



The Methodist *Chimes*



SUMMER 2016

From the Pastor's Desk

A New Thing

Isaiah 43:15-21 (NRSV):

I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

This passage from Isaiah is one I go back to again and again, especially when I feel confused, frustrated, or worried about the way things are going in my personal life or in the world around me. It is a powerful vision, provided by the Israelite prophet Isaiah, of the way God works in the present world. In this passage, God informs a people shaken by the Babylonian exile that their core salvation story, the one that they refer to as foundational to their identity as a people, is past history. This is the story of the Exodus, of course, wherein God sent Moses to lead the people out of slavery in Egypt. In that story, the fleeing Israelites encountered a mighty river blocking their path, and God provided a path of dry land right through those waters to safety. The pursuing Egyptian chariots attempted to follow the escaping Israelites through the dry path, but the waters closed upon them and they were defeated. The Israelite people were saved.

But now, God is turning that story on its head. Everything the Israelite people understand about how salvation has happened in the past is no longer valid. God is doing a new thing. Where before God provided a dry path through the waters, now God will provide a life-sustaining rush of water in the dry desert. On top of that, this water will not only nourish the Israelite people, but will also give life to the wild animals that exemplify the enemy. The enemy will not be crushed, but will stand at the side of God's people drinking up the life God has provided in excess. This is a beautiful vision of God's Kingdom come.

Based on the words of Isaiah in this passage, "the way things have always been done" is no longer something we should be relying on. We cannot look to the old way of doing things to see an active God. We must shift our gaze to this new thing, to this flipped track of salvation. God is on the move! It is our task to discern where God is making strides and to run alongside!

Whenever I think about the task of perceiving God's new thing, I am simultaneously filled with excitement and anxiety. Change is never easy. We are creatures of comfort, and change can leave us reeling. But the vision Isaiah provides of this new thing is also very enticing. It gives me a thrill to imagine taking part in God's new thing. Salvation is at hand. I believe that joining God on the move in this new path will be the most worthwhile endeavor of my life. Won't you join me in this new venture?

I offer this prayer for our church family: O God on the Move, we hear this vision of Isaiah and acknowledge that you are an active God. Grant us the eyes to perceive your New Thing. Give us willing legs to follow you on this new path. Comfort us as we let go of the old and embrace the new. Show us your saving presence in our own lives, and in the lives of those around us, especially those whom we may consider to be our enemies. Let your Kingdom come and your will be done. 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.



MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

Memorial stones are now available to ring the base of the tree to remember our church family and loved ones. There is a sample stone in our Lounge area, and they are made locally. The cost of producing the stones is \$40 - \$50 each.

For more information:

Rand Thomson 758-6280

Lois Chenkus 758-1714

Betty Tabor 758-9011



Womens Bible Study will begin again September 13 at 1 p.m. This study is open to all ladies, and bring a friend. We are in our seventh year. It's a place to read, study, and develop friendships. Please join us.

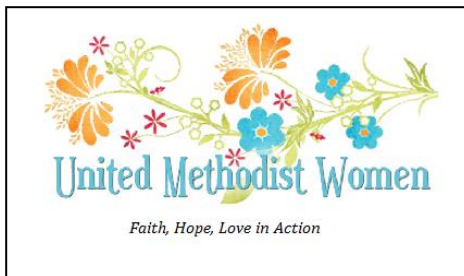
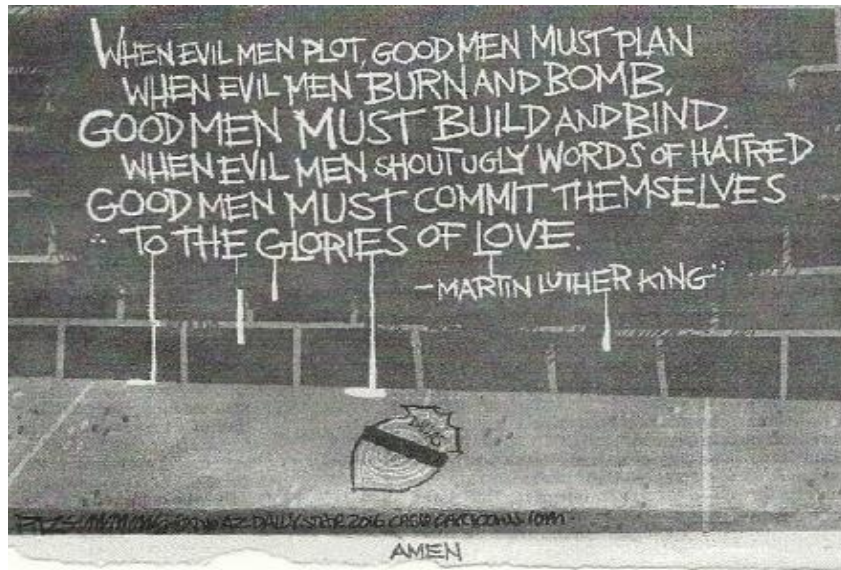
Pastor Barbara

Report of the Music and Worship Committee



After a well-deserved rest, the choir will resume practice either on Thursday, August 25th or, at the latest, September 1st. In the meantime, if you would like to participate in the music ministry, please let me know.

Keith A. Niver



The Red Hook United Methodist Women met for a summer picnic at Janice Williams House. We had a lovely pot luck dinner. After dinner we rallied around the campfire for S'mores and toasted marshmallows and singing. Janice won the distinction of having the most golden and perfectly roasted marshmallow. As a service project, we are buying personal items for the food pantry. You may help us with that by purchasing shampoo, soap, deodorant and other toiletries. We invite all women of Red Hook and Rhinebeck to join us

in our next meeting September 26 at the church. Please contact Joan Murray 758-5189 if you would like a ride.



The final total realized from the Strawberry Festival this year is \$1,418.00. A great big thank you to all who helped us attain this figure! To those who contributed not only cash but many of the ingredients for the salads - Thanks. That surely helped our bottom line. And, also a big thanks to all those who worked tirelessly in preparation on Thursday and Friday, and continued on Saturday morning with the preparation of the many strawberries - then labored on by serving our fantastic community attendees and finally cleaning up the kitchen and Fellowship Hall when the event concluded. It takes many hands to put on a successful fund raising event, and WE DID IT!!



... news from the Basement

The Food Pantry is open to our clients every Sunday, from 1:00 – 2:30 pm. It takes many hands to keep the food pantry open and stocked. At least three people man the pantry each week. They get the food out, assist clients, stock shelves, and keep track of the paperwork.

Each Thursday, usually three people meet at the Hannaford loading dock at 8:00 am to pick up the store donations for the week. Cars get loaded up, and then it all gets brought back to the church and stored to be ready for Sunday. Another weekly job is driving to Hyde Park on Saturday nights, to pick up donated bread from Panera.

Monthly, a large food order gets placed with the Regional Food Bank in Latham. It takes a very large truck, or two pickup trucks sometimes, to pick up that order in Kingston, bring it back to the church where we usually have 8 – 10 people to unload the truck and get all the food put away. Keeping the stock room organized and the shelves stocked is ongoing, always needing some help. In addition, to meet all Regional Food Bank requirements, monthly reports of how many people we feed, and how much food we get from Hannaford must be completed and sent to the Food Bank.

Many hands make it all possible. A huge thank you to some helpers: Fred, Pat, Joan, Joan, and Joan, Ken, Betty, Tad, Hop, Cathy, Betsy, Roxanne, Lois, Monica and Monica, Liz, Phyllis, Greta, Harry, Debbie, Nancy, Arlene, Gabby, Tracey, Phil, Bob, Cary, the soup man, the gang from Ramapo, sometimes students from Bard College, and many more!!

Have some extra time? ***We could use your help!*** We'll find just the right spot for you! Give Janice a call at 845-750-3057.

Our funding at the Regional Food Bank runs from July 1 to July 1 every year. During this period we served 336 Children, 155 Seniors, and 655 Adults! Here are our expenses for that period:

July 2015 – June 2016	Income	\$ Expense	Grant
Contributions	\$6,445.46		
Food Bank Expense		\$10,051.50	\$9,460.48
MISC		\$259.95	
Stewarts Milk Cards		\$1,919.24	
Weaving Proceeds	\$1,069.91		
	\$ 7,515.37	\$12,230.69	\$9,460.48

Our HPNAP Food Grant Award for 2016 – 2017 is \$7,900. This is our initial grant, sometimes additional monies come in during the year. Monetary donations are always needed!

No one should go hungry....

“SOMETHING MORE TO LIFE”

by Arlene Wege

Giving her a whole month to get settled in at Red Hook United Methodist Church (RHUMC), I sat down with our new Pastor, Nikki Edleman so she could introduce herself to our community. I first asked how she came to her calling as a pastor.

“It was kind of a slow path, you might say,” she began. “It was about seven years ago that I quit my job at IBM as an engineer, with the intention of maybe responding to this call I’d felt all my life, but also spending some time being a stay-at-home mom. At that time, my children -- Zane and Jocelyn – were ages three and five. When Zane started kindergarten, I started going to school, too – I went to seminary.”

Actually, this was an extension of Nikki’s already impressive academic career. After graduating high school in southeastern Pennsylvania, she attended Northwestern University, earning a Ph.D in Chemistry. She first came to the Hudson Valley in 2002 to work at IBM in Hopewell Junction.

“When the children were younger and I was still working at IBM, it was a very stressful situation, and I felt sure there was something more to life,” she continued. “I think the death of my dad in 2004 spurred me on to find more meaning in my life. I had always been a very active lay person in the church, so I was already pretty dedicated to doing different kind of mission projects. I had also done Lay Speaker training.

“So I was praying about my stress and unhappiness at that time and why I was so discontent. I said to God, ‘I’ve been investigating these three different jobs in the company (IBM) that might ease my discontent. There’s Job A, Job B, and Job C... what do you think, God?’ He replied: ‘Go to seminary.’ I heard that very distinctly in my head. God certainly has a sense of humor. However, I still chose one of the other jobs for a time, and I was still miserable. Finally I started going to school, at Drew University Theological School in Madison, New Jersey.”

Pastor Edleman graduated in May of this year, but during her time at Drew, she was able to be a student pastor at Yorktown United Methodist Church in Westchester County and in Kingston at Clinton Avenue United Methodist Church. She also did an internship this year from January through May as a Chaplain at Westchester Medical Center.

“I definitely feel I am called to lead a congregation, I just don’t know in what fashion,” Nikki explained. “I do feel a pull toward ‘church planting’, like starting new ideas and experimenting with different functions. I think there are a lot of people out there who don’t find any relevance to the traditional church model.”

When asked what she wants to learn about the Red Hook/Rhinebeck area, she responded: “I’m very curious to learn more about the Council of Churches here, get to know the Town Hall folks, business leaders in the community. Bard College is a place I would like to further our relationship with.” Bard College students have volunteered at the RHUMC Sunday Food Pantry on a regular basis.

She concluded: “I really feel I have not been assigned to be a pastor just to this church, but a pastor to the community. I feel a lot of energy, and I’m excited to be here.”

In addition to holding Sunday service at 11 a.m. at the RHUMC, Pastor Edleman also serves the congregation at Rhinebeck United Methodist Church weekly at 9:00 a.m.



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



The Methodist *Chimes*



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@hvc.rr.com