

McKownville Church News

Volume 12 No. 2

FEBRUARY 2021

*Look for Something Positive
Each Day....
Even if Some Days You Have to
Look a Little Harder....*

**Love God, Follow Jesus, and
Pass it On**

**Articles for the March 2021
News Letter are due by
February 15th**

Articles Inside

Spirit Filled, Mission Driven

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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.**



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

Announcements



WORSHIP SERVICES

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

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. New Sunday school lesson has been posted to Facebook.



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:
Calling the church office at (518) 456-1146,
Emailing the church office at:
mckownumc@verizon.net., or
Clicking on the following link:



2020Covenant-signed (2).pdf



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!

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.



DIGITAL DIRECTORY

- Membership Information Sheets have been sent out
- If you haven't sent back your information sheet, please do so
- Remember to mail a picture out to the church office at mckownumc@verizon.net



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: (51) 456-1148. 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.



Let the Son Melt Them!!



Sitting in the hotel parking lot early on a freezing morning, the car was covered with a thin but tough layer of ice that formed during the night. First a light rain, and then a freeze that coated the car with one of those ice-frostings that could fight back against any scraper. My wife and I had a choice to muscle the ice beads off the windshield and windows; or wait for the car to heat up.

What we didn't see right away, was that just a very short distance away, the rising sun was beaming over the hotel and melting the ice on the road and vehicles just beyond the shadow we were parked in.

What's next?? Easy answer, we just carefully moved the car into the rays of the sun and every ice ball quickly melted and disappeared. What a difference from being in the shadow of the hotel to the bright rays of the sun! From the darkness to light was literally only a few feet away!

What took place in that parking lot made me think of the past year we've all endured, and what we've had to do to overcome the challenges, difficulties, and well,...the cold and darkness. *If we reflect back on the past 10 months, has COVID-19 caused us to gradually feel a sense of isolation or coldness? Have the racial and political issues cast a shadow of darkness around us?* We have all been affected in some way. We've been through some difficult times, and it just has not been easy to keep our spirits up with all that we've faced.

We may feel as though the winter has set itself upon us, and with high hopes for a fresh new start in 2021, we now face reality and realize that the world did not change overnight on December 31st. But we can also realize that at any time, regardless of the date or season, we can step into the strong, warm, loving rays of the Son! When our hearts are cold and numb, and our thoughts are on the "dark side of the building," that's the time we need to pray to God, and feel His Son warm our hearts and set our minds in a new direction.

COVID-19 fatigue is real, and political turmoil is ongoing. But when we look toward the heavens, there is a force so much stronger than anything that can possibly exist here in our earthly lives.

Experiencing Jesus in our lives everyday provides us with the hope and peace in our hearts that will move us forward, out of the cold darkness and into the warmth of the Son.

We have more winter days ahead, and perhaps getting up on a cold, dark day is not the most pleasant experience these days considering all the circumstances we are dealing with. But whenever our thoughts shift to a cold and dark place, it's then we need to call upon Jesus, and let the Son melt the icy thoughts and warm our hearts.

Have a blessed month, stay healthy, and let the Son warm your days,

Dom Perfetti



Healing Ministry

CUPBEAROR'S PRAYER

Welcome , to all the brothers, sisters and families. I pray to our Lord, Jesus Christ, to bless this new month, February 2021, to be filled with joy and peace to all of you. I have a couple of questions:

- *How many of you in action today to do things to please God?
- *How often you ask God to help you when you struggle under pressure?
- *How often do you pray and pour out your heart to God?
- *How often do you ask do some specific prayer request to fulfill ?



After you finish reading the questions, let us look around us and around the world. Do you feel all the believers and non-believers prayers are challenging by the present pandemic sickness. It look's like the healing is very slow and the tears are flowing in the human life. Around the world there are still people getting infected by the virus and staying in the hospitals. Many thousands are gone from our world. Many sat down like the Cupbearer Nehemiah, the exile of the Israelite. We can read about him in the Old Testament Nehemiah 1:1-11.

Nehemiah had heard that the wall of Jerusalem broke down and its gates had been burned with fire. On hearing this news, Nehemiah said, "I sat down and wept. For some day I mourned, fasted and prayed before the God of Heaven," (Nehemiah 1:4). I want to introduce Nehemiah to you. He was the cupbearer of the King Artaxerxes, the leader of the Israelites at Jerusalem. His duty was to choose and taste the King's wine, to make sure that the wine was not poisoned. Nehemiah was in a unique position to speak to the King and a trusted cupbearer. Nehemiah ensured the safety and quality of the King's food and drink.

We were just like Nehemiah when we heard the tragic news of the Pandemic and how it is vigorously spreading all over the world. Let us ask ourselves, what did we do first? Fear surrounded us everywhere; and, we found the solution was to keep ourselves and our homes clean. Permanent healing is still? Let us read the Prayer of Nehemiah from the 1;11, as He is teaching us to:

- *Praise God in the midst of the Pandemic.
- *Repentance of what we did in our life.
- *Specific requests to God.
- *He requested for success.
- *When Gods purposes are at work, we should not hesitate to ask for healing.

Let us use the prayer of Nehemiah and recognize God's Holiness, confessed sins, and ask for help. Also ask God to deal our present problems. Let us not ask God just for strength to cope with our problems or sickness. Let us ask for help with what we are facing right now. His great power will help you because God almighty and the Son of God never took days off like us. They are working to help us around the clock. Please read the following scripture from the Gospel of John 5:17. "My father is always at his work to this very day and I, too, am working." God never says that I am too busy or I have no time to listen to you.

Then why worry? Just get up from where you are, stand up, wipe your tears, and start to praise God, and focus to Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Master of Healing and waiting for you. All that he need is your faith. Just trust in Him and He will take care of everything for you.



Let us pray,
"Here I am Lord, Jesus Christ, Let your ear be attentive to the prayers of your servant. You are my shelter and embrace me by your arms. I will sing 'Halleluiah' and I will pass all my struggles, all my sickness, and pain. You will heal me by your gentle touch. I will praise your name in all my life. Amen.



Olive Ezekiel
Minister for Healing

CHANGE AND NEED

Leadership Council approved December 2020 a change of our church's fiscal year from a July-June pattern to a calendar year pattern. This means a change in financial procedure.

December 31, 2020 the books were closed on the July-December 2020 year. A new budget year, calendar 2021, was established. A new fiscal year means a new budget and a new pledge of financial support. Members and friends received a letter about this change a few weeks ago. All were urged to complete their pledge for half of last year and to make a new pledge for all of 2021. This is happening through a new financial campaign now in progress. Pledges should be mailed to the church office no later than Tuesday, February 9th, to give the Finance Team time to prepare a new budget for the calendar year.

The half-year July-December 2020 is now ended. Both income and expenses were less than expected. Income was \$109 thousand, expenses \$120 thousand, and the shortfall \$10,650. It has been a strange time. Gathering in full fellowship is not possible. We yearn to see each other again, but it can not yet be. Even so, our supporters have remained generous and diligent. The reality is that pledged giving is down ~5%, unpledged giving ~25%, building rental nearly non-existent, and contributions in the offering plate that are not identifiable have been very small. A great help in meeting costs during the early months of the virus pandemic was Payroll Protection Program funds that helped cover our staff costs. However, this money ran out in August and our church is unlikely to be eligible for the most recent renewal of this program.

We expect a gradual recovery in attendance and giving as this year progresses. In the short term, we ask those who pledged to be sure they are current for the just completed half-year. Fund raisers will be important (Brooks Chicken BBQ, May 1); but, members are asked to pledge more and give more. There simply is no room to cut expenditures more than they have been cut in each of the last two years.



Financial Summary July - December 2020

<u>Income</u>		<u>Spending</u>	
80748	Pledged giving	46113	Pastor
12220	On-line giving	17174	Staff
-402	On-line giving fee	18366	Ministry Shares
9360	Un-pledged giving	33623	Trustees
783	Plate unidentifiable	1255	IRS
980	Building use	878	Office
5183	BBQ fund-raise (Oct 2020)	1237	Worship Team
150	Miscellaneous	734	Finance Team
		145	Christian Education Team
		127	Outreach Team
109002	Total income operating budget	119652	Total spending
10,650	Shortfall		

Not included in the above summary are designated funds received for parsonage (\$21,704) and the Capital Fund (\$787 clothing; \$430 donations; \$125 insurance reimbursement).

PARSONAGE UPDATE...



The parsonage committee has received what we hope is the last of the paperwork to secure a mortgage for the loan. We have had a lot of great support and donations that have been either pledged or received. With the COVID-19 pandemic we have been unable to run any fund-raising events, but we do have hope that we will be able to have some in the future. The home that we are trying to purchase is a 4 bedroom home with 3 bedrooms on the main floor and one bedroom over the garage with a small bathroom. The main floor also has a living room, family room, full bath and kitchen. It is in Westmere and is a part of an established neighborhood. Appraised at around \$240,000 we have the opportunity to purchase the home for \$195,000 due to the generosity of the seller. The committee plans to renovate and put an addition onto the home to update it and have a fully accessible bathroom, a laundry room and walk in closet. Additionally, we plan to renovate the kitchen. These renovations will not only ensure that the home meets conference standards but will also add some nice touches to make the home more modern. Currently it looks like the bank will loan us \$185,000 towards the house and to date we have raised \$94,500 towards the parsonage. With the proposed renovations and addition, the total cost of the home is right around the \$300,000 that was approved for the parsonage. Between the mortgage and the funds raised to date, it puts us about \$20,000 short of our \$300,000 goal. We have had several members tell the committee that they plan to make a donation and we wanted to get this information out to everyone. If you are prayerfully considering donating, we are so thankful. We have had great support in our efforts and we hope that we can purchase and renovate this house so that we have a great home for our pastor and his family. If you interested in making a donation to the parsonage fund, there are several ways to do that. You can contact anyone on the parsonage committee or a trustee. We have pledge forms that we can fill out for you or have sent to you. These pledge forms can also be found in the back of the sanctuary. Cash or checks can be sent to the church with "Parsonage" in the memo line. If anyone is interested in making a donation in the form of Stocks, that can also be done. Please contact one of the trustees for a stock donation. Currently we do not have a way of making a designated gift online but we will be exploring that as a possible option.

Thank you!

Kelly Visker, Sue Burns, Diane Steffens, Nancy Rhodes, James Stott, Noreen Van Doren, Nan Pullen and Tom Myers

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY...



For Christians, the death and resurrection of Jesus is a pivotal event commemorated each year during a season of preparation called Lent and a season of celebration called Easter. The day that begins the Lenten season is called Ash Wednesday. Here is the tradition of using ashes.

Origin of the tradition of using ashes

On Ash Wednesday, many Christians have ashes put on their forehead – a practice that has been going on for about a thousand years.

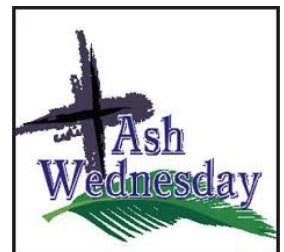
In the earliest Christian centuries – from A.D. 200 to 500 – those guilty of serious sins such as murder, adultery or apostasy, a public renunciation of one's faith, were excluded for a time from the Eucharist, a sacred ceremony celebrating communion with Jesus and with one another.

During that time they did acts of penance, like extra praying and fasting, and lying "in sackcloth and ashes," as an outward action expressing interior sorrow and repentance.

The customary time to welcome them back to the Eucharist was at the end of Lent, during Holy Week.

But Christians believe that all people are sinners, each in his or her own way. So as centuries went on, the church's public prayer at the beginning of Lent added a phrase, "Let us change our garments to sackcloth and ashes," as a way to call the whole community, not just the most serious sinners, to repentance.

Around the 10th century, the practice arose of acting out those words about ashes by actually marking the foreheads of those taking part in the ritual. The practice caught on and spread, and in 1091 Pope Urban II decreed that "on Ash Wednesday everyone, clergy and laity, men and women, will receive ashes." It's been going on ever since.



CHURCH MEETINGS

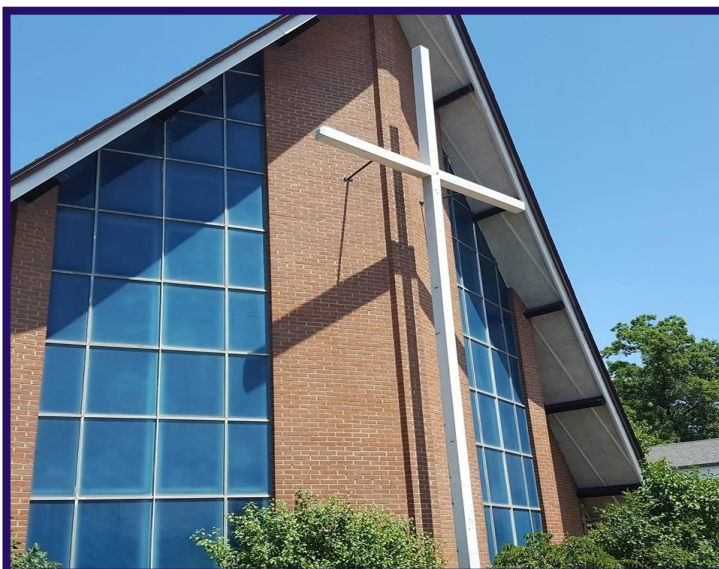


Monthly Church Meetings ***Are as Follows:***

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 Monday at 6:00 pm
Worship Team.....Fourth Tuesday at 7:00 pm

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING...

- ♦ *The Trustee Meetings will now be held on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 pm.*
- ♦ *Due to COVID 19, our monthly church meetings are currently being held through ZOOM.*



FEBRUARY DUTIES CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GREETERS/ USHERS</u>	<u>WORSHIP LEADERS</u>
February 7	Not applicable at this time	Not applicable at this time
February 14	Not applicable at this time	Not applicable at this time
February 21	Not applicable at this time	Not applicable at this time
February 28	Not applicable at this time	Not applicable at this time

Please note...

Due to COVID-19, we are currently not seeking volunteers to be ushers, greeters, or acolytes at this time. We will keep you updated...

Thank You...

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!

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Anniversaries

No anniversaries for this month...



Birthdays

4—Jessica Brunk
10—Danielle Klahr
14—Adrianna DeVall
14—Joe Shanley
15—Suzie Weis
18—Denise Francus
24—Darlene Pompei
25—Sue Pett
26—J. Donald Smith



FEBRUARY 2021

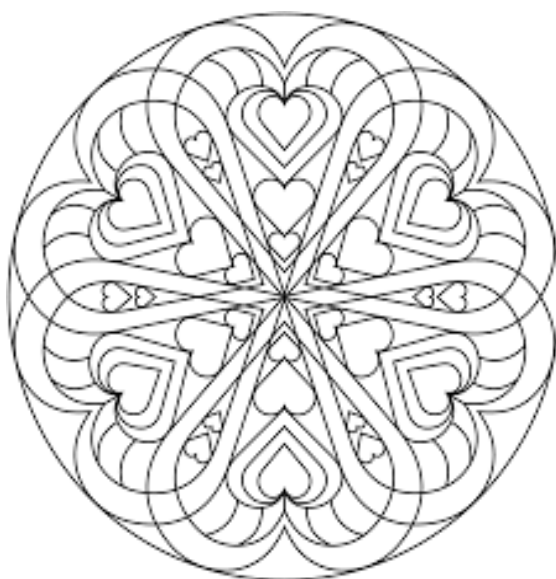


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Outreach Team 6:00 pm (via ZOOM)	4	5	6
7 Sunday Services are held at 10:00 am in the church and via Facebook Visuals Team 2:30 pm (via ZOOM)	8	9 Living Resources 9:30 am Finance Team 7:00 pm (via ZOOM)	10	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day Sunday Services are held at 10:00 am in the church and via Facebook 	15 President's Day 	16 Living Resources 9:30 am Leadership Council 7:00 pm (via ZOOM)	17 Ash Wednesday 	18	19	20
21 Sunday Services are held at 10:00 am in the church and via Facebook Trustees Team 8:15 am	22 Trustees Team 6:00 pm (via ZOOM)	23 Living Resources 9:30 am Worship Team 7:00 pm (via ZOOM)	24	25	26	27
28 Sunday Services are held at 10:00 am in the church and via Facebook	29					
31						

*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

ACTIVITY PAGE



MICROSOFT

1565 Western Avenue
Albany, New York 12203-4222

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

2 stamps

CONTACT:

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

Website: www.McKownvilleChurch.com

Facebook: [Facebook.com/McKownvilleChurch](https://www.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