

The Pioneer

'Preparing for others to follow'

Preble Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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June 2023

Have you ever sat back and thought about how blessed we really are? We all have things that we have concerns about. At the time they may seem almost impossible to handle, but are they really? Do we take time to think about how lucky we are? Have we ever had to wonder where our next meal was coming from or where we would sleep that night? I am sure most of us have never been in that situation. Our church is very dedicated to maintaining the Preble Community Food Pantry to help people supplement their groceries each month. Are there other ways that we might reach out to help?

In April Renee Gates, Lou Scott and I attended a meeting held at Homer Congregational Church which dealt with the homeless in Cortland County. It was definitely an eye opener for us. We knew there were homeless people out there, but I certainly did not know the extent of it right in our own backyard. It is not just a big city problem. There were representatives there from several agencies explaining the situation in the Cortland area. These agencies are working to help the situation but there are more homeless people than accommodations for them. Loaves and Fishes and food pantries help with some meals. According to a recent Cortland Standard article nearly 13 % (6,000) are food insecure in Cortland County. There are two locations available for showers and doing laundry for the homeless. The Cortland Library has opened its doors during the day to provide a warm place during the winter months, use of computers and charging stations for cell phones. These agencies explained that there just are not enough available spots for these people to sleep. They are also limited in what they can find in other services to help them to "get back on their feet". This was a very eye-opening experience for all attending the meeting. We all left the meeting wondering how we might help in some way. Just something for you to think about!

Susan Swayze

ROMANS 12:13

"Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

LUKE 6:31

"Do to others as you would have them do to you."

New York Conference United Church of Christ
My Thoughts

The other day, I received an email from a member of the congregation I serve, asking about a baptism for her son.

That got me thinking, except for the times that the church celebrates a baptism, when do we ever reflect on our own baptisms?

Whether an infant baptism confirmed later in life, or an adult baptism, this sacrament marks our membership in the fellowship of all believers.

When was the last time you thought about your baptism?

What role does your baptism play in the way you live your life?

What would be one thing you could do to bring your baptismal vows or promises into your daily life?

How would the world be different if we all made our baptismal promises part of our daily life?

I like to ask questions like these each week in the part of our worship service I call “Sacred Seeds”. It gives me a chance to ask questions I might not ask in a sermon.

I hope some of My Thoughts on baptism have encouraged you to think about your own baptism, and its relationship to the way you live your faith life. If you find that something germinates or blossoms from these “Sacred Seeds”, I hope you will let me know!

Blessings,

Rev. Gary Ferner
Associate Conference Minister



Trustee News

The church recently gave the go ahead for the driveway project that will finish up where last year's improvement stopped. The north end of the driveway will be repaved and sloped at a cost of \$14,500.00. The south end will be sealed for \$500.00. Part of the money will come from the Building Fund and Undesignated money in the Memorial Fund. The balance will be paid from the Manse Improvement Account which has been designated for Capital Improvements. Anyone wishing to donate to this project please designate "Driveway Project" on your check.

In other news, the Pies/Flags netted \$785.00 this year. A big thank you to all the bakers and the pie and flag buyers. The front lawn looked great.

NEED FOR WEBMASTER

Our webmaster, Michelle Masters Landcastle, is retiring in August. Michelle will communicate how she does the job with anyone who replaces her. Michelle spends approximately 4 to 5 hours per year doing the job. If you are interested in accepting this paid position, please email Wes Swayze at felam2761@gmail.com.



Joy in the Morning

By Joy Niswender

The psalmist talks about "A joyful noise to THE Lord." I wonder if God smiles, even if we sing off-key, when we raise our heartfelt "noise" to him. Music has such a special way of moving us, especially when it's a favorite melody or performed by an orchestra in perfect harmony.

What a blessing to hear a multi-voiced choir lift up a song of praise or a few talented singers doing their thing for all to enjoy.

Perfection isn't the issue, as a child struggles to make a beginner's tune come out right so Mom will be happy. She praises him for his efforts, and that is enough! Whatever our efforts are, to give it our all is enough – in music or in our earthly pilgrimage.

Prayer: "Lord, may we come to know and finish the work you have given to us. Amen"



Harvest of Faith

Just a reminder that our "Harvest of Faith" has begun and we are now in the second month of adding our offerings to the colored envelopes each month. This helps to continue the on-going work of the church.



June 2023 Worship Schedule

- June 4th: Rev. Brenda McCutcheon
- 11th: Rev. Vern Groves
Celebration of Graduates
- 18th: Lois Haas
Celebration of Fathers' Day
- 25th: Brianna Darling
Celebration of Marilyn Stoker's
90th Birthday

Bible Study
Thursday evenings at 6:30



*The family of Marilyn Wright
Twentyman Stoker invites you to
celebrate her 90th birthday on
Sunday, June 25 after worship
during fellowship. Hope to see you
there!*



We wish to thank Rev. Jim Hicks for leading the Bible Study group through the book of John. Our study of John will conclude on June 13th. Thank you so much for all you have shared with us on this journey through the book of John.



Activities for Preble Seniors
June 2023

- June 7th: Potluck Luncheon at Noon
Caregiving by Cindy VanPatten Young
- June 7th: Chair Exercises at 2:00 pm
- June 17th: Card with Pizza at 6:00pm
- June 21st: Chair Exercises at 1:00pm
- June 21st: Potluck Dinner at 6:00pm
- June 28th: Town Historian, Jay Currie
at 1:00pm

**All events at held at the Preble Fire
Station.**



June Celebrations

- June 1: Jean Stoker
- 4: Trudy Masters
- 7: Nick and Gail Brennan
Anniversary
- 9: Lou and Cathy Scott
Anniversary
- 11: Samantha Beebe -Scott
- 12: Lee and Annette Benson
Anniversary
- 19: Chris Masters
Kevin Masters
- 25: Mia Shirley
- 28: Marilyn Stoker
Cassandra Scott
Peter and Patty Knapp
Anniversary
- 29: Wes and Sue Swayze
Anniversary
- 30: Ruth Shirley



As many of know it is much easier to read books with large print. Brenda McCutcheon is making a request that if anyone has large print books that they are willing to part with she has a number of residents at Loretto that would be grateful to read them.

You may drop them off at the church and we will see that Brenda gets them.

Thank You!!!

Our Mission for the Month of June

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. ***By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.***

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

Here is just one example:

The Oasis UCC would not have survived without gifts to Strengthen the Church,” said the Rev. A. Rushan Sinnaduray, pastor of the congregation in Jefferson City, Mo.

Sinnaduray’s church has received \$100,000 in Congregational Assessment, Support and Advancement (CASA) grants over the last four years. He said the funds, received through the STC, have provided The Oasis UCC with the means “to survive COVID-19 and continue to provide a community of faith for many in our city who are marginalized and excluded by other churches.”



Thank you to everyone who contributed the last month’s mission for the Church World Service Blanket Fund. We were able to send enough for twenty-four blankets this year.

24/7 SHARING PANTRY

COMING SOON!

We are hoping to have the 24/7 Sharing Pantry up and running by mid to late June. Look for it out by the Community Garden Sharing Stand. Like the Sharing Stand, the Pantry will be a "take what you need, leave what you can" offering. This pantry will be for sharing non-perishable food items and household/hygiene items. Here is a place to share our blessings of community. Come, visit this Sharing Pantry. Join in the blessings. Take what you need, leave what you can.

GRANT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE

The church has established a grant fund designed towards assisting those who have ideas that they feel would benefit the community. We believe the community is not just Preble. If you have or know someone who has an idea to benefit "community", perhaps we can help. Applications are easy to fill out, and we can help you with that. For more information you can contact Lois Haas by texting at 607. 745.4414 or lou scott by e-mail at lcscs@hotmail.com.

HOTDOG PICNICS

JULY 20th AND AUGUST 17th

Hotdog picnics are back during open pantry hours (4PM- 6PM) for the months of July and August! They will be out on the front lawn of the church (weather permitting). Come and enjoy grilled hotdogs, chips, and refreshments, as well as friendly conversation. You don't have to bring anything, but if you want to bring something, look for a church wide e-mail where you can say what you are bringing.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Community has been mostly planted! Volunteers prepared the garden by bringing compost and tilling the soil. Volunteers planted pole beans, onions, cabbage, beets, carrots, zucchini, summer squash, cucumbers, green beans, yellow beans, pumpkins, and potatoes. Soon tomatoes and peppers will be planted. We are hoping to have a bounty to add to the Sharing Produce Stand and for you to pick right from the garden. Gardening is all about hope. There will be weeding to do soon and harvesting later. Join us if you wish.

The Preble Community Food Pantry Needs Your Help

The Preble Community Food Pantry is open the third Thursday of each month between 4PM and 6PM. Pre-filled bags of food and hygiene items are offered to all.

The Preble Community Food Pantry survives on donations of time, food and hygiene items, and money. Presently there is \$1494.03 in the fund to buy needed items. This is not enough to get through two months. Please consider helping by donating to the Pantry.

Here is a list of items that go into the bags we offer each month. Canned soup, pasta sides, canned vegetables, hearty soups/canned pastas, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, tuna, mac and cheese, boxed pasta, instant potatoes, Ramen, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, laundry soap. Shampoo and dish soap are offered alternating months. Please consider helping by donating any of these items.

Volunteers are always welcome! Please consider helping out.

Thank you.

They are called the Jazz-Happens Band and boy did it happen June 3rd at Preble Congregational. Those of us who attended enjoyed two hours of great music and fun. We want to thank all who attended and so generously gave to our free-will offering for the Preble Community Food Pantry. The pantry now has \$548 more to use for future purchases.

Thank you to Jazz-Happens for making it “happen” for us. A special thank you to Steve Wilson for helping to get this all organized. Below is a picture taken by Cathy Scott.

