

McKownville Church News

Volume 12 No. 3

MARCH 2021

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

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

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.

ANGELS IN HEAVEN

Milton “Chick” Chiboucas—Milton had entered eternal rest on January 19, 2021, at the age of 103. At the height of his career, he was working in a band conducted by Nelson Riddle and appearing on the Arthur Godfrey TV Show.



Edward Visker—Edward had entered eternal rest on January 23, 2021, at St. Peter’s Hospital. He was 88 years of age and a long-time resident of Guilderland, New York. He was a master gardener with the Schenectady Rose Society and was recognized with several awards for his prize-winning roses.

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.



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

- Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!
- Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory*, and download the FREE app to begin.
- You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.
- If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office at (518) 456-1148.



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. If you would like to join us, please call the church office or call Marion Leizer at: (518) 456-0994; and, we will add your name to our list.



STILL THERE??



Still there? I think I lost you...I'll try reconnecting... We've certainly seen quite a variety of communication technology over this past year. We have Skype, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Facetime, and probably a handful of others that I'm not familiar with. Seeing each other on the computer screen or our iPhones has become our substitute for sitting across from each other and having face to face conversations.

How many of us find it strange these days to connect with someone on our computers and feel a void if there is no face on the screen? We have a natural desire see each other face to face, and what used to be acceptable pre-pandemic to have a group of people join a call with voice only, has now changed to an expectation that we will see each other on the screen. The screen keeps us connected as we can see faces, expressions, backgrounds of homes and the occasional child or pet roaming in the background. Every now and then, I'm sure we've all experienced a slow down or loss of connectivity. I wonder how many times we've all said, "*Still there???*" over the past 11 months. Technology has significantly improved, but we still get the occasional blips that momentarily take us "offline."

The pandemic has taught us a few things and has also reconfirmed some of our basic human principles. For example, the creativity and ingenuity of the human mind has clearly kicked into high gear. As the pandemic caused us to be isolated from each other, our creative minds and our technologically progressive world continued to find ways for us to stay connected. We continue to find ways to overcome the constraints that the COVID-19 virus has imposed on us by using our resourcefulness to make our lives as "normal" as possible. Yet on the other side of the coin, the basic principles of human relationships that God established for us on Day One still exist and prevail. We, as humans, are designed to see others, to see other's faces, to speak to each other, and to have the connectedness with Him that God had always intended for us.

We've proven over the past year that we are resilient and have demonstrated that even in the depths of a global challenge, the spark of our human spirit will never go out. We have also once again seen that through these unprecedented times of uncertainty and change, that there is and will always be One Constant in our lives that lives with us and guides us through all circumstances. God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit never leave us, and are *still there!* Our Lord Jesus is with us every minute. We never lose connection, there's never a power outage that keeps us away from Him. And as advanced as our technology may become, it can never match the speed or provide the immediate connection of peace and love that continually flows from our Lord to us, freely and abundantly, at all times and in all places.

Yes, with Jesus, we're guaranteed that if we ever have a moment of doubt and ask the question, "*Still there???*" The answer is a resounding **Yes**. Jesus is there for us, He always was, and He always will be.

God bless all as we begin another Lenten season,

Dom Perfetti



Healing Ministry

THE BEAUTY OF FAITH



Welcome, everyone to our Ministry of Healing. We will pray for this month of March, 2021. May God bless everyone, our families and for the new month. We are in very cold freezing weather and our faces are covered for safety. We may feel where is our freedom to show our face to each other. Especially young girls may not feel comfortable to wear a mask all the time. I want to introduce a young, and very beautiful girl, Hadassah, also she known as Esther in our bible. She was very beautiful and crowned as a queen of Persia. (Esther 2:7). Originally, she was from a Jewish generation. She had neither a father nor a mother. Mordecai, her uncle, had adopted her and taken her as his own daughter. Esther's beauty and her character won King Xerxes' heart. The King Xerxes set a royal crown on her head; and, made her queen of Persia. Esther kept her birth identity of being Jewish in silence. One of the noble men,

Haman, (Ester 3:8-14) in the palace hated Mordecai because he refused to kneel down and honor him. Please read this scripture and continue to follow my message. Haman got the order with the King's signet to destroy all the Jewish communities from 120 provinces.

After she go this message from her uncle Mordecai, Esther took action immediately and she carefully made a plan Her first step of approaching God was with fasting and prayer. She sent this message to Mordecai, "Go gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do." (Esther 4:16). Esther calculated very carefully to meet the King Xerxes against the King's law. Esther was taking prayer support from the communities. Her actions are teaching us to be open, and available. Because God may use you to do some good things.

God gave to Esther natural beauty and a strong faith. She believed the deliverance comes from God. She combined courage with careful planning. She cared more for other people's lives than her own security. But God was working behind the scenes. I want to ask you this question. Are you willing to let God be your ultimate security? Esther believed her beauty of faith, rather than her natural beauty. In our world positions can be destroyed, beauty fades, and relationship can be broken.

Esther is teaching us that only God, and his unchanging nature of his love, is the only help. Now we are in the days of Lent; and, we can learn from Esther about the beauty of faith. When we are experiencing struggles, we must turn to believer's and ask them to pray for us. Be a person of constant prayer, driving power, and wisdom from our contact with our God. Esther is an example of God's divine guidance and care for others.

LET US PRAY THE ESTHER PRAYER...

O' My Lord, You are our only King. Help those who are alone and have no helper, but you, for my danger is in my hand; and, now we have sinned before you. Remember O' Lord, make yourself known in this time of our affliction and give me courage O' King of Gods and Master of all dominion. (This is the original prayer which Esther prayed).

Lord, Jesus Christ, help us to be a beautiful community of faith in You. Guide us to use our Lenten days as you like. AMEN.



***Olive Ezekiel
Minister for Healing***

PARSONAGE UPDATE...



**LATEST
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

“For this is how
God **loved** the
world...”

John 3:16

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.

Planned Giving Defined...

What is a “planned gift” anyway?

New to Planned Giving?
Here's Where You Begin.

It's a gift that is planned now and realized at a future date. Most planned gifts are made as part of a person's overall financial planning. Financial planning is usually accomplished with the help of experienced professionals – financial advisors, accountants, and attorneys. Like many nonprofit organizations, McKownville United Methodist Church accepts planned gifts from its members and friends.

Planned Giving is people, people from all walks of life and all income levels. People who want to make a difference in the world. If you have a dream of making a significant gift to support the spiritual work of McKownville United Methodist Church, while building a financially secure future for yourself and your loved ones, Planned Giving can make that dream a reality. Contact a trustee for more information.



Planned Giving Brochure.pub



McKownville Church Finances

Our annual financial campaign for calendar year 2021, announced in mid-January, asked for pledges to support our budget for the calendar year 2021. As of Sunday February 14, we received 38 pledges totaling \$150,600. Last year 60 persons pledged \$198,300. It will require support from all members and friends to provide for church staff, programs, and property maintenance for 2021.

We thank those who have already sent a pledge. We would like to hear from those who have not yet returned a pledge card. Mail it to the church office. If you have misplaced your pledge card, call Christine Gould in the church office and she will mail one to you.

Some members and friends prefer to contribute through our on-line service Vanco. Some members have reported difficulty in making a repeat contribution to an established account. We have reported this to Vanco and they are working on a solution. Until this glitch is remedied, you may send a check to the church office in care of the Tellers.



The Guilderland Food Pantry

Current Pantry Needs:

- boxed scalloped potatoes
- canned fruit cocktail
- crackers (For example, Ritz, Sociables, etc.)



God bless you and your congregation. You continue to feed 145 families each month. 93 families participate in our holiday meal program. GFP

Location

**Guilderland Food Pantry
4 Charles Park Boulevard
Guilderland, NY 12084
Phone: 518-930-1001**





WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a season of 40 days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word, lencten, meaning “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening of spring.

The 40 days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan, and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.



MONTHLY CHURCH MEETINGS



Scheduled Meetings:

Finance Team.....	Second 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.....	Fourth 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 fourth Monday of the month at 6:00 pm.*
- ◆ *Due to COVID 19, our monthly church meetings are currently being held using ZOOM.*





MARCH DUTIES CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GREETERS/ USHERS</u>	<u>WORSHIP LEADERS</u>
March 7th	Not applicable at this time	Not applicable at this time
March 14th	Not applicable at this time	Not applicable at this time
March 21st	Not applicable at this time	Not applicable at this time
March 28th	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!

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Anniversaries

No anniversaries to be celebrated during this month...

Birthdays

- 1 Casey O'Hare
- 2 Pam Weiss
- 7 Nancy Clarke
- 7 Terry O'Neil
- 8 Christopher Visker
- 12 Candice Goodman
- 12 Arthur Stottt
- 16 Jacqueline Kim
- 17 Brian Liotta
- 18 Connie Stott
- 27 Beverly Davies
- 29 Jennifer Grupe



MARCH 2021



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

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

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