

January 2023

Scotia UMC

Greetings and Happy New Year to all. May you and your family be blessed and find 2023 a year full of joys and love. With the New Year, many have made “resolutions” about things they may want to do differently in the coming year. Such self-evaluation and effort to set out on new paths can be a good thing, and something worth looking at. Yet, at the same time it is important to recognize that none of us is perfect, that each of us is a loved, COG-POW – Child of God and Person of Worth. COG-POW is a term I learned at a Conference Youth Event where each person was encouraged to recognize that regardless of what life has thrown at us, God loves each of us and we need to recognize that we are blessed by God’s unconditional love, forgiveness and grace. This continues even when we may stumble in life, and in trying to meet those New Year’s goals that we set for ourselves. Nothing we can do will interfere with God’s love for each of us.

As Methodists, we believe that we can respond to God’s Grace by the way we live our lives, and we seek to commit ourselves to living a life that is centered on Christ and the Gospel good news. To that end, many Methodist communities have a practice of sharing in a practice that John Wesley instituted early in the Methodist movement. A practice of re-committing ourselves each year to God and to following Christ through a Covenant Prayer. We shared this prayer in Worship on January 8th, as we celebrated Epiphany – a time of new understanding and revelation. I have included that prayer here so that each of us, whether present in worship that morning or not, can consider joining in that Covenant for ourselves.

As you will see when you read the Covenant Prayer, it establishes that we commit our lives to working an ethic of being employed for Christ.

There are many ways to do that, and Scotia UMC provides opportunities for us to do Christ’s work in many ways, including volunteer activities such as the summer lunch and community breakfast programs, providing support for the food pantry, participating in the Salvation Army lunch program, and many more. In just a few weeks, on January 31, we will have a new opportunity to literally “give of ourselves” to help others as we host a **Red Cross Blood Drive** in the Loomis Room. As a donor for many years, I know that this is an effort, a ministry, that can truly save lives, and provides an opportunity to share in our blessings with the broader community. I have already signed up to take part, and I encourage all those who are seeking a way to help others, to consider this wonderful opportunity to touch the lives of others. More info on the Blood Drive and how to sign up can be found in this newsletter, in Sunday bulletins, and in recent church emails. May the year ahead be a good one for each of you and for SUMC as we seek to share God’s love with all we encounter. (prayer on next page)

Paster Dang

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

Lord, I am no longer my own but
yours; make me what you will.
I put myself fully into your hands:
put me to doing, put me to
suffering,
let me be employed for you,
or laid aside for you,
let me be full, let me be
empty,
let me have all things, let me
have nothing.
I freely and with a willing heart
give it all to your pleasure and
disposal.
I know without doubt, O glorious
and blessed God, that you are
mine and I am yours.
This is the covenant I have
made on earth. Let it be
ratified in heaven. Amen



Wesley's Wisdom

“God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.”

JANUARY LITURGISTS

1/1 RoyAnn Rogerson
1/8 Sean Flansburg
1/15 Carol Deiulio
1/22 Carla Burroughs
1/29 Clarence Mosher

JANUARY Birthdays 🎵 🎂

1/5 Deb Elliott
1/6 Laurie Peconie
1/7 Debbie Quick
1/9 Linda I'Anson
1/23 Deb Calderwood
1/25 Emma Sweet
1/26 Megan Sykes
1/28 Holly Russo
1/28 Carol Deiulio
1/28 Jeff Powell

Church Treasurer's Report
11/30/2022

	YTD
	<u>Nov-22</u>
Individual Contributions	\$101,155
Building Use/Rent	21,485
Fund Raising/Interest Income	<u>3,107</u>
Total Operating Receipts	\$125,747
Wages & Other Employment Expenses	\$79,374
Church Operations/Program	4,758
Parsonage Expenses	8,624
Church Building - Repairs/Safety	1,382
Church Building - Utilities/Water	8,892
Church Building - All Other	9,462
Apportionments	8,481
Benevolences	<u>244</u>
Total Operating Expenses	\$121,216
Surplus	\$4,531

There is a year to date surplus of \$4,531 as of
11/30/22.

If there are any questions or requests for detailed information,
please contact Anne Heller at cheller001@nycap.rr.com.

CALENDAR & COMING EVENTS

Meditation group meets every Wednesday at SUMC from 5:30 PM to 7 PM. For more details contact either Christopher Diedrich 518-847-8670 or Kim Huhtala 518-527-8623

Choir Practice Wednesdays at 7:15 pm.

Community Breakfast will be held **inside on January 21st**. We will be having a soup & bake sale to support the breakfast financially so that it can be free to the entire community and need help from our church family. Soup containers are available, baked goods need to be pre-wrapped for sale. Cookies and brownies need to be packaged with either six or 12 in a package. We will also need volunteers to work the breakfast. Please see Jill if you are able to help.

The **Offering Envelopes** for those who requested or received them last year are in the back of the church. If you would like envelopes, please contact Pat Knapp.

American Red Cross Blood Drive - at SUMC on Tuesday, January 31 st from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the Loomis Room. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: ScotiaUMC
Please help us support this event!

Street Soldiers of Schenectady are looking for new and gently used sneakers, work boots, and winter boots free of holes with lots of life left to share (no dress shoes please). They are particularly low on men's size 10, but looking for all sizes for men, women, and kids. Please drop off your donations to the middle classroom by Sunday, 1/22. Thank you!

The UNY Safe Sanctuaries Team has scheduled four 3.5 hour Zoom basic trainings in 2023. There are also two Training of Trainers sessions scheduled. The Basic trainings will be held from 9 AM to 12:30 PM on Saturdays Feb. 4, May 6, Aug. 5 and Nov. 4. The Training of Trainers will be held from 9 AM to Noon on Saturdays March 4 and Oct. 7.

For more information regarding Safe Sanctuaries, visit the Conference website at:
<https://www.unyumc.org/resources/safe-sanctuaries>

January 5, 2023

Thank you so much for the recent generous food donation. The Scotia Food Pantry appreciates all you do for our families.

*Sincerely,
Eileen Quick, Volunteer*