



The Methodist Chimes



FEBRUARY 2017

From the Pastor's Desk

Expert Eyes

“They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Jesus stood still and said, ‘Call him here.’ And they called the blind man, saying to him, ‘Take heart; get up, he is calling you.’ So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ The blind man said to him, ‘My teacher, let me see again.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your faith has made you well.’ Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.” -- Mark 10:46-52

I recently read a book entitled *On Looking: Eleven Walks with Expert Eyes*, by Alexandra Horowitz. The author is a cognitive psychologist who studies mental processes, and in this book she is particularly interested in exploring what and how people see. Her research for the text involved walking around the same block where she lives in New York City with 11 different experts. One of her expert companions detailed how to uncover insect tracks everywhere along the street. The masterful art of individuals weaving their way through a crowd of people was the focus of another expert. She took walks with her toddler, a blind artist, an ornithologist, a typographer, and her dog, among others. From each of them she learned something new about a block she walks along every day.

Alexandra Horowitz’s premise is that each person has the capacity to see, really see, but that we are limited because of our abilities and biases. It is from experts in a given area that we can learn to see something new and surprising, maybe even something that is important to take note of, something life changing.

We all have biases and abilities when it comes to our ability to see. The question is, what are we currently missing? What are we called upon to really see? And what expert can we consult to learn how to see this important stuff?

As we head into the New Year, our congregation will begin a visioning process. Our journey will start off with us collectively taking a deep look at our church. What is the DNA of our congregation? What makes us tick? What are our core values; the things that matter most to us? For this part of the process, we will consult with many experts: those of us currently in the church, and also those who have connections to our church. These experts—located in the pews, nursery school, food pantry, weavers’ group, and AA lounge—will provide us with deep vision, as long as we ask good questions and patiently listen to the answers.

We will also need to hear from experts outside our walls in order to form our new vision. The identity of these experts will be discovered as together we ask questions and listen for answers. Who walks by our building daily, and what do they think of our church? How do outsiders describe our congregation? What are the deep needs in our community, of which we may not be aware?

Finally, and most importantly, we need to consult throughout this visioning process with the Ultimate Expert. Our God has a vision for the Kingdom, and we are called to prayerfully discern what that Kingdom will look like in our Red Hook community, and to figure out our role in bringing that vision into reality. I call on our congregation to indulge in constant and persistent prayer in discovering our vision. I pray that God will illuminate our path, and will attune our senses so that we can clearly see the task set before us. O Vision Expert, gift us with the eyes to see, and the ears to hear! Amen.

Peace,

Pastor Nikki

Prayer List

Please pray for our Pastor, our Bishop, the NYAC staff and cabinet, our ministry together, each other, our churches, for our nation, our leaders, and our world. Please pray for all those serving in harm's way who are separated from their loved ones, for those suffering from mental illness, and for those affected by severe weather and loss of loved ones.

"Family Promise" Program who help the homeless

Father, we give all to you...

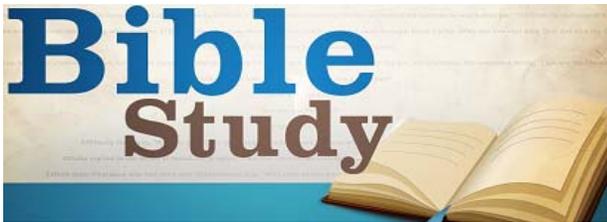
AMEN

To Place People on Our Prayer List each week in the Sunday Bulletin:

A simple call to our church office puts a person on our congregational prayer list found in our weekly bulletin. Confidential prayer requests can also be made.

PRAYER CHAIN:

The prayer chain is a vessel for individuals to use to have prayers said for anyone who is in need. All concerns are kept confidential. If you would like to use it, please contact Joan Murray (758-5189), Joan Morrison (758-5375), or Betty Tabor (758-9011). You need only to be as specific as you wish. We want only to be supportive and put in place the POWER OF PRAYER.



Beginning January 26th, Pastor Nikki will be leading a bible study group in the Lounge on Thursday afternoons from 3 – 5 p.m. All are welcome.



All Saints' Day

COMING SOON:
JOIN PASTOR NIKKI IN A DAILY LENTEN PRAYER DISCIPLINE

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 1st. Pastor Nikki will be personally committed to a daily prayer discipline during Lent. All are invited to join her. This daily discipline will afford an opportunity for you as an individual, and all of us as a church, to draw closer to God as we journey together toward Easter. This special, brief, set-aside time does not need to be boring, nor must it be a chore! Pastor Nikki will be describing ways to integrate all of your senses into this Lenten practice.

Look for more information during worship services in February, or contact Pastor Nikki directly at nedleman@hotmail.com or 845-546-3260.

Report of the Music and Worship Committee



I hope everyone enjoyed all the work that the choir did over Advent and Christmas eve services. And with Monica and Carlos having recently joined the choir, our ranks are beginning to swell. And Sandy Kane's solo on Christmas eve was wonderful. YAY! PLUS, Jocelyn and Zane's addition to Christmas eve with their bells was very special. Be sure to thank them for



all their hard work. If you liked all the special services this past Advent and Christmas eve, please be sure to let the choir, Pastor Nikki or Keith know so they can have that as input for next year. The decorations this year were spectacular.

New choir members are always welcome, even just for a fun night Thursday night. And now to start preparing for Lent, Ash Wednesday, and Holy Week. Not much of a break for the choir. And don't forget any instrumentalists! Keith can always fit them into services with enough lead time.

And finally, thank you to everyone in the congregation for all their heartfelt warm wishes to me personally during this past Advent and Christmas eve services. I am truly blessed to be serving as your Music Director. Thank you.

Keith A Niven



... news from the Basement

The Hand to Mouth Weavers are looking for donations of empty shoe boxes to sort our cut fabric strips. Thanks to the ARC of Dutchess, the Hand to Mouth Weavings fabric collection has been sorted and organized. It looks great and is so much easier to work with. Stop by for a visit or a chance to weave a bit. Volunteers are usually in the room Monday afternoons and Wednesday evenings.

The Food Pantry is busy serving clients every Sunday afternoon, 1 – 2:30 pm. Thursday mornings and Friday afternoon will often find someone there putting food away, stocking shelves, and cleaning up. It takes many hands! Please let me know if you'd like to join us!

42 Families picked up their Christmas dinner from the Pantry on Friday, December 23rd. It was such a joy to share turkeys and hams and all the fixins!

Help us Purchase a new Freezer:

One of our large chest freezers in the pantry has a badly damaged door. While we are still able to use it, very carefully, it is getting worse. Having freezer space is critical to the pantry being able to offer perishable goods to our clients. We are looking for donations towards our Freezer Fund! Any donation accepted!

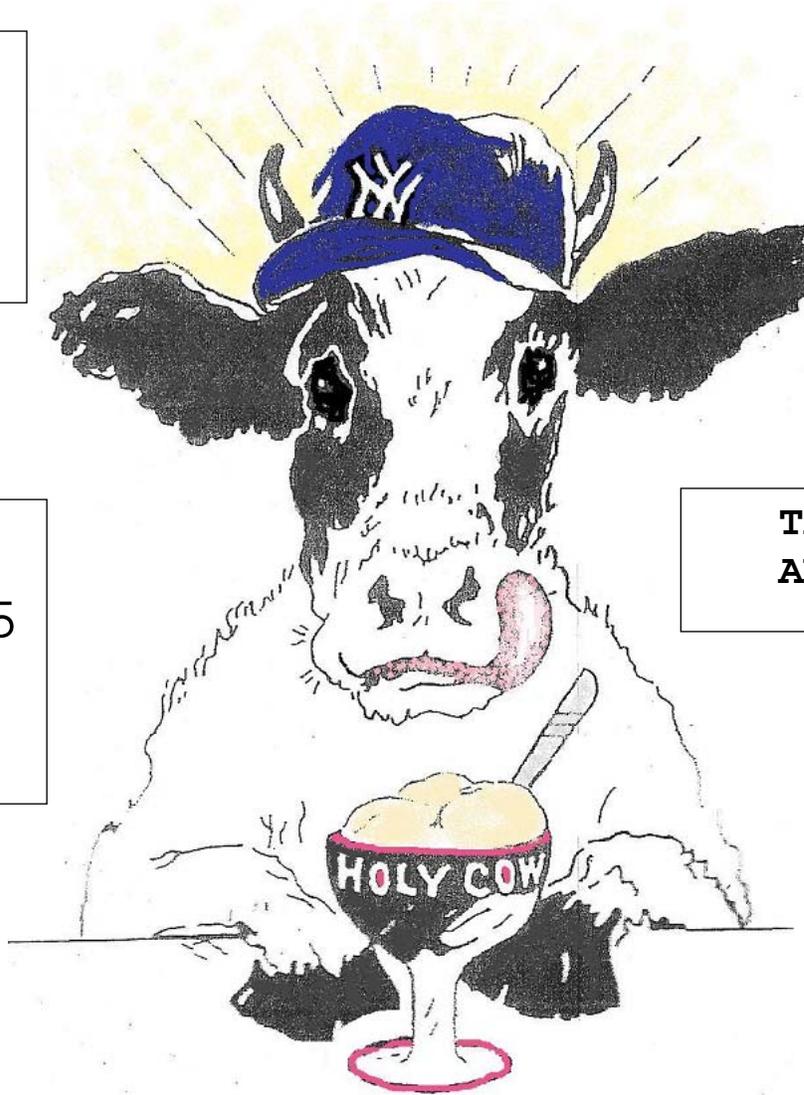
Check out Janice's video about our Food Pantry on the Church Facebook site. Created and shared by Kevin at the Red Hook Hendrick Hudson Masonic Lodge. The Lodge will be featuring our local food pantries at their dinners. Thanks Kevin!

HOLY COW SPAGHETTI and MEATBALL DINNER!

**ALL YOU
CAN EAT
HOLY COW
DESSERTS!**

\$9.00
Children 5
& under
FREE

**TAKE-OUTS
AVAILABLE**



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18 4:30 - 7 p.m.

Red Hook United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

845-758-6283

redhookumc@umchurches.org

FUNDS RAISED GO TOWARDS CHURCH MISSIONS



Matted prints, suitable for framing, of the lovely drawing of RHUMC by local artist Richard Wambaugh are available to purchase. Framing service available from RHUMC Secretary, Arlene Wege.

Call the office (758-6283).



RHUMC SECRETARY

WE ARE IN NEED OF SOMEONE TO TAKE ON THIS POSITION STARTING MARCH 2nd. THE HOURS ARE 9 – 11:30 AM ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS. DUTIES ARE LIGHT, BUT APPLICANT SHOULD BE COMFORTABLE WITH COMPUTER USE. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE (845-758-6283) OR EMAIL:

redhookumc@umchurches.org

Red Hook UMC
4 Church Street, Suite 2
Red Hook, New York 12571



The Methodist *Chimes*
February

2017

Red Hook United Methodist Church

“Open minds, open hearts, open doors”

Pastor Nikki Edleman
Secretary: Arlene Wege

Pastor or Secretary: 845-758-6283

Organist: Keith Niver
Emergencies: 631-871-4430

E-mail: redhookumc@umcchurches.org