

The Sidney United Methodist Church

News-n-Views

Volume 2018 Issue 1

January 2018

January



Winter **Wonderland**

Church Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
9:30am-12:30pm

Pastor's Office Hours:
Monday
10:00a.m.-1:00 p.m.
or by appointment

Sunday morning
Worship time:
10:30 a.m.



- Page 4: Pastor's Page
- Page 5: January Dates to Remember
- Page 6: Craft Corner
Winter Gift
- Page 7: Funnies
- Page 8: Lay Leader's Letter
- Page 10: UMW News
- Page 11: January Puzzle



To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Sidney:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I will thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and...all of you share in God's grace with me.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God!

Adapted from Philippians 1: 1-11

I chose to adapt Paul's words to the Philippians in this, my final "News and Views" essay, for the very simple reason that they express better than I can my feelings for you as we end our time together.

I am deeply thankful to our God for the opportunity of serving with you these past four and a half years. We have indeed been partners in the Gospel, sharing worship together, studying the word of God through many different lenses and doing the work of caring for those in need. I have no doubt whatsoever that you, as a church, will complete what we began together.

It has been a true honor to be part of such a long and distinguished ministry at the Sidney United Methodist Church. Our work together is directly connected to the work begun by Eliza and Arvine Clark almost two centuries ago—to bring the love of God and of God's son Jesus Christ to the people of Sidney. When I look up at that beautiful window at the front of the sanctuary, I cannot help but feel grateful to God for allowing me to be a part of Sidney's strong Methodist heritage.

I am also deeply thankful for the way so many of you have invited me into your families to share the joy of weddings and baptisms and to join you in grief and sorrow at the death of loved ones. It has been a great honor for me to preside over the creation of families in marriage, to set our newborns off on their spiritual journeys at baptism and to remember and celebrate the lives of loved ones when they have passed into God's eternal care. Each and every one of these life-events has been special in its own way. I am thrilled to end my time at Sidney UMC with two baptisms, including yet another child in the Nabinger clan!

I appreciate the way that you welcomed Kristin and Bradon into the congregation when they were able to join me in worship. You opened your arms to people who are not part of the Sidney community, and that is to be commended. Bradon still talks about the Birthday card everybody signed for him a couple years ago.

I deeply appreciate the way you reached out to me and my family when my father died in January. You were generous in donating money to the scholarship fund that my dad founded. As many of you know through my preaching and through personal conversations, I reflected a lot on what it means to be a community after my dad's death. He was a pillar of the Caledonia, NY community. Celebrating that helped me see even more clearly how important so many of you are to the fabric of the Sidney, NY community.

So, for all these reasons, I have you in my heart, as Paul said to the Philippians. But there's more: I have you in my heart as well for the many ways you helped me grow and develop as a Christian, a father and husband, and a man. So many of you have set an example for me of what it means to be dedicated to a larger and more worthy cause. In our fast-paced culture, where change is often celebrated as the most important and sought-after achievement we can aim for, you taught me how essential it is to hold on to what's good in a community, in a church and in our families.

So I hope and pray that you remember how much you all mean to me so that you can share with others your "knowledge and depth of insight" and help them "discern what is best" just as you have helped me "To the glory and praise of God!"

In Peace,
Pastor Tom



January Dates to Remember

- New Year's Day, January 1, 2018
- Epiphany, January 6, 2018
- Baptism of the Lord, January 7, 2018
- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance, January 15, 2018
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2018



New Year Noise Maker

Ring in the New Year with these fun noisemakers!

What you'll need:

- Wooden craft sticks
- Metallic paint – gold and silver
- Paint brushes
- Jingle bells – gold and silver
- Hot glue gun
- Metallic ribbon
- Scissors
- Adult help

What to do:

- 1: Paint half the sticks gold and let dry
- 2: Glue three bells to each stick
- 3: Cut a six-inch piece of ribbon for each stick. Tie a bow and glue it to the noisemaker.
- 4: Celebrate!

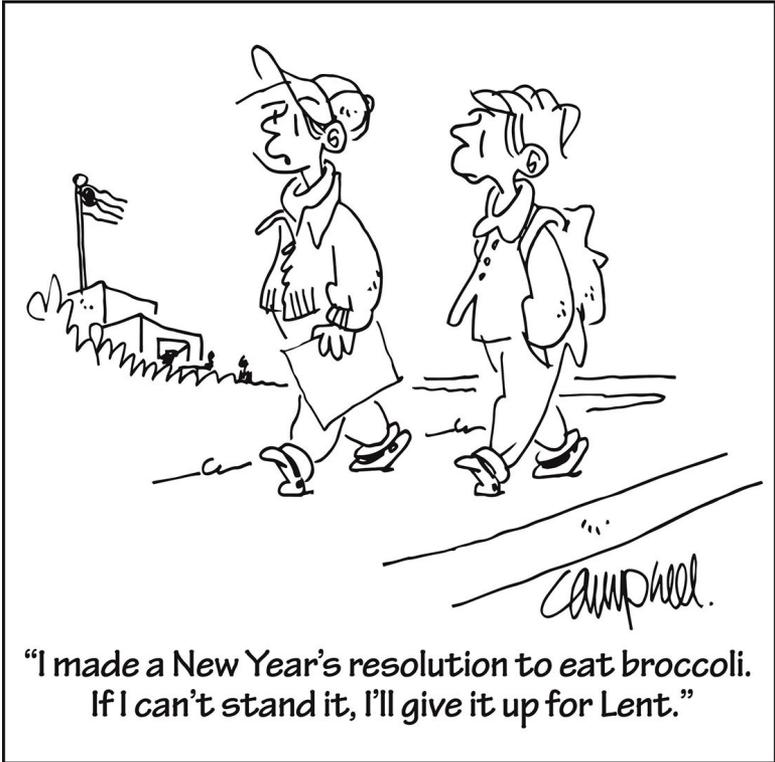
Winter gift

“God ... does great things beyond our knowing. He says to the snow, ‘Fall to the earth’; likewise to his heavy, drenching rain. He shuts up all humankind indoors, so that all people may know his work” (Job 37:5-7, NABRE).

Snow, ice and cold can make winter a hassle. “Snow days” due to a blizzard may thrill students but usually inconvenience parents. But now and then, winter blankets the earth so heavily that it seems to quiet everything. We’re granted permission to hunker down at home, snuggle close with family or pets, enjoy a book or movie, make cocoa or cookies, and rest. It’s like a surprise sabbath — the gift of grace-time — when no one’s expected to get out the door or the driveway.

Perhaps indeed, as Job declared, God sees fit on such days to put our busyness on hold and shut us all indoors so we pause and remember his work — his place — in our lives. Praise God for snow days!

—Heidi Mann



The origin of New Year:

So what is the origin of New Year? "In early times, the ancient Romans gave each other New Year's gifts of branches from sacred trees. In later years, they gave gold-covered nuts or coins imprinted with pictures of Janus, the god of gates, doors, and beginnings. January was named after Janus, who had two faces—one looking forward and the other looking backward. The Romans also brought gifts to the emperor. The emperors eventually began to demand such gifts. But the Christian church outlawed this custom and certain other pagan New Year's practices in A.D. 567" (*The World Book Encyclopedia*, 1990, article "New Year's Day"). In the Gregorian calendar, New Year's Eve (also known as Old Year's Day or Saint Sylvester's Day in many countries), the last day of the year, is on December 31 which is the seventh day of the Christmas season. In many countries, New Year's Eve is celebrated at evening social gatherings, where many people dance, eat, drink alcoholic beverages, and watch or light fireworks to mark the new year. Some Christians attend a watchnight service. The celebrations generally go on past midnight into New Year's Day, January 1

Not pleasing to God: Today, too often New Year's Eve is treated as an excuse for drinking too much and lowering moral standards. It is one of the most dangerous times of the year for drunk driving, and every year warnings are given about those who fire guns into the air in celebration—an act that too often turns deadly. Bring in the New Year meditating on these encouraging Bible verses chosen to inspire a fresh walk with God and a deeper commitment to living the Christian faith.

New Birth - A Living Hope: Salvation in Jesus Christ represents new birth -- a transformation of who we are. The start of a new year is a great time to reflect on the new and living hope we have in this life and in the life to come: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)

Hope for the Future: We can trust God in the year ahead, for he has good plans for our future:

Jeremiah

29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

A New Creation: This passage describes a transformation that will eventually lead to the full enjoyment of eternal life in the new heavens and new earth. Christ's life, death, and resurrection introduce followers of Jesus Christ to a foretaste of the new world to come. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

A New Heart: Believers are not merely changed externally, they undergo a radical renewal of heart. This total cleansing and transformation reveal the holiness of God to an unholy world:

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a new heart with new and right desires, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony heart of sin and give you a new, obedient heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so you will obey my laws and do whatever I command. (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

The new year is a time to reflect and think about what the past year has brought and what the new year could bring. It is a time to stop and analyze, to take stock of our priorities, values, pursuits, and goals. We need to ask questions like "Who am I, what am I doing with my life? What should I be doing as a Christian with my life and the stewardship God has given me?" After all, according to the Word of God, all of life is a stewardship--a stewardship of our time, talents, treasures, and God's truth. In other words, since God's plan and our stewardships revolve around and through the life of His Son, Jesus Christ, we need to each ask "How well am I responding to the Savior and the spiritual life that He has given me?"

As we will see from the passage before us, Luke 2:13-20 provides us with a tremendous precedent or example for the new year.

God is satisfied with us only when we are in His Son and when we allow His Son to live His life through us. As believers in Christ, we are in "The Beloved," the place where God's love and satisfaction abides (Eph. 1:6).ear and the kind of issues we might consider.

So as we travel into the 2018 year, let us remember that the Heavenly father Has given us the true gift and that is His son Jesus Christ. Let us remember to celebrate and party with all out loved and do it centering Jesus at the head of all our New Year's celebrating.

Here's closing the door on 2017 and opening the new door to 2018, praying the Lord will guide us from the past memories. Jesus please, give us this brand new sparkling lights into the 2018 where we can hold strong to you and all that we cherish, because you were born anew for all us sinners. Help us ring in the New Year with hope, peace, joy, and love to one and all. n Jesus' name we pray Amen!

Lay Leader,

Echo Adams



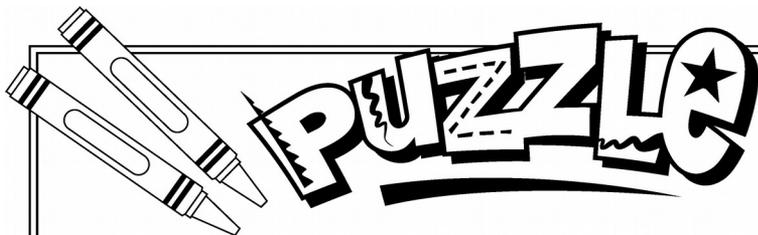
The United Methodist Women will meet on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 1:30 PM in the Harvester Room. After the meeting, we will have our Pledge Service led by Sue Olmstead, and Installation of Officers. Refreshments will be served by Pam Curtin. Everyone is invited to attend any of our meetings and programs.

No meetings in the months of February and March 2018.

Lydia Craft Circle will resume weekly meetings on Tuesdays at 12:30 PM in the craft room upstairs. At our first meeting of the year on January 16, 2018 we will be organizing and making plans for the year. Even if you have not worked with us before, you are welcome to join us. If you have any ideas for Christmas crafts that we can make for the bazaar in November, please bring them along. Hope to see you there.

Visit to the Neighborhood Center in Utica: Thanks to your generosity, we collected \$200.00 for the Center. With the matching funds from the UMW we are sending them a donation in the amount of \$400.00 with a request that our donation be used for their gymnasium and patio projects.

The members of the UMW want to thank everyone for your help and support with our various events last year, making it possible for us to continue helping others.



A NEW CREATION



The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.



Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.

T H I E R O E F Q O R X E I D F A M N Y A O N
 S E I L S I T N C V H R K I S D T T B H E W N E
 Q W C D R E Y A T M I O C N H F A S W C O R
 M E G T H W E O F L D X H A S S G Z O N L
 E T J H E W N E Q W I D S H R E R O E

_____ ! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV



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