Hot Weather

When we can't take the heat in the summer, here are some ideas that might help:

1. Add ice to a fan for a refreshing kick!
2. Stay hydrated and drink as much water as possible.
3. Put your ankles in water. You can fill up a small tub and even add a couple of ice cubes!
4. Freeze your berries and fruit. Frozen grapes are delicious!
5. Wrap a cold wet towel around your neck.
6. Sleep on cotton sheets. Cotton sheets are made of natural fibers making them breathable.
7. Go out to eat or shopping in an air conditioned building.



How Should We Dispose of Bibles



A Bible coated in mud lies outside Fenwick (W. Va.) United Methodist Church following heavy flooding.

Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.

God is the giver of good gifts and the things we use in our life of worship, prayer, study and service. These objects become bearers to us of God's word.

When so worn or damaged as to be no longer useable, Bibles should be disposed of with reverence and with appropriate ritual action.

In such a ritual, a congregation or community offers thanks to God for the gifts involved in the items offered, and returns them back to God by returning them to the earth. Such return to the earth may happen by burial or by burning, with the ashes interred after the burning is complete.

In light of God's call to be good stewards, it is a good practice to give gently used Bibles, Sunday school curriculum or devotional books to people or communities who need them. Always keep in mind whether the resources are still current and contextually appropriate for the recipients.

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.



Spicy Zucchini Cake with Brown Sugar Fudge Frosting

Zucchini will be plentiful soon, so I thought this would be a good August recipe. This recipe starts with a spice cake mix. It's hard to decide which is best—the cake or the frosting!

Cake Ingredients:

- 1 spice cake mix (18.25 oz.)
- 1 small instant vanilla pudding
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 1/2 cups grated zucchini
- 3/4 cup chopped nuts

Frosting Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 T. half-and-half
- 1 cup confectioner's sugar

Note: You can substitute grated carrots for zucchini.



Cake: Preheat oven to 325°. Grease and flour 10-inch tube pan. In large mixing bowl, combine cake mix, pudding mix, eggs, sour cream and oil. Beat on medium speed for two minutes. Stir in zucchini and nuts, mixing well. Spread in pan and bake for 60-65 minutes. Cool 25 minutes on wire rack, and then remove cake.

Frosting: In medium saucepan, combine brown sugar and butter. Bring to a boil over medium heat and then simmer for 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Carefully stir in cream. Return to a boil and then remove from heat. Cool slightly. Put confectioner's sugar in bowl and pour warm brown sugar mixture on top. Beat on low speed just until smooth and creamy (about 2 minutes). Quickly spread on cake. Cool to let frosting set before cutting.

A new ukulele class is forming here at NUMC for seniors 55+! It's an easy instrument to learn and you don't have to be able to read music. We currently have a group of ten ladies and we have a lot of fun. We will meet on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 1:45 pm, and you will need a ukulele. Please consider joining us, and bring a friend with you. Contact Denise Kellett for more information.



AMERICAN CIVIC ASSOCIATION IN COLLABORATION
WITH ROSS PARK ZOO & THE LANTERN FESTIVAL
PRESENTS

19TH ANNUAL GARLIC FESTIVAL

Date
AUGUST 12th, 2023
11:00am to 4:00pm

Ethnic food | Bbq | Music & cultural performances |
Garlic Ice Cream | Bounce House

Place
ROSS PARK ZOO
60 Morgan Rd, Binghamton

Entrance Fee
\$5 Adults \$2 Kids
Plus discounted tickets to the Lantern Festival

Interested in being a vendor, volunteer or sponsor?
Email us at acagarlicfestival@gmail.com

For more information:
Email us at acagarlicfestival@gmail.com
or Call us at 607-723-9419



David Orr's Heart Transplant Fundraiser



Chicken & Biscuit Dinner
(Free Will Offering)
Saturday, August 5th from 3-6 pm
John Hus Presbyterian Church
47 Glenwood Ave., Binghamton

There will also be a bottle and can drive.

David has been battling heart failure for many years and recently received a heart transplant. We are hosting this dinner to raise funds for the many expenses involved with the heart transplant process. Please join us to help support a community member in need.



Sunday School Teachers Meeting

We are looking to schedule an organizational meeting for Sunday School teachers (*late August—communication coming soon!*). If you or someone you know is ready to be part of our Sunday School team, please contact Pastor Wheat. Passing on our faith to future generations is one of the most important tasks we can take on for our Savior. Just think of how much you may learn as you engage in the process of teaching.



NUMC Welcomes the Senshi Dojo



A small martial arts school has agreed to rent space in the Wesleyan Room, and will be meeting on Mondays and Fridays from 5:30 to 7:30 pm starting in August. Aikido, called the “*way of peace*” by its founder, Morihei Ueshiba, is a discipline focused on welcoming and releasing the intense energies of physical conflict with relaxed grace. You can contact Sensei Jeffery Gonz if you are interested in seeing a class, or joining us at (607) 235-1720.

MUSIC REQUEST LINE

What is your favorite worship music, Nimmonsburg UMC?



For the first couple of Sundays in August, there will be a Bulletin insert giving you a chance to share your music requests. We will share the results in the September Newsletter, and, of course, you will be seeing some of your requests in upcoming services!

(Hymns and worship songs are welcome!)



Mission Project



Vanessa at Tabernacle UMC is happy to receive bags from Nimmonsburg for their Wednesday night Free Community Dinner.

NUMC is collecting paper, plastic and cloth bags for local soup kitchens and community dinners to use for takeout meals. You can place any bags you have in the plastic tote in the Church narthex.

We are delivering all collected bags to soup kitchens who are very pleased to receive them.

Thank you for helping with this seemingly small, but important, project!



- Looking forward to Fall - *Revelation Study Continues*

This class is designed to provide tools for Bible study, opportunities to get to know one another more, and to deepen the character of our discipleship. Meetings will be on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am for 75 minutes. (*Zoom access is available.*) Watch for more details!

Faith Exploration Class Nimmonsburg UMC



If you have been wanting to get more out of your worship experience, this might be the class for you. It is designed to be helpful for people who have been with the faith for a long time, and for those who are just beginning to practice Christian faith. With themes of Grace, Covenant, Baptism, Holy Communion, and our decision-making practice

in the United Methodist tradition, this class can serve to prepare individuals to join the church, or simply give you tools to make the church-going experience more powerful for you.

Mission: Resettlement

Recently, our Church Council invited leaders of the American Civic Association to come and talk to us about the work of refugee resettlement in our area. Following Jesus' teaching to love our neighbors as ourselves, there was considerable excitement about learning more about our newest neighbors, and how we might help them get settled here in Binghamton.



It turns out that one of the things we can do is to be part of the network of people offering various housewares and furniture to those who are starting new lives here among us. *Because actual needs change very quickly, the strategy we have adopted for now is to direct people to call Farha Naz at the American Civil Association at 607-663-1475 or 607-723-9419 if you have something from the "List of Basic Needed Items" that you would like to donate.*

Church Council will be discussing other options at our August meeting - stay tuned!



Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church

*918 Upper Front Street
Binghamton, New York 13905*



Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church

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