

McConville Church News

Volume 11 No. 12

December 2020

Spirit Filled, Mission Driven

Love God, Follow Jesus, and Pass it On

Articles for the January 2021 News Letter are due by December 15th

WORSHIP SERVICES

- *Sunday Worship Services are held at 10:00 am.*
- *Everyone is welcome to worship in person or watch the service on Facebook.*

Articles Inside

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Newcomers and Visitors: WELCOME!

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

“As United Methodist Christians, we are called to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

“Our Church Values

***Christ Centered; Our thoughts and actions are centered on God, Christ and the Holy Spirit.**

***Love; We love our neighbors as ourselves.**

***Integrity; We live to be thankful to God through our actions matching our values.**

Guest WiFi: LoveGod1565



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

Announcements

POINSETTIA FLOWER HONORARIUMS

2020 has been a year to look outside the norm and explore new way of doing things. Because of the COVID 19 restrictions, we will be applying a new principal to our Poinsettia Honorariums as well.



This year rather than ordering a flower through the church and picking it up on Christmas eve, we are inviting everyone to purchase their own poinsettia to have at their home throughout the holiday season.

Please make a brief video naming who you wish to dedicate your flower to, or take a photo and caption the photo with who you wish to dedicate your flower to. Send those videos & photos to Angela Stott at arthurndakota@verizon.net or by text to (518) 221-8643 no later than December 19th.

A compilation of everyone's submissions will be put together and played on Facebook and during worship on Christmas Eve Dec 24th and Sunday Dec 27th.

PASTOR COVENANT

- Due to COVID19, this document is no longer available at the back of the sanctuary.
- This document can be obtained or viewed as follows:
- By calling the church office at (518) 456-1146
- Emailing the church office at: mckownumc@verizon.net
- Or by clicking on the following link:



2020Covenant-signed (2).pdf



GADE FARM

- They are doing a "Senior Smile" program this year.
- You simply purchase a poinsettia from them; and, then donate it back to them to deliver to a local nursing home.
- Please note: This is not a church sponsored program; but, sounds like a great giving opportunity.
- **Gade Farm, 2479 Western Avenue, Guilderland, New York**



DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS, THE FOLLOWING ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:



- Sunday morning and Monday evening Adult Forums
- Choir Rehearsals
- Lunch with Friends

Announcements

YOUTH GROUP

The Guilderland Youth Group is a group of youth in grades 7-12 who meet for a safe, fun place to learn and get hands involved in spreading the Good News! We meet weekly September—June, mostly on Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm (some exceptions for special events may happen on other days).

“In person” meetings will resume soon. Please contact Angela Stott to be signed up for virtual events.



PARSONAGE UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far for the parsonage. We are continuing to work with the bank and contractors to secure a home for the Pastor and his family. Once the committee has pre approval for a mortgage and has all the details for improvements, there will be a church conference called to ask for a vote. We hope that this information will be available soon. Meanwhile, if you are interested in donating towards this project, donations can be sent to the church. Please make sure that you put “parsonage” in the memo line. There are also donation forms in the back of the sanctuary that can be filled out for both monetary and in-kind donations. Please keep the committee in your prayers as we move forward with this project.



The Parsonage Committee

GUILDERLAND FOOD PANTRY



**FOOD
PANTRY**

The pantry also will supply families with food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The families are the recipients of the Angel Gifts that are collected each Christmas by our church. This holiday season will be no different.

Guilderland Food Pantry, 4 Charles Park Boulevard, Guilderland, NY 12084; Phone: (518) 930-1001; www.guilderlandfoodpantry.com; guildfoodpantry79@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There are new videos, at home activities and coloring pages being posted on our church’s website. Help continue your children’s Christian Education while at home by sharing these Sunday School activities at home. Watch weekly for updates and additional activities.



Announcements

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SING ALONG!

This year we will offer the chance for a little Christmas Carol joy in a new way! Join us in the back parking lot at McKownville UMC at 6:30 pm on Christmas Eve (December 24th) while we stay a caroling away! We will celebrate the day together—LIVE AND IN PERSON—outdoors, so bundle up. It's going to be great!



Here is the plan....Gather at 6:30 pm—we will stay and sing for about 1/2 hour. We will have battery operated candles—safe for the little people in your life! Being led by a guitar player, we will carol along to our favorite Christmas carols. And because we will be outdoors—**YOU CAN SING ALONG!** We will stand in a circle near our cars—about 12 feet apart in family groups. No need to RSVP. Please join us if you can!

There will be an *"IF WEATHER PERMITS"* event. If the temps are too cold or if the conditions of the road are poor, this event will be cancelled.

OUTREACH



If you are interested in being involved with community outreach and have a knack for technology, we are looking for someone to manage our church's online presence on platforms apart from Facebook. If you enjoy social media and are comfortable using Twitter, Snapchat or Instagram we are seeking an individual to send out updates and maintain an online presence! Updates would include inspirational quotes, upcoming events and announcements. Contact Angela Stott to get involved and we will share passwords for these accounts! You need not maintain all platforms if you wish. Reaching out from the safety of within!

PRAYER CHAIN MESSAGE

Did you know that McKownville Methodist Church has a "Prayer Chain" available for anyone or anything that is in need of prayer. It was started many years ago by a ladies' organization called Faith Alive. We ask that everyone first call the church office at: 518-456-1148, who then calls Connie Stott as the first in line to be contacted when a prayer is needed. She then calls Marion Leizer and on it goes. There are about ten of us still on the list, but it is time that we opened the "Chain" up to anyone who would like to join us in praying. If you would like to join us, please call the church office at: (518) 456-1148 or Marion Leizer at (518) 456-0994 and we will add your name to our list.



WHAT NOW??



There are times when we just say, “**What now??**” We’ve had a lot of challenges come our way this year. We deal with them every day, and sometimes we just need a break. We’ll open an email, get a phone call, something in the mailbox, kids got into something, and we just shake our heads and utter the words to no one in particular, “**What now?**”

Yet, we keep driving forward. This year we’ve dealt with the pandemic, social and political issues, and of course the many twists and turns we all have in our daily lives. As difficult as the year has been, it has also made us more resilient in many ways. We’ve adapted and adjusted our lifestyles since the onset of the virus, and have found ourselves using new technology to connect with work and friends we haven’t spoken to in a long time. We hear stories of playing family games and many other options and alternatives that we would have most likely not have made time for, or had time for prior to COVID-19.

We still don’t know when the end is in sight, but we do our best to keep our spirits up and encourage those around us. Clearly we’re living in a strange time, if not the strangest of our generation. And we look forward to the days of returning to normalcy, however that may be defined in the future.

Yes, the human spirit is resilient, but we still ask the question, “**What now?**” as the world around us continues to change and toss new challenges and obstacles our way. Keeping a strong heart and mind is not always easy as we look to start each day with a fresh start, and perhaps taking a moment to brace ourselves for what might be right around the corner.

The times when we begin to feel that our tanks are running low and we’ve simply had enough are the times when the last thing we need is another “*what now.*” It’s those times when our Faith needs to kick in strong, and instead of relying on our own will and determination, we can turn our thoughts to Jesus to recharge our spirits and put a fresh new look on the “*what now*” question. When we change our perspective and turn to Our Lord, the “*What*” becomes our Faith, and the “*Now*” is Jesus’s presence in our lives at this very moment, *right now!* He is with us now, tomorrow, next week and every moment of every day that we pause and pray to Him for peace, strength and guidance.

So as we wake and face the new day ahead, and as we experience that first unexpected challenge come our way, let’s always remember that our Faith will carry us through every challenge regardless of the “*what*” and that we have Jesus with us “*now*” and always, no matter where we are or where we are going.

The answer to “**What now?**” becomes an easy one for us.....
it’s our **Faith in Jesus!**

Blessings for the Holidays, and prayers for the health of all our families and loved ones,

Dom Perfetti

I can do
all things
through
CHRIST
who strengthens me.

Healing Ministry

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BIRTH

"Know that all lives are mine. The life of the parents as well as the life of the child is mine" (Ezekiel 18:4).

Greetings, blessings, and welcome everyone. Let us hold our hands and give thanks and prayers to our Lord, Jesus Christ, as we enter into the last month of the year, December 2020. The month of December stands on the number of twelve; and, is the remembrance of the twelve disciples. This is the last month of the year bearing the "ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BIRTH OF A HOLY CHILD AND SAVIOR". All over the world, everyone is not only sharing the "GOOD NEWS" but also sharing the Gospel about the Messiah.

Although the pandemic is hovering and controlling the entire world, Christ has the authority over the pandemic. He will provide protection over us. Praise the Lord, God Almighty. His power can destroy it in one split second and deliver everyone soon. In the scripture in Ezekiel 18:4, it says, "It is only the person who sins that will die." We are now receiving a warning from God Almighty to turn from our sins and turn to the Lord God. This is the only way for us.



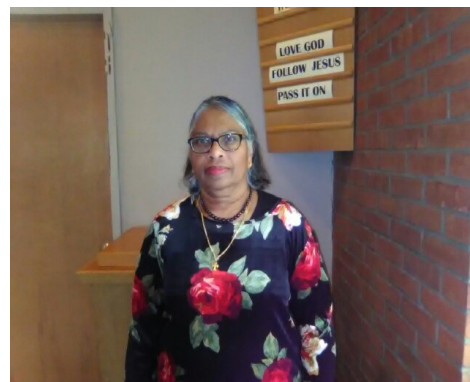
Let us remember Mary, the young woman who was favored by The Most High God, and chosen to conceive and deliver the Holy Child, the Son Of God (Luke 1:26-38). He is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince Of Peace. We have everything; so, now let us move on to singing Christmas songs and praise Him. When sending out our gifts and cards, let us not forget to send prayers to each other. Remember, the angel

Gabriel said to Mary, "Do not be afraid." (Luke 1:30). Let us not be afraid of anything, for our Savior is with us. Let us bow our heads, bend our knees, hold our hands and pray as follows:

"O come Emmanuel, We are welcoming you into our hearts, minds, souls, homes and our lives. Send out your presence like the wings of your angels. Cover us and let us sing "HELLELUAH " We are thanking you, celebrating your birth in this world, for saving us from all our sins, for touching all people and delivering them from their sickness, and leading them to glorify your Name. For those who are in hospitals, ICUs ,and the sick in bed everywhere, Lord please go and visit them and let them receive healing from you. Let them see your sweet smile; and, comfort them in your precious name, Jesus Christ. We are praying, Amen, Amen, and Amen."

WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY CHRISTMAS....

Olive Ezekiel
Minister for Healing



SUNDAY WORSHIP

We will continue to broadcast worship live on Facebook for you to participate from the comfort and safety of your own home. Follow these instructions for watching worship – even if you do not have a Facebook account! Facebook will keep the recording of the livestream posted so that you can watch anytime and share as you wish even if you cannot join us on Sundays at 10:00 am. Worship is also posted on YouTube if you have trouble viewing on Facebook (but it is posted after live stream has ended).

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO FIND THE SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE ON FACEBOOK

Step 1: Go to McKownville UMC's website at: <http://www.mckownvillechurch.com>

Step 2: On the bottom of the home page you will see the following Facebook link:
Watch sermons live here!

Step 3: Click on the word here!

Step 4: Once you are on our Facebook page, scroll down and click on the most recent video on the page. (see orange arrow)

**Please note: You do not need to log in or create an account to view the live steam.



Step 5: Enjoy the Worship Service.

Notes About....

Giving...

Our budget is funded by several sources. The largest by far is giving pledged by individuals and families. Next is unpledged giving. Smaller sources are unidentified cash in the offering plates, rental of our building, and fund raisers. We are one third of the way through our fiscal year. From July through October we received \$59,911 from pledging families; our budget anticipated about \$63,250. Thus, giving has been short of expected by a little more than three thousand dollars. Unpledged giving for these months was estimated at \$6,500 based on last year's experience. To date we have received \$4,340, about \$2,200 less than expected. Building use has been non-existent for six months, resulting in little income. One bright spot was our Brooks Chicken BBQ which raised over \$5,000. In summary, we are a little behind in receipts. The Finance Team encourages each pledger to bring their giving up to the pledged amount. Thank you.

On-Line Giving...

A number of families in our congregation contribute through our website. It has come to our attention that some, but not all, families that contribute in this manner have experienced difficulty in recent weeks. The system seems not to recognize the email address or password. It then prevents a donation. Our servicing company recently acknowledged that the problem is known to them. It is a result of changes they are making to their system. The problem should be solved in a few weeks. If you have experienced such a problem, please be patient and try again in a week or so. If the situation continues, please send a short note to henrywalter57@aol.com



REPORT ON THE 4TH ANNUAL JOHN U. MILLER MEMORIAL CROP WALK

On a beautiful, sunny Sunday afternoon, on May 3, 2020, over 150 walkers participated in the first ever **virtual** CROP WALK. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this was the only way to continue the nearly 40 year tradition of raising money for local and global hunger relief. (It is worth noting that this was the first time in five years it was actually a wonderful day for a walk!).

Not surprisingly, we didn't do quite as well as last year, but we did extremely well under the circumstances. Last year, we raised \$96,022.00; this year we raised \$90,631.45. Of these amounts, \$28,005.50 and \$22,735.00 respectively were donated to 26 local food pantries and soup kitchens. McKownville United Methodist Church raised about \$1,000.00 toward this effort this year, compared to \$1,805.00 last year. As to the total number of walkers, last year there were 275 brave souls.

But, this effort is not about money; it's about people starving!!! Starving people right next door, not just around the world!!! It's about poverty in the midst of plenty. It's about following the essence of the Gospel of Jesus Christ—who, not just preach, love and compassion! It's a humanitarian effort, meaning it is not limited to Christian churches. People of all faiths and traditions working together to solve a human problem. "There is one God, and Father of us all" means we are all brothers and sisters. Put another way, we are all in this together. In the famous parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Jesus says (Matthew 25:40) "Whatsoever ye do to the least of these My brethren, ye do also to Me."

The next CROP walk will be held (live if possible; "virtually" if necessary) on May 2, 2021. I will continue as team captain to recruit walkers, gather sponsors, and provide communications on the event. If you need more information, please feel free to contact me. (My information is in the directory). See you next spring for a, hopefully, more successful walk for hunger!

Frank M. D'Ambrosio

**CROP
HUNGER WALK**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME 

Emergency Overflow Homeless Shelter Dinners

I hope you are staying safe and virus free. I know many people are cooking a lot more than they did in the past, so maybe you would like to sign up to make a full meal for 15 homeless individuals for the Capital District Area Council of Churches' Homeless Shelter, or maybe to make just a soup, stew or a dessert that would feed 15 that you would like to donate towards a full meal prepared by others?

This shelter is operated in the belief that a ministry of hospitality and sanctuary is a mission of the Christian Church that scripture compels us to welcome and minister to the most vulnerable and needy in our society. This is illustrated by many bible stories including the Good Samaritan. Due to COVID restrictions, this shelter can only house 15 men this year and the McKownville United Methodist Church has committed to providing meals the second and fourth Mondays of November through April. The Shelter is located at the **First Lutheran Church at 626 State Street, Albany**. To get there, turn onto Cortland Place from Western Avenue and State Street is your first left. The church is on the left and the first entrance is for the First Lutheran Church and the second entrance is for the Shelter.

Meals should be dropped off between 6-6:30 p.m. at the Shelter entrance by placing the dinner on the small table at the entrance. Move at least 6 feet from the door and call the shelter at 518-426-1227 to tell them you have arrived. Shelter staff will come up and collect your meal. If you are unable to bring your dinner in the evening, please call Julie (the First Lutheran Church office manager) a few days in advance at 518-463-1326 to schedule a drop-off time when the church is open. Please remember to wear a mask.

Meals should serve 15 people and **should not include pork**. Meals should include an entrée, vegetables and dessert. Salad, bread and butter, and beverage mixes are optional. Salads should serve only 7, as they do not keep well. No need to provide salad dressing. Beverages are a nice addition and they would prefer a drink mix — lemonade, fruit punch, etc. for storage purposes. Please don't send carbonated drinks.

Meals must be delivered in containers you do not expect to have returned. The shelter suggests stews, casseroles, meatloaf, pasta, meat and gravy, roasted chicken, shepherd's pie, and chilis. Any meal you are able to prepare is welcome as this may be the only meal the guests will have that day. Thank you for taking on this very important ministry.

Please contact Noreen VanDoren at (518) 588-3009 or Norvandoren@yahoo.com to sign up to provide a meal, or to contribute to a meal for the homeless on the following dates: November 9 & 23, December 14 & 28, January 11 & 25, February 8 & 22, March 8 & 22, April 12 & 26.

God Bless you!



Summary of Upper New York Annual Conference 2020



The laity portion of the 11th session of Upper New York Annual Conference was held virtually on October 2, 2020, while the clergy portion of the conference was live on October 2, 2020. I will offer a brief summary of some of the highlights of the entire conference.

As Bishop Mark J. Webb was unavailable, Bishop John School of the Greater New Jersey Episcopal Area presided remotely; other presenters and leaders were gathered in person at the United Methodist Center in Liverpool to lead the clergy portion of this annual conference.

One item of particular importance was an update to the Child Victims Act as reported by the Conference Board of Trustees. The update “removed the statute of limitations on survivors of childhood sexual abuse and has put some churches in the Upper New York Conference in a position where they may be liable for horrific deeds of childhood sexual abuse that took place decades ago.” (Quote was from the full report of the conference available on the Conference website).

Sadly, another item of importance was that 11 churches in the Upper New York Annual Conference were closed. This fact was highlighted by a number of statistics related to membership and attendance:

Membership stands at 140,544—a decrease of 3,823 from 2018
 Worship attendance stands at 39,127—a decrease of 1,317 from 2018
 Church school attendance stands at 10,247—a decrease of 205 from 2018
 Professions or reaffirmations of faith totaled 1,206—a decrease of 171 from 2018
 Adults and young adults in small groups totaled 15,995—a decrease of 845 from 2018
 Worshipers engaged in mission totaled 14,239—an INCREASE of 1869 from 2018

The trustees also explained that New York State requires that trustees be elected by written ballot only; a “virtual” session cannot elect trustees for a full term. The Book of Discipline does allow the Bishop and Cabinet, upon recommendation from the Nominating Committee, to fill vacancies “ad interim” (between sessions of Annual Conference). This means that the three people nominated for these positions will only serve until the next Annual Conference in June 2021. At that time, trustees will be elected via written ballot.

If anyone would like further details on this session of the Annual Conference, they can either go to the conference website and I will make a photocopy of the report from which I prepared this summary. My contact information is in the directory.

Frank M. D’Ambrosio

CHURCH MEETINGS



Monthly Church Meetings

Are as Follows:

- Finance TeamSecond Tuesday at 7:00 pm
- Leadership Council.....Third Tuesday at 7:00 pm
- Outreach Team.....First Wednesday at 6:00 pm
- Visuals Team.....First Sunday at 2:30 pm
- Trustees Team.....Third Sunday at 8:15 am
- Worship Team.....Fourth Tuesday at 7:00 pm

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING...

Due to COVID 19, our monthly church meetings are currently being held through ZOOM.



DECEMBER DUTIES CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GREETERS/ USHERS</u>	<u>WORSHIP LEADERS</u>
December 6	Not applicable at this time	Not applicable at this time
<i>December 13</i>	Not applicable at this time	Not applicable at this time
December 20	Not applicable at this time	Not applicable at this time
<i>December 25 (Christmas Day)</i>	Not applicable at this time	Not applicable at this time
December 27	Not applicable at this time	Not applicable at this time

Greeters/Ushers & Acolyte Coordinator: Stephanie DeVall at (518) 925-0160

Coffee Hour Coordinator: Chris Steffens at (518) 608-5300

Lay Worship Leader Coordinator: Nancy Rutenber at (518) 456-0412

**** Please Note that Greeter and Ushers duties are now combined.***



USHERS & GREETERS

make our guests

WELCOME!

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIS & BIRTHAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversaries

28—Terry and Barbara O'Neill
28—Matthew & Leith Mead



BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

2—Tim Roske
3—Colleen O'Brien
4—Paul Scoville
6—Barbara Cullen
7—Megan Scolaro
11—Cheryl Arnott
13—Arthur VanBuren
13—Wendy Fox
19—Noreen VanDoren
19—Pamela Scattareggia
19—Evelyn Fink
21—Lucy Gee
22—Sierra Lioitta
25—Dorothy Ellinwood
26—Janna Neitzel
26—Kylie Culver
27—Henry Walter
27—Matt Stillman
28—Christina Cook
28—Geoffrey Fox
30—Jason Moon



DECEMBER 2020



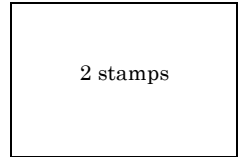
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 Living Resources 9:30 am	2 Outreach Team 6:00 (via ZOOM)	3	4	5
6 Sunday Services are held at 10:00 am in the church and via Facebook	7	8 Living Resources 9:30 am Finance Team 7:00 pm (via ZOOM)	9	10	11	12
13 Sunday Services are held at 10:00 am in the church and via Facebook Trustees Team 8:15 am (via ZOOM)	14	15 Living Resources 9:30 am Leadership Council 7:00 pm (via ZOOM)	16	17	18	19
20 Sunday Services are held at 10:00 am in the church and via Facebook	21	22 Living Resources 9:30 am Worship Team 7:00 pm (via ZOOM)	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Keep Christ in <i>Christmas!</i> Have a blessed holiday! <small>TRIMMINGS.COM</small>	26
27 Sunday Services are held at 10:00 am in the church and via Facebook	28	29 Living Resources 9:30 am	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE <i>Have A Blessed New Year!</i>		

***Due to COVID19, the following rehearsal times are as all on hold:**

- 3:00 pm Ignite Rehearsal
- 4:30 pm Wesley Ringers
- 5:45 pm New Song Rehearsal
- 6:30 pm Reborn Rehearsal

MICROSOFT

1565 Western Avenue
Albany, New York 12203-4222



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

CONTACT:

Phone: (518) 456-1148
E-mail: mckownumc@verizon.net

Website: www.McKownvilleChurch.com

Facebook: Facebook.com/McKownvilleChurch

The Rev. Jeff Landon, Pastor
E-mail: pastorjeffumc@att.net
Phone: (765) 652-0265

Office Hours:
Monday—Friday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Christine Gould, Church Secretary

Ministry and Team Leaders of the McKownville United Methodist Church

Board of Trustees:

Chair & Sexton Liaison: James Stott

Vice-Chair & Furnishings Building Use Coordinators: Kelly Visker
Nancy Rhodes

Leases & Legal Affairs: Noreen Van Doren

Grounds & Planned Maintenance: Tom Myers

Insurance: Nancy Pullen

Furniture: Kelly Visker

Ministry Teams:

Leadership Council: Kim Keane, Team Leader

Staff/Parish Relations: Teri Scoville, George Jeneczko, Monte Waters, Sue Burns, Nancy Rutenber, Tricia Stott, Diane Steffens, Frank D'Ambrosio & Pat Beauregard

Finance: Henry Walter, Team Leader
Treasurer & Payroll: Tim Pierce
Finance Secretary: To be Determined

Worship: Jeff Landon, Team Leader

Evangelism through Outreach: Darcianne Leizer, Team Leader

Christian Education: Kim Keane, Team Leader

Memorials & Gifts: Nancy Pullen, Team Leader
Senior Ministries: Darcianne Leizer, Team Leader