



The Methodist Chimes



MARCH 2017

From the Pastor's Desk

Psalm 199:33-40: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain. Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways. Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you. Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good. See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.

Dear members and friends of the Red Hook UMC,

On February 5, 2017, the leaders and trustees of our church met with our District Superintendent, Rev. Betsy Ott, and me to learn about an exciting opportunity in the life of the church.

The Rhinebeck UMC, as many of you know, has been in severe decline for several years. Membership and financial resources at the Rhinebeck UMC have reached critically low levels. In response to these realities, the Rhinebeck congregation voted on a motion in December 2016 to seek to merge with another UMC congregation in the geographic vicinity. As part of this merger, the Rhinebeck UMC will no longer be an independent entity. All assets and liabilities, both financial and property, will be transferred to the receiving church in the merger.

Additionally, the New York Annual Conference has pinpointed the Rhinebeck area as being an ideal place to spearhead a new church. I will be leading this effort as a church-planting pastor. Therefore, the merging church assuming claim over the property and finances of the Rhinebeck church will also be supporting this new church initiative. Financial and programmatic assistance for the new church will come from the Conference office of David Gilmore, Director of Congregational Development and Revitalization. This will include funds for both pastoral and mission support.

Under the wording of this motion, DS Ott has the authority to seek a potential merger partner in nearby UMCs. This invitation to merge has been offered first to the Red Hook UMC. DS Ott has asked our Red Hook trustees to respond to this offer in the coming weeks. If we at Red Hook decide for the merger, DS Ott will walk us through the process by which we officially vote for it and then negotiate all terms with the Rhinebeck congregation, with a merge target date of July 1st, 2017. If we decide against the merger, DS Ott will need time to pursue other potential partners in timely fashion. To this end, our leaders and trustees have already begun a process of reviewing financial documents and have taken a complete walking tour of the Rhinebeck UMC property.

Red Hook trustees and leaders have made it clear that they wish to gather input from all interested members of the congregation on this matter before making a final decision. To that end, everyone is invited to attend our upcoming ***combined*** Trustees and Council meeting on Sunday, March 12th at 1pm. The merger proposal will be a central discussion item at both of these meetings, and this is your chance to be involved in the decision-making process.

In the meantime, I am certain that many of you have questions and concerns. I ask that we all work together to maintain both an open and honest dialogue about the proposal. I also ask that we include persistent prayer

for discernment in our evaluations and discussions. We need to make a decision based on what we discern God is calling us to do.

My goal as your pastor is to answer your questions to the best of my ability, facilitate communication between all parties, and to make sure our discernment process is both timely and substantial, so that we make the best decision as led by God for our congregation. I invite you to call me at 845-546-3260 or email me at nedleman@hotmail.com to discuss this, if you wish. I also encourage you to talk to our leaders, including the trustees (led by Mark Chenkus, chairperson) and Council (led by Lois Chenkus, chairperson).

Let us be open and discerning about the Spirit's movement as we make this important decision. In Psalm 119, a portion of which is printed above, the psalmist cries out to God for guidance in following God's will. Please join me in praying this Psalm as together we search for God's direction for the Red Hook UMC.

Blessings,

Pastor Nikki Edleman

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...

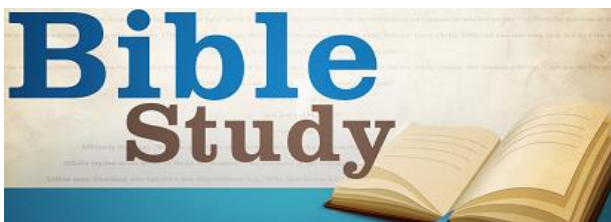
AMEN

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. However, recently the Prayer Chain does not seem to be working; there are a lot of people on the lists that are no longer with us. Anyone interested in becoming part of the Prayer Chain can contact Betty Tabor (758-9011 or kayaker1930@yahoo.com). You need only to be as specific as you wish. We want only to be supportive and put in place the POWER OF PRAYER.

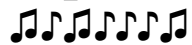


Pastor Nikki now leads a bible study group in the Lounge on Thursday afternoons from 3 – 5 p.m. All are welcome.

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. Please call or email her for details: 845-546-3260; nedleman@hotmail.com

Report of the Music and Worship Committee



The Lenten season has been planned. No stone remains unturned. Keith and the choir will be presenting music that compliments Pastor Nikki's sermons.



Wednesday Lenten Services: all at 7:00 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY - March 1

Red Hook United Methodist Church, Rev. Dr. Eric Titus preaching

March 8: St. Christopher's & St. Sylvia's, Rev. Syedullah preaching

March 15

St. Paul's & Trinity (Episcopal) Parish, Rev. Randall Prentiss preaching

March 22: Christ Church, Rev. Nikki Edelman preaching

March 29: St. John's Reformed, Fr. Pat Buckley preaching

April 5: Red Hook United Methodist Church, Rev. Dr. Eric Titus preaching

SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCHEON

There will be a soup and sandwich luncheon taking place on Sunday, March 5th after the church service. Donations will be used for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. All are welcome!





Matted prints, suitable for framing, of the lovely drawing of RHUMC by local artist Richard Wambaugh are available to purchase.

Call the office (758-6283).

Church Street Nursery School News and Notes

The school will be holding their fundraising Spring Book Fair from Monday, March 13th through Tuesday, March 21st from 9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. weekdays in the Lounge. On Thursday, March 16th, however, hours will also be from 6 – 7:30 p.m.



RHUMC SECRETARY

WE ARE IN NEED OF SOMEONE TO TAKE ON THIS POSITION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. 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@umcchurches.org

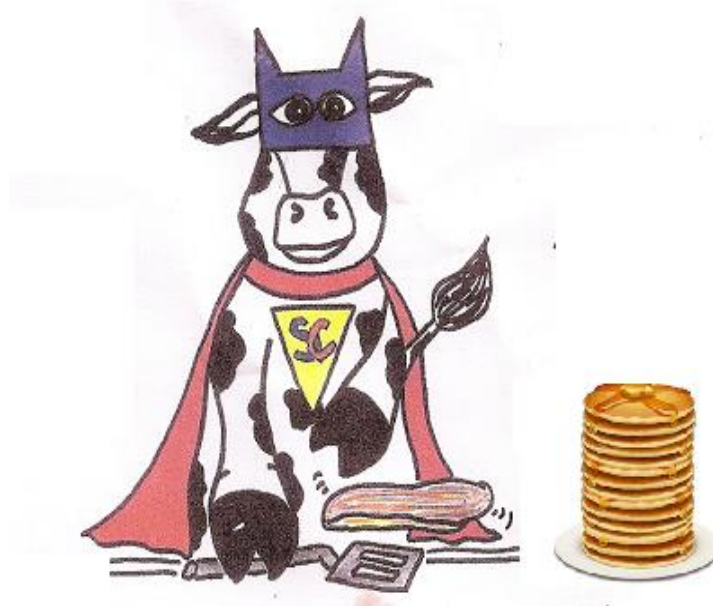
HOLY COW...

7th ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

to benefit

ST. JUDE'S CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

*Kids: Be a "Super Hero" for St. Jude
If you like, come dressed as your favorite super hero!*



SUPER
HERO

BOUNCE
HOUSE!

SATURDAY, April 1st

8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

\$6 per person - Children 5 and under FREE

RED HOOK FIREHOUSE

42 Firehouse Lane, Red Hook, NY

...available at Holy Cow Ice Cream or at the door

FACE
PAINTING



Give thanks for the



healthy children in your life!

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



The Methodist *Chimes*



2017

Red Hook United Methodist Church

“Open minds, open hearts, open doors”

Pastor Nikki Edleman

Pastor or Secretary: 845-758-6283
Emergencies: 631-871-4430

Organist: Keith Niver

E-mail: redhookumc@umcchurches.org