

# MCKOWNVILLE CHURCH NEWS

Volume 8 No.2

Love God, Follow Jesus and Pass It On!

February, 2017

*Spirit Filled, Mission Driven*

*Articles for the  
March  
Newsletter are  
due by  
February 15th.*

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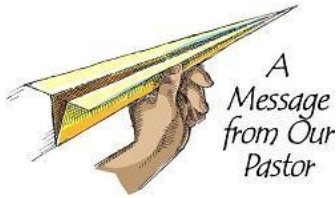
### **Newcomers and Visitors: WELCOME!**

Look inside for interesting articles, church news, youth events, mission opportunities, fun activities and more!

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<https://www.facebook.com/McKownvilleChurch/>



A new year has come. It always brings both expectations and fear at the same time. And no matter how we feel with changes and challenges we will face, we need to accept or deal with Christian faith and values.

We see many images or symbolic pictures in the Bible and often an image delivers a more powerful message than many words. Jeremiah delivers an image for our Christian life and I want to carry it in my mind throughout the year. It comes from the Book of Jeremiah, written thousands years ago. Jeremiah writes about two images, taken from the vision that he heard from God. But it still prompts us take and carry this value through our faith journey as a follower of Christ Jesus. He writes, “The one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord” is like “a bush in the wastelands, while **“the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him” will be like “a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.”** He urges us to live with trust in God for this is the life bearing fruit abundantly (Jeremiah 17:5-8).

Faith is two-way relationship and action. We receive God’s love as our own and respond to God. Paul the Apostle is a role model for the followers of Jesus. He was unashamedly principled and lived out God-centered principles in challenging moments of life. Surely he also struggled and faltered but he always tried to be faithful. It is told in his letter to Christians in Philippi, “I do not consider that I have made it my own. But **one thing I do**, forgetting what lies behind, but straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal, for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.” We Christians are called to follow in his footsteps as he followed Jesus’ example.

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 Last week (January 20<sup>th</sup> --22<sup>nd</sup>), I, with seven others from our church, attended a conference—for three long days—in Fort Myers, Florida. We together experienced a church which had been known for its vitality in ministries. It was a powerful and timely experience for us all. This church demonstrated their strong sense of Christian faith and passionate commitment to the mission and ministry for the Kingdom of God.

Let me share one of many things I have learned. It is about their core values they cherish as a church. This one tells what they do as a church together and how they do it. I believe it will help us with what values we need to keep or cultivate both as a church and a Christian.

Grace Church’s core values are defined with three phrases, “Unashamedly God-centered,” “Passionately People-focused,” and “Strategically Team-based.”

They declared that they were “**unashamedly God-centered.**” Ministry is not about us but God ultimately. Only when we truly accept and acknowledge this we will know what is important and essential in ministry and life as a church.

The people of the Grace Church defined their mission and ministry as “**Passionately People-focused.**” It was both biblical and contextually relevant. If you read the Book of Acts, you will see ministry focus of the first Christian community was on people. According to this value, their ministry focus was directed and redirected.

They also repeatedly emphasized their way of doing ministry as “**Strategically Team-based.**” The Grace Church’s leadership emphasized the significance of team, teamwork, team play, team ministry almost every moment of talking about ministry.

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 We, followers of Jesus, are called to live out Christian faith and value, to faithfully answer to the command of Jesus Christ, and make disciples of Jesus in all circumstances. This last command of Jesus should be remembered and practiced in life again and again.

*By Charlie Yang*





# Quit and Give Up???

A few years ago, I was trying to get a friend of mine to quit smoking. I really wanted him to get on a healthy track. He also had a sense of humor. Whenever I'd ask him when he was going to stop smoking, he'd pause, look me straight in the eye with his finger pointed at me, and say with determination, "I told you, I'm not a quitter!". We'd both laugh, and we also got the point each other was making.

It's difficult to change our habits. Once we've developed habits, good or not so good, they tend to stick with us for years, perhaps a lifetime. We may have a strong desire to change, but making it happen and sustaining it, as we all know, is much easier said than done. (*How are we doing with our New Year's resolutions?? Do we still remember what they were??*)

How do we change? When we set out into the New Year, and resolve that we are going to make positive change in certain areas of our lives, how do we do it, and why is it always such a challenge? It all sounds good on New Year's day, but what is the reality a month or two later? We know how difficult it is to change, and sometimes we come to the conclusion that perhaps we set the bar a little too high, and we simply give up. *There's always next year!*

As we live our Christian lives, we may find that the best way to change can be found in words that might surprise us. Maybe quitting is the answer? Perhaps "giving up" is our best path forward?? Maybe so! Could it be that we reach a point when we know we just can't do it on our own? A time when we realize that we need help if we're really going to make a serious change?

Maybe the first step we need to take is to turn away from ourselves, and turn directly to Jesus. We've tried and tried with our own strength to change, and we've failed. The truth is, it is time to quit! It's time to quit trying to change our hearts and minds with our own worldly methods, and turn our thoughts to Jesus. And before we give up on ourselves, as we probably all have in the past, we need to give up trying to steer our own lives, and turn the controls over to our Lord!

Jesus is the One who can change our hearts and habits, not us. Time and time again, it's the Lord who steps into our lives at just the right time and delivers us from our trials and challenges. Why not start with Him right from the beginning?? He's there to listen to our prayers, and our hearts and come into our lives to make changes that we could never imagine accomplishing on our own!

As we head into the New Year, if we want the strength, determination and perseverance to not only make a change, but also make it stick for a lifetime, we need to turn to Jesus. Do we want to "quit" and "give up"?? Absolutely!! As long as we're resolving to "quit" trying to fix everything on our own, and "give up" our troubles and worries to the One who's just waiting to hear from us and help...**Jesus!!**

*Have a happy, healthy, safe and blessed New Year,*

*Dom Perfetti*

# ADULT FORUM

WHO. WHAT. WHEN. WHERE. WHY.

## WHO IS ADULT FORUM?

Members and friends of McKownville Church beyond high school age interested in discussing faith issues, both historical and current. Members select topics and members lead. Each is encouraged to suggest and perhaps lead a topic of particular personal interest.

## WHAT IS ADULT FORUM?

Adult Forum is adult Sunday School at McKownville Church.. A forum is an open place where new, difficult, or unusual ideas and questions may be posed and discussed. Format varies in style and content. Rather than traditional "Bible Study" focusing on a specific text, we look at issues and their possible resolution, making reference to Biblical examples. Past activities included watching a full length movie and then discussing the action or characters from a Christian point of view, discussing "foreigners" and "strangers", and study of the Church's historic creeds. It is OK to ask an "impossible" question. Come, bring a suggestion with you!

## WHEN IS ADULT FORUM?

Adult Forum meets almost every week, and we meet at two different times. Traditional Sunday School happens Sunday morning and we meet 9:30-10:30 am . But many persons interested in our program have a conflict with that time: a preference for contemporary worship or volunteering for other needs: music, children, youth. These folks are accommodated by a Monday evening session 7:00-8:00 pm . Some persons attend both sessions, and the details of time are set by each group. Leadership usually is the same for both groups, but that can be a decision of each group. The program is the same each Sunday/Monday dates. Cross attendance is encouraged.

## WHERE IS ADULT FORUM?

Adult Forum meets in the multipurpose room, halfway down the corridor of Sunday School rooms, across from the library.

## WHY IS ADULT FORUM?

Most of us in present-day society end our formal education when we become adults. But we all continue to learn, either by "continuing education" or by experience. This sense of a need to learn carries over into religious or moral topics. Adult Forum seeks to meet this need by expanding understanding of Church theology (what we believe and how that belief has changed over the years), Church history (our beginning, our heritage from others, our gifts to others, steps and miss-steps along the way, splits and unions, concerns then and concerns today, resolution of issues and still-open contentions), and intersection of the religious and secular worlds. We are open to learning about issues and events in our modern world that impact our perceptions of God and history.

## BOTTOM LINE!

Help us put it all together! If you already attend, bring a new idea and a new friend. If you are curious, come and sample! If you are unsure, try us and improve us!

## MORE INFORMATION

On a Sunday morning, seek us out and ask questions. Or send an e-mail message to [henrywalter57@aol.com](mailto:henrywalter57@aol.com)



## YOUTH NEWS



**Guilderland Youth Group** is an open gathering of youth in grades 8-12. We meet to relate, to be social, to empower young people as world-changing disciples of Jesus Christ, to nurture faith development, and to equip young leaders. We meet 3-4 times per month for FUN, SERVICE, LEARNING and WORSHIP experiences. If you are looking for a group of young people to GO and DO – this is for you!!!

You can find contact information and more information about our youth ministries on our website at [www.mckownvillechurch.org](http://www.mckownvillechurch.org)

**Feb 5th** — 7:00 pm meeting

**Feb 11th** — Bowling for Beds to support Capital Area Council of Churches (\$25 minimum donation) meet at Sunset Bowling Lanes 2:30pm – 4:30pm

**Feb 17th** — NEWSBOYS at the Palace theater 7pm -Reservations required – open to anyone, car pooling TBA Contact Angela Stott to reserve your ticket

**Feb 19th** — 7:00 pm meeting

**Feb 24th-25th** — DCYM Overnight – Like a Boss! Paint and Sip, MOP Workshop and more!

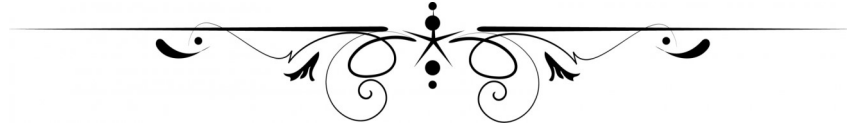
The Youth Group will be taking orders for Valentine's Day Sweets! Pre-orders of Chocolate Dipped Oreos (6 for \$10), Chocolate Dipped Strawberries (6 for \$10) or Oreo Truffles (10 for \$10) will be taken on order forms in the back of the sanctuary on the media rack, with any youth or by texting Angela Stott your order at 221-8643! All profits to benefit Guilderland Youth Group programs and excursions!



The Youth Group will be doing a Silent Auction of a hand knotted hammock throughout the month of February. Winner to be announced on March 16th. Profit of Auction to go to Mission Scholarship Fund for future trips.

# SILENT AUCTION

# Mission Opportunities



## Guilderland Food Pantry Needs:

- ♥ paper towels
- ♥ Toilet paper
- ♥ Kleenex
- ♥ Frosting
- ♥ coffee

## Volunteers in Mission

**Belfast, Northern Ireland**

**Belfast Peace Project**

**April 30- May 12 -2017**

Join us as we work alongside the Peace makers of Belfast, Northern Ireland. We will be working side by side with 3 organizations to continue their mission to foster peace and reconciliation between the Belfast Communities. Our Belfast friends are committed to peace and our VIM project supports their efforts. Although "The Troubles" are over there is much need for healing, understanding and forgiving. We will be working in the facilities to insure the continuation of the work they are doing. We will also visit some of the beautiful countryside and historical sites in Northern Ireland and spend a few days at Corrymeela Peace and Reconciliation Center.

Desired Skills: \*Communication and listening Skills \*Working with children, youth seniors and homeless \*Painting \*Basic projects \*Basic Carpentry \*Gardening/ Landscaping

Volunteers Needed: Cost is estimated to be \$2,700- pp Includes : all transportation, Hotel, meals and site-seeing from Boston

Must be in good physical condition and able to walk 3 miles on uneven ground and cobblestones. Areas are not handicapped accessible.

See our past blogs to see what we have done on past trips: [vimbpp2016.blogspot.com](http://vimbpp2016.blogspot.com) ( just change the year to see activities in 2013, 2014 and 2015)

For Information Contact Mike & Pat Thomas at 518-885-5889 or [pmthomas6@mac.com](mailto:pmthomas6@mac.com)

Volunteers in Mission is a United Methodist Program through the General Board of Global Ministries

Darcianne Leizer has been on the Belfast Peace Project mission team twice. It is a great experience.



UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION  
*Christian Love in Action!*

## Local Organizations Seeking Volunteers



### Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission

**Address:** 108 Wade Road, Albany, NY, 12110

**Phone:** (518) 785-1800

The Albany Pine Bush Preserve represents one of the best remaining global examples of an inland pitch pine scrub oak barrens and is home to hundreds of rare and common plant and animal species. Since 1988, the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission has been preventing the Preserve from habitat loss, invasive plants, and wildland fires.

### The American Red Cross

**Address:** 33 Everett Road, Albany, NY, 12205

**Phone:** (518) 458-8111

The American Red Cross is an organization that helps keep people safe every day as well as in emergency situations. The American Red Cross of Northeastern New York is responsible for administering blood drives, teaching CPR/AED, and helping families who suffered from disasters. Just last year, the organization assisted 250 local families who lost everything due to fires, flooding, and windstorms.

### The Arts Center of the Capital Region

**Address:** 265 River Street, Troy, NY, 12180

**Phone:** (518) 273-0552

The Arts Center supports the advancement and education of the arts in the lives of those within the Capital Region. Courses include Dance, drawing, sculpture, photography, woodworking, writing, etc. Please see their website for more detailed information.

### Big Brothers & Big Sisters of the Capital Region

**Address:** 1492 Central Avenue, Albany, NY, 12205

**Phone:** (518) 862-1250 **Email:** info@bbbbscr.org

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters is clear: make a positive difference in the lives of children, primarily through professionally supported relationships with caring mentors; and, assist children in achieving their greatest potential as they grow to become confident, competent and contributing individuals.





## Adult Study

### **Beginning Jan 29/30** **Grace**

We talk as though we understand the term. The bank gives us a *grace* period. The seedy politician falls from *grace*. Musicians speak of a *grace* note. We describe an actress as *gracious*, a dancer as *graceful*. We use the word for hospitals, baby girls, kings, and premeal prayers. We talk as though we know what *grace* means.

But do we really understand it? Have we settled for wimpy grace? It politely occupies a phrase in a hymn, fits nicely on a church sign. Never causes trouble or demands a response. When asked, "Do you believe in grace?" who could say no?



Max Lucado asks a deeper question: Have you been changed by grace?

Shaped by grace? Strengthened by grace? Emboldened by grace? Softened by grace? Snatched by the nape of your neck and shaken to your senses by grace?

God's grace has a drenching about it. A wildness about it. A white-water, riptide, turn-you-upside-downness about it. Grace comes after you. It rewires you. From insecure to God secure. From regret riddled to better-because-of-it. From afraid to die to ready to fly.

Grace is the voice that calls us to change and then gives us the power to pull it off.

Let's make certain grace gets you.

## Website Makeover

Our church website just got a facelift! To make the interface more user friendly we now have a very basic from page with the times of our Sunday services, and across the top is a menu where all other information is clearly arranged and categorized. Rather than scrolling and scrolling on one page to find what you need, simply choose the category at the top.

The monthly newsletters are also archived under "Newsletters" from the 'Announcements & News' tab.

[www.mckownvillechurch.com](http://www.mckownvillechurch.com)



## Girl Scouts Sock Drive

March 12<sup>th</sup> is Girl Scout Sunday. Girl Scout Sunday is a celebration of the founding of the Girl Scout movement by Juliette Gordon Lowe.

The Girl Scouts of Service Unit 192 (Guilderland) will be collecting new socks of all sizes and designs for donation to The Marillac Family shelter, the Albany City Mission, and Parsons Child & Family Center. Since 2008, we have collected over 8500 pairs of socks.

Beginning on Sunday February 19th, there will be a box in the back of the Sanctuary where you can place your sock donations. Thank you in advance for your support.



## June Service in the Park

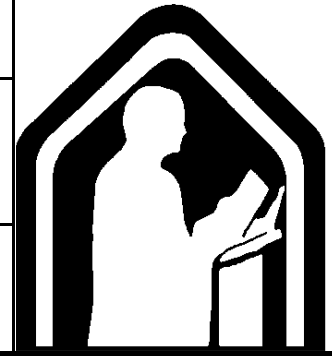


This years summer kick-off church service at Tawasentha Park will be June 4th, the first Sunday in June (rather than the second)—so mark your calendars!



## FEBRUARY DUTIES CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GREETERS/ USHERS</u>	<u>LAY WORSHIP LEADER</u>
<b>February 5</b>	Ken and Curtis Group	Nancy Rhodes
<b>February 12</b>	Frank D'Ambrosio, Terry O'Neill	Henry Walter
<b>February 19</b>	Barbara and Paul Cullen	Nancy Pullen
<b>February 26</b>	Pat and Doug Arnott	Dasol Yang
<b>March 5</b>	Vicky Lockman, Illa Pickett	Nancy Rutenber



**Greeters & Ushers Coordinator:** Looking for a new volunteer!!  
**Coffee Hour Coordinator:** Chris Steffens - 608-5300  
**Lay Worship Leader Coordinator:** Nancy Rutenber - 456-0412

\*\*We are still looking for someone to take over the position of Greeters/Ushers coordinator. Please contact Pauline Martin for details about the job. [blundyp379@aol.com](mailto:blundyp379@aol.com)

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

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

### Anniversaries

1 – Bart & “T” Stillman



### Birthdays

4 – Jessica Neitzel  
 10 – Danielle Klahr  
 12 – Pete Gradoni  
 13 – Dana Jones  
 14 – Adrianna DeVall  
 14 – Joe Shanley  
 15 – Suzie Weis  
 17 – Stuart Hassel  
 18 – Denise Francus  
 24 – Darlene Pompeii  
 25 – Kathleen Moon  
 25 – Susan Sims  
 26 – Charlotte Seim  
 26 – J. Donald Smith



27 – Jeremy Arnott  
 27 – Joan Butler  
 28 – Audrey Beaver

# FEBRUARY 2017

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

		1	2	3	4										
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p align="center"><b>Church Meetings</b></p> <p>Finance Team: second Tuesday, 7:00pm.                      Leadership Council: third Tuesday, 7:00pm.                      Worship Team: fourth Tuesday, 7:00pm.</p> <p>Special Meetings will be on the calendar and are usually announced in weekly bulletins.</p> </div>		Yoga 10:00 am Yoga 5:30 pm  Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 pm  Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	TOT Hill Gang 9:30 am  Al-Anon 12:00 pm  Yoga 5:30 pm	UMC District Event 4:00 pm  Narcotics Anonymous 6:00 pm	A.A. 7:00 am										
5  Contemporary Praise Service 9:30 am  Traditional Worship Service 11:00 am  Adult Forum 9:30 a.m.	6  Cub Scouts 6:30 pm  Adult Forum 7:00 pm	7  Living Resources 9:30 am  A.A. 4:30 pm  Yoga 6:00 pm	8  Yoga 10:00 am Yoga 5:30 pm  Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 pm  Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	9  TOT Hill Gang 9:30 am  Al-Anon 12:00 pm  Yoga 5:30 pm	10  Narcotics Anonymous 6:00 pm  A.A. 7:00 am  <b>Bowling for Beds</b>										
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19  Contemporary Praise Service 9:30 am  Traditional Worship Service 11:00 am  Adult Forum 9:30 a.m.	20  Cub Scouts 6:30 pm  Adult Forum 7:00 pm	21  Living Resources 9:30 am  A.A. 4:30 pm Yoga 6:00 pm	22  Yoga 10:00 am Yoga 5:30 pm  Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 pm  Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	23  TOT Hill Gang 9:30 am  Al-Anon 12:00 pm Yoga 5:30 pm	24  Narcotics Anonymous 6:00 pm  A.A. 7:00 am  <b>DCYM Overnight</b>										
26  Contemporary Praise Service 9:30 am  Traditional Worship Service 11:00 am  Adult Forum 9:30 a.m.	27  Cub Scouts 6:30 pm  Adult Forum 7:00 pm  <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>	28  Living Resources 9:30 am  A.A. 4:30 pm Yoga 6:00 pm	<b>March 1st is Ash Wednesday!</b>  <b>Lent begins.</b>  	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p align="center"><u>Sundays</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>9:30am—Praise</td> <td>4:00pm—Quintessence</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9:45am—Sunday School</td> <td>4:30pm—Wesley Ringers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11:00am—Worship</td> <td>5:45pm—New Song</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2:45 pm—Praise Team</td> <td>6:30pm—Higher Up</td> </tr> <tr> <td align="center" colspan="2">Rehearsal</td> </tr> </table> </div>		9:30am—Praise	4:00pm—Quintessence	9:45am—Sunday School	4:30pm—Wesley Ringers	11:00am—Worship	5:45pm—New Song	2:45 pm—Praise Team	6:30pm—Higher Up	Rehearsal	
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Rehearsal															



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Phone: 518-456-1148  
Fax: 518-869-5250  
E-mail: mckownumc@verizon.net  
Web: www.McKownvilleChurch.com  
Facebook: RedDoorsChurch  
Twitter: McKownville Church  
@MckownvilleUMC

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

Office Hours:  
Monday—Friday: 9am-1pm

## Ministry and Team Leaders of the McKownville United Methodist Church

### Board of Trustees:

Chair & Sexton Liaison: James Stott

Vice-Chair & Furnishings,  
Building Use Coordinator: Kelly Visker:

Grounds & Planned  
Maintenance: Chris Brewer, Chris Spencer

Insurance: Matt Gillam

Leases & Legal Affairs: Noreen Van Doren

### Ministry Teams:

Leadership Council: Paul Krekeler, Team Leader

Staff/Parish Relations: Patti Krekeler & George Jeneczko, Team Leaders; Tara Brewer, Ruth Candolario, Emma Herendeen, Alan Longshore, Oakley Neitzel, Scott Rosecrans, Nancy Rutenber, Patricia Stott, Liz Wiseman

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

Senior Ministries: Darcianne Leizer,  
Team Leader