

The Sidney United Methodist Church

News-n-Views

Volume 2019 Issue 1

January 2019

January



Winter **Wonderland**

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.***

SIDNEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Find us on Facebook: Sidney United Methodist Church—click ‘Become a fan’

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Paul D. Winkelman

Admin. Assistant: Monica Cole

Director of Music: Jack Doyle

Organist: Sarah Pressler

Youth Coordinator: Sharon Bassett

Custodian: Ron Nemire

Financial Secretary: Terri DeRoche

Treasurer: Denise Singlar

The News~n~Views newsletter is a great place for all groups, organizations and committees within the Sidney UMC to communicate with the congregation as a whole and to involve more of our church family in what they have going on. If you have an article of church news you would like us to include in the February publication, simply email or call the Church Office and let us know!



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Greetings my sisters and brothers in Christ,

Happy 2019 ☺! I hope that this newsletter article finds you blessed in this New Year! I have always had a deflated feeling after the New Year's holiday, due to all of the excitement of Advent, Christmas, and New Year's coming to an abrupt end.

For many of us, we now also have to try to "make good" on those "New Year's Resolutions" that we made. You know resolutions like, "we are going to join a gym," "we are going lose weight," "we are going to be more kind," and so on and so forth. It is interesting to see people every year get really excited for about 1-2 weeks about the "big changes" that they are going to make in the New Year.

In this way, coming to faith in Christ has some similarities to a New Year. In our culture, we generally believe and even sing that the New Year is a clean slate. We almost believe that whatever has transpired in 2018, does not need to carry over into 2019. It is as if we are starting over fresh each year. For some of us, we even make "New Year's Resolutions," like the examples that I stated above. A New Year is similar to coming to faith in Christ, as we see in such scriptures as 2 Corinthians 2:5:17, which says:

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2. Cor. 5:17, NRSV).

So in coming to Christ, in repenting and asking for the forgiveness of our sins, and in excepting Christ as our Lord and Savior, we are cleansed of all of our past sins and mistakes. In this moment, as the scripture says, we are reborn and are a new creation. Don't many of us look at New Year's in a similar way? I mean we get to start all over.

In the moments of coming to Christ, we are full of faith and the love of Christ. We then are challenged to continue to live out that faith every day. Unlike a failed "New Year's Resolution," we are called to grow and change continually. This means that our faith in Christ should change us, and not just for a week or two, but for good. Will we make mistakes? Yes, of course. Through prayer, the reading of scripture, and through living out faith out in community together, not only can we be changed, but God can use us to then change others.

In this way my friends, Jesus Christ is the ultimate and eternal "New Year's" clean slate. May we all in this New Year come to Christ anew, and be "resolved" to serve him and others! God bless and Happy New Year!

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



Lay Leader's Letter

G od
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R edemption

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P lans,
I ntervention
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U nderstanding
A nd
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Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for being our inspiration. Thank you Father for being our intervention when we face trials in our lives. Oh Lord, you are our Eternal saving Father. You inspire us all to see the world through your eyes. You help us to understand the truth and the power of your saving Grace and your all eternal love for each and every one of us. Help us Father, to see that through redemption of sin, and redemption of all our hearts; that through you we can truly see the unconditional love that you give to all of us. Help us in this New Year to continue to open our hearts, minds, and souls; to give our all to teach others about your unconditional love, and to bring them closer you Father.

In Jesus' name we ask AMEN

Lay Leader,
Echo Adams



Washed Clean

Decorate a soap bottle as a reminder of how baptism cleans us on the inside.

What you need:

Bottle of clear liquid hand soap
Small craft pompoms (different colors)
Wooden skewer

What you do:

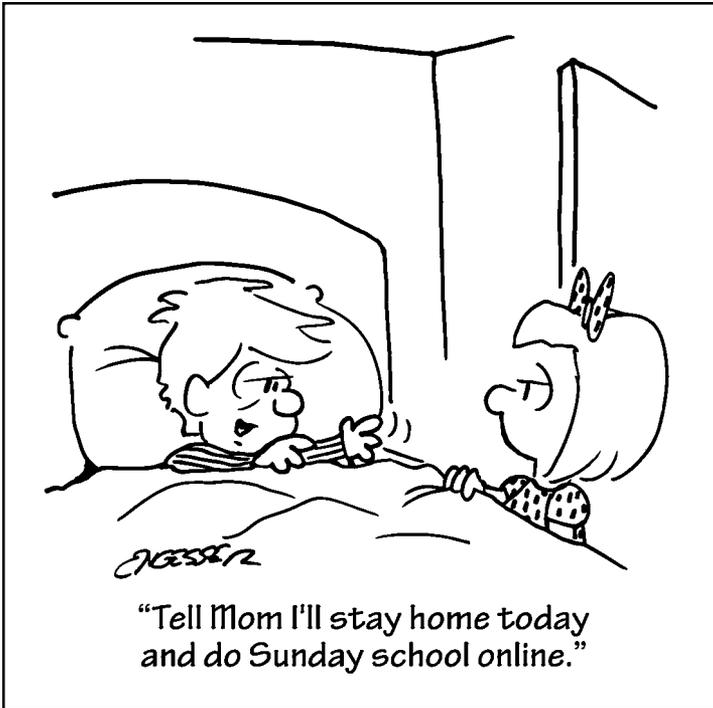
- 1: Remove the bottle label and unscrew the lid.
- 2: Using the skewer, push pompoms down into the soap one at a time.
- 3: Replace the lid and put the dispenser in a bathroom or kitchen.



UMW will meet Thurs. Jan 10 at 1 pm in the Harvester Room. Following the meeting Sue Olmstead will lead the Pledge Service. Refreshments will be served. All women of the church are welcome.

LYDIA CRAFT GROUP will resume meeting Tues. Jan. 8 at 2:30 in the Craft Room.

Again, deep thanks to all in the congregation who helped in any way with UMW's projects. Our small group could not have done it without you!



January Dates to Remember

- New Year's Day, January 1, 2019
- Epiphany, January 6, 2019
- Baptism of the Lord, January 13, 2019
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2019
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 21, 2019



A fresh start

Baptism is a blessing because it changes us and gives us hope.

Directions: Write the boxed letters in the squares below. Then unscramble those letters to form two words that complete the Bible verse and represent the gift of baptism.



We were therefore buried with him
 through baptism into death in order that,
 just as Christ was raised from the dead
 through the glory of the Father,
 we too may live a _____.

Romans 6:4, NIV

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Answer: f i e l e w n y n e w l i f e



**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:

January 13 from 3-5 pm at New Berlin UMC

January 20 from 2-4 pm here at SUMC

January 27 from 3-5 pm at Cobleskill UMC

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

March 3 - Cooperstown region



Every January, the Christian church worldwide marks the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This ecumenical “octave,” or eight-day observance, lasts from January 18 (the Feast of St. Peter) to January 25 (the Feast of St. Paul).

The week is based on Jesus’ prayer to his heavenly Father in John 17:21 that his followers “may all be one ... so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (ESV). Jesus knew that if Christians were fiercely divided, people outside the faith wouldn’t want to learn more about him.

The theme for the 2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is from Deuteronomy 16:20 (NRSV): “Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue.”

Kingfisher Faith

In a video on his publisher’s website, Eugene Peterson tells of watching a kingfisher repeatedly dive for fish in a lake. Peterson counted 37 dives before the kingfisher caught its supper! “And he’s the king fisher!” Peterson chuckles. From that bird-watching episode, he gleaned a ministry lesson: It may take a long time and many attempts — maybe dozens! — before something works out.

God calls us to live out his love faithfully, even when we don’t seem to be accomplishing anything. Maybe we extend 36 invitations to worship, work 36 monthly shifts at a food bank or utter 36 prayers without seeing results. “What’s the point?” we wonder. But the kingfisher urges us on: “Maybe number 37 is the charm!”

In the words of St. Paul (and mixing fishing and farming metaphors): “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9, NIV).



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