



***“Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, and lovingly accept each other.”
Ephesians 4:2***

Welcome Home Scotia UMC!

As we gather back together from our summer activities, I'd like to share an article that speaks about how to welcome one another and others into our weekly worship.

20 Ways to Welcome People to Church by Marty Troyer

How do you welcome visitors in worship and make them feel at home? Not by grabbing and shhhhing them, that's for sure! I arrived slightly late to the sanctuary as a visitor one day, having struggled to get my infant son's rainy coat off him in the foyer. Opening the sanctuary door I was literally grabbed by the shoulder, spun around, and told by an usher to stay put until the opening prayer was over. As a seminary student at the time, my tolerance as an unknown visitor to this church was likely higher than most church shoppers. But needless to say, I never went back.

The following is a list of ways congregations, and more specifically how you as a member of a congregation, can love any and all who walk through your doors. This list is adapted from the book *Now Go Forward* by J. David Eschelmann, who says, *“Loving unbelievers the way Jesus did is the most overlooked key to growing a church...The command to love is the most repeated command in the NT, appearing at least 55 times.”*

1. Every church member is a **host** and not a **guest**. Making visitors feel welcome is primarily the responsibility of members, not the nebulous “church.”
2. The most important person for a visitor to talk to in order to feel at home in a new church is **you**. It is not the pastor, or the greeter, but a regular attender. Eschelmann says *“One of the most impressive gestures we can extend to first time visitors is for people with no official position to take the initiative and welcome them.”*
3. Treat first time visitors as **guests of God**, not **strangers**.
4. Smile at **everyone** and offer your **hand**.
5. Look people **in the eye and smile**.
6. Take the **initiative**; don't wait for visitors to initiate conversation with you.
7. Learn people's **names** and remember them.
8. Use [only] appropriate and allowed **Touch** such as a hand shake or a gentle pat on the back.

9. Ask **questions** and learn about **your guests**. It is better to express interest in them than it is to try to “sell” your church.
10. **Listening** is a very effective way to show love.
11. Greet children at **their level**.
12. Let children be **children**. Yes, families love children's church and child care. We also love it when you allow us to decide if our children should remain with us in worship. And even more, when you love our kids as kids (crying, playing, singing!) and don't expect them to be grown-ups.
13. Invite visitors to join you at **something, anything!** Invite them to today's fellowship meal, next Sunday's Christian Education hour, or to a restaurant for some one on one time.
14. Never let new people **sit alone**. Eschelmann says, *“New people should never have to sit alone. Take initiative and go to them without delay.”*
15. Help visitors find **seating** that suits their **families needs**.
16. Help first time visitors by being their **tour guide** and helping them find worship **resources**. Visiting a new church is like a cross-cultural experience, even for those of us who have visited dozens of other churches.
17. Invite people to fill out your church's **visitor registration card or information**.
18. Tell people you're **glad** they are **here**.
19. **Pray** for them throughout your week.
20. **Be yourself!** You are loving! You have a good thing going! You have the capacity to love more people, and to love more deeply. Eschelmann says, *“Practice making people feel special, and what you give to others will be returned to you.”*

Hospitality is not a given among Christians, it's a calling which requires a specific skill set.

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

Worship Schedule

Liturgists

9/6 Belinda Wagner
9/13 Sean O'Sullivan
9/20 Jill Wesley
9/27 Islana Lugo

Sound

Mark Cieslak
Dave Read
Bob Hatt
Don Smith

Greeters

9/6 Judy Swain
9/13 Van Vorst family
9/20 Read family
9/27 TBA

Ushers

Dick & Pat Knapp
Sally Dean, Holly Russo
Zych family
Sue Sykes, Megan Sykes

Social

9/6 TBA
9/13 Janet Daly
9/20 Rob Currier
9/27 Judy Swain, Holly Russo

Counters

Dick Knapp, Tim Keegan
Dean Goodell, Clarence Mosher
Martha Hatt, June Pelham
Wendy Liebl, Judy Swain

Acolytes

9/13 Nicki Holloway, Ian Caterina
9/20 Zoey Flansburg, Emily St. John
9/27 Ian Caterina, Jaime Stark

The Women's Group will meet on Monday, September 14, 2015 at 6:00 pm, to kick off the fall schedule with a covered dish dinner at Debbie Cieslak's new home. Don Smith and his dogs will entertain us, demonstrating basic commands and retrieving skills. –RSVP to Sue Sykes, 377-3861, ssykes12302@outlook.com

Fall Bible Study - Pastor Carl will offer a Bible Study on Paul and the Epistles. Emphasis will be more on the historical setting of the epistles, the circumstances which lead to their composition, and Paul's evolving theology and Christology, rather than on reading all of each letter. The proposed date is Wednesdays 7:00-8:30 starting September 9, but this may be negotiable depending on who signs up. Please contact Pastor Carl at umccarl@nycap.rr.com if you are interested or sign up in church.

SUMC IN MISSIONS

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Union College summer lunch program either as a food preparer or food server. It has been another year of good weather, great fellowship and happy children. Again thank you all for volunteering.

Scotia-Glenville Food Pantry – We collect for the Scotia-Glenville Food Pantry, both food and cash, during service on the **second and fourth Sundays each month**. There are baskets in each corner of the sanctuary for food donations anytime. Cash will allow the food pantry to buy from the Regional Food Bank at reduced prices as well as those items they run short of. **The pantry will use anything we donate but they always need personal hygiene products (soaps, shampoo, toilet paper, etc.) because people cannot purchase these items with food stamps.**

Bottles for Bread – Please continue to place your clean **refundable** containers in the red barrels. If you have a large quantity, pick-up can be arranged. All proceeds go to the Scotia-Glenville food pantry.

Regional Food Bank – A great opportunity for fellowship with others from our church and a group from Bank of America. On the third Tuesday of each month we go to the Regional Food Bank to sort and repack products from various stores. We meet at the church to carpool at 2:00 and usually return there around 4:30. No long term commitment, join us whenever your schedule allows. Our next trip is **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th**.

Box Tops for Education - Box tops for education can be found on some cereal boxes, yogurt containers and numerous other containers. If you are not giving yours to a school, please drop them off at church and we will donate them to local schools.

Labels for Education – Similar to Box Tops for Education the Labels for Education are found on many packages. So if you are not using your labels, please consider bringing them to church.

If you have any questions or want to sign up for any of the above, please contact Dick Knapp (393-5737 or knappster933@gmail.com) or anyone on the Mission Committee.

Building Use – School is back in session... which means students are also returning to SUMC for the Mekeel Nursery School and Regina Caeli Academy programs. Both of these schools are very appreciative of using our facility and they try to work around our schedule as much as possible and still run their programs effectively. Many of you will not interact with the students or teachers due to your own busy schedules. So here's a glimpse of what goes on here on weekdays:

- ❖ A full parking lot showing daily activity in our friendly village church
- ❖ Toddlers coming in and out with their parents; bright, inquisitive faces, eager to learn basic skills
- ❖ The sound of mini voices singing alphabet songs through the halls along with songs about Jesus
- ❖ Girls and boys clad in school uniforms, enjoying friendship and fellowship outside of their home-school world
- ❖ The pledge of allegiance recited in strong, young voices, reminding us of our patriotic roots and the blessing to live in America
- ❖ Scholarly adults, caring for the education of children in this confusing and often distorted society
- ❖

Be assured your church is not just a church body but also a resource to this community!



Sunday School starts on September 13th! We are offering four

classes this year - the sections are as follows:

- * 4 year old (PreK) - 2nd grade
- * 3rd - 5th grade
- * 6th - 8th grade
- * 9th - 12th grade (2nd & 3rd Sundays only)

We are very excited to be starting the new school year! As always, we will need a Teacher Aide in each classroom, so look for a clipboard being passed in service. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jennifer Breslin at bnjbrez@aol.com or 393-9234.

Calendar

- 9/2** **Worship Committee 7 pm**
- 9/3** **Education Committee 7 pm**
- 9/6** **Communion Sunday**
- 9/7** **Labor Day**
- 9/8** **Trustees Meeting 7 pm**
- 9/11** **Youth Group "Lock-In" Event 7 pm**
- 9/12** **Building Use – 8 am to 7 pm**
- 9/13** **Homecoming Sunday**
- 9/15** **Food Pantry Volunteers 2 pm**
- 9/20** **Staff Parish Relations meeting 11:30 am**
- 9/23** **First Day of Autumn**
- 9/23** **Finance Committee 7 pm**
- 9/28** **Admin. Council 7 pm**

**Church Treasurers Report
31-Jul-15**

	2015	
	July 2015	Total thru 7/31/2015
Individual Contributions	\$8,077	\$72,522
Building Use/Rent	\$376	\$8,841
Fund Raising/Interest Income	\$0	\$748
Other Designated Giving	\$0	\$370
Total Operating Receipts	\$8,453	\$82,481
Wages & other employment expenses	\$6,289	\$45,365
Church Operations/Program	\$345	\$3,924
Parsonage Expenses	\$259	\$4,349
Church Building-Repairs/Safety	\$369	\$4,513
Church Building-Utilities/Water	\$186	\$7,341
Church Building-All Other	\$530	\$7,597
Apportionments	\$2,074	\$14,518
Benevolences	\$0	\$246
Total Operating Expenses	\$10,053	\$87,852
Surplus (Shortage)	-\$1,600	-\$5,372

There was a shortage of \$1,600 for the month of July 2015.
Total for the year through 7/31/15 is a shortage of \$5,372.

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

