

McKownville Church News

Volume 7 No.1

LOVE GOD, FOLLOW JESUS AND PASS IT ON!

January 2016

Spirit Filled, Mission Driven

Articles for the February Newsletter are due by January 15.



Join us for a new Sermon Series starting on January 10, 2016:

Living The Life That You Desire

January 10: Part 1— What Drives Your Life Now?

January 17: Part 2— Cultivate A Personal Relationship with God.

January 24: Part 3— Stand Strong In Stressful Times.

January 31: Part 4— Be Thankful Always, and See the Fruit.

February 7: Part 5— When God Asks You To Do Something Great.

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Pastor's Message

It was mid-October when I was in the second grade. My three brothers and I decided to go fishing. There were many small ponds in between rice paddies of my home village. Those ponds mostly small and naturally built and usually used for irrigation for the dry season. Those days irrigation system was quite pristine and people heavily relied on those ponds when drought hit that area. Those ponds also became nature-made aquariums of fish and often there were many fish in those ponds. So after the fall harvest was over, some men drained those ponds and caught usually good amounts of fish. The fall passed by soon and most ponds were plundered, but there was one pond, remaining intact for many years.

My brothers knew that the pond was too big and deep and so it was not easy to drain water to catch fish within a day without relying on motor-powered pumping machine. If you couldn't drain on the same day, the following day the pond would be again filled with water, gushing out from the bottom. There was no motor-powered pumping machine in our village those days. So for many years the pond had stayed intact from the looters. People knew there were many fish in that pond, but they couldn't dare to try draining waters. But we four brave, bright brothers—it sounds like a movie title—decided to challenge the seemingly impregnable bulwark. So, we, ranging from five-year old to twelve-year-old, equipped ourselves with arms and armors: buckets, small and big. I already said that there was no motor-powered pumping machine or anything like that. The Korean War passed years before, but we still were living in a pristine time. Almost everything was done with hands.

We knew the pond was big, and when we stood before it, it looked way bigger than we thought. We were overwhelmed but we were determined to challenge. We were unfazed by the size, but we were quite realistic too. We first measured the depth of the pond with a stick, and it seemed not quite deep. But later we knew our measuring was very wrong. The bottom of the pond was very irregular and some spots were not deep, and we were duped by that tricky situation of the bottom of the pond. It was in fact as twice deep as a grownup's height.

And with no fear and with great expectation we decided to give our best shot. My younger brother was too young to do anything and my two older brothers used a two-person-using-bucket, and I used a small tin bucket to carry out our mission, draining water from the pond.

We began not quite late in the morning, maybe around ten o'clock, but by early afternoon still we couldn't see the bottom, and it seemed that the sun would set any time soon—it was mid-October. We were tired and hungry and dirty, but we couldn't see the bottom yet. But we didn't stop. And a few grownups out of curiosity came to us to see how we were doing, and soon brought their own buckets and joined us. We finally could see some fish break the water. My younger brother started shouting, "There fish! There fish! ..." By the time when the dusk sneaked in after sunset, we caught a lot of fish. Big fish abounded in the pond and we caught all of them. Our buckets were filled with fish and more buckets. We gave many fish out to our neighbors. I still feel that excitement and joy of that day; I still see the sputtering fish, several bucketful of fish... We were exhausted, hungry, muddy, and cold, but we were winners. We, four brave, brash, bright young boys did what grownups even couldn't dare to try... And this is the end of the story.

If we knew how deep the pond was we never tried to drain water for fishing. Certainly we were duped and tried and made it. I learned lesson from it. Take risk, and you will see fruits. A newspaper article resounds, "Think big. Take risks."

A new year came to us and we are given a new opportunity to live freshly and excellently. Let us think big, and take risks. Let us take a leap of faith. Let us live fearlessly and faithfully, and we will see how amazingly God will surprise us. May God bless you with his abundant love and grace!

By Charlie Yang

Thanks & Gratitude

A Great Big Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Advent and Christmas a very special time!

To all who helped plan, prepare for, serve in, and attend worship on Sundays and Christmas Eve: Thank you! To everyone who offered gift cards to the Christmas Angels or mittens for our Mitten Tree: Your offerings were very much appreciated by our community. To everyone who sent cards, made special treats, and gave gifts to the church staff: we thank you and praise God for the opportunity to serve with you. And we hope you have a wonderful New Year!

-McKownville UMC Staff



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.

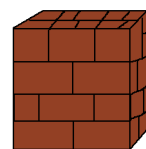
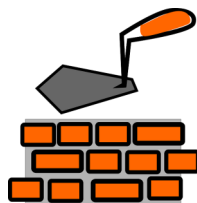
Happy Anniversary McKownville!

-SADiDonna



UPDATE: Let's Have a Party!!!

A committee is forming in order to celebrate our 150th year of our first structure being built. If you are interested, contact Nancy Clarke, Marion Leizer, or Nancy Rutenber.





YOUTH NEWS - JANUARY 2016

Sunday, January 10th 7:15pm Meeting – topic: Why Resolutions?

Friday – Sunday, Jan 15-17th – EXCEL (YFC) in Saratoga

Sunday, January 17th 7:15pm Meeting plan service project for Feb

Sunday, January 24th 7:15 pm PARTY – CELEBRATE THAT GOD LOVES US!!!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30th 12:30pm – Bowling for Beds with SUNYA Campus Ministry

Sunday January 31st 7:15pm Business Meeting talk about events, plans, organization, goals

January Challenge – Write your New Year's Resolution on a slip of paper and submit it to me. If on January 31st you can prove you have stuck with your resolution for the whole month, you will be entered in a drawing for a 5lb Hershey Bar!!!

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 by January 24th 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.

Bowling for Beds – All bowlers will be expected to contribute a \$25 donation (either a personal contribution or through pledges raised). ****See the full article and details on "Bowling For Beds" on the following Announcements Page.****



Announcements



Bowling For Beds Bowl-A-Thon



Here's an opportunity for you to help make a difference!

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL!

On **Saturday, January 30, 2016 at 12:30pm**, members of our church will be participating in a "Bowling For Beds Bowl-A-Thon" to raise money for the Emergency Overflow Homeless Shelter in Albany. **This event will be held at SUNSET RECREATION CENTER, 1160 CENTRAL AVENUE.**

The Capital Region has experienced a significant rise in the number of homeless men, women, and children over the years. Homelessness and the need for additional shelter beds in Albany County continue to be a focus for the Capital Area Council of Churches (CACC). It is our belief that ALL people, regardless of a person's circumstances and behaviors, have a human right to obtain shelter from deadly weather and dangerous street-living. Since 2000 the CACC and First Lutheran Church of Albany have responded to the crisis by providing an Emergency Overflow Shelter with professionally trained staff, operating through the cold weather months, 7 days a week, 12 hours a day.

Children Youth and Adults from around the Capital Region will be participating in this fund-raising event. Students from Cornerstone Ministry at the University at Albany will be assisting the planning team with hosting the event. Participants will be encouraged to get pledges and work towards our **COMMON GOAL OF RAISING AT LEAST \$10,000.00** towards the work of the shelter. **For more information or to make a donation, please contact Angela Stott at (518) 221-8643.**

JANUARY DUTIES CALENDAR

DATE	GREETERS	USHERS	LAY WORSHIP LEADER
January 3	Ildra Morse	Carl Morse	Rebecca Douglass
January 10	Elizabeth Mensah	Pauline Martin	Pat Arnott
January 17	Darcianne Leizer	Tricia Stott	Laura Marotta
January 24	Frank D'Ambrosio	Terry O'Neil	Paul Cullen
January 31	Delores Campbell	Patti Krekeler	Noreen VanDoren
February 7	Susan Burns	Bill Burns	Kim Keane

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.

January Anniversaries & Birthdays

Anniversaries

12—Ken & Jennifer Grupe



Birthdays

- 1—Karen Tedesco
- 2—Beth Lela Berger
- 2—Elizabeth Mandato
- 2—Michael Mandato
- 3—Charlie Yang
- 6—Makenna Fahsel
- 7—Vera Lund
- 7—Pauline Martin
- 7—Kathryn Braun
- 11—Marilyn Johnston
- 11—Patricia Krekeler
- 11—Joshua Scattareggia
- 12—James Brown
- 15—Alexander Burns
- 16—William Colclough
- 17—Elizabeth Spencer
- 18—Christopher Kaszluga



- 18—Richard Eistertz IV
- 25—Abigail Beauregard
- 25—Lelaina Beauregard
- 29—Angela Stott
- 29—Colin Moore
- 30—Illa Pickett
- 30—Michael Shropshire
- 30—Adam Daigler
- 31—Paul Berger
- 31—Laurie Williams
- 31—Patricia Stott



January 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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

						1 Narcotics Anonymous 6:30p– 8:30p NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 A.A. 7a– 9:30a
3 Adult Forum 8:45 a Holy Communion G. A. 6p-8:30p	4 Adult Forum 7p	5 A.A. 4:30P– 5:30P Yoga 6p--7:15p	6 Yoga 5:30p– 6:45p Narcotics Anonymous 7p Choir Rehearsal 7p G. A. 6p– 8:30p	7 TOT Hill Gang 9:30a-12p Yoga 5:30p–6:45p AA 7:00p– 10:00p N.A. ABCD	8 Narcotics Anonymous 6:30p– 8:30p	9 A.A. 7a– 9:30a	
10 Adult Forum 8:45a Praise Service 9:30a Worship Service 11a G. A. 6p– 8:30p	11 Adult Forum 7p	12 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	14 TOT Hill Gang 9:30a-12p ASG 12:30-3:30P Yoga 5:30p– 6:45p AA 7:00p– 10:00p	15 Narcotics Anonymous 6:30p– 8:30p	16 A.A. 7a– 9:30a	
17 Adult Forum 8:45a Praise Service 9:30a Worship Service 11a G. A. 6p– 8:30p	18 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY Adult Forum 7p	19 A.A. 4:30P– 5:30P Yoga 6p– 7:15p Leadership Council 7p	20 Yoga 5:30p– 6:45p Narcotics Anonymous 7p Choir Rehearsal 7p G. A. 6p– 8:30p	21 TOT Hill Gang 9:30a-12p ASG 12:30-3:30P Yoga 5:30p– 6:45p AA 7:00p– 10:00p	22 Narcotics Anonymous 6:30p– 8:30p	23 A.A. 7a– 9:30a	
24/31 Adult Forum 8:45a Praise Service 9:30a Worship Service 11a G. A. 6p– 8:30p	25 Adult Forum 7p	26 A.A. 4:30P– 5:30P Yoga 6p– 7:15p	27 Yoga 5:30p– 6:45p Narcotics Anonymous 7p Choir Rehearsal 7p G. A. 6p– 8:30p	28 TOT Hill Gang 9:30a-12p Yoga 5:30p– 6:45p AA 7:00p– 10:00p	29 Narcotics Anonymous 6:30p– 8:30p	30 A.A. 7a– 9:30a	

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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
Rachel Lamoureux: 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