



Red Hook United Methodist Church

Methodist Chimes
Summer Edition

“Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors”

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9 – 11:30am


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Pastor: Nikki Edleman (845) 546-3260

Church Secretary: Melissa Moore





OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

The Methodist Chimes

2017

A Message from Our Pastor

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Beloved, pray for us.”

- 1Thessalonians 5:16-25 (NRSV)

Paul, writing to the Thessalonian Christians, finishes his letter with the above exhortation. This letter, believed by many scholars to be the oldest part of our New Testament, is overflowing with pastoral warmth and affection for the fledgling church planted in the heart of Greek culture in Roman-controlled Macedonia. Paul writes to reassure the converts—understood to be non-Jewish gentiles—to keep the faith by encouraging one another and resting on the spiritual disciplines, especially prayer.

Paul urges the Thessalonian followers to “pray without ceasing.” What does this look like? Does this mean they are supposed to be on their hands and knees every minute of every day, forsaking any other activity in order to continuously pray? How practical is this?

I am sure the folks who made up the Thessalonian congregation led busy lives and could not dedicate themselves to a traditional posture of kneeling, eyes-closed prayer constantly. The same can be said of us here today in Red Hook: we all have responsibilities, jobs, and tasks that we must complete throughout our day. So what does praying without ceasing look like for us? And why should we be concerned about doing it?

At the root of these questions, is a more basic one: what is prayer?

I understand prayer at its most basic to simply be communing with God. When I am in a spirit of prayer, I am purposefully placing myself in the light of God in that moment. I am speaking to God, but also listening for God, when I pray.

Sitting in silence and listening for God is a practice of prayer. (One that is not often done.) Breath prayer—when you think or say a short line repeatedly when breathing in and another line while breathing out—is another method. Imagining yourself engaged with the Divine while carrying out a task—Christ above me, Christ below me, Christ beside me, Christ leading me—is a prayer. Reading scripture while listening for the voice of God to speak through it is a form of prayer. Humbly volunteering yourself in a self-sacrificial way for the bettering of another person is a form of prayer.

One can see how at least some of the above suggested prayer practices can be done throughout your day while you carry out required tasks. Praying without ceasing is a worthwhile goal to strive for, for both personal growth and for communal benefit. Sticking to a spiritual discipline of prayer is easier to do when supported by others in a gathered community. Just as Paul encouraged the Thessalonian church, he also can be read encouraging our Red Hook congregation, to boost one another up in our pursuit of faithful living through prayer.

We have much to be thankful for in Red Hook, and much to lean forward into as we attempt to discern God is calling for us in the community. Prayer needs to be a central part of our congregational life. Everything we do should be marked by unceasing prayer. Please join me as I breathe in the light of God, and breathe out the peace of Christ. Join me as we work together with God to accomplish amazing things in Red Hook. Amen



Food Pantry & Weavers News

Summer Hours - July and August 12:30 - 2:00 pm

All are Welcome Here. The Pantry provides food to residents of the Red Hook School District regardless of citizenship or immigration status. We are not a government agency. We do not collect nor share information about immigration status. We protect your personal information and do not share.

The Weavers are meeting over the summer! 7 - 9 pm on Wednesdays.

Food Bank Food Delivery: Tuesday July 18. Tuesday, August 15

Looking for donations of school supplies. Paper, binders, spiral notebooks, pens, pencils, lunch boxes, backpacks, etc. for our food pantry clients. Leave all donations in the back of the Church Sanctuary.

Help Wanted

Food Pantry Assistant:

- Ability to work one Sunday a month from 11:30 thru 2:00pm
- Set up food for distribution
- Occasional bending / lifting
- Some paperwork record keeping required

Training is available-

You must enjoy working with people and making a difference in your community!

All applicants contact, Janice Williams (845) 750-3057



Music & Worship Committee News

The Music and Worship Committee met on June 4th after church. We discussed the change of time for worship this summer. Beginning July 2nd, we will come together at

10:30. This gives people a chance to participate in other activities that summer can bring. We also discussed Pastor Nikki and Keith's vacation times. Barbara will be the pastor on call when Pastor Nikki is on vacation. We are planning a Native American Service for October, with a workshop after a potluck luncheon. The final date will be announced later. We are hoping to have an outdoor service and picnic the 5th Sunday in July, and a Contemporary service the 5th Sunday in October. If anyone in the congregation has a special musical idea for of the services, please let either Pastor Nikki, Keith or Barbara know. We will have another meeting in August to plan for the fall.

Barbara, Chairperson.

Hi everyone. Well, the summer is upon us and with that comes a break for the choir and a new time for worship service, 10:30, along with some other exciting news that you will read about in the Chimes. Summer picnic among them. If any of you would like to participate in a summer music program with solos, duets, or instrumental music, please let me know ASAP so I can work it into the schedule. I am taking a couple of Sunday's off during the summer as well. As for my recovery process from the February surgery, I keep trying that line in the sand and so far, it's been working, most of the time, so I'm encouraged and thank everyone for their continued prayers. Choir practice will begin the last week of August and the first anthems in mid-September.

Keith Niver, Director of Music

Pastor's Bible Study

Thursday 3 – 5pm, in the Lounge

For a Pastoral Care Visit please contact Pastor Nikki at 845-546-3260 or call the Office



**July 2 - 9 Pastor Nikki will be on vacation, contact Rev. Barbara Melzer at 845-876-8509

"I call on you, O God,
for you will answer me;
give ear to me and hear my prayer."
(Psalm 17:6)



Please keep all those on our Church Prayer List in your hearts and prayers this summer:

Keith Niver, Rick McGhee, the Family of Beth Lou Muth, Peter Kane, Kathy Lunger, Pat Brammer, Cicely Perrotte & Family, Bobby Armstrong, Marissa Corston (Daughter of Debbie Corston Galina), Ruth VanVliet, Anna Weih, Nancy Titus, Zoe Niver, Donna Orlando, Christine Chadwick, Joyce Riffenburg, Carol Boeck, Kay George, Mike Pardoe, Pastor Paul & Gloria Gingrich, Cindy Herman & Family, Haley Hines, Georgia Johnson, Kathy Browne, Bruce Link, Taylor Van Voorhis, The VanVoorhis Family, Jack "Jay" Sundheimer, David Muller, The Family of Ruby Allen, Jane Morgan, Caleb & Grady Nelson, Ed Meyer, Patrick McLaughlin, Paul Lacey, Dorothy Marion, Skip Tremper, John Bamford, Ron Parker, Lois Niver, Helen Newkirk, Pete Buhler, Joan Murray & Family, Arlene Wege, Lois & Roger Clark.

**To add or remove anyone from our Church Prayer List, contact our Office at 845-758-6283 redhookumc@umcchurches.org

Our Prayer Chain

To use the Prayer Chain call Joan Murray 758-5189, Joan Morrison 758-5375 or Betty Tabor 758-9011 with your prayer request. Our prayer chain is completely confidential and separate from the Church Prayer List.

Church Street Nursery School News



The Children had a lovely Moving-up / Graduation Ceremony in June!
We will return for a new school year on September 6
Have a Great Summer!

**A United Methodist Women Sponsored Event:
Wednesdays at 6pm**

Days for Girls International | Sustainable Feminine Hygiene
www.daysforgirls.org

Days for Girls International empowers women and girls around the globe providing sustainable feminine hygiene solutions and health education.

Every girl and woman has inherent worth and dignity. *Days for Girls* celebrates this by providing sustainable feminine hygiene solutions and health education.

When girls and women have health, education, and opportunity, communities and our world are stronger.

Church Calendar

Programs:

Sunday

- 9:30am Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30am Worship
- 12:30-2pm Food Pantry

Monday

- 6:30pm fourth week of the month United Methodist Women Meeting

Tuesday

- 6:30pm first week of the month Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday

- 7pm Hand to Mouth Weavers
- 7pm first week of the month Trustees Meeting
- 2pm second week of the month Membership Committee Meeting

Thursday

- 3-5pm Pastor's Bible Study
- 7pm Choir Practice

Special Events:

Wednesday's this Summer

6pm Days for Girls Hosted by UMW a program for Women and Girls

Sunday August 13

**3pm we will be attending "Thoroughly Modern Millie"
at the Rhinebeck Performing Arts Theatre
Followed by pizza in the Church Lounge**

Tickets: \$27 & \$25 for Seniors

****To purchase tickets or for more information on this event please contact Joan Murray 758-5189 or Betty Tabor 758-9011**



Help us Save the Earth / Go Green Initiative

In an effort to conserve our natural resources and Church funds, we would like to encourage you to Go Paperless! You can help by providing the Church with an email address and stop receiving paper mailings from us. If you are interested, please contact the Office 845-758-6283 redhookumc@umcchurches.org.

Thank you for helping our Church Go Green!