

McKownville Church News

Volume 7 No.2

LOVE GOD, FOLLOW JESUS AND PASS IT ON!

February 2016

Spirit Filled, Mission Driven

Articles for the March Newsletter are due by February 15.



HOLY WEEK & LENTIN SERVICE SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday—February 10th at 7:30pm

Palm Sunday —March 20th

Holy Thursday—March 24th at 7:30pm

Good Friday —March 25th at 7:30pm

Easter Sunday—March 27th

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Pastor's Message

Our footing on the foundation of faith in God is the source of our confidence in life and for the future. When we genuinely put our trust in God who is alive and accessible to us, our relationship with God will be steady and solid. And we can be open to embrace differences and diversity in faith, not by diluting our beliefs in God's presence among us, not by compromising our conviction in God's promise, but by being defined and directed by God and His will. We are to be oriented by the Spirit of God, not only on the edges of life but in the middle of it also.

Prayer matters. Prayer matters to God. Prayers are in many forms and methods and we can employ different forms or methods of prayer for different settings. On the top of Mount Carmel Elijah here prayed prayer for fire on the offerings in his showdown with the 850 prophets of Baal prophets. And right after that event, Elijah committed himself to solving another problem of Israel: the long drought. He started praying to God for rain. He took a different form and attitude of prayer. He knelt and prayed and told his assistant to look toward the sea seven times. And a heavy rain started pouring down on the land. The rain quenched the parched land of Palestine, easing the drought of three and a half years. A long-lasting problem was solved.

On the top of the mount, in front of the crowds, God, by answering his prayer, proclaims that God defines and decides what happens in nature, not Baal, not anyone else. Life and death are defined and decided by God, who is alive. God is in control and works on our history. God rules and changes the direction of the spiritual stream of the day.

Prayer is essential in our relationship with God. I often think that prayer can be compared to the wheel alignment on a car. Prayer aligns us with God. A wheel alignment is regularly required if we want to keep the car in a good condition. If we neglect it, a car can be damaged, slowly and gradually. This can be applied to our faith journey. Without appropriate alignment, our faith can go awry. We need to align our lives with God. Prayer is aligning our hopes and dreams with the will of God.

Aligning life's purpose and perspective with God requires sacrifice or suffering from us. Faith leads us to submit our wills to God. When he prayed in the garden of Gethsemane before he was crucified, Jesus said this prayer to God. "*Father, if you're willing, remove this cup from me. Yet not my will, but yours be done.*" What he decided to do was follow God's will, even though he wanted to do differently.

I haltingly try aligning or realigning my life with God. I try letting my value and world view be oriented by God by aligning myself with God. It is an ongoing task that we believers should take on every day. Let's pray.

By Charlie Yang

A Way of Life

Welcome to 2016, are we ready for it? Whether we are or not, it's here. Have you thought about any changes you'd like to make in the New Year?? We all know that most resolutions don't pan out, but don't let that discourage you, there's something better than that anyway!

Resolutions come and go, (mostly go!) It's difficult to make sustainable change, but it can be done, and fortunately, we don't have to do it on our own.

Let me back up a bit and share a brief story with you. Just before Christmas I was at the YMCA, stretching on a mat, when another gym member looked at me and said, "It doesn't get any easier". I smiled back and said, "You're right, but we still need to do it." Her response was, "It just has to become a way of life."

I gave that comment some serious thought and realized that anything we set out to do to change ourselves for the better has to reach far beyond a New Year's resolution, or a note in our daily planners, or anything else that we decide to make a priority. (Since we all know that priorities can change like the wind.) Yes, for us to really make a serious, noticeable change that can withstand the test of time, we need to make whatever it is a way of life. Exercise??? Has to be part of our lives. Dieting and eating healthy?? Absolutely must be a way of life. Changing our attitude toward others?? Can't make it a priority for a month or two and then go to something else, nope, just won't work that way. Changes that require a break in old habits and thinking simply must become part of us in a new way to live.

So going back to the beginning, how can we do this and who can help? Well, there are professional coaches and trainers that can help us get on track, but the true meaningful change must come from within. Transforming our lives can only come from One Source, and that source is Jesus. Jesus can give us the strength and power we need to make lasting change in our lives, and it does not have to be on January 1st. No, our Lord is there for us every hour and every day of the year. He is watching us and listening closely to what we're thinking and asking of Him.

Jesus can change our lives from within, which immediately begins to show on the outside. Lasting change comes through the Lord. Having Jesus in our lives is a way of life and He is the Way to life!

There is no shortcut to making lasting changes in our lives, but there is a direct path. Set aside the easy routes and quick steps and go directly to the One who can change our lives forever.

Lasting change starts with the Lord, ask Jesus today to step into your life and help you make the changes you've wanted to make for a long time. ***It's a way of life and the only Way of life!***

Have a very blessed New Year,

Dom Perfetti

Thanks & Gratitude

A Great Big Thank You!



We are so please and happy to let you know that with your help and generosity, McKownville UMC has met and slightly exceeded it's audio-visual system financial fundraising goals! The Church's vision of having a new audio-visual system installed by Easter 2016 is now within reach—**THANKS TO YOU.**

Because of your vision and support, our church will be able to modernize our current worship experience, which will not only improve our worship experience— it will also help us better connect with and deliver a more inviting worship experience to next generation worshipers and disciples.

Over the next few months, many church leaders and the Audio-Visual Team will be busy ordering the new system, preparing the sanctuary for the new system and handling the system installation. We ask for your continued support and understanding as we may cause some “dust” in making the new system a reality.

Again, thank you for your contributions and support in attaining this goal.



CHANGE THE GAME

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

MORE THAN 25 YEARS AGO, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, more than \$110 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world – as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday.

Every dollar donated goes to

our 2016 Souper Bowl of Caring charity of choice.





MCKOWNVILLE UMC ANNIVERSARY

In 1866, the McKownville United Methodist Church first opened its doors to all as the center of Spirituality and Fellowship for the community.

Next year, in 2016, we will be celebrating the 150th year of our Churches founding.

To mark this momentous occasion, and place our mark on the Church for generations, we are building a Memorial Patio.

Every member of the congregation and community is invited to join in, and place their individual marks as well.

Starting shortly, you will be able to purchase individual bricks that you can add your name and/or message on to be placed in the patio.

On a first come-first serve basis you will also be able to choose the location of your brick.

Small keepsake bricks will also be available, so that you may always keep the message you placed on your brick with you.

Happy Anniversary McKownville!

-SADiDonna



UPDATE

Our committee of four had its first meeting on Tuesday January 19, 2016 in order to celebrate our 150th year of our first structure being built.

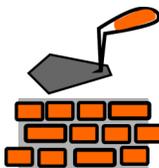
HISTORICAL TIDBIT: McKownville UMC was organized as a mission church.

*After Edward E. Taylor became pastor in 1864 in the town of Guilderland of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Hamilton [early name for Guilderland Village], that church organized another M.E. church with thirty members on State Road near Parker's Corners and a church was built there in 1864/5. The Methodist Troy Conference of 1866 joined in Rotterdam and State Road (Parker's Corners) while Guilderland continued with its "Mission on the East" in what was later called McKownville at the 1866 **Mission House** for which John McKown had donated an acre of land in 1865. (John McKown had also donated land for a school on the end of Schoolhouse Road.)*

-Nancy Rutenber

McKownville UMC Historian

Member UNY Commission on Archives and History & contact for forming UNY Historical Society





YOUTH NEWS – February 2016

Sunday, Feb 7th: SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY COLLECTION (during worship) *see attached insert info (p.4)

Sunday Feb 14th: Valentine's Day Celebration – God's Love (7pm)



MISSION PROJECT – during the week of school break for Ronald McDonald House Charities (future announcements to follow)

Sunday Feb 21st: So What is Lent? And Why do people give stuff up??? (7pm)

Friday – Saturday Feb 26-27th – LOCK IN for **World Vision 30 Hour Famine**

February Challenge – Show someone you care by donating items to the Guilderland Food Pantry. One ticket for each non-perishable food or toiletry item enters you into the drawing for a \$15 Subway card!

Confirmation: YOUTH IN GRADE 7, 8 OR 9 ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2016 CONFIRMATION CLASS! Submit your interest to Angela or Pastor Charlie ASAP to be part of this year's class. Confirmation program involves individual meetings with mentor's to go through our 12 week study, culminating with a daylong retreat and celebration of confirmation in June. If you have a specific request for a mentor, please mention that at the time of registration. It is recommended that mentor's not be parents.

Thanks!

Angela





Announcements



Friday – Saturday Feb 26-27th – LOCK IN for World Vision 30 Hour Famine

What is the 30 Hour Famine?

Students around the world loving God and fighting hunger

Go hungry to help hungry kids

Our Youth will grow closer to Christ and each other as they fast together for 30 hours and raise funds to fight hunger. What's more, when we do the Famine we're challenging our students to be part of something bigger than themselves. To take action for God's kingdom. To help save the lives of hungry kids. To permanently change the way your students see the world.

How the Famine works

Every year, hundreds of thousands of students in the U.S. — and thousands more around the world — unite through World Vision's 30 Hour Famine to feed hungry children and families. **Sponsor a youth for our 30 hour fast by pledging or donating to them.**

Help BREAK OUR FAST!!!

Spaghetti dinner Saturday 2/27 6pm – 8pm Tickets \$10 pp

Spaghetti, meatballs, garlic bread, tossed salad & dessert!

All proceeds go to World Vision



Announcements



FINANCIAL CAMPAIGN 2016

Happy February!



Our Financial Campaign is slated to begin on Sunday February 14, 2016. I wanted to take a few minutes to encourage you begin your prayerful consideration of your gift this year. Mark tell the below parable;

The faithful giver (Mark 12:41-44)

And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Over the last 4 years we have raised \$195,566 (2012-2013), \$215,452 (2013-2014), \$198,842 (2014-2015), and \$188,260 (2015-2016) in each campaign from 2010-2015. It is the hope of the Finance Team to increase our pledges this campaign by 6-10% in an effort to cover our present expenditures and future works of GOD.

Who will you be? Will you give out of abundance or poverty? Will you give out of obligation or joy? Will you give out of faith or uncertainty? Will you not give at all? These are the questions I hope you will prayerfully consider as we enter this campaign.

The size of the gift was not important to him (Jesus), it was that she gave freely, wholly, lovingly, joyfully what she could give. Will you do the same?

Yours in Christ,

Tricia Stott (Finance Campaign Chairperson)

518-378-2333

patriciamstott@gmail.com



FEBRUARY DUTIES CALENDAR

DATE	GREETERS	USHERS	LAY WORSHIP LEADER
February 7	Susan Burns	Bill Burns	Kim Keane
February 14	Barbara Cullen	Paul Cullen	Cathy Wells
February 21	Vicki Lockman	Illa Picket	Tricia Stott
February 28	Dorothy Ellinwood	Emma Herendeen	Pat Beauregard
March 6	Kelly Visker	Christopher Visker	Doug Arnott
March 13	Bud Davies	Gene Gee	Noreen Van Doren

Greeters & Ushers Coordinator: Pauline Martin - 456-3784

Coffee Hour Coordinator: Chris Steffens - 608-5300

Lay Worship Leader Coordinator: Nancy Rutenber - 456-0412

* *Please note that Greeters and Ushers duties are now combined.*

February Anniversaries & Birthdays

Anniversaries



Birthdays



4—Jessica Neitzel
 5—Barbara Hart
 7—Alecia Peplowski
 8—Marcie Mastrogiovanni
 10—Danielle Klahr
 10—Nicholas Brigadier
 13—Dana Jones
 14—Joe Shanley
 14—Adrianna DeVall
 15—Suzanne Weis
 17—Stuart Hassel
 18—Denise Francus
 20—Andrew Polsinelli
 23—Cadence Brewer
 24—Darlene Pompeii-Woods
 25—Susan Pett
 25—Kathleen Moon
 26—John Smith
 26—Brad Fahsel
 27—Joan Butler
 27—Jeremy Arnott
 28—Audrey Beaver



February 2016



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Adult Forum 7p	A.A. 4:30P-5:30P Yoga 6p- 7:15p	Yoga 5:30p- 6:45p Narcotics Anonymous 7p Choir Rehearsal 7p G. A. 6p- 8:30p	TOT Hill Gang 9:30a-12p Yoga 5:30p-6:45p AA 7:00p- 10:00p N.A. ABCD	Narcotics Anonymous 6:30p- 8:30p	A.A. 7a- 9:30a
7 Adult Forum 9:30 a Praise Service 9:30a Communion 11am G. A. 6p -8:30p SUPERBOWL	8  Adult Forum 7p	9 A.A. 4:30P-5:30P Yoga 6p--7:15p	10 Yoga 5:30p- 6:45p Narcotics Anonymous 7p Choir Rehearsal 7p G. A. 6p- 8:30p Ash Wednesday 7:30pm Service	11 TOT Hill Gang 9:30a-12p Yoga 5:30p-6:45p AA 7:00p- 10:00p	12 Narcotics Anonymous 6:30p- 8:30p	13 A.A. 7a- 9:30a
14 Adult Forum 9:30a Praise Service 9:30a Worship Service 11a G. A. 6p- 8:30p	15 Adult Forum 7p	16 A.A. 4:30P-5:30P Yoga 6p- 7:15p	13 Yoga 5:30p- 6:45p Narcotics Anonymous 7p Choir Rehearsal 7p G. A. 6p- 8:30p	18 TOT Hill Gang 9:30a-12p ASG 12:30-3:30P Yoga 5:30p-6:45p AA 7:00p- 10:00p	19 Narcotics Anonymous 6:30p- 8:30p	20 A.A. 7a- 9:30a
21 Adult Forum 9:30a Praise Service 9:30a Worship Service 11a G. A. 6p- 8:30p	22 Adult Forum 7p	23 A.A. 4:30P-5:30P Yoga 6p- 7:15p	24 Yoga 5:30p- 6:45p Narcotics Anonymous 7p Choir Rehearsal 7p G. A. 6p- 8:30p	25 TOT Hill Gang 9:30a-12p ASG 12:30-3:30P Yoga 5:30p-6:45p AA 7:00p- 10:00p	26 Narcotics Anonymous 6:30p- 8:30p	27 A.A. 7a- 9:30a
28 Adult Forum 9:30a Praise Service 9:30a Worship Service 11a G. A. 6p- 8:30p	29  Leap Day Adult Forum 7p			Sunday's 9:30a- Praise 4:00pm— Quintessence 9:45a-Sunday School 4:30pm— Wesley Ringers 11:00a—Worship 5:45pm—New Song 2:45 pm— Praise Team 6:30pm— Higher Up Practice		

MICROSOFT

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The Rev. Charlie Yang, Pastor
E-mail: pastorcyang@gmail.com

Office Hours:
Monday—Friday: 9am-1pm

Ministry and Team Leaders of the McKownville United Methodist Church

Board of Trustees:

James Stott: Chair & Sexton Liaison
Kelly Visker: Vice-Chair & Furnishings
Whitney Daigler: Building Use Coordinator
Chris Brewer, Frank Benjamin, Chris Spencer:
Grounds & Planned Maintenance
Steve DiDonna: Secretary
Matt Gillam: Insurance
Noreen Van Doren: Leases & Legal Affairs

Ministry Teams:

Leadership Council: Paul Krekeler, Team Leader

Staff/Parish Relations: Leith Mead, Team Leader
Douglass Arnott, Tara Brewer, Michelle Clark, Michael
Keane, Alan Longshore, Oakley Neitzel, Scott
Rosecrans, Nancy Rutenber Patti Krekeler.

Finance: Paul Scoville, Team Leader
Treasurer & Payroll: Tim Pierce
Finance Secretary: Barbara O'Neill

Worship: Charlie Yang, Team Leader

Evangelism through Outreach: Jim Bowen,
Team Leader

Christian Education: Kim Keane, Team Leader

Memorials & Gifts: Nancy Pullen, Team Leader