

2022



One Voice

Monthly Newsletter of
The United Church of Phelps
58 Main Street
Phelps, NY 14532
315-548-2772

Church email: unitedchurch@ottcmail.com

Website: unitedchurchofphelps.org

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
Isaiah 9:6

Powerful words to begin a powerful new year! I always hear a chorus of thousands singing this as part of Handel’s Messiah and am greatly moved!

With that song echoing around me, I know that the triumph of His birth is here and I need to hear it and answer. As I think about the pressing issues in our world, I find the threat of hunger to be very real and very much around us; among our friends and neighbors. I used to think hunger was solved if someone simply rearranged their priorities. Perhaps at one point this was true, but today there are so many other forces at play and out of one’s control, which makes hunger pervasive. People in our community are regularly one step away from being short of food; all it takes is one wage earner to become sick, someone to be laid off, a family member to become seriously ill, or for an unplanned financial emergency to occur. I think we all know families who have faced, or are facing, these realities and yet have kept their needs and shortages hidden.

What can we do to make a real difference here in our community? We have significant opportunities to donate to a local Food Cupboard or to provide funding to FoodLink or other food banks. Also, we can freely share the opportunity to secure food for our neighbors in providing access to these resources. The closest one that the United Church of Phelps supports is the Phelps Food Cupboard. It is open on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 10:30-12pm and from 4:30-5:30pm, during which identification will be requested and an assessment of eligibility will be made. The Food Cupboard is located at the Phelps Community Center and will also serve a one-time food emergency supply anytime. They completely rely on donations, both monetary and of non-perishable items, from our community and do not receive supplies from FoodLink. The United Church of Phelps recognizes and supports this Food Cupboard on the first Sunday of every month. To show our continued support I ask you to bring to worship, the first Sunday of every month, your donations, prayers, and blessings to nourish our neighbors. Items always needed include: cereal, coffee, peanut butter, tuna fish, spaghetti sauce, and canned fruit. There are the Pennies from Heaven boxes to collect financial donations allowing the Food Cupboard to purchase perishable items such as milk, vegetables, cheese, etc. Rita Caraballo will transport the donations to Phelps Community Center regularly and we offer our thanks to her for that service!

The Church also has our own Blessing Box located along the front entrance to the parking lot. The motto for the blessing box is “Leave what you can, Take what you need, be Blessed.” Our donations continue to fill that box with appropriate food/non-food items needed by a household to function. These items include soap, shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper, paper towels, feminine care products, baby care products, cereal, pasta, canned vegetables, sauces, etc. These items are accepted all the time; you can just drive up to the box and load it yourself. If you need help or the box is blessedly full we have a spot inside the front doors to store supplies. When donating please cross out the scannable barcode to prevent the possibility of a “rotten apple” returning these products to stores for cash.

On a larger scale, we can contribute to FoodLink when grocery shopping at Wegmans and to the Little Brown Bag of Hope when at Tops. Both programs purchase food that comes right back to our communities!

Cont. on next page

Additionally, the Wellspring Church, at 22 Teft Avenue, in Clifton Springs hosts a food distribution system every other Tuesday sponsored by FoodLink and through private donations. They do not require anyone to prove need or residency in order to receive food. Someone just drives up, pops their trunk, and receive fresh food and other essential items. Their website, www.wellspringchurch.us, has more information including the dates of distribution for 2022.

Together we can meet the challenge of hunger by bringing in donations the first Sunday of the month for the Phelps Food Cupboard, bringing in food and supplies for our Blessing Box, and to tell people about the many resources in our community. Together we can say hunger will not be permitted in our land of plenty and yes, we will respond as we love our community and our neighbors. Let us continue to joyfully share, with others, His blessings which have bestowed upon us.

Peace on earth,

~ *Linda Katashas* ~

Annual Church Meeting

NOTICE is hereby given by the call of the Council that the Annual Meeting of the members of The United Church of Phelps will be conducted following the Sunday worship service, Sunday, January 16, 2022. The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports for the year 2021, adopt the 2022 budget, elect officers for the year 2022, and to transact any appropriate business that may be presented at the meeting. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held Sunday, January 23, 2022.

A quorum of 10% of membership must be present to conduct the meeting.

(Annual Report Packets will be available ahead of time)



Pulpit Guests for January 2022

January 2nd - Barb Mater

January 9th - Rev, Becky Laird

(Communion will be held)

January 16th - Pastor Carol Wilson and

Annual Meeting

January 23rd - Gail Conners

January 30th - Rev. Becky Laird





**We love
our kids!**

Picture is from the
Sunday, December 12, 2021 service.

Thank you to all who came and
enjoyed our youths presentation.



2021 Christmas Poinsettias dedication:

- In memory of** Edson & Mildred Perry, parents by Carol Adams
- In memory of** Leland (Lee) Adams by His Family
- In memory of** Alfred & Edith Adams by Their Family
- In memory of** George & Betty Totman by The Scott Albrecht family
- In memory of** Sylvester & Eleanor Totman by The Scott Albrecht family
- In memory of** Todd Totman by The Scott Albrecht family
- In memory of** Jim & Janet Caves by Jack & Laurie Caves
- In memory of** Walt & Marge Caves by Jack & Laurie Caves
- In memory of** Jim & Janet Caves and Ray DeBaere by Tim, Julie, Brandon DeBaere and Sam Cseplo
- In memory of** Ken, Barb & Edna Clark by David, Kathie, Amy, Jason, Kenny & Jane
- In memory of** Shirley Hackett by David, Kathie, Amy, Jason, Kenny & Jane
- In memory of** Loved Ones by The David & Ali Estes family
- In memory of** Lost Family Members by Betty Green
- In memory of** Lost Family Members by Ron Green
- In memory of** All Our Loved Ones by Jane & Nelson Gulvin
- In memory of** Loved Ones by Len & Linda Kataskas
- In memory of** Tomas Aumayer by Sean Gillen & Lindsey Kataskas
- In memory of** Loved Ones by Sean Gillen & Lindsey Kataskas
- In memory of** Carol Vine by Kay Oosterling
- In memory of** Our Parents by Walt & Jane Pedersen
- In memory of** Loved Ones by Don & Dawn Pierce family
- In memory of** Loved Ones by Cathy & Gib Scott
- In memory of** Our Loved Ones by Bob & Doris Spink
- In memory of** Richard Tubbs by Kathy Tubbs
- In memory of** John & Florence Britting by Kathy Tubbs
- In memory of** Our Loved Ones by Dave & Arvilla Wilson

- In honor of** Loved Ones by The David & Ali Estes family
- In honor of** Family by Len & Linda Kataskas
- In honor of** Recoveries from COVID by Len & Linda Kataskas
- In honor of** Loved Ones by Cathy & Gib Scott
- In honor of** Family & Friends by Kathy Tubbs





Food Collection

**FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY IS THE
1ST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH!**

The Phelps Community Food Cupboard depends on our generous donations. This is a mission that everyone can participate in. Bring your non-perishable items or you can make a monetary donation.

"Pennies from Heaven"

Thank you so much for your continued support for the Pennies from Heaven mission. Of course if you want to contribute bills they are also more than welcome. These contributions get sent to the Phelps Food Cupboard

~ Dianne Rockefeller ~

WINTER WEATHER

Cancellations and Schedule Changes

With the winter season upon us there may be times we need to cancel meetings, events, Sunday school or morning worship.

NOTE: Cancellations and changes will be posted to our Facebook Page, church website, TV channels: 13-WHAM & Fox Rochester. Also on radio stations: WHAM Morning News, WHAM 1180, 98PXY, 92.5 WBEE & 98.9 The Buzz.



small groups

grow spiritually.

Rita Caraballo would like to start up some small group studies. She spoke of this at the Dec. 12th service. Open to ALL and ALL ideas of studies to grow yourself spiritually are welcome. If interested, please fill out form below and return to Rita at the church via church office or the Christian Education box by the church office. You may also call/text her or email her at 585-520-4970 rita.caraballo@hotmail.com

Small Group Studies

Yes, I'm interested! Name: _____

I prefer: weekdays weeknights weekends

Specific days/times/people I'd like to work with:



January 2022

Happy Birthday!

Jan. 2nd ~ Pat Hemminger

Jan. 16th ~ Burt Dennis

Happy Anniversary

Kay & Tom Oosterling on Jan. 1st!

It's a new year so make sure the office knows of any upcoming birthdays or anniversaries so we may all celebrate with you! Email, call or mail them into the church office.

Email: unitedchurch@ottcmail.com

Mail: 58 Main Street, Phelps, NY 14532 *Call:* 315-548-2772

Church Office Hours

Mon. Tues, Thurs. 8:30 -2:00

Wednesdays 8:30 - 12:00

**OFFICE CLOSED: Monday, January 17th in
Observance of Martin Luther King Day**

Please say HI to Renee DeRue our new Admin. Asst. if you stop!



Who am I?

So... Was you able to guess who Mr. December was? Let's recap some of the clues. He grew up and still lives in Phelps, NY. He is very active in the community and church. Adores his grandkids and wants to visit the Grand Canyon someday. If you guessed Brian Hemminger you guessed correctly!

Thank you Brian for participating and letting us get to know you a little better!

Sadly, this will be the last "Who Am I". Thank you to all who participated and if there is anyone who would like to take over doing these fun interviews, MaryAnn Gier would happily share the article process to anyone willing to carry on this fun newsletter addition. You may contact her at

315-548-7020

THANK YOU

Brian!



Youth GROUP

NEWS
AND
EVENTS

Youth group has started back up again. Anyone in grades 4th through 10th are welcome anytime! We meet 2 Sundays a month in the afternoons, 3:30 to 4:30. Next meeting time will be January 9th. Please check Facebook for cancellations, with bad weather approaching. We hope to have a fun and exciting year! You can reach out to Missy Arnold 207-249-0185 (cell) or Rita Caraballo 585-520-4970 (cell) anytime with questions. Texts are welcomed. We may currently be a small group, but we have BIG hearts and ideas and love God and cannot wait to spread his love and Word.

***Be on the look out in February, for Youth Group's "Soup Sunday" fundraiser!
God bless!***

The UCP Youth Group

The Art of Bible Storytelling

Any questions you may reach out to Donna Crouse who has graciously organized this event.
315-694-2512 call or text

Save the Date - Biblical Storytelling Training

If you missed our first training this past October, please consider attending our Biblical Storytelling Training on

February 6 right after church

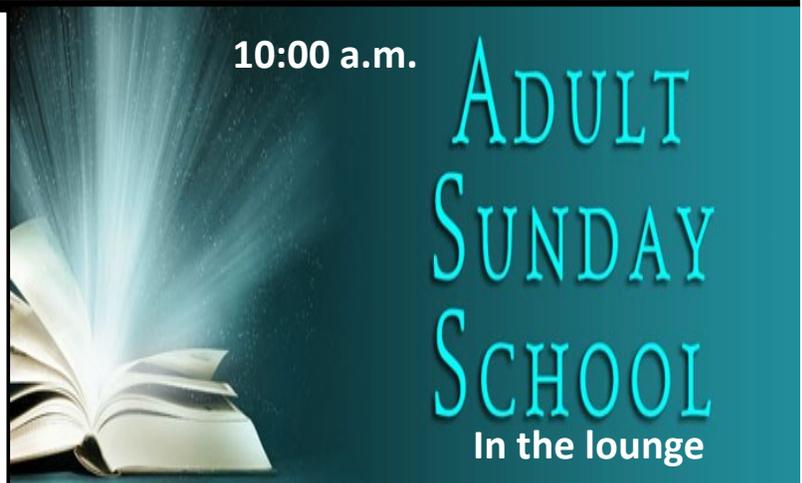
(snow/weather date February 13)

Lunch will be served!

Come hear about how you can 'learn scripture by heart', share with the congregation and enhance our worship services!



B.L.A.S.T. is back on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Grades UPK –12th welcome!
Any questions see Rita Caraballo
NO B.L.A.S.T. Jan. 2nd





News from Leadership:

Our next regular monthly Leadership Meeting will be held Wednesday, January 12th at 7PM in Social Hall. Everyone is always invited to attend. We distance to be safe at this meeting, masks may be required.

“The United Church of Phelps reaches out and welcomes all people so they may worship God passionately, become people of prayer, develop a deep faith, demonstrate faith through service, and share their faith.”

Since Leadership did not meet in December, we discussed and transacted a few vital decisions via email. The first item, as you are aware, was to put in place a face-mask policy. We will require masking during all of worship. As difficult as it is to feel frustrated and like sliding backwards, we, as leaders, know that decisions for the safety and protection of our church family are of utmost importance. Please extend your compassion for this situation and pray along with us that COVID and the Flu will exit our communities in short order.

The Personnel team interviewed and recommended to the Leadership team to hire our new Administrative Assistant. Some people have had the opportunity to meet Renée DeRue. She has begun working in the office and is being mentored by Missy Arnold; we appreciate her time and effort as we transition. UCP is doubly blessed to have these fine folks working for us.

The Pastor Nominating Committee is diligently looking for our new pastor. Please continue to pray for the team members, and for our new Pastor, as the time perhaps is drawing nearer to filling our pulpit.

Finally, we have a couple of unfilled positions for leadership. If you are a member of UCP and have time on the second Wednesday most months at 7pm and are willing to be involved, please see Jane Pedersen, or make your willingness to serve known to me before our Annual Meeting on January 16. We will ask for nominations from the floor for these unfilled positions, but first it is imperative to ask the person you will nominate if they accept to avoid putting them on the spot.

With the coming New Year we will be asking people to join one of our leadership teams. We desire your ideas as we go through these challenging and transitional times. We will only expect of you what you can gladly and willingly offer.

Finally, a quick reminder to the chairs of the 2021 teams – please submit your written report for the annual report promptly to me via email. If no report is received, you will be asked to verbally report at the annual meeting. Thank you in advance for your report. And thank you all for a year of forward movement and overcoming challenges as they pull us toward being the church UCP is meant to be in Christ. God bless you with good health and safety.

In Christ's Service,

Linda Kataskas, Chair of Leadership

How Can We Help You?

Transitional Pastor: TBD	Lay Member AC: Peg Carlson 315-521-4396 (cell)	Personnel: Rose Copper-Brown 315-719-4292 (cell)
Church Office/Adm. Asst: Rene DeRue 315-332-0355 (cell)	Treasurer: Shelly Bengtson 315-247-1927 (cell)	Prayer Chain: Marsha Gibbs 315-548-5546
Christian Education: Rita Caraballo 585-520-4970 (cell)	Media/Technology: Eddie Albrecht 315-945-8812 (cell)	Prayer Ministry: Nan Clark 315-406-5526 (cell)
Council Chair: Linda Kataskas 585-732-8892 (cell)	Member at Large: TBD	Presbytery Elder: Peg Carlson 315-521-4396 (cell)
Custodian: Frank VanNostrand 585-354-4126 (cell)	Memorial Fund: Cathy Scott 315-548-9448	Sec'y to Council: Marsha Gibbs 315-548-5546
Endowment: TBD	Missions/Outreach: Dawn Norton 315-521-2899 (cell)	Stewardship/Finance: Betsy Bourne 315-945-2307 (cell)
Financial Sect'y: Pat Hemminger 315-548-3546	Music/Worship: TBD	Trustees: Dan Moracco 315-548-4548 (cell)
Caring Hearts: Dianne Rockefeller 315-694-3383 (cell)	Nominating: Jane Pedersen 585-738-1899 (cell)	<i>"God is Good – All the Time!"</i> <i>"All the Time – God is Good!"</i>

On-Going Mission Projects Everyone Can Support:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Coupon Ministry > Blessing Box > Food Pantry donation > Eyeglass collection
(Done through Lion's Club) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Pennies from Heaven > Volunteer to be a team member on a Leadership team |
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The Mission Team continues to need your help in supplying the needs for the health kits! These kits make a big difference to people in need. WE delivered another 12 Health Kits to the Survivor Advocacy Center of the Finger Lakes in December.

Health Kits have the following items:

Wash cloth, small hand towel (*NEEDED*), large women's comb (*NEEDED*), toothbrush and toothpaste (*NEEDED*), Floss when available, Small pack of tissues, Small soap (*NEEDED*), Band-Aids, Nail clippers when available, I also leave boxes of women's hygiene products for them to distribute (*NEEDED*). These items are then put in a Gallon plastic bag with a note: "God Bless You! United Church of Phelps"

*Please note items that have a (*NEEDED*) after them. In order to make more kits, these items are needed.



Thanks so much for your contributions!

Dianne Rockefeller



Church Volunteers



Volunteers for January 2022

Greeters: Ramp

- January 2nd - Hope Albrecht
- January 9th - Peg Carlson
- January 16th - Pat Hemminger
- January 23rd - Dianne Rockefeller
- January 30th - Rose Copper-Brown

Lay Reader

- January 2nd - Frank Van Nostrand
- January 9th - Barb Mater
- January 16th - Christina Albrecht
- January 23rd - Linda Kataskas
- January 30th - Karen Moracco

Acolytes

- January 2nd - Cheria Caraballo
- January 9th - Griffin Bowers
- January 16th - Earl Motzer
- January 23rd - Helen Motzer
- January 30th - Ale` Caraballo

NO NURSERY or BREAKOUT until further notice.

Anyone interested in wanting to Volunteer to be a Greeter, Lay Reader or Acolyte please get in touch with Linda Kastaskas, thank you!!

Email: linda.kastaskas@gmail.com or Phone: 585-732-8892