

February 2016

Scotia UMC

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*Behold, what manner of love
the Father hath bestowed upon us.
I John 3:1 KJV*

What is Lent?

In the month of February we entered into a new season, the season of Lent. Lent is typically observed as a time of simple living, prayer and fasting that leads up to Easter and people usually “give up” something. The idea of giving up something came from Scripture. It came from modeling a Scripture, Matthew 4: 1-11, the story of Jesus retreating into the wilderness for 40 days to fast and pray before he began his ministry.

So what do we think happened during those forty days of fasting and praying in the wilderness? Some scholars say that maybe Jesus needed some time with God to sort through the major changes happening in his life. Maybe he needed a break from family, friends and his regular routine in order to see God [and himself] more clearly.

Maybe he sought more time with God as he searched for direction and answers to the question that we, too have from time to time: “God, what are you calling me to do?”

We too are invited into this time of introspection. As we journey through this season of Lent, some of us will choose to give up something. Some of us will choose to take on something. Some of us will choose to be more reflective. No matter what you choose to do, the idea behind Lent is to choose to do something that will bring you closer to God. May these forty days draw us nearer to God and neighbor, making us more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Margaret Currier
518-372-9575 – church
518-688-9515 – parsonage
PastorMargaretC@outlook.com

Worship Schedule

Liturgists

2/7 Jim Coburn
2/14 Marcia Smith
2/21 Wendy Liebl
2/28 Sean Flansburg

Sound

Mark Cieslak
Dave Read
Bob Hatt
Don Smith

Acolytes

2/7 Kayden Graves, Rebecca Currier
2/14 Nicole Holloway, Hailie St. John
2/21 Kaleb Graves, Jaime Stark
2/28 Alec Flansburg, Emily St. John

Counters

Wendy Liebl, Clarence Mosher

Ushers

2/7 Deb Cieslak, Holly Russo
2/14 Sue Sykes, Megan Sykes
2/21 RoyAnn Rogerson, Deb Cieslak
2/28 RoyAnn Rogerson, Sally Dean

Social

Nikki Jaycox, Kevin Margas
Read family
Cindi & Ken Handy
Flansburg family

"February Friends" - the Sunday School students will be choosing their "February Friends" during coffee hour on 2/7 by giving half of the beautiful heart they made to some lucky people!

Ash Wednesday Service Feb. 10th- We would like to invite all Sunday School students in grades 4th & higher to join us for the Ash Wednesday service on February 10th. If parents are unable to attend, feel free to drop your student off at the church to join us for the service. We will all sit together & see how many pews we can fill up! -Lovingly, your SUMC Sunday School teachers

February's SUMC Youth Gathering will be held on Tuesday the 9th from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Loomis Room. Come join us for fellowship and fun! Below is information about our next Youth Event. If you have a youth (grade 6th-12th) please share this with them and encourage them to attend. Last year we had a small group attend and they had a blast! Due to other engagements our youth group only attended the Friday evening portion and, if need be, we can certainly do the same this year. So please discuss with your youth and let us know their level of interest and desired attendance (full, partial or none) so we can plan accordingly.

ALBANY DISTRICT YOUTH EVENT

Feb 26-27 Project Jesus Operation: Apple overnight gathering, This gathering will once again be held at First UMC of East Greenbush. There will be workshops, live band, worship, late night options, small groups, games, pizza, snacks and breakfast. There will also be t-shirts for sale. It will be from 7 pm Friday-12:30 pm Saturday.

SUMC IN MISSIONS

First of all! – We would like to thank Dick Knapp (And his side kick and wife, Pat) for all of their hard work and dedication that they have shown over the past several years for SUMC Missions. Dick has decided to step down and let someone else have the experience as Chairman. Jill Dunster-Wesley is now the Chairwoman for Missions. **Other Mission Team members include:** Deb Cieslak, Janet Daly, Judy Dudley, Dean Goodell, Shelly Graves, Dick Knapp, Connie Large, June Pelham, Lisa Read, Judy Swain.

Please feel free to contact any one of us with questions or if you are interested in being a member of our “fabulous team.” We will welcome you with open arms! We will be meeting the 2nd Sunday of the month in the Fireplace Room right after church. **ALL** are welcome to come and sit in on our meetings anytime.

Scotia Glenville Food Pantry 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month.

-Go through your pantry and lend a helping hand-

The SG Food Pantry appreciates both food and cash donations that we will be collecting right after children’s story on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. These donations are given to the SG Food Pantry, located on Mohawk Ave. at City View Church. There they provide Scotia residents with a 3 day supply of food. The pantry is open Tuesdays 5:30-7:00 pm and Fridays 9:00-11:00 am. For further information or to lend a helping hand, please call Janice Cooper at 399-9426 or Tim Horn at 377-0372.

Bottles for Bread – Thank you so much for your refundable bottles and cans. Up to date you have donated over 4,900 containers. Please continue bringing them in. There is a red barrel in the hall or call Jill at 423-3546. The SG Food Pantry wants to thank you for your donations!

Regional Food Bank – Bring the kids during Winter Break. Introduce your children to helping others. We will meet at 2 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 16th in the SUMC parking lot to car pool to the Regional Food bank. There we sort and repack products from various stores. We should be back by 4:30, if not before.

Box Tops for Education- Thank you all for your time to cut these out! Please check the cereal boxes, yogurt containers, snack boxes, etc. for the cut out of Box Tops for Education. These are donated to our local schools for cash back from Box Tops for Education to help with supplies, computers, etc. Please drop them off in the office and we will get them to the schools.

Labels for Education – This is similar to Box Tops. These can be found on Campbell soups, Prego, Glad, Pepperidge Farm, Post, V8 and Franco American products, to name a few.

ATTENTION ALL!

Plans are in the making for a Mission Trip

We are open for suggestions as to where the next SUMC mission trip is to be. Suggestions so far are Haiti or somewhere along the gulf. Please let us know what your thoughts and suggestions are and of course, if you are interested in being on the Mission Team.

-Jill Dunster-Wesley (cell) 423-3546 (home) 372-4047 jldunster@hotmail.com

Church Treasurers Report
31-Dec-15

	2015	
	December	Total thru
	<u>2015</u>	<u>12/31/2015</u>
Individual Contributions	\$15,712	\$131,147
Building Use/Rent	\$2,140	\$18,671
Fund Raising/Interest Income	\$36	\$5,022
Other Designated Giving	-\$15	\$1,555
Total Operating Receipts	\$17,872	\$156,395
Wages & other employment expenses	\$6,907	\$78,818
Church Operations/Program	\$1,079	\$6,330
Parsonage Expenses	\$833	\$8,831
Church Building-Repairs/Safety	\$2,959	\$9,343
Church Building-Utilities/Water	\$554	\$8,987
Church Building-All Other	\$934	\$11,331
Apportionments	\$2,074	\$24,888
Benevolences	\$0	\$452
Total Operating Expenses	\$15,339	\$148,979
Surplus	\$2,533	\$7,416

There was a surplus of \$2,533 for the month of December 2015.
Total for the year of 2015 was a surplus of \$7,416.

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

CALENDER

2/1	Trustees Meeting 7 pm
2/8	Women's Group 7 pm
2/9	Youth Gathering 6:30 pm
2/10	Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm
2/14	Valentines Day
2/16	Regional Food Bank 2 pm
2/17	Finance Meeting 7 pm
2/21	Worship/Welcoming Meeting after service
2/22	Admin. Council Meeting 7 pm
2/28	Staff Parish Relations Committee after service

The Women's Group will be hosting their monthly meeting on Feb. 8th at 7:00 PM in the Fireside Room. Our speaker will be our own Tim Keegan. Tim will speak to us about his adventures in the Philippines where he works with the school children. Come & bring a friend. Refreshments will be served.