

THE NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, HONEOYE, NY 14471



The Community Food Pantry has been busy especially during these last several months with Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please give a very special thank you to Tom and Renee Thornton for all of the time, energy, and love they have put into this ministry. They see first hand the difficulties so many people face in our community that most of us rarely see. We thank also the many who also work the food pantry and all who contribute food and financial resources to it.

Tom and Renee after seven years of faithful service are stepping down as Coordinators on January 31. Right now we are putting together a "team" to replace them. We will keep you posted. If you would like to volunteer for this ministry, see Renee and Tom. If you would like to contribute financially, there is always a need.

January 4 from 5-7pm



Spaghetti Dinner

SUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY FOR HONDURAS

On Sunday, January 29, from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., come and have a Super Bowl of Soup, along with salads, breads and dessert, all for a free will offering. The money raised will be used to help with the secondary school near LaLaguna and other educational purposes in Honduras.

In addition to the great food, pictures from past trips will be shown and Dick DeNise and others from our congregation who have gone will be on hand to explain more about the work we do there through NY HELP, a mission program of the UCC in New York.

There is a need for soup and bread makers as a way to contribute to this effort. If you can prepare a crock-pot of soup, bread or rolls, please contact the Pastor or the Church Office 229-5302 as let us know.



The congregational annual meeting will be after the worship service on Sunday, January 8. Business items include the 2012 Church Budget, election of officers, board members, and committee chairs, receiving of reports. We will also be voting on becoming an Open and Affirming congregation (see From the Pastor). Any other business that a member may wish to bring before the congregation may be presented. Contact Bobbi Wohlschlegel, Church Moderator, if you have items for the agenda.

Copies of the Annual Report are available in the narthex.



A New Year's Message From Brian

We will vote as a congregation on whether or not to become an official Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ at the annual congregational meeting on January 8th. This will help us to further define what kind of congregation we are. I would like to think that we are already a welcoming congregation, and indeed we are as the diversity of people within our congregation shows. However, we know historically people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) have been judged and discriminated against by society and by many Christians and congregations and labeled as sinners and said to be condemned by God. Many people who are LGBT long for a community of faith, just like we do. They are seeking a community that accepts them as they are and helps them to grow in their relationship with God and one another. Many people who are LGBT have deep love of God and seek to follow in the way of Jesus but often have been hesitant to be themselves within the life of a congregation because of fears of intolerance or rejection. By our voting to become an Open and Affirming congregation we publically declare that we are open to all, that we are willing to make a place for anyone as a child of God. If we pass the motion, then we will be listed by our denomination, the United Church of Christ, as an official Open and Affirming congregation (ONA) for those who might be looking for such a congregation.

People within our congregation have varying views about this issue. Some think we are already an ONA congregation and believe that this vote is simply a formality to state who we are already. Others have voiced their support for this issue because they personally have family members and friends who are LGBT and know how many of them struggle with their faith and for acceptance by others. Still others have wrestled with this issue because it has come up and after much thought, prayer and soul searching have said they are ready for this. But

I know that some of you are not all that comfortable with this issue personally or what it means for our congregation. As much as we would like to make this a rational discussion, it is not always so because it also invokes non-rational feelings we don't know what to do with, gut level reactions that may make us feel uncomfortable and cultural conditioning that we are barely aware that it is at work in us. I hope that if you are still struggling with this issue and you want to talk, talk with me. You know that I support this vote, but I respect the struggle people have with this issue because I have had to struggle with it also.

But the vote, as important as it is, is more that just about becoming an ONA congregation. If we vote in favor of this, we open ourselves not only to the children of God who may be LGBT, but also to many other people who are looking for a community of faith that expresses tolerance, accepts people as they are without judgment and most of all demonstrates God's love by loving one another. We need to be unapologetically who we are, and I hope, we can be a congregation of extravagant welcome to all. We are an open-minded, open-hearted congregation where people respect one another's personal and spiritual journeys. This has been our great strength and has blessed us over and over. We rejoice that we can be different from one another, disagree, and still be brothers and sisters in Christ. This is not the perception or experience that many people have about church. Their experience of church has been one of narrow mindedness, judgment and exclusion of those who are or think differently. The general perception of many unchurched people is that Christians are intolerant, anti-gay, and judgmental because this is the way they are and this is what so often is highlighted by the media. The perception people have of Christianity is of a version of Christian fundamentalism that generally reflects an arrogance of exclusive knowledge about who



A New Year's Message *continued...*

God loves and who God rejects. We have this opportunity to demonstrate that we are not this kind of congregation or these kinds of Christians, but Christians who dare to let the love of God come alive in our midst.

We have this opportunity to help further define who we are. Some may fear that we will be defined as the “gay” church. There is little likelihood that this will happen. But we do have this opportunity to define ourselves as an open, accepting, tolerant, welcoming and inclusive congregation who is willing to see all people as God’s children regardless of age, race, gender, marital status, ethnicity, economic status and sexual orientation.

The vote on this motion at the congregational meeting will be by paper ballot so that all may be free to express themselves on how they vote. The motion as we now have it is this:

I move that the United Church of Christ of Honeoye become an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ. As an Open and Affirming Congregation we openly welcome lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender persons (LGBT) into the worship, membership, life and ministry of our congregation as we welcome all people as God’s children and brothers and sisters in Christ. We recognize that historically LGBT people have not been accepted into congregations and have often been unwelcome openly rejected and condemned by other Christians.

The motion will be open to amendments and discussion as all votes are. You will be asked whether you are for or against the motion by circling the yes or no. Vote with your hearts, vote with your faith, vote with your trust that God is at work in us as a community of faith to help our world become a more just, peaceful and loving place. — By the way, Happy New Year.
Peace, Brian

SERVING AT SALEM NOW THE FOURTH MONDAY OF THE MONTH

The staff at Salem Nutrition Center asked our congregation to move our once a month participation to the fourth Monday of the Month when there are many more guests for lunch. On Monday, January 23, and on the fourth Monday of the each month you are invited to participate in the Salem Nutrition Center noon lunch ministry, providing meals for those who might not necessarily have a good meal otherwise. There are tasks for everyone in helping the other volunteer staff to prepare and serve this meal. We will car pool on January 23, leave at 9 am from the church parking lot and return no later than 2:30 pm. We will eat lunch at Salem. If you have questions or interest in going, please contact the Pastor (229-5302).

SAVE THE DATE:

Mark your calendar: Jan. 28 we want YOU and YOUR FAMILY to join us at Ontario County Park for our Family Fun Day. Starting at 10 AM you'll have your choice of indoor or outdoor activities and games, such as: geocaching, hiking, snowshoeing or skiing, board games, team competitions, skits, music and more!! LUNCH & SNACKS provided. Plan to come for the day or any part of it. We'll be wrapping it up at 4:30 PM. You won't want to miss this great day!

The Board of Christian Ed

CALLING ALL YOUTH GRADES 7-12

We are forming a church youth group for the purpose of getting to know one another better, having fun, doing ministry and being involved with other youth groups. Our first meeting is Sunday evening, January 8th from 6 to 8 pm. at church. If you have any question, contact the Pastor, 229-5302 or:

briankrausemail@frontiernet.net.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

On Tuesday mornings from 10 to 11:30 a.m. you are invited to participate in reading and discussing the scripture lessons for the next Sunday's worship service. The discussion is free and flowing, no prior Biblical knowledge required, only the freedom to ask question, make comments, laugh and deepen your understanding of the Bible. Come each Tuesday, or as your can. **Please note**, if Honeoye Central School is closed for a snow day, there will be no Bible Study.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR JANUARY

January 1

Isa 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Eph.3:1-12
Matt 2:1-12

January 15

1 Sam 3:1-10 (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Cor 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 29

Deut 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Cor 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

January 8

Gen 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 22

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Cor 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20



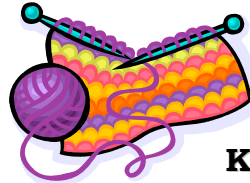
PARKING

As winter with snow and ice approaches please be considerate of those who may have problems walking. If you are sure of foot, please park farther back in the parking lot to keep open the spaces for those who may have difficulty walking or who fear falling. Also, keep your eyes open for those who park in the handicap spaces (or elsewhere). Offer to lend an arm to help into the church and afterwards back to the car.

TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP OF NEW YEARS DAY



Like Christmas, January 1 falls on a Sunday. We will have our regular Sunday 10 am worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion as we continue to celebrate the Christmas season. In addition, on Sunday, Jan. 1 we will have a 6:30 pm Evening Worship with Communion.



KNITTING MINISTRY

The Knitting Ministry continues to meet and we would welcome any interested folk to join us. We typically meet the first Sunday of each month following worship, in the church library. We have recently decided that if that meeting time should fall on a holiday weekend (Labor Day, for example), or conflict with a church-wide program (Advent Event, for example), that we will meet on the second Sunday of the month.

We knit prayer shawls and lap robes that we give to those who are experiencing difficulties in their lives, such as, but not limited to serious health problems. To date we have given nearly (or more than) 100 shawls to members and friends of our congregation.

We have yarn and some needles available and are more than willing to help anyone learn to knit, so please join with us when we meet together. January has many conflicts on Sunday mornings so we will meet Feb 1 following worship. Keep Knitting.



JANUARY 2, 7:00PM, 2012

Hostess: Ellie Jordan
Devotions: Dottie Blewitt
Refresh: Ellie Jordan
Program: Secret Pals

OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW RINGERS!
 (as in "I Have Never Done This
 Before! Ringers")

Kelly and I were speaking today about a "Try on the Bell Gloves" type of Bell Choir for January. We would love to offer a Chimes Choir opportunity to anyone who has never played bells before. We would meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:15 to 7:30 and work on one or two pieces of music for a Sunday morning service in February. The Chimes are a lot of fun to play. It is also easy to learn to play them. If you (or a young person in your house) are interested please let us know! No strings attached...come and give it a ring!

Jerri Meys 229-4190 ameyzing@yahoo.com
 Kelly Roller 396-3117 kjroller@frontiernet.net



- 1 Dottie Blewitt
- 2 Grace Jackson
- 6 John Tagg, Jr.
- 7 Adam Jones
- 9 Danielle Smith
- 11 Jan Covell
- 14 Jane Barnard, Betty Saunders
- 15 Lillian Clearman
- 16 Renee Thornton
- 19 Ellie Jordan
- 20 Jimmy Keyes
- 21 Margaret White
- 25 Mabel Proctor, Kelly Roller,
Melissa Barnard, Andrea Jones, Nancy Ewing
- 28 Ed Bond, Leah VanWyk
- 31 Cally Geartz, Bob Stowe, Hannah Orman

The number to call to listen is
585-229-2022.



TELEPHONE MINISTRY

Callers can dial a telephone number and listen to any functions in the sanctuary using the sound system, i.e.: Sunday worship, weddings, funerals, etc. The equipment operates automatically anytime the sanctuary sound system is used and provides the potential of up to five simultaneous callers. This opportunity is funded by sponsors who pledge to cover the cost of a month; at \$120. Over the last six months the phone lines have been used consistently. If you are interested in sponsoring a month or part of a month, please contact the church office or any of the Board of Christian Stewardship members. A pledge can remain anonymous. If you would like any additional information on the benefits or the technology of this ministry, please contact Charlie Johnstone.

Meals on Wheels

- January**
- 2 Ned & Louise
 - 9 **NO Meals MLK day**
 - 16 Donna
 - 23 Lillian
 - 30 Kerry

Senior Dining

Meals in the dining room run Monday — Thursday serving at 12:00noon. 24 Hour advance reservation required call Andrea DiBello at 738-3385. All meals are provided through the Office for the Aging of Ontario County.

Shawshank Redemption



Come for this evening of good food, good company and a good movie Saturday evening January 7 at church. Dinner will at 6 p.m. and be simple and designed potluck: please bring prepared soup, salad, bread or dessert to share. At 7 p.m. we will move to the church movie theater with a large screen, theater seating and surround sound.

The Shawshank Redemption is a 1994 American drama written and directed by Frank Darabont, adapted from the Stephen King novella Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption, the film tells the story of Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins), a banker who spends nearly two decades in Shawshank State Prison for the murder of his wife and her lover despite his claims of innocence. During his time at the prison, he befriends a fellow inmate, Ellis "Red" Redding (Morgan Freeman). The two imprisoned men bond over a number of years, finding solace and eventual redemption through acts of common decency. Andy is an unconventional prisoner whose presence causes disruption and enables human dignity to be glimpsed in prison life. During his time in prison Andy finds himself protected by the guards after the warden begins using him in his money laundering operation. It is a story of hope and how to remain human amid a very inhuman situation. The movie is rated R, with some violence and harsh language and prison scenes. It was nominated for seven Oscars, and is considered among the top 100 best films made.

On the first Saturday of each month we will have "Dinner and A Movie." The movies chosen are not necessarily "religious" movies but will deal with social, interpersonal, spiritual or personal struggle, or fun. February 4 will be our next dinner and a movie. If you have any suggestions for a movie to watch, the pastor is always interested.

EMAIL AND STREET ADDRESSES

We would like to keep our email list and street addresses up to date. If you have made changes this year in your email address, please contact the church office. We have a congregation wide email contact list to be used as needed for quick communications. If the church office does not have your email address or you have changed it recently please contact Lizz in the Church Office at:

ucchone@frontiernet.net or 229-5302.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER 14, 2011 CHURCH COUNCIL

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, January 8, 2012 following worship service.

There will be a combined Church Boards/Church Council Meeting on Sunday February 5, 2012 following worship service until approximately 1:00 p.m. to provide an orientation and focus session. Church Council will meet following this session and will **NOT** be meeting on Monday, February 6, 2012.

There will be an Open & Affirming Resolution submitted for a vote at the annual congregational meeting on January 8, 2012. Church members will be asked to vote on whether they wish our church to become Open and Affirming.

An "All Church Retreat" is being planned by the Board of Christian Education for the last Saturday in January at the Ontario County Park pavilion; more information will be coming.

Quarterly pledge statements will no longer be mailed unless you request one from Sue Kraft. Sue will continue to mail an annual pledge statement at the end of the year.

The Nursery Supervisor position has been filled by Alysha LaDuke.

Laurie Card

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HONEOYE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2011**

There were forty-nine members present.

Peter Nilsson, Moderator, called meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. Brian Krause began the meeting with a prayer. Peter announced that any person wishing to speak during the meeting will need to use a microphone to benefit those using the hearing assistance system and the telephone ministry. The minutes from January 17, 2010 were approved as written.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- ◆ *Treasurer* – reported by Ginny Denise - Current Expense Account: **-\$4,200.58**; Capital Improvement: **\$28,953.93**; CNB: **\$4,993.85**; Pioneer Savings Account: **\$6,139.68** and Endowment Account: **\$410,945.95** (See Report #1, #2).
Negative figure was addressed by the Finance Committee and will be discussed by Ned Holmes later in this meeting (\$2,137.00 represents balance from 2009 surplus that requires clarification prior to spending).
- ◆ *Financial Secretary*- reported by Susan Kraft – Actual YTD Pledges –Total: \$121,057.25; Current: \$109,559.50; Benevolence: \$11,497.75 (See Report #3).
- ◆ *Memorial Fund* – reported by Betty Read – There were forty-five memorial contributions received. Current balance: \$1,465.01 (See Booklet #4).
 - ◆ *Benevolence Fund* - reported by Nancy Apolito – Current balance as of 11/30/10: \$3,931.86 (See Booklet #4). **Joan Hohmann moved the financial reports be accepted as presented, seconded by Carol Ann May. Vote was taken and Motion passed.**

ANNUAL REPORT:

The 2010 Annual Reports were made available for all members to review. There were no questions regarding any of the reports. **Louise Holmes moved the reports be accepted as written, seconded by Helen Johnson. Vote was taken and Motion passed.** (See Booklet #4)

OLD BUSINESS:

Ned Holmes stated that the Finance Committee recommends that the \$2,137.00, which represents the 2009 surplus amount, be equally divided between a world-wide and local ministry fund and that the money be spent immediately. The Stewardship Board is reviewing where to spend this money and is open to suggestions. Because of the current financial situation we are in and because of our obligation to help others the \$2,137.00 (\$1,750.00 from this amount was used in June to cover payroll expenses) will come out of the 2011 Endowment Fund draw.

Discussion:

- It was noted that the 2011 5% draw from the Endowment Fund is \$20,547.30. From that we need to pay the final CD payment of \$11,164.46 leaving a balance of \$9,382.84. From the \$9,382.84 we are now asking to take the \$2,137.00 leaving \$7,245.84 for capital improvements for 2011; how does the Board of Trustees feel about this limited funding?
- Bob Stowe stated that the Board of Trustees has discussed the limited amount for capital improvements for 2011 and feel they can accept the amount this year knowing that there will be increased funding in 2012 due to no future CD payments.

On behalf of the Finance Committee Ned Holmes proposed a motion that the 2009 surplus amount of \$2,137.00 be equally divided between a local and world-wide ministry, the money is to be spent immediately and that the \$2,137.00 be taken from the 2011 Endowment Fund draw. Vote was taken and Motion was passed.

ANNUAL MEETING CONTINUED...

NEW BUSINESS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Brian Krause and Beth Stowe proposed the authorization and funding for a Christian Education Director. Beth spoke regarding the need for this position and the concern with the financial obligation. This year's funding would only be for six months but subsequent funding will be for entire year; hopefully this will be for at least three years. Brian did benchmarking for this position and salary range from \$14.90 per hour to \$20.00 per hour. It is being asked that half of the salary expense be taken from the Endowment Fund draw and half is from the general budget. The salary is not fixed but it was felt that \$12,000.00 annual salary would attract a more desirable pool of applicants. Specifications and salary will be forthcoming if position is approved today.

Discussion

- It was noted that now we are asking to take an additional \$4,000 from the \$7,245.84 balance of the 2011 Endowment Fund draw which will now leave only \$3,245.84 for capital improvements for this year.
- Ginny DeNise noted that there is an escrowed savings amount of \$1,280.11 (Youth Activities) from the Cub Scout program that folded, which was funded by the church and Youth money from various activities. Perhaps it would be appropriate to transfer this money to the Board of Trustees for capital projects to offset the money being taken from the 2011 draw.
- This position will be for Sunday School only and not outside education/activities.
- Concern was voiced regarding the use of the Endowment Fund draw for ongoing expenses instead of the original intent toward capital projects.
- An inquiry was made regarding how the financing and finalized specifics will be reported back to the congregation.
 - Brian stated that he will be the direct supervisor and that the Sunday School Committee will assist the Director with curriculum development, etc. This position will be tied to a church board but the specifics will be worked out in the next phase if approved.

Brian Krause proposed the authorization and funding for a Christian Education Director with the funding to be divided between the 2011 Endowment Fund draw and the general budget and that the \$1,280.11 from the escrowed savings account be transferred to the Board of Trustees. Vote was taken and Motion was passed with a vote of forty-eight for, one against (See Report #5).

BUDGET

Charlie Johnstone presented the proposed 2011 Budget which represents a 3.7% increase. He stated the increase is primarily due to the Christian Education Director position. Ginny DeNise spoke regarding her attendance at the New York Conference earlier this year and stated that it was mentioned at the conference that churches should be giving to their Five for Five. This represents contributions to OCWM, One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Fund, Neighbors in Need and Strengthen the Church. Ginny stated that our church has not contributed to Strengthen the Church on a regular basis and that she would like to see this added to our regular special offerings.

Ginny DeNise proposed the motion to add Strengthen the Church to the current special offerings, seconded by Nancy Apolito. Vote was taken and Motion was passed.

There were no questions regarding the budget. **Charlie Johnstone proposed a motion that we accept the budget as presented. Vote was taken and Motion was passed (See Report #6).**

ANNUAL MEETING CONTINUED...

SPAGHETTI DINNER PROCEEDS

At the November 8, 2010 Church Council meeting a motion and second was accepted and a vote carried that the schedule for the Spaghetti Dinner proceeds be either approved or disapproved at the annual Congregational meeting on January 9, 2011. Further, once this schedule is set, it should not be altered without due process during a follow-up Congregational meeting.

The proposed schedule for the benefactors for 2011 is:

January	UCC General Fund
February	Bus Token/Red Cross (50%-50% split)
March	UCC General Fund
April	Food Pantry
May	UCC General Fund
June	Food Pantry
July	UCC General Fund
August	UCC General Fund
September	Embrace Your Sisters
October	UCC General Fund
November	UCC General Fund (Election Day turkey dinner)
December	Food Pantry

Charlie Johnstone moved that we accept the motion as presented. Vote was taken and Motion was passed (See Report #7).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee report was presented. There was one addition of Donna Fulmer to the Board of Community Life. On behalf of the Nominating Committee Elin Orman proposed that we accept the report as presented with the addition of Donna Fulmer to the Board of Community Life. Vote was taken and Motion was passed (See Report #8).

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Charlie Johnstone noted:

- Approximately \$1,400.00 was donated by local businesses toward the purchase of contents for Christmas dinners; this is a long term commitment from these businesses.
- Markus and Ruth donated funds to cover one month toward the telephone ministry before leaving for Germany.

Peter Nilsson thanked everyone that assisted him during his term as Moderator. He also asked that the congregation consider creating an outreach program from a portion of the 2012 Endowment Fund draw.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m. by Peter Nilsson, Moderator.

Respectfully submitted by:

Laurie Card
Church Clerk