

FEBRUARY 2019



But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. – Romans 8:24-25

And we are patiently waiting for warmer weather and the first signs of spring!

Welcome to the month of February, a time of winter festivals, ice sculptures and soup strolls, enjoying the seasonal activities. This is a short month which brings us much closer to a kinder and more gentle season.

Thank you to all who have participated in church events during these cold months and all the "behind the scenes" workers who keep things moving along.

Let us remain in prayer for the year ahead and continue to press forward as we move towards yet another "new season."

Sunday School

December was a busy month! The children & youth of SUMC (along with some of their adult friends) serenaded the residents of Holyrood with Christmas carols while also delivering cookies and homemade Christmas cards. It was the second year in a row and judging from the Thank You card the children received from Holyrood, it will be a much welcomed annual tradition.

The Christmas Eve pageant was a rousing success with over 120 attendees at the 5:30 service. The children led the entire service and did a great job!

We are starting the year off with a study of the Book of Proverbs. This book is also known as the book of wisdom and the children & youth will be learning what God teaches us about being truly "wise" in life.



Wesley's Wisdom

"What may we reasonably expect to be God's design in raising up the preachers called Methodists? To reform the nation, particularly the church; to spread Scriptural holiness over the land." – *Minutes of Conversation, 1744, Through the Year with Wesley, January, page 110*

Worship Schedule

Liturgists

2/3 Wendy Liebl
2/10 RoyAnn Rogerson
2/17 Steve Wesley
2/24 Clarence Mosher

Counters

Judy Swain, Wendy Liebl

Ushers & Greeters

2/3 Deb & Mark Cieslak
2/10 Sue Sykes, Meg Sykes
2/17 Martha Hatt, Carole Jacobson
2/24 Martha Hatt, Holly Russo

Social

2/3 Sally Dean
2/10 Jill & Steve Wesley
2/17 Pat & Dick Knapp
2/24 Carole Jacobson, Holly Russo

From the Pastor

After the excitement of Christmas, the season after Epiphany may seem like a let down - but it's not! Scotia UMC remains active and vital. Pledges continued to come in and we ended up with more in pledges than Mary built into the budget. Other categories of giving are up, too. This gives us a little cushion for 2019. We ended the year in the black for a change and so were able to pay more toward our 2018 ministry shares - only about 50% of what we were assessed but better than we thought we were going to be able to do.

We've had the sense that attendance was growing again and I've now run the numbers and can say that we are making modest gains. Attendance last year averaged about 52 but now is averaging about 57.

I am especially pleased with our music program. It's great to have Dave Read back and this last week the choir had a total of nine people. We are also having the organ evaluated and have some money in the organ fund to have repairs made.

Our Staff Parish Committee held two listening sessions to discern what you wanted in your next pastor. We held a meeting with our District Superintendent last Sunday and were able to pretty clearly articulate your wishes. The good news is that he and the Conference are very cognizant of what this church endured and are determined to not repeat past mistakes. Superintendent Weihsing was impressed with what he learned about our church. He commented on the size of the congregation and noted that it includes young families and children. He thinks we may know who will be coming as early as mid-March. He also was impressed that we are rebounding financially such that we plan to pay all of our ministry shares once again in 2019.

We are not a church stunned to a halt and on the way out, but a vital and growing church on the way up.

Pastor Carl

Organ Rehabilitation –Several years ago, Brian L. Mosher, a former member of this church, donated \$15,000.00 toward the rehabilitation of our organ. An Organ Rehabilitation Committee has been formed consisting of Pastor Carl, David Read, our Organist and Choir Director, Robert Hatt, Robert Van Vorst of the Trustees and Clarence Mosher. The committee has invited five (5) organ builders to bid on our organ's rehabilitation: Carey Organ Company, Inc., Troy; L.A. Carlson Company, Organs and Pianos, East Greenbush; Kerner and Merchant, Pipe Organ Builders, East Syracuse; Dan Lemieux, Pipe Organ Specialists, Argyle and Rosenberry & Myers, Organ Builders, Stuyvesant. We have already met with one of the companies on January 29th and are scheduled to meet with another on February 5th. The three others are still to be scheduled. We will keep you posted on the progress of the rehabilitation and tuning of our organ. – Clarence Mosher

CALENDER & EVENTS

- 2/4 Trustees Meeting 7 pm
- 2/11 & 12 – Regina Caeli Testing
- 2/14 Valentines Day ❤️
- 2/17 Staff Parish Meeting after service
- 2/19 Regional Food Bank 2:30 pm
- 2/20 Finance Meeting 7 pm
- 2/26 Admin. Meeting 7 pm

Tuesday Morning Bible Study – in the Fireside Room at 9:30 a.m.

Regional Food Bank – Volunteers, meet at the Food Bank at 2:30 pm on Tues., Feb. 19th. If you need to carpool, contact Dick Knapp at 518-393-5737. -Jill Dunster-Wesley (cell) 423-3546 (home) 372-4047 jldunster@hotmail.com

Benefit Concert for Schroon Lake Community Church and Pastor Lynnette Cole

There will be a concert to benefit the Schroon Lake Community Church and Pastor Lynnette Cole at McKownville UMC on Saturday, February 16 at 7:00 pm. The Schroon Lake Church and parsonage burned a few weeks ago. The church is a total loss and Pastor Cole lost all her possessions. The concert will feature Pastor Carl's a cappella gospel quartet, The New Messengers, a bluegrass band, the Schroon River String Band, and a small group from the Riverview Missionary Baptist Church in Ravena. A free will offering will be taken.

SICM Summer Internships

SICM has openings for students for summer jobs working in the summer lunch program, their community gardens, and the summer reading/activities programs. They are looking for mostly college students for 6 to 10 weeks either full time (240 hours) or part time (150 hours). Pay is \$11.10/hr. We can participate either through nominating students to apply or by sponsoring one or more interns. Those interested should contact Pastor Carl who has the application form and more details.

Church Treasurers Report
31-Dec-18

| | Total thru <u>Dec-18</u> |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Individual Contributions | \$110,408 |
| | 30,6 |
| Building Use/Rent | 14 |
| | 3,6 |
| Fund Raising/Interest Income | 77 |
| | (1 |
| Other Designated Giving | <u>10)</u> |
| Total Operating Receipts | \$144,589 |
| | |
| Wages & other employment expenses | \$72,496 |
| | 8,7 |
| Church Operations/Program | 05 |
| | 12,7 |
| Parsonage Expenses | 92 |
| | 6,1 |
| Church Building-Repairs/Safety | 86 |
| | 12,0 |
| Church Building-Utilities/Water | 78 |
| | 7,8 |
| Church Building-All Other | 84 |
| | 13,5 |
| Apportionments | 92 |
| | 2 |
| Benevolences | <u>73</u> |
| Total Operating Expenses | \$134,006 |
| | |
| | \$ |
| Surplus | 10,583 |

There is a surplus of \$10,583 as of 12/31/18.

If there are any questions or requests for detailed information,
please contact Mary Connors at mecharball@yahoo.com.

Winter Wonderland

