

# MCKOWNVILLE CHURCH NEWS



**Spirit Filled, Mission Driven**

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

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

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## Newcomers and Visitors are WELCOME!

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

“As United Methodist Christians, we are called to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously, forming 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**



# Announcements and Upcoming Events



## MEALS FOR THE HOMELESS SHELTER

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to prepare meals for the homeless shelter. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. If you have any question, please contact Noreen VanDoren at [Norvandoren@yahoo.com](mailto:Norvandoren@yahoo.com).

## COFFEE HOUR

We are having coffee hour in the back of the sanctuary and this is a great time to build fellowship and get to know one another on a more personal level. Currently coffee hour is being run by the different ministry teams at the church, but you can help! If you would like to contribute to coffee hour either by making coffee and tea or bringing food, please let Kelly Visker know and she can hook you up with the team of the month. You can reach Kelly either at church at (518-456-1148) or via text at: (518- 312-6396.)



## ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES

We are very excited that we now have assisted listening devices in the sanctuary that anyone can use. These devices allow people to better hear the service. Each device has a receiver and a set of headphones. Currently located in the back of the sanctuary. You can pick up a receiver from the charging station and a set of headphones from a clean bag. The receivers are already programmed so you just need to plug the headphones into the receiver and put the headphones on. If you have your own set of headphones or earbuds that you prefer, you can use them instead. At the end of the service please use the sanitizing wipes to wipe down the headphones and place them in the basket. We currently have 8 sets and will evaluate in the future if we need more. If you have questions, please see Kelly Visker.





# Announcements and Upcoming Events



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Get ready for the BEST YEAR EVER! It's time to dream big, set amazing goals, plan epic adventures with friends, change the world, or just get a fresh start in the new year. Anything is possible. This month's study will excite kids about what God has in store for the coming year. No matter the ups and downs, having Jesus by your side means you're never alone in the ride. We can trust Him on this new year's journey. With Jesus in your life, every day can matter: boring, awesome, bad, or blah. Let's learn how to make it the BEST YEAR EVER! We will continue to use a hands-on-learning approach to all curriculum and serve our church by preparing an item for coffee hour!

## "TOP OF THE HILL GANG"

The "Top-of-the-Hill Gang" welcomes new members. We meet each Friday morning 10:00am to noon in the rear of the sanctuary. As the name suggests, we tend to be the more mature (not "old") members of the church. There is no formal program, just a social time and easy discussion of whatever topic happens to come up. There are no strict requirements, but it is easier to attend if you are retired. Most current members are genuine geriatrics, and we wish to enlist some younger persons. If this palpitates your heart, give us a try. Starting January 2026, we will meet every Friday morning from 10:00am to noon. If you have questions, speak with Barbara or Paul Cullen, Nancy or Steve Clarke, Dorothy Ellinwood, Nan Pullen, or Henry Walter.

I'm not  
old.  
I've just been  
young  
for a  
very  
long time.



## ANGELS WHO MOVED TO HEAVEN

- Rev. James Bowen –September 19, 2025
- Marion Leizer—November 24, 2025





## Announcements and Upcoming Events



### **“THANK YOU!”**

Many people contribute to McKownville United Methodist Church being a living presence in our community. Some are obvious: Pastor Jeff, office administrator Christine Gould, our music people Nancy Clarke and Christy Beauregard. But much is done by many unsung volunteers.

Kim Keane manages the Sunday school program with many helpers of all ages. Pat Beauregard directs our bell choir. All our choirs are volunteers. Many people serve on our various Ministry Teams: Leadership Council, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Trustees, Finance. Our Treasurer Tim Pearce and Financial Secretary Tom Myers provide financial information all year round. We have two major fundraising events: Kelly Visker has managed the Brooks Chicken BBQ in spring and fall and Angela Stott has managed the pumpkin project to raise money for missions. (I hear the BBQ team is searching for a new leader.) Outreach Ministry team focuses outside our church. In particular, Noreen VanDoren prepares and organizes meals twice a month during winter months for men staying at the Capital District Area Council of Churches' Homeless Shelter. Nancy Rutenber recruits and schedules the lay worship leaders. The communications team sets up our online broadcasts each week and prepares the Powerpoint slides. Tricia Stott heads the Tellers Team. Don't forget about the "unseen" people who trim the hedges, plant flowers in the Spring, fold and stuff printed materials for distribution to the congregation and friends, provide church dinners, bring refreshments each Sunday after worship, altar stewards, lay representation at Conference, and church historian. Finally, everyone from time to time must have contributed to the Guilderland Food Pantry. To all these folks, and to those the Church Mouse failed to remember, many thanks for your contribution in 2025 to the life and mission of McKownville Church. Do you feel left out? There are many opportunities to volunteer. Speak with Pastor Jeff or any of the leadership persons.

*Thank you*



*Thank you*

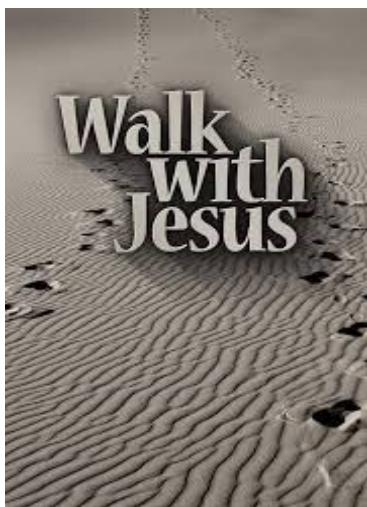


## *From the Desk of Dom Perfetti...*

### *Walk Me Through It...*

*"I don't quite understand. Can you walk me through it?"* Sometimes we need a little help, and we ask someone to "walk us through it." Notice we don't say "run," we need to slow down, take our time, and get a grip on what's happening. We need someone who has the knowledge and patience to guide us through something we're not familiar with, something that we're struggling to solve on our own.

**Happy New Year!** Yup, it happened again, already! *What are our goals? What do we plan to do this year that may be different than year's past?* We may not be sure yet, but we do know that there will be plenty of opportunities and decisions coming our way that may require some guidance. *Maybe with a class at school? A career move? A relocation? Anyone thinking about retirement?* With the world around us changing so fast, we may need to take a moment and walk our way through some of the challenges coming our way.



Sometimes goal setting at the onset of a New Year can be helpful, while other times it can be a reminder of how difficult it is to change. But regardless of what we face in the New Year, and whether we set goals or not, we can begin the year with a clear thought in mind – ***to walk with the Lord***, every moment and everywhere we go. Jesus will walk with us through whatever comes our way. He's there to listen, to help and to guide us. When our world feels like it's starting to spin out of control, His Spirit will calm the waters and offer us the stability we need to keep moving forward. Through Him we gain the peace and the quiet confidence we need to stay the course.

There will be many decisions to make and many possible paths to take as the weeks and months move along. We can be tossed in many directions and left feeling lost and confused. But we can all offset the unpredictability of the world with the steadfastness and consistency of having Jesus in our lives – ***every day***. His Way helps us focus and simplifies our lives.

***Let us pray – Dear Jesus, as we start the New Year, we call on Your Name to set our hearts and minds in the right direction. We pray that You are with us every step of the way, and when we feel stressed or overwhelmed, we know we can turn to You with the confidence that no matter the circumstances, You will always shine Your light on our paths and lead us to the peacefulness of Your presence. Be with us as we begin our journey into the New Year.***

*Have a very blessed start to the New Year,*

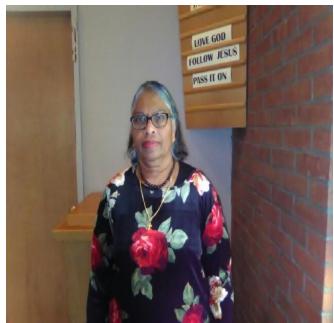
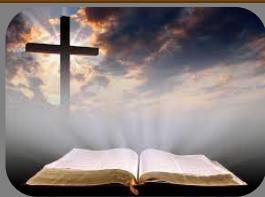


# Healing Ministry





# Healing Ministry



Olive Ezekiel  
Minister For healing

## OUR HISTORY



### Methodist Senior Choir Over Time in McKownville

*Easter 1951*



**Front Row:** Grace Price, Mildred Winne  
Wise, Helen Winne Wagoner  
**Middle Row:** Shirley Johnston, Elsie  
Johnston, Marge Carey, Estelle Bernard,  
Jane Vedder Ronan  
**Top Row:** Bill Wagoner, Warren Bernard,  
Newton Ronan, Stuart Price, Carlton Saske

(The **bolded** choir members died in 2025.)

Chancel & Junior Chori about 1990



Top Left: **Nancy Ware**  
(Marion Leizer also present)

*Easter 1965*



**Front Row:** Richard Cassells, **Jim Bowen**, Rick  
Fitzpatrick, Lily Harris, Dick Barhydt, ?, Marilyn  
LeVine  
**Second Row:** Judy Plamer, Fran Lapham, Marge  
Carey, **Nancy Ware**  
**Third Row:** ?, Elizabeth Heller, Lynda Palmer,  
Nancy Speers, ?, Agnes Speers, Agnes (Andres)  
Fairbanks  
**Fourth Row:** Harmon Taylor, Margo Taylor, **Judy  
Lott**, Beverly Rice  
**Fifth Row:** ?, ?, Mildred Wise, Arline Palmer,  
Robert Pratt

Choir singing in the 2000's



Middle Far Right: **Jim Bowen**  
Bottom Far Right: **Marion Leizer**

**Adult Bible Study**

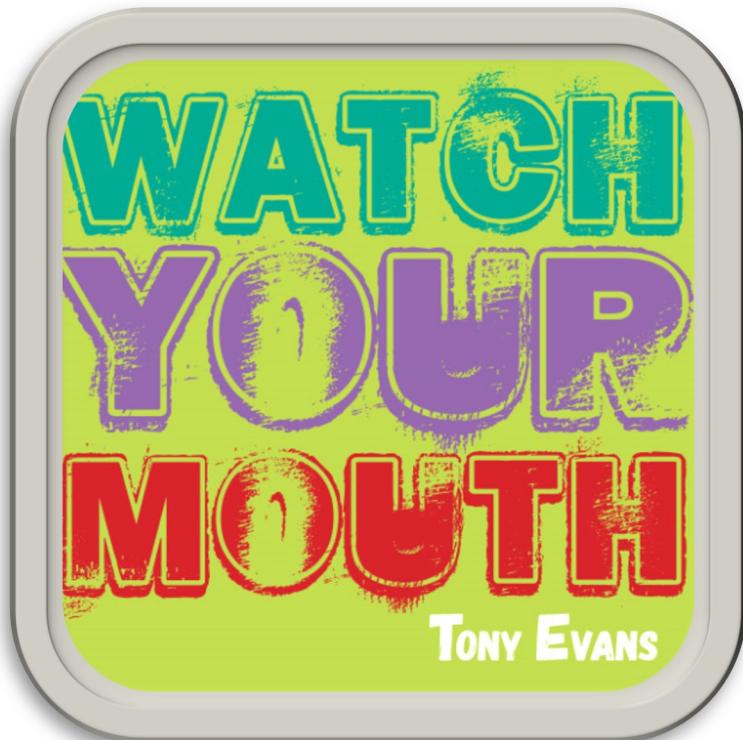
# **Adult Forum**

**Adult Bible Study**

**Adult Forums** are on non-holiday Monday evenings at 7:00 pm will offer four sessions on Rev. Tony Evan's **Watch Your Tongue: Understanding the Power of the Tongue**. These will be January 5, Who's Master of Your Mouth?, January 12, Your Voice Has Victory, January 28, Your Mouth Mirrors Your Heart, and February 2, thew Wreckage of Your Words.

(No session on January 19, Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

These DVD discussion sessions will focus on the power of our speech for good or evil and offer help for applying the truths of scripture to the big and small challenges in our lives. New folks are invited to come. Advance ready is not needed, though there may be suggestions for actions to take in the following week.



## MISSION AND OUTREACH CORNER

"Do all the good you can, by all means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

### Local Mission Opportunities

All items can be left in the mission corner in the back of the sanctuary

#### Food Donations to the Guilderland Food Pantry

- canned vegetables
- canned fruit
- canned meat
- boxed potatoes
- Juices
- Mayonnaise (small jars)



#### Magazine Donations to Albany Medical Center

Magazines are for the patients entertainment and enjoyment while in the hospital.



2026

## JANUARY 2026

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<p><b>1</b> Boy Scouts 6:45 pm—8:15 pm</p> <p>Altamont Sobriety 7:00 pm—8:00 pm</p> <p>AA Meeting 7:00 pm—8:30 pm</p> 	<p><b>2</b> <b>Top of the Hill</b> <b>10:00 am—11:30 am</b></p> <p>The Happy Hour Hour (Part of AA) 5:30 pm—6:30 pm</p> <p>NA: Serenity Group 6:30 pm—8:00 pm</p>	<p><b>3</b> AA Meetings 8:00 am—9:00 am (Two separate group meetings.)</p> <p>NA ABCD Board Meeting 10:30 am—11:30 am (Meet Upstairs)</p>
<p><b>4</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>10:00 am in the church and on Facebook</b></p> <p>GA Meeting 6:00 pm—8:30 pm</p>	<p><b>5</b> Cub Scouts 6:15 pm—8:15 pm</p> <p><b>Adult Forum</b> <b>7:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> Living Resources 10:00 am—2:00 pm</p> <p>Al-Anon 12:00 pm—1:00 pm</p> <p>AA Meeting 4:30 pm—5:30 pm (Meet Downstairs)</p> <p>AA Meeting 7:00 pm—8:00 pm (Meet Downstairs)</p>	<p><b>7</b> Living Resources 12:00 pm—2:00 pm</p> <p>Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 pm—8:00 pm (Meet Upstairs)</p> <p>GA Group 7:30 pm—8:30 pm (Meet Downstairs)</p>	<p><b>8</b> Boy Scouts 6:45 pm—8:15 pm</p> <p>Altamont Sobriety 7:00 pm—8:00 pm</p> <p>AA Meeting 7:00 pm—8:30 pm</p>	<p><b>9</b> <b>Top of the Hill</b> <b>10:00 am—11:30 am</b></p> <p>The Happy Hour Hour (Part of AA) 5:30 pm—6:30 pm</p> <p>NA: Serenity Group 6:30 pm—8:00 pm</p>	<p><b>10</b> AA Meetings 8:00 am—9:00 am (Two separate groups meet in the morning.)</p>
<p><b>11</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>10:00 am in the church and on Facebook</b></p> <p>GA Meeting 6:00 pm—8:30 pm</p>	<p><b>12</b> Cub Scouts 6:15 pm—8:15 pm</p> <p><b>Adult Forum</b> <b>7:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>13</b> Living Resources 10:00 am—2:00 pm</p> <p>Al-Anon 12:00 pm—1:00 pm</p> <p>AA Meeting 4:30 pm—5:30 pm (Meet Downstairs)</p> <p><b>Finance Team</b> <b>5:30 pm—6:30 pm</b></p> <p>AA Meeting 7:00 pm—8:00 pm (Meet Downstairs)</p>	<p><b>14</b> Living Resources 12:00 pm—2:00 pm</p> <p>NA Group 7:00 pm—8:00 pm (Meet Upstairs)</p> <p>GA Group 7:30 pm—8:30 pm (Meet Downstairs)</p>	<p><b>15</b> Sewing Guild (GSG) <b>1:00 pm—3:00 pm</b></p> <p><b>Faith Journey Group</b> <b>6:30 pm</b></p> <p>Boy Scouts 6:45 pm—8:15 pm</p> <p>Altamont Sobriety 7:00 pm—8:00 pm</p> <p>AA Meeting 7:00 pm—8:30 pm</p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>Top of the Hill</b> <b>10:00 am—11:30 am</b></p> <p>The Happy Hour Hour (Part of AA) 5:30 pm—6:30 pm</p> <p>NA: Serenity Group 6:30 pm—8:00 pm</p>	<p><b>17</b> AA Meetings 8:00 am—9:00 am (Two separate groups meet in the morning.)</p>
<p><b>18</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>10:00 am in the church and on Facebook</b></p> <p>GA Meeting 6:00 pm—8:30 pm</p>	<p><b>19</b> Cub Scouts 6:15pm—8:15 pm</p> 	<p><b>20</b> Living Resources 10:00 am—2:00 pm</p> <p>Al-Anon 12:00 pm-1:00 pm</p> <p>AA Meeting 4:30 pm—5:30 pm (Meet Downstairs)</p> <p><b>Leadership Council</b> <b>7:00 pm—8:00 pm</b> (quarterly meetings)</p> <p>AA Meeting 7:00 pm—8:00 pm (Meet Downstairs)</p>	<p><b>21</b> Living Resources 12:00 pm—2:00 pm</p> <p>NA Group 7:00 pm—8:00 pm (Meet Upstairs)</p> <p>GA Group 7:30 pm—8:30 pm (Meet Downstairs)</p>	<p><b>22</b> Boy Scouts 6:45 pm—8:15 pm</p> <p>Altamont Sobriety 7:00 pm—8:00 pm</p> <p><b>Outreach Team</b> <b>7:00 pm—8:00 pm</b></p> <p>AA Meeting 7:00 pm—8:30 pm</p>	<p><b>23</b> <b>Top of the Hill</b> <b>10:00 am—11:30 am</b></p> <p><b>Women Together</b> <b>1:30 pm-3:00pm</b></p> <p>The Happy Hour Hour (Part of AA) 5:30 pm—6:30 pm</p> <p>NA: Serenity Group 6:30 pm—8:00 pm</p>	<p><b>24</b> AA Meetings 8:00 am—9:00 am (Two separate groups meet in the morning)</p>
<p><b>25</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>10:00 am in the church and on Facebook</b></p> <p><b>Trustees Team</b> (Meet after Worship)</p> <p>GA Meeting 6:00 pm—8:30 pm</p>	<p><b>26</b> Cub Scouts 6:15pm—8:15 pm</p> <p><b>Adult Forum</b> <b>7:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> Living Resources 10:00 am—2:00 pm</p> <p>Al-Anon 12:00 pm-1:00 pm</p> <p>AA Meeting 4:30 pm—5:30 pm (Meet Downstairs)</p> <p>AA Meeting 7:00 pm—8:00 pm (Meet Downstairs)</p> <p><b>Worship Team</b> <b>7:00 pm—8:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> Living Resources 12:00 pm—2:00 pm</p> <p>NA Group 7:00 pm—8:00 pm (Meet Upstairs)</p> <p>GA Group 7:30 pm—8:30 pm (Meet Downstairs)</p>	<p><b>29</b> Boy Scouts 6:45 pm—8:15 pm</p> <p>Altamont Sobriety 7:00 pm—8:00 pm</p> <p>AA Meeting 7:00 pm—8:30 pm</p>	<p><b>30</b> <b>Top of the Hill</b> <b>10:00 am—11:30 am</b></p> <p>The Happy Hour Hour (Part of AA) 5:30 pm—6:30 pm</p> <p>NA: Serenity Group 6:30 pm—8:00 pm</p>	<p><b>31</b> AA Meetings 8:00 am—9:00 am (Two separate groups meet in the morning.)</p>

2026

**JANUARY DUTIES**

2026

<u>DATES</u>	<u>USHERS/GREETERS</u>	<u>WORSHIP LEADERS</u>
January 4	Persons Needed	Naoshi Ishikawa
January 11	Persons Needed	Nancy Rhodes
January 18	Persons Needed	Paul Cullen
January 25	Persons Needed	George Janeczko

Currently there is no bulletin. If you are not on the distribution list for the emailed worship service outline, I (or some else) will forward it to you.

If you find your date inconvenient, please attempt to switch with someone else and then let the church know (518-456-1148 or email [mckownumc@verizon.net](mailto:mckownumc@verizon.net)) as well as myself (518-456-0412 or email at: [nancy\\_e\\_rutenber@yahoo.com](mailto:nancy_e_rutenber@yahoo.com)).

As Worship Leaders, you help set the tone that prepares the congregation for worship. Worship leader notes with service guidelines are in the attached document. (If you cannot open, let me know.)

One copy of the Worship Leader Reference is kept in the pulpit/lectern. The pastor or guest speaker can inform you if there are any changes.

Aids to being Worship Leader:

Service outline and scripture: Look at a copy or email of the worship outline to familiarize yourself with the service for which you will be Lay Worship Leader. This includes the church policy about wearing masks.

Be early and get ready: On Sunday, please arrive at the church fifteen minutes prior to the service for which you are serving and check up front.

The microphone will be turned on; if you are tall or short, you may need to move it closer to your mouth. The visuals team started a 5-minute timer on the monitors to help get the services started on time. The worship leader can begin the greetings to the congregation after the timer counts down to zero and the organist/pianist is seated. In the fall, the Pastor may start handling this and announcements again.

Remember that worship is to God. Thank you for helping the congregants worship.

Nancy Rutenber, Worship Leader Coordinator  
"May your life sing." - NR

**Please Note...**

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

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

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



## JANUARY

### ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

#### JANUARY

#### ANNIVERSARIES

12	Ken & Jennifer Grupe
30	Bob Barnard & Maria D'Ambrosio



#### JANUARY

#### BIRTHDAYS

2	Karen Tedisco
7	Pauline Martin
7	Olivia Tureby
7	Kathryn Braun
7	Vera Lund
7	Monte Waters
11	Patti Krekeler
11	Marilyn Johnston
11	Joshua Scattareggia
15	Alexander Burns
16	Bill Colclough
16	Cathy Gee
17	Elizabeth Spencer
24	Harold Williams
25	Charlie Beauregard
25	Lelaina Beauregard
27	Ted Collins
29	Ann Weil
29	Angela Stott
31	Patricia Stott



## MONTHLY TEAM MEETING

## SCHEDULE

Finance Team  
Leadership  
Mission/Outreach Team  
Faith Journey Group  
Trustees Team  
Worship Team

Second Tuesday at 5:30 pm  
Third Tuesday at 7:00 pm  
Fourth Thursday at 7:00 pm  
First Wednesday at 6:30 pm  
Fourth Sunday after Worship Service  
Fourth Tuesday at 7:00 pm

**Please Note the Following**  
*(Some of our monthly church meetings are being held using ZOOM)*



- Sunday worship services are held at 10:00 am.
- The first Sunday of every month is Communion Sunday.
- Everyone is welcome to worship with us in person, or watch the service on Facebook or YouTube.

# 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>

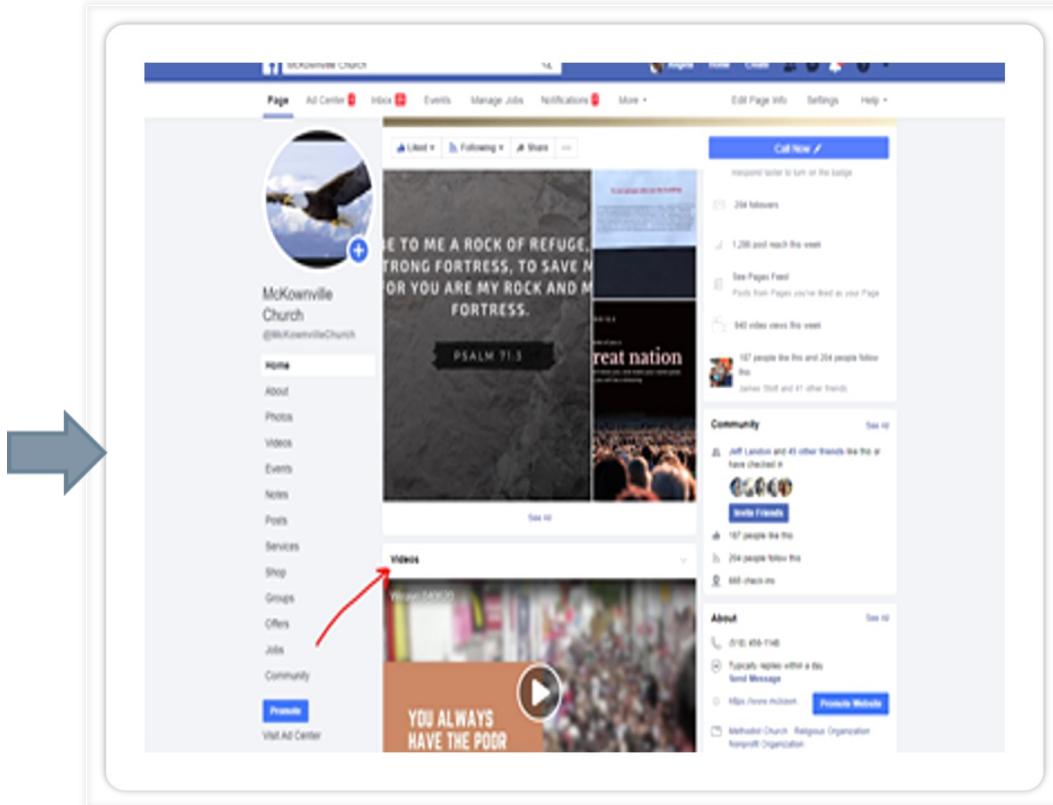
**Step 2:** On the bottom of the home page you will see the following Facebook link:

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.



## ACTIVITY PAGE





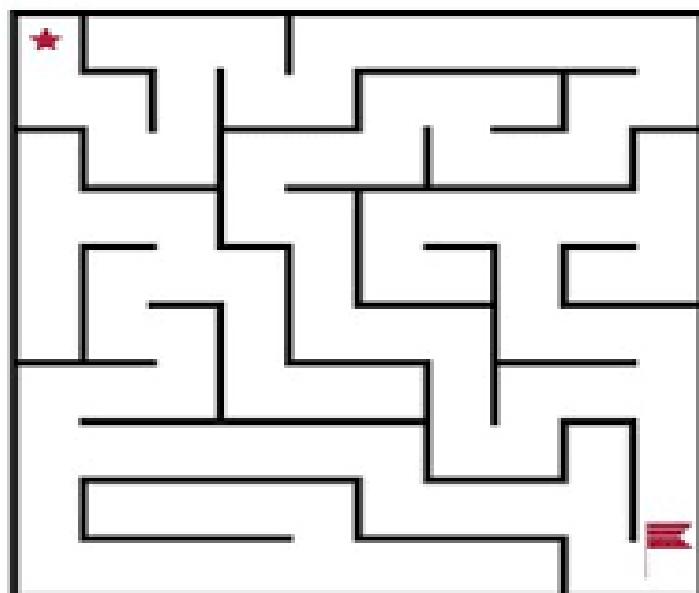
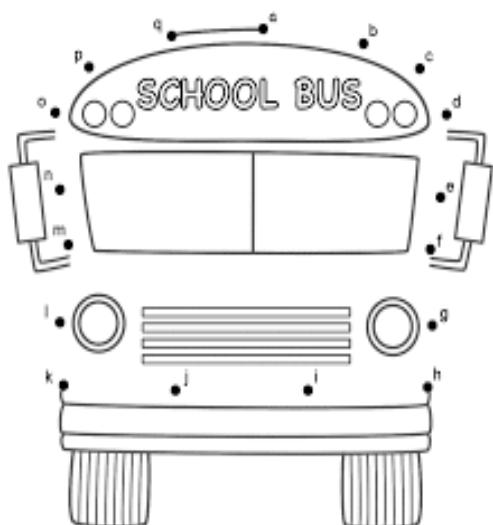
## ACTIVITY PAGE



Racing



into 2026



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](http://www.McKownvilleChurch.com)

Facebook: [Facebook.com/McKownvilleChurch](http://Facebook.com/McKownvilleChurch)

The Rev. Jeff Landon, Pastor  
E-mail: [disciplemaker56@gmail.com](mailto:disciplemaker56@gmail.com)  
Phone: (765) 652-0265

Office Hours:

Monday—Friday: 9:30 am to 1:30pm  
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  
VanDoren

**Grounds & Planned  
Maintenance:** Tom Myers

**Insurance:** Nancy Pullen

**Furniture:** Kelly Visker

### **Ministry Teams:**

**Leadership Council:** Paul Krekeler, Team Leader

**Staff/Parish Relations:** Pat Beauregard, Frank D'Ambrosio, Alan Longshore, Monte Waters, Beth Spencer, Cathy Wells and Nancy Rutenber

**Finance:** Team Leader—Ashley Weil  
Treasurer & Payroll: Tim Pierce  
Finance Secretary: Tom Myers

**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