

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

As I write these words for this newsletter, I contemplate the idea that this is my last newsletter as your pastor. You are aware that Carolyn and I will relocate to the Winston Salem, North Carolina area at the end of June so that we can be closer to our aging family (I am not retiring from ministry). We have been blessed to serve you as the shepherd of this flock. You are a wonderful people, and I praise God for you. And I praise the Lord for the work in ministry that we have been able to do over these 5+ years, the Lord being our helper.

As I contemplated what to say to you for this newsletter, I was drawn to a scripture in Proverbs. In this scripture (Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV), God says to us, “⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”

The congregation has some important days ahead – welcoming a new pastor, celebration of our 100 years of serving the Lord, and implementing the plans the leadership team has worked on to develop a strategy for making disciples for Christ and growing our church. These are important responsibilities that Lord has given to us. So I want to encourage you with the Word – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

Trust is a word that we are familiar with. But it is also a word worth relooking at as we consider the three items I highlighted above that God calls us to do. So here’s a question – “What does it mean to trust in the Lord with all your heart?” To trust in the Lord means more than believing in who God is and what He says; the word trust can also mean “to have confidence in.” Having confidence in something means having an assurance that leads to action. Trust in the Lord is a faith that lets us boldly serve – to step out on faith, beyond our comfort zone, to do what God calls us to do. This confidence should permeate our hearts and daily living. Trusting and seeking God in all circumstances, let me remind you, will not make our work any easier. We have all experienced enough of life to know that isn’t the case. Instead, what we do know and what we can expect is that our journey will ultimately lead to Jesus and we will not be shaken when we face those tough days. Jeremiah 17 gives us clarity: - “Blessed is the man [or woman] who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. [They are] like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit. (7-8)

So I encourage you for the days ahead, remember that trusting in the Lord is the only pathway. Nowhere is this seen more clearly than in the life and work of Jesus. In His life, Jesus trusted the Father totally, even to His death; through His work on the Cross, His resurrection, and His ascension He offers us new life and strength for the work He has placed in your hands, pouring His Spirit into our hearts. In a culture of misplaced trusts – where we trust our own knowledge and discernment to support us through life - only Jesus is worthy of all our trust. He trusted the Father with all his heart, making straight the path for our salvation so we too would trust God. In the days ahead, let us do the same as Jesus did – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart!”

One last thought. We have heard that Gail Williams is not able to continue to be the editor for the church newsletter after this year. Gail has done a great job with the newsletter during the duration of my pastorate at Westside and before, and it has been an important source of information and inspiration for the members, particularly for those who are not able to get out much. So I want to say thank you to Gail for this ministry. It is my prayer that someone else can pick this up, or that the content can be added to our website.

God bless the Westside Church, continue the work of ministry to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and the world, take care of each other, and may God continue to bless the congregation in its 100th church anniversary celebration.

Blessings to you all, Rev. Dr. Vincent W. Howell, Pastor

June July August 2017

- Sunday** 9:30AM – Sunday School – Adult – East Parlor
 10:30AM – Sunday Morning Worship – Sanctuary
 11:30AM – Coffee Hour – Fellowship Hall
- Monday** 10:00AM – AA – Fellowship Hall
 2:00PM - 3:00PM - Bone Builders - Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday** 8:00PM – AA – Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday** 12:30pm—1:30pm Midweek Bible Study—East Parlor
 2:00PM - 3:00PM - Bone Builders - Fellowship Hall
- Thursday** 7:00PM – AA – Fellowship Hall
 5:45PM – 6:45PM – Pastor’s Office Hours

June

- 1-3 Annual Conference
- 4 Pentecost
- 8 6:30PM - Missions Outreach Committee
- 10 9AM-3PM – Craft/Vendor Fair
- 11 1st Sunday after Pentecost
 Communion Sunday
 2:30PM – Common Time Concert & Ice Cream Social
- 12 7PM – Border Buddies Meeting
- 18 2nd Sunday after Pentecost
 Father’s Day
 Food Pantry Sunday
- 25 3rd Sunday after Pentecost
 Pastor Vincent’s last day at WUMC

July

- 2 4th Sunday after Pentecost
- 4 Independence Day
- 9 5th Sunday after Pentecost
 Communion Sunday
- 12 6:30PM – Worship Committee
- 13 6:30PM – Missions Outreach Committee
- 16 6th Sunday after Pentecost
 Food Pantry Sunday
- 23 7th Sunday after Pentecost
- 30 8th Sunday after Pentecost

August

- 6 Transfiguration Sunday
 100th Anniversary HOMECOMING CELEBRATION
- 10 6:30PM – Missions Outreach Committee
- 13 10th Sunday after Pentecost
 Communion Sunday
- 20 11th Sunday after Pentecost
 Food Pantry Sunday
- 27 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Water in the Flame by Vicki LaRue

Divine Holy Spirit
 Hear me as I ask for
 guidance to fulfill
 the trickling pain to send up for answers!
 Water, Flame, and Spirit
 hold together what brought the world together.
 Love
 in its many dimensions,
 forms and promises:
 Water in the Flame



March, April & May 2017

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Strong Family

Chuck, Elizabeth & Chad

In Honor of joining this church

Bruce & Cheryl Butler

Laura & Daniel Cummings

In Honor of Kevin's Birthday

Bruce & Donna Sprague

In Memory of Donna's sister Florence Tenny

Karen Lambert

In Memory of Dale Mattison

Marda McElhaney

In Memory of Phil

Kevin & Laura Cummings

In Honor of Daniel's 8th Birthday

Bob & Mariann Moran

In Honor of our 51st Anniversary

Bruce & Donna Sprague

In Honor of Jo Helen's Birthday - May 20th

Kathy Rundle

In Memory of Marlea & Bettye Rundle

The Strong Family

In Memory of Aunt Ruby Danhaus

& all Veterans

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Bruce & Donna Sprague

The Cummings Family

Bill & Sherry Raymond

Chris & Mary Wynings

Art & Connie Thompson

Bruce & Gail Williams

Bruce & Cheryl Butler

Chuck, Liz & Chad Strong

LECTORS

Vickie LaRue

Sherry Raymond

Bob Schmidt

Elizabeth Strong

Bob Schmidt

Gail Williams

Connie Thompson

Kathy Rundle

USHERS

Bruce & Donna Sprague

Bob & Sue Schmidt

Bruce Sprague & Dick Habeck

David & Joan Bailey

Bob & Mariann Moran

Chris & Mary Wynings

GREETERS

Sue Schmidt

Kathy Rundle

Chad Strong

Dick Habeck

SIGN UP TODAY!

Sign-up sheets for coffee hour hosts, greeters, lectors & altar flowers are on the Narthex table. If interested, but need more info, please contact the following:

Coffee Hour Coordinator— Gail Williams

Greeter Coordinator - Betty Williams

Lector Coordinator - Carolyn Howell

Altar Flowers Coordinators - Claudia Keller & Rick Harvey

*Altar Flowers are \$15 payable by cash or check to Claudia Keller

Welcome, Pastor Holly

AS WAS ANNOUNCED ON MAY 21, IT IS THE INTENTION OF BISHOP MARK WEBB, BISHOP OF THE UPPER NEW YORK CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, TO APPOINT **HOLLY STRICKLAND McCLOUD** AS PASTOR OF THE WESTSIDE UMC, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017. PASTOR HOLLY, AS SHE PREFERS TO BE ADDRESSED, HAS RETIRED FROM THE ELMIRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A TEACHER AND VICE PRINCIPAL. MOST RECENTLY, SHE RECEIVED HER MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE FROM THE COLGATE ROCHESTER CROZER DIVINITY SCHOOL, ROCHESTER, NY IN MAY 2017. SHE LIVES HERE IN ELMIRA AND HAS WORKED IN MINISTRY WITH THE NEW BEGINNINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF REV. LEANNE ZECK, SINCE LAST JULY. PASTOR HOLLY HAS A HEART FOR FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITY. HER FIRST SUNDAY SERVICE AT WESTSIDE WILL BE JULY 2, 2017.

The Benefits of Coconut Oil

Submitted by Carolyn Howell



Scientific research on coconut oil has revealed many health benefits that affect your entire body, inside and out.

Coconut oil is high in natural saturated fats. It not only increases the healthy cholesterol in your body, but also helps convert the "bad" cholesterol into good cholesterol.

Some of the great health benefits of using coconut oil are:

1. Lowers the risk of heart disease and high blood pressure
2. Clears up urinary infections, kidney infections and protects the liver.
3. Good for digestion - it destroys bad bacteria and improves stomach health
4. Coconut oil thickens hair and prevents dandruff

Coconut is considered to be a super powerful food.

Reference: *Balm in Gilead Sunday Morning Health Corner*

1 Corinthians 14:15

"I will pray with the understanding..."

There's a quiet understanding
When we are gathered in the Spirit,
It's a promise that He gives us,
When we gather in His name.

There's a love we feel in Jesus,
There's a manna that He feeds us,
It's a promise that He gives us,
When we gather in His name.

And we know when we're together
Sharing love and understanding
That our brothers and our sisters,
Feel the oneness that He brings.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, Jesus,
For the way You love and feed us,
For the many ways you lead us,
When we gather in His name.

Thank you, thank you, Lord.

Amen

By Vicki LaRue

**In the Spirit of God's love,
lift up in prayer our friends at home,
then send a note to say you did. You'll surely make their day!**

Elizabeth Wooster

Dolores Cleveland

Ron Ripley

Sarah Arnold

Norma Holden

Eleanor Prall Sullivan

Many people wish they could spend more time in prayer but are concerned about squeezing it in to an already crowded calendar. This advice from United Methodist pastors and church leaders will help you move toward a deeper prayer life.

Make prayer a priority

Those hoping to find time for prayer will likely fail. You have to make time. “I like to compare it to exercise,” said Jan Reed, leader of the Centering Prayer Group at University United Methodist Church in Austin, Texas. “We need exercise to keep our bodies healthy,” she continued. “We need prayer to keep our souls healthy.” Reed recently asked her prayer group “what they would suggest for newcomers to prayer, and most of them said, ‘Just do it!’” a slogan of a brand of apparel one might wear while exercising. The connection to our health may be stronger than we know.

Make an appointment with God

Set aside a specific time to pray. It may be first thing in the morning, in the evening, during your lunch break, your commute, or time spent waiting for the kids. Be creative. Then put the appointment in your calendar and keep it. The Rev. Joseph Kim welcomes a new member into the congregation of Manlius United Methodist Church. Photo courtesy of the Rev. Joseph Kim.

Find a sacred place

The Rev. Joseph Kim of Manlius United Methodist Church in New York encourages us to have a place to pray as well. “My closet,” as Kim calls his prayer space, “is the front of the altar in the sanctuary.” But not all of us have daily access to our church buildings. “Wherever this would be,” Kim continued, “whether it is home, work, or in the car, finding your closet and time are important to deepen your prayer life.”

Turn off the television

Remove distractions and pray. Reed reminds us, “We often spend at least 20 min a day doing insignificant things – checking emails, pattering around the house, watching TV, surfing the internet, etc.” We could instead invest that 20 minutes in deep communion with God. The Reverend Olinda Salazar-Veliz, Pastor of Hispanic Ministries at White Plains United Methodist Church and pastor of Luz del Pueblo in Cary, North Carolina, encourages us to pray through this struggle. She offers this example, “I want to grow more to follow you in better ways... Please, forgive my distractions, putting as excuses my daily chores. Allow me to approach more actively in your teachings and in the practice of them.”

Pray with a group

Being part of a group may help motivate you to pray. Hixson United Methodist Church in Tennessee saw a group of moms come together to pray for their school-age children and the schools they attended. Years later, though most of their children have graduated, the moms still pray together every Friday morning. If you cannot find a group to join, start one by inviting some friends to pray with you.

Pray as a family

Another group to pray with is your family. Send the children off to school with a moment of prayer. Give God thanks in the evening for all the blessings of the day. Pray with your spouse as you read

the morning paper over breakfast. Pause to pray as you watch the evening news.

Keep your Bible and prayer journal handy

Many people miss exercise classes because they cannot find their yoga mat or car keys in time. We can also significantly cut into our prayer time while looking for what we need. Keep your Bible, journal, and other tools where you can quickly locate them.

Keep the conversation going all day

The Rev. Ginger Pudenz, Associate Pastor at Platte Woods United Methodist Church in Missouri, encourages people to pray throughout the day with Twitter prayers. “I occasionally use Twitter to send a reminder to pray,” she reports. “A few faithful followers have shared that it is a pleasant interruption to see that tweet and know that they are being called to pray with others in real time.” Short prayers throughout the day are a great way to increase your prayer life.

Pray your calendar

If you are concerned about having time, pray for it. Pray through what the day ahead will bring – your meetings, children’s events, doctor’s appointments, and the like. A few moments in prayer may be just the right medicine to still your spirit despite a hectic schedule.

Use resources

Getting a time of prayer started can be challenging. The Upper Room provides helpful resources like their wonderful daily devotions, an online Living Prayer Center, and print resources on prayer. J.D. Walt who writes a daily devotional called *The Daily Text* on Seedbed.com, says his daily posts are a “way of sowing the seeds of Scripture into the people of God in ways that are sprouting up into all sorts of creative prayer and work in the Kingdom.” Experiment with some helps to find what works for you.

Experiment with different methods

There is no right way to pray, as there is no right way to have a conversation with your best friend. The Upper Room Living Prayer Center offers examples of several different methods. Experiment with fresh ways to connect with God.

Enjoy it

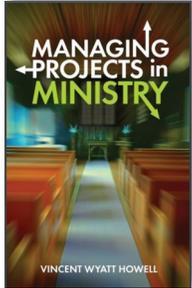
Kim warns against viewing prayer time as just another box to check on a spiritual to-do list. “When you approach prayer as your Christian duty, you would not enjoy its time,” he said. “You need to see prayer life as special time for dating with God.” He continued, “God who loves you dearly wants to spend time with you and to hear everything about your life.” Change your mindset from *having* to spend time with God, toward *getting* to. Jan Reed leads the Centering Prayer Group, one of the fastest growing groups at University United Methodist Church. Photo courtesy of Jan Reed.

Keep going

Change takes time. There will be days when you will fall short. When that happens, forgive yourself and keep going. Remember the benefits of the deeper prayer life you seek. As Reed pondered her prayer group she said, “I think [its popularity] reflects the need for us in our hectic and busy society, to slow down, let go of frustrations, anxieties, and any of the crises we might be facing in our lives, and reconnect to God.” Setting aside more time for prayer will change every other part of our day.

A UMC.org feature by Joe Iovino
TOO BUSY TO PRAY?

Pastor Vincent's Book Published



Pastor Vincent's new book, titled, Managing Projects in Ministry, was published on May 1. The book helps church leaders, lay and clergy, plan, monitor, and control the projects the local congregation seeks to implement the work of ministry, i.e., events, programs, trustee work, efforts to reach out to the community, VBS, new technology implementation, etc. Locally, the books can be purchased at Barnes and Nobles Booksellers, 821 County Road 64, near the mall or directly from Pastor Vincent (if you want a signed copy). The book is also available from Amazon.com.

SPRING CRAFT/VENDOR FAIR

Saturday, June 10, 2017

9AM - 3PM

Westside United Methodist Church

Wide variety of vendors & Local Crafters

Food and beverages will be available for purchase

MISSIONS-OUTREACH



Important Update

For more than 10 years, Samaritan's Purse has asked for a \$7 donation to help pay the processing and shipping costs of each Operation Christmas Child shoebox. This year we are raising this slightly to \$9, due to increasing costs associated with collection, processing, shipping, and distribution. To ship a five-pound, gift-filled shoebox from the U.S. to Kenya via the post office would cost almost \$70! To send the same box to the Philippines or Argentina would cost about \$60. Those are just three countries, and we deliver to more than 100 countries worldwide every year!

In addition to logistics, the \$9 donation covers the cost of The Greatest Gift—a Gospel story booklet that accompanies most shoebox gifts. It also provides a resource that trains local churches around the world on how to host an outreach event and share the Good News in a child-friendly way.



Please also note that **CANDY AND TOOTHPASTE ARE NO LONGER ALLOWED** IN SHOEBOX GIFTS due to customs regulations. These items can prevent or delay shoeboxes from entering an increasing number of countries, thereby hindering the opportunity to share God's love with children in need. You can find great ideas for what to pack in your shoebox online at: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/>

Check the Operation Christmas Child Facebook page in the months ahead for more resources about these changes. Feel free to use our posts to spread the word to others.

We are grateful for your partnership in the Gospel and praise God that more than 11 million shoebox gifts were collected last year. Every shoebox gift is a tangible demonstration of God's love to a boy or girl in need.



National Collection Week
November 13-20, 2017

North Pres Food Pantry



"FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY"
3RD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH
DONATED OF FOOD ITEMS
& MONETARY GIFTS
GREATLY APPRECIATED

Catholic Charities

Second Place East



Southern Tier
PREGNANCY *Your life. Our commitment.*
Resource Center

Safehouse and Chemung County
Domestic Violence Program

BORDER BUDDIES MINISTRIES

MISSIONS-OUTREACH

Free Family Fun Festival - CANCELED

Based on a number of factors including its proximity to our "100 Year Anniversary" and the back lawn not being ready for foot traffic, we have decided not to move forward with the Free Family Fun Festival this year. Our mission and Outreach Team is instead defining a later community event to "Kick Off Our Second 100 Years". Stay tuned!

MISSION & OUTREACH MOMENT

Our Mission/Outreach team would like to highlight one of the many significant contributions you as a congregation are making in our community. This time we will feature Second Place East, Inc. We received the following Thank-you letter from Nancy Densmore –

"Through the Help for the Home Shop, Second Place East, Inc. strives to fulfill its mission of assisting our neighbors who are transitioning from homeless situations into their own housing. Our board of Directors represents religious organizations and is supported by the generous donations of time, goods, and funds from churches, agencies, and individual members of the community. All of our funding comes from donations; we are not supported by public funds; and one hundred percent (100%) of money that comes to Second Place East, Inc. goes directly to purchase items for our clients.

We are an organization that provides recently homeless clients with a set of supplies at no cost to the clients. The people we serve are given household items which include pots and pans, dishes and glasses, sheets, pillows, towels, blankets, and a variety of consumable cleaning and personal care items. Our clients very often have said that "what you gave us is exactly what we needed."

The Shop is located in the lower level of the Of Hope Church at the corner of W. Church and Columbia Streets in Elmira and is open each Thursday from 1:30 to 3:00PM. It is staffed by Second Place East, Inc. board members and other volunteers who distribute items to individuals referred by human services agencies and local churches.

We at Second Place East, Inc. are humbled and grateful for your past assistance and thank you for your continuing help in meeting this great need in our community."

Most sincerely, Nancy Densmore, President

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our supply of prayer shawls is growing. Mary, Helen, and Connie are knitting or crocheting them and I am making some from fleece. We decided at our meeting that they should go to members of our church, relatives of members, and folks in our community. As the church is only open 2 mornings a week I am keeping them at my house. If you have a need for one call me at 7324016 or 4814569 and I will deliver it to you or bring it to church. - Sharon Hastings

David and Joan Bailey's daughter Theresa

Eggleston is a young, aspiring Methodist minister (about to be a Deacon actually). Theresa was here during the Christmas season and presented an "interpretive story" for us. She has also presented at our Annual Conference and she's written articles for United Methodist publications. **Theresa has just been selected as one of only 5 young people from the United States to be sent by the United Methodist Church on a trip to Israel.** This is an incredible honor. Many of her expenses will be covered. Her air-fare will not. At our April Mission and Outreach meeting we decided we would like to support her in this effort with some of our Mission and Outreach resources. There are also Education funds available according to Bruce Sprague, but first we wanted to give the congregation an opportunity to contribute. We set a total target of \$600. We collected your contributions for two weeks. **During that time you gave the entire amount and no other funds were needed.** Teresa sent a thank-you we'd like to share.



"I am beyond words. I am so grateful for your support to my trip. I can't wait to come back and share my experience with you all! I am so grateful that you are helping my dream come true! Thank-you so much."
Blessings, Theresa

WESTSIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

As you may be aware, Westside United Methodist Church's 100th year is 2017! In celebration of this momentous anniversary we have scheduled the following events:

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 11., 2017

Common Time is going to perform at 2:30 PM in the sanctuary. We will further celebrate our church's birthday with an Ice Cream Social downstairs in the fellowship hall immediately following the concert. Both are free to the public.

Please join us for more festivities on Sunday, August 6, 2017

Service will begin at 10:30 featuring our guest preacher Reverend William Gottschalk-Fielding. A catered dinner will follow in the fellowship hall. All church members, constituents, and their families are invited to attend this homecoming event at no charge. We would appreciate names of all that are attending.

Please RSVP the dinner by July 6th via one of the following methods: use the sign-up sheet on the narthex table, drop a completed RSVP paper in the box on the narthex table, send an email to westsideumc@gmail.com, or call the church office {607-733-7033} with the names of those attending and a phone number should we need to reach you.

We look forward to seeing you and joining in fellowship as we celebrate Westside's 100-year anniversary!!



WESTSIDE
WESTSIDE IT IS
WE'RE OFF FOR THE RIDE.
FOR OUR CHURCH, WE HAVE PRIDE.
THERE TO LEARN,
ANSWERS WE YEARN.
A COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS
THAT NEVER ENDS.
MISSION SHARING MINDED.
THANKS BE TO GOD.

HELEN TOBEY 2/2017





On Sunday, June 25, 2017, we will say good-bye to our own Rev. Dr. Vincent Howell, and thank him for the five and one-half years he has served as pastor of Westside United Methodist Church. He and Carolyn are moving to North Carolina to be closer to their family. Please join us for a dish-to-pass dinner in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship service.



Westside United Methodist Church

743 W. First Street, PO Box 3494

Elmira, NY 14905

607-733-7033

Email: Westside@stny.rr.com

Website: www.westsideumcelmira.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WUMCElmiraNY>

Rev. Dr. Vincent Howell, Pastor

Cell Phone: 607-377-1866

Email: revhowellwumc@gmail.com

Pastor's Office Hours: By appointment

Adult Sunday School – 9:30AM

Sunday Morning Worship – 10:30AM

Mid-Week Bible Study – Wednesdays 1PM-2PM

Church office Hours: Thursday & Friday 9AM – 1PM

*The church has an answering machine...
please leave a message!*

Westside United Methodist Church

PO Box 3494

Elmira, NY 14905

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*Your small neighborhood church
with a big heart, and where
Jesus is the reason for our Joy!*

Mission Statement:

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world."

Vision Statement:

"A Bible-focused congregation of multiple cultures,
spirit filled, that shares the word
and love of Christ in worship, ministry,
and service to the community."

*Westside UMC has an elevator and handicapped-
accessible bathroom available for your convenience.*