



The Methodist Chimes



DECEMBER 2016

From the Pastor's Desk

Interrupted by Hope

The title line is our theme for this Advent season. I observed this phrase in some online commentaries weeks ago, and it captured my imagination. I think the phrase invites questions. (And a healthy community is notable in that it makes room for asking questions!) Some of the questions that come to my mind when I read the phrase “Interrupted by Hope” include:

What does the word Hope mean to me in my personal life?

What does Hope look like to us in our congregation?

Why on earth would we want to be interrupted by anything?

“Interrupted” seems like such a rude word. Couldn’t our Advent season be marked by something more polite and manageable, like “Recommended” or “Suggested?” Why don’t we change our theme to, “Suggested by Hope?”

Is Hope a free-form thing, with a will all its own? Does Hope have the power and ability to take action despite my involvement (or non-involvement)?

How can I turn from a hopeless place to a place of Hope?

What is it about Advent that has anything to do with Hope?

Advent marks the beginning of the church year, when we begin at the beginning of the Greatest Story. Notice that the story does not begin on Christmas Day, with the birth of Jesus. Rather, the first days of our Christian year begin with the telling of our longing for the second coming of Christ. Christ is always coming again. Christ is always here and not yet here. The time of Christ’s return is always now and not yet. We lean together into these days of Advent giving voice to this longing, this hoping for something new to come to us. The prophet Isaiah declares a non-rational, apocalyptic kind of Hope in the second chapter of his book:

“In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!”

How can we get to a place where, of our own accord, we spontaneously declare Hope like that of Isaiah? How can we position ourselves to be Interrupted by Hope? I invite you to meditate on this theme, and to formulate your own questions. Let’s muse on it together during this Advent season.

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:

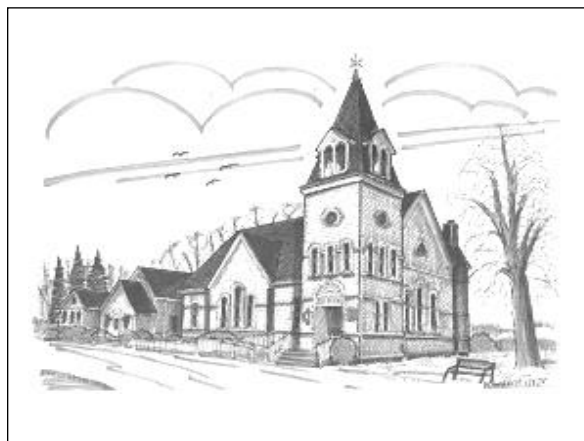
Rand Thomson 758-6280

Lois Chenkus 758-1714

Betty Tabor 758-9011



All Saints' Day



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).

Report of the Music and Worship Committee



It's been a while since Keith has performed his personally arranged "Story of Christmas" on the organ and keyboards. It's a special gift from him to the congregation and community. It takes about 30 minutes so come early and sit and listen and maybe close your eyes and meditate while you listen to the music.



The choir has been practicing music from "The Light before Christmas" which includes readings for each Advent Candle as well as the Christ candle. This year we also have the gift of Jocelyn and Zane

playing bells for some of the carols on Christmas eve. It's still not too late if you want to join the choir during this season of Giving. Choir practice is Thursday night at 7:00. Everyone is welcome.

The music committee also discussed the option of having people bring their own lanterns on Christmas eve and taking home the light of Christ to share in their home. This is a tradition at Keith's home church in Claverack and it's very meaningful. We also have new battery powered flicker candles for those people that do not feel comfortable with a lit candle while singing. Thanks Keith for the gift.

If you missed the special Hanging of the Greens service in November, you missed a truly wonderful service. Perhaps it is worth repeating next year.

Finally, I would like to personally thank everyone for their support and prayers this year. The Advent and Christmas season is very important to me personally and something I hope I can pass along to the congregation through the gift of music. I hope you enjoy the season.

Merry Christmas to everyone.

Keith A Niver



... news from the Basement



THANK YOU to [Ulster Savings Bank](#) for raising \$335 at their fabulous "Chili Cook-Off" on Saturday, October 29th for the RHUMC Food Pantry! Pictured at the Red Hook Branch for the presentation of the check (L to R): James Keneally (USB), Betty Tabor, Janice Williams, Joan Murray (Food Pantry volunteers), and Katlyn Hanley (USB). Another great example of the Red Hook community working together! Ulster Savings is also currently accepting non-perishable foods at their Red Hook branch.

We were able to give away **42** Thanksgiving dinners on November 22nd, so a huge thank you to all who made that possible.

There will be a Food Pantry meeting on December 8th at 6 pm. Our Christmas distribution will take place on Friday, December 23rd: 2 - 3 pm and 6 - 7 pm. The Food Pantry **will be closed on Christmas Day.**

Red Hook Area Council of Churches Upcoming Events

United Methodist Church Holly Day Bazaar - Saturday, December 3rd 9 am – 2 pm.

Christ Episcopal Church Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 3rd, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Elizaville Methodist Church Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 3rd, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. {Snow date Sunday, December 4, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.)



Advent Worship Service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church Wednesday, December 7th, 7 p.m.

Blue Christmas Candlelight Service on Wednesday, December 21st at 7 p.m. at St. John's Reformed Church. Light refreshments to follow. All are welcome.

Christmas Eve Service at RHUMC, begins at 6:30 pm with "The Story of Christmas", bell-playing and anthems performed by the adult choir.



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

CHRISTMAS 2016

It is that time of year, Advent has begun, and it is time to think about the beauty of the poinsettias adorning our sanctuary. We will again be ordering the flowers from Adams Fairacre Farms. Please indicate below what you wish to order and in whose memory or honor. (Return your order no later than December 14th.)

Red Poinsettia _____ @ \$7.00

In memory or honor of _____

White Poinsettia _____ @\$7.00

In memory or honor of _____

Total Order Amount: \$ _____
(Please Print Your Name)

HollyDay Bazaar

Saturday, December 3rd from 9 am – 2 pm

(Volunteers needed Friday, December 2nd at 1 pm for setup)

Please try to help these tables in any way you can to help make this event a success. This is one of our bigger fundraisers for our budget.

BAKE TABLE – *Bernice Purdy (758-0567)*

Pies, cakes, cookies & breads

CANDY TABLE – *Janice Williams (758-6765)*

Any kind of homemade candy, fudge, popcorn balls, peanut brittle, etc

JEWELRY TABLE – *Greta Mueller, Gloria Simmons, Tracie Dedrick*

Pins, earrings, necklaces, bracelets, scarves

ATTIC TREASURES – *Joan Grover and Nancy Brown*

Christmas decorations, knick-knacks, glassware, dishes, etc.

CRAFTS – *Joan Beuttler (758-9099)*

Homemade knitted items, Christmas decorations

GIFT BASKETS – *Created by the Women's Bible Study Group*

HAND TO MOUTH WEAVERS – *Bruce & Zelma Barrett (758-5387)*

Rugs, place mats, totes, etc.

SNACK BAR

The menu is: Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chili, Grilled Cheese, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Desserts. For breakfast: Eggs, Bacon, Hard Rolls. If you can donate any of these items or make a monetary donation, it would be greatly appreciated.

This is a FUN day for all of us! We hope you will join us.



Contact: Joan Beuttler 758-9099

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



The Methodist *Chimes*



2016

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