

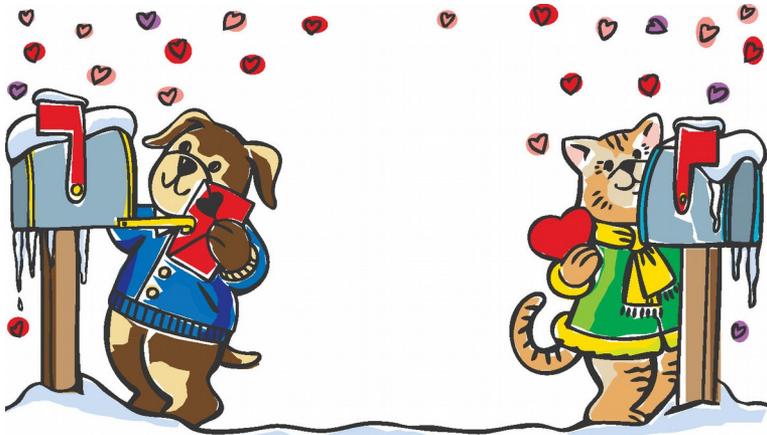
The Sidney United Methodist Church

News-n-Views

Volume 2019 Issue 2

February 2019

February



Church Office Hours:

***Monday-Friday
9:30am-12:30pm***

***Pastor's Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday
9:00a.m.-2:00 p.m.
or by appointment***

Sunday morning

***Worship time:
10:15 a.m.***



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Greetings my sisters and brothers in Christ,

I hope that this article finds you blessed and doing well, and if not, know that your church, your pastor, and God loves you!

February is an interesting month for many of us. We have the Super Bowl, we have Valentine's Day, and we have a few other special days. February to me however, has never been a huge month of busyness, in that there aren't any major holidays. Sure there might be some birthdays or anniversaries, but sometimes for many of us February is just "another month".

Christmas and New Year's Day are now long departed from us, and we are in the heart of the winter months. It's cold outside, the days are shorter and often darker, and people seem to venture out less during this time of this year. Things seem to slow down.

Are you finding that this February is just "another month" for you? Do you find that you enjoy this month more than the warmer and sunnier months?

Wherever you are at in this month of February, as a church we are united in our love for Jesus Christ. God has gifted us all uniquely, and we all have gifts and graces to share with others and the world. When live this faith out both individually and together, we are able to love and care for each other through the warm and sunny times of our lives, and also through the times that seem like the opposite of this.

In the Bible God promises us in Roman 8:38-39:

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38-39, NRSV).

No matter where you are at in this month of February, nothing can separate you from God's love. May we share this love and our gifts and graces with each other in abundance, during this month of February and always!

In the hope of Jesus Christ ☺,
Pastor Paul W.

Lighten your load

Keeping sabbath, not just on Sundays but throughout the entire week in an integrated way, keeps us sane, says Donna Schaper. While our culture pushes us to move faster, work harder and acquire more money and stuff, sabbath observances promote play, rest, love and worship.

“Sabbath — time for God — is a gift in its origin and in its keeping,” Schaper writes in *Sabbath Keeping* (Cowley Publications). “It is not another must; it is a may. God invites us to keep sabbath; God does not demand it.”

The commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy, she notes, “is an invitation to a party, not to a hanging. Sabbath keeping is not one more thing to add to our already long lists. [It] is lightness, not heaviness.”

Stuck on repeat?

In *Groundhog Day*, Bill Murray is doomed to repeat the same day over and over. For Christians, the “sin cycle” is similar: mess up, repent, resolve to do better — and fail yet again, often in the exact same ways.

That movie is really about grace, contends Mark Lockard. “We fail in small ways ... and in tragic ways,” he writes on MinistryMatters.com. “Sometimes I think it would be nice to be able to hit repeat and try again the next day, to aim for perfection, to be the saintly Phil Connors we see at movie’s end. But that takes away the spontaneity of the new day, the challenge of being more Christ-like despite a brand new set of circumstances.”

On earth, the “chill” of sin keeps biting, but we can “face the stark winter day wrapped warmly in the knowing that it’s okay to get it wrong,” Lockard writes. “That’s part of figuring out who we are as a beloved child of God. That’s what grace is all about.”



Love Never Fails

A Message of Love. Make this Valentine for a family member or friend.

What you need:

- 10 wooden craft sticks
- Painter's tape
- Markers
- A photo and glue (optional)
- Craft knife (and adult help)
- Ribbon or a rubber band

What to do:

- 1) Set the sticks side by side. Secure with two tape strips.
- 2) Flip sticks over. Draw (or glue on) a picture or write a message or Bible verse. If using glue, let dry.
- 3) Flip the sticks again and remove tape. If you glued on a photo, have an adult help cut the sticks (and photo) apart.
- 4) Secure the sticks with ribbon or a rubber band.
- 5) Deliver the gift and invite the recipient to assemble the puzzle.



March 23 2019 is the 150th anniversary of the founding of the first women's mission group of the Methodist Church in this country. The denomination and the women's group have had various names through the years.

On Sunday 3/24 UMW will conduct the church service, highlighting the anniversary. To celebrate, the national organization, in 2014, launched the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign to provide a future financial base for UMW's local and global ministry of helping vulnerable women, children and youth of both sexes, who in huge numbers lack the resources, power and opportunity to obtain and maintain a standard of life that provides basic necessities and human dignity. Our church members will have an opportunity to contribute to this fund. More information on this will be available later.

Neighborly love

As an ordained minister, Fred Rogers harnessed the power of television to tell children they were loved — and to show them how to love others. In *You Are Special*, he writes, “When we love a person, we accept him or her exactly as is: the lovely with the unlovely, the strong along with the fearful, the true mixed in with the façade, and of course, the only way we can do it is by accepting ourselves that way.”

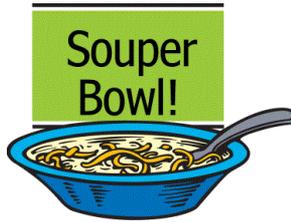
In a review of the touching documentary *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* a writer for *Variety* notes: “Rogers’ real secret was ... that the call to love your neighbor as yourself isn’t a slogan to hang in your kitchen with flowers around it — it’s a decision you make at every moment, to view every man, woman and child on earth as your neighbor. If you don’t see and feel that, and act on it, then you’re just another narcissist with a kitchen slogan.”

Last October, when a synagogue shooting shattered the peace of Rogers’ real-life former neighborhood, residents of all religions embraced one another as neighbors. Afterward, the Fred Rogers Center stated, “We long for a day when there is no more tragedy born from hatred.”



February Dates to Remember

- African-American History Month
- Valentine’s Day, February 14, 2019
- Presidents Day, February 18, 2019



"Souper Bowl of Caring"

- The Sidney UMC has been invited to participate in the "Souper Bowl of Caring," which means that we are asked to collect non-perishable food donations and money donations for this hunger fighting fundraiser. We have two wicker baskets in the church sanctuary that can be used for the food donations. Please give any money donations to Pastor Paul or Terri DeRoche. All food and proceeds will stay at our local Sidney UMC Food Bank. Below is an explanation of this event from Claudia Jenkins, who is a member of the Unadilla UMC:

"Please encourage your church to participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring. In case you have not heard of it let me give you a quick explanation. In the coming weeks up to Feb. 3 when the Super Bowl is played, we collect non perishable food items and money to give our local food pantries. It was started by a youth group in 1990. Last year \$8,150,199 was generated for local food pantries. You just give whatever you collect directly to your local food pantry. I hope your church will participate, the need is great".



Ash Wednesday Service: Wednesday March 6th - 7:00 pm
- at Sidney UMC

Join us for this worship service on this the first day of the season of Lent. We will have the imposition of ashes and an opportunity for healing prayer with anointing oil. Below is more details about the season of Lent:

"In Ash Wednesday being the first day of this the season of Holy Lent, we are given a forty-day period, minus Sundays, to prepare our hearts, our minds, our souls, and our bodies, for the death and then soon after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is a season of holy preparation, reflection, repentance, love and goodwill, and a season where we can reflect upon our lives and how we live" (Pastor Paul W).



**W.A.M.
Five Regional Gatherings
Celebrating Worship and Mission**

Oneonta District (The UMC) Presents: WAM! 5 regional gatherings celebration Worship And Mission. 5 great locations – Come One, Come All!!! Come to one or come to all 5! Break the winter blues, hear and sing great music, celebrate great mission programs to neighbors far and near, see new and known friends, be informed and inspired. Times and places:

February 3 from 1-3 pm at Elm Park UMC in Oneonta
March 3 - Cooperstown region



The Church as Mosaic

A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself.

That is what our life in [the church] is about. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: "I make God visible." But others who see us together can say: "They make God visible." [Christian] community is where humility and glory touch.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen



"I drop kindness pebbles in still water every day, and I watch the effect they have on other people's lives. My favorite kindness pebbles are compliments. Drop a compliment and watch the ripple effect that it has in your life."

Remarkably, these cheery words come from a father who has faced many dark, difficult days. In *6 Minutes Wrestling With Life*, John Passaro tells of his daughter's heart-wrenching battle with meningitis. The struggles didn't make him bitter; rather, he frequently offers uplifting words on social media.

What if we followed Passaro's example and complimented people regularly? Philippians 4:8 (NIV) instructs us to think about things that are noble, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy. By extension, turning those positive thoughts into words causes "kindness pebbles" to spread God's light in ripples throughout someone's day — and, doubtless, through ours.

Youth Ministry News

2018 was a great year for our youth ministry program at Sidney UMC. Our team planned many events including a great V.B.S. program. We have been meeting to plan our 2019 program and are really excited for what God has placed on our hearts. The highlights of our program are listed below.

Sunday morning Sunday School began on September 16. Though our numbers are small every Sunday we have a lesson planned for whomever God has brought into our church. We currently have one class with mixed ages utilizing a rotation of dedicated teachers ready to teach.

Beginning January 13 we are using the "Cry Room" as a nursery. We would like to begin calling this area "Nursery" to help those with little ones have a place to take their child(ren) while they attend worship. We will have 2 adults assigned to the room to care for any children 2 and under.

Monthly J.A.M. program will be changing to the first Saturday of every month beginning on Saturday, February 2. We have moved our start time to 10:30 to accommodate sign-in/registration. Youth will be given a snack when they arrive. Our team has decided to hold our program the first Saturday of every month to help parents remember the dates. We have been offering a parent discussion during J.A.M. led by Kelly Hromada-Johnson, Licensed Clinical Social Worker that has been well received by the parents. Kelly will continue through February. If you know of another resource we could ask to help us out, please contact any of our Youth Ministry Team.

Exciting upcoming events being planned:

Winter V.B.S. at Unadilla UMC - some of our team members will be helping with Unadilla UMC's winter V.B.S. February 18 - 21. We will be promoting this to our J.A.M. kids. If you know of any child who would like to attend, registration forms will be available in the church office.

Prom Wear giveaway for girls and boys - we will be collecting gently used prom dresses, shoes, pants, dress shirts, and ties to help youth attend the Jr./Sr Prom and Homecoming at Sidney High School. Watch for ways you can help and further details as we begin planning this event.

Vacation Bible School planning has begun!!! We will hold V.B.S. from August 11 -15. This year's theme will be "To Mars and Beyond". We are looking for volunteers to help in any area. If you can give of your time for all or part of these 5 days, please see Sharon Bassett. We are also looking for any decorations that would go along with this theme.

Thank you to all who support this important ministry and a huge thank you to the Youth Ministry Team who are dedicated to bringing the message of Jesus Christ to our youth in the Sidney area.

Your Youth Ministry Team:

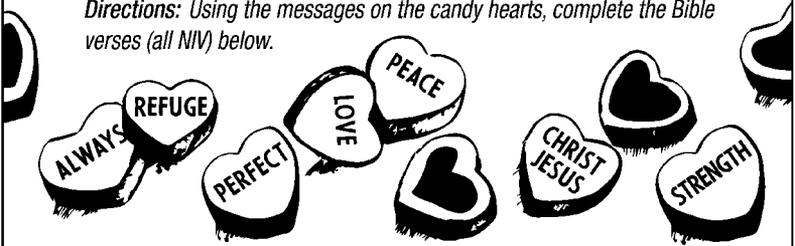
Echo Adams, Sharon Bassett, Kristie Carey, Terri DeRoche, Barb Doyle, Becky Helm, Deb Hromada, Nichole Mattice, Abby Platt, Sam Smith, Peggy Stilson, Melissa Watkins, Pastor Paul Winkelman



WITH LOVE FROM ABOVE

The Bible is full of special words from our loving God.

Directions: Using the messages on the candy hearts, complete the Bible verses (all NIV) below.



God is our _____ and _____,
an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

“Surely I am with you _____.” Matthew 28:20

And the _____ of God ... will guard
your hearts and your minds in
_____. Philippians 4:7

Whoever lives in _____ lives in God,
and God in them. 1 John 4:16

_____ love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18

Answer: refuge, strength, always, peace, Christ Jesus, love, Perfect



Sidney United Methodist Church
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