



# One Voice

Monthly Newsletter of The United Church of Phelps  
58 Main Street  
Phelps, NY 14532  
315.548.2772

April  
2021

Transitional Pastor – Reverend Ellen Donnan

[www.unitedchurchofphelps.org](http://www.unitedchurchofphelps.org)

## **PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

At the time of this writing, the MISSION STUDY has been sent to the Committee on Ministry for approval and permission to form a pastor nominating committee.

**What is a PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE, also known as a PNC?** It is a group of 7 people that represents the congregation. For the United Church of Phelps, that means people who represent the following:

- ⇒ the Leadership Team
- ⇒ the Trustees
- ⇒ young adults both with and without children
- ⇒ middle aged adults
- ⇒ older adults
- ⇒ males and females as equally as possible
- ⇒ various interest groups in the congregation

**All of these people need to be members of the congregation and need to:**

- PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!
- Have an open mind to the leading of the Spirit
- Have the time to dedicate to reading pastors' Personal Information Forms (PIF) that are sent to the PNC by the Presbyterian denomination's Church Leadership Connection, as well as pastors who might self-refer (they send their PIF directly to the PNC)
- Keep confidentiality (not even sharing with a spouse information about potential candidates), because if a church is not aware that their pastor is looking for a new call and finds out through word of mouth that the pastor is in conversation with the PNC from UCP, the pastor's ministry ends at the current church. And yes, this is a small world and people in Presbyterian circles know many throughout the USA! Word can spread quickly.
- Meet weekly for as long as it takes to discern the next pastor of the church
- Be trusted by the congregation to represent all

After the Nominating Committee **prayerfully** chooses the members of the PNC, these people's names will first be brought to the Leadership Team for their approval and then to a specially called congregational meeting so that the congregation can elect them to this special ministry.

It is important to note that when the congregation votes them to represent them, this committee is "an island unto itself." The Transitional Pastor, staff members, and members of the congregation will not be privy to any work this group is doing, except for whether or not they are meeting weekly, how many zoom interviews they have held, and how many PIFs they have received and read. The congregation needs to make sure they trust this group to truly represent them, as they move forward with the results of the Mission Study, which is what the PNC will use when choosing a new pastor. The characteristics of the pastor have already been decided by YOU, the congregation. The direction the congregation wants to move in as the church looks forward has already been decided by YOU.

*Exciting times! Please PRAY continually for the next person God is preparing to be your pastor!*

**Sermon Series**  
**The Jesus Creed:**

Love <sup>THE</sup> Lord

YOUR GOD

WITH ALL YOUR HEART  
AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL  
AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND  
AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.

AND LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR  
AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF.

**April 4 (EASTER):**

And the Walls Came Tumbling Down  
*Matthew 23:8-12; Luke 5:12-16; Mark 5:24-34*

**April 11:** Rose Copper-Brown will be leading worship while Ellen is on vacation

**April 18:** JOY!  
*John 2:1-11*

**April 25:** The End is the Beginning  
*Mark 14:25; Matthew 25:31-46*

**FROM THE TRANSITIONAL PASTOR**

As Easter comes and goes, we find ourselves transitioning yet again to a new and different life – if we have taken the season of Lent seriously, looking honestly at our lives for who we truly are, asking God to forgive those areas of our lives that need forgiveness, and moving forward with our spiritual growth by watching for God’s movement in our lives. With the coming of spring, I like to think about changing like the caterpillar changes into the butterfly. We are still “we” but different.

I have been reading a book called *Everything Belongs* by Richard Rohr during Lent and have found gems of wisdom to ponder on. Let me share some of his quotes with you and my ponderings with the hope that you will ponder on them as well and be open to change which brings growth....

Rohr suggests that we often ask God to take away the things in our lives that cause us to be trapped and unable to grow spiritually – and God works at eroding them from many sides with the hope that they will fall. But we resist change because that takes us out of our comfort zone. We like “normalcy.” We like routines. We like feeling in control of our lives. As God chips away at the things that keep us “the same,” we find ourselves unhappy with what He is doing because our comfort is being chipped away. And so, by our own choices, our lives don’t change. We stay the same, going about life in the same manner, complaining about things that are challenging in our lives, and wondering why God isn’t answering our prayers to bring us closer to Him.

No one blossoms and blooms when things in our lives stay the same. Difficulties are actually times when God is working in our lives to remove the things that keep us from being close to Him, that keep us from following where God wants us to go with our lives.

Following Jesus is COSTLY! Following Jesus means changing our priorities, listening when God speaks, watching for opportunities to be used by God in other people’s lives. If we are following Jesus – and we were just reminded on Good Friday of the cost he paid in order for us to have a closer relationship with God, then we can expect to experience the same things Jesus did! There is a cost. We have to give up the attempts “to live successfully in a sick system” – as Rohr puts it – and we have to work at and strive to follow the healthy lifestyle Jesus calls us to.

*“The way things are” must somehow be interrupted (page 157).* We have just experienced a season of interruption of our lives for a year. I don’t think anyone really enjoyed having our lives interrupted in this way but I can say EVERYONE had their lives turned upside down. Did this bring you closer to God? Were you able to trust God to bring you through this difficult time? Or did you find yourselves angry with God for the changes? Upset that you were no longer comfortable? Were you able to focus on the needs of others, calling and checking on people or helping with the lunch program?

Personally, I think God was trying to wake the world up (since this was a worldwide issue and not just an issue for the USA) – an attempt to get people to focus on Him and His love for us. Was it easy? No. But for me, I wrestled with many issues that continually led me back to Jesus on the cross and his sacrifice. He didn't have to die but he did because it meant salvation for us. That could not have been comfortable for him.

I challenge you to think differently about what has happened over the last year. Were you out of your comfort zone? Did you rely more on God to get you through this difficult time? Did you find yourself praying more? Were you more concerned about others and their needs than you normally are? What priorities did you have to re-think during this time?

Rohr states: *Whenever we're led out of normalcy into sacred space, it's going to feel like suffering. It's letting go of what we're used to. That causes suffering. But part of us always has to die. If that readiness isn't there, we won't enter into the sacred space (page 158).*

SACRED SPACE is when we are close to God. It is those times when we sense God moving in our lives. It offers hope (eventually) of coming closer to the person God created us to be. We find that we are able to "see" through God's eyes when we are in sacred space.

God offered us some sacred space through COVID-19 and will continue to offer us sacred space as things remain uncomfortable for a while. Does God have your attention yet? You won't grow spiritually until and unless you become uncomfortable and challenged in some way.

My prayer for you is that you will pause long enough to look back over the last year to see where God has been working in your life – for He has been! And may we all continue to grow spiritually as things return back to normal!

***God bless! Ellen***



## **HELPING WITHOUT HURTING**

**How to Help Others without Hurting Them or Yourself**

**Continuing MONDAYS through April 26**

**(except for April 5)**

**6:30-8:00 p.m.**

**No preparation for these group meetings**

### **Committee Report for Newsletter April 2021**

We have 10 committee members and almost 50 people we are reaching out to. With Covid still lurking around and following CDC guidelines most of our communications so far are cards and phone calls. Hopefully eventually we will be able to make in person visits.

#### **Our Goal:**

Reaching out to others so they have a feeling of connection to the United Church of Phelps. To bring a moment of joy into their lives and to bring smiles and laughter.



**Health & Services**

**Chair: Dianne Rockefeller**

**dianne Rockefeller@gmail.com**

## Bible Study

On:

THE LETTER TO THE

# Colossians

Will run from April 13 - May 4 on Tuesday evenings  
6:30 – 8:00 p.m. We will be doing a chapter a week.  
No preparation needed. *Everyone is welcome!*  
Zoom link will be posted on website.

# NEW MEMBERS CLASS

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH

**NEW MEMBER CLASSES** will be offered on Zoom, Sunday afternoons from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. There are 3 workshops for new members to attend, actually ANYONE interested can join in!

**CLASS 1:** April 18 Topic: What Do You Believe about God?

**CLASS 2:** April 25 Topic: Ways to Grow Spiritually

**CLASS 3:** May 2 Topic: Ways to Be Involved and Questions

ZOOM link will be posted on website: [unitedchurchofphelps.org](http://unitedchurchofphelps.org)

WHO  
Am I?

Some of us like to play April fool's jokes so this month's mystery person was selected because of their sense of humor & mischievousness. This mystery person has many sayings to fit most any occasion, i.e.: "Lord willin'", and "the creek don't rise". Fun activities when this person was growing up included sliding down haystacks and killing snakes on a farm near Geneva where she grew up. One job held by the mystery person was a factory "screening technician". After marriage, she and her husband enjoyed hunting & fishing and once they had 18 dogs (they bred) and 6 cats (strays that were dropped off) that she cared for. This mystery person also joined her husband's family country-western band where she played the kazoo. Fond travel memories are trips to Amish country in Pennsylvania and she also enjoys reading Amish fiction stories. Our April mystery person believes she has made many good friends since becoming a part of The United Church of Phelps

WHO AM I?

#### BAG LUNCH MINISTRY

It's been a Full year!

As of March 19, 2021 we have served free meals for a year. That's 52 weeks of helping fill the bellies of those needing some help. Your generosity has made it possible to have done a total of **6830** meals!

The program has evolved over the year, at present we make about 50 meals on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 25 are put into the cooler beside the blessing box each day and there are never any left over the next morning.



**A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT HAS GIVEN MONEY OR SUPPLIES OR HELPED IN THE KITCHEN.** We could not do this without you! Please ask how long we will continue. My answer: As long as we have money for supplies, workers and people in need. GOD BLESS!!

**ATTENTION:**

**The United Church of Phelps**

**Fellowship Hall**

**Saturday, April 24, 2021**

**American Red Cross  
BLOOD DRIVE**

**9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Give Blood • Give Life**

Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) enter [UnitedChurchPhelps](http://UnitedChurchPhelps) for appointment



**Believe . Learn . AND . Seek . Truth**

- **Sunday School** will begin March 7th  
10 - 10:45 a.m. @ UCP  
Open for ages 3 - 8th Grade
- **Youth Group** will be going thru May 2nd  
Open to anyone in grades 4-8th.  
Meet *every* Sunday at UCP from  
5:30 –6:30 p.m. (weather permitting)



Gather your teams, rev your engines,  
**THE 5TH ANNUAL**  
FAMILY PROMISE OF ONTARIO COUNTY  
**BED RACE**  
is coming  
*virtually!*  
Don't be caught flatfooted,  
get your team ready NOW!



**The United Church of Phelps**  
**Chicken & Pork BBQ**

**May 8<sup>th</sup> At Methodist Park**

(next to Vienna Gardens) Pick-up time is 11 – 1

**\$11 Meal: Pork Steak or Chicken with salt potatoes, coleslaw, a roll, and dessert**

**Orders must be in by April 30<sup>th</sup> at noon**

**Email orders to: [ucpchickenbbq@gmail.com](mailto:ucpchickenbbq@gmail.com)**

**Please include: Name, order, and Phone #**

**A confirmation email will be sent with total and a pickup time.**

\*No email, call the church office at 315-548-2772 but *ONLY* if you do not have one.

**Thank you for understanding!**

**\*Social Distancing and protective measures will be used\***



**FPOC NEW VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

**Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**

**6:00-8:00 pm via ZOOM**

**“PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER IN THE TIME OF COVID”**

**RSVP to Lauren Lamb at [FOPCLiaison@fpocny.org](mailto:FOPCLiaison@fpocny.org)**

**OR**

**(585) 943-0205 to get an email link to join the fun!**

**ANNOUNCING FAMILY PROMISE GIVING DAY:  
April 21, 2021**

**This year, low-income families need our help more than ever. Together, we can prevent children from experiencing the trauma of homelessness and keep them with their families, safe at home.**

**Family Promise Giving Day is a 24-hour online campaign to raise awareness and funds for Family Promise.**

**We believe a child's Future Begins at Home. Prevention is the most effective way to address the crisis of family homelessness.**



## **News from Leadership:**

Our regular monthly Leadership Meeting was held March 10 at 7PM in Social Hall. Everyone is always invited to attend. We wear masks and distance to be safe at this meeting.

### **Highlights of this meeting:**

- We began study of Rick Warren's ***The Purpose Driven Church*** as the learning and discerning segment of our meeting. We thought about our mission statement, does it still fit? "A church's health is measured by its **sending** capacity, not it's seating capacity". We need these "Five Dimensions of Church Growth: Churches grow warmer through fellowship, Churches grow deeper through discipleship, Churches grow stronger through worship, Churches grow broader through ministry and Churches grow larger through evangelism." *Quotes courtesy of Rick Warren's Purpose Driven Church.* These fast 20 minutes are very energizing, and we invite you to join us. The time for this exercise will be from 6:30 to 6:50 to shorten the "business" part of the meeting. Grab a copy and come along, or just stop in and share your thoughts on the topics raised.
- Christian Education is up and running. It is now known as BLAST (Believe, Learn, and Share Together) – for children age 3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday mornings from 10:00-10:45am, with a pre-K class and an elementary/jr. high class. Rose Copper-Brown and Rita Caraballo are the teachers. Youth Group is for students in 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades. Need volunteers for the CE team, BLAST, and youth group outings. Thank you to Rita Caraballo. The CE team is doing an amazing job. If you would like to be involved, please feel free to offer your help to Rita.
- Caring Hearts (Health & Service) is caring for our homebound folks as well as those in nursing homes. They keep in touch and share cards, calls, and crafts. Thank you to Dianne Rockefeller. Your team is fulfilling a mission that we all support. Keep up the great work.
- Media & Technology is discovering and upgrading our online sharing capacities in such new and exciting ways. Eddie Albrecht and Bryant Lead have successfully begun live streaming both Sunday morning and Contemporary Worship services. A huge thank you for enabling our message to be shared during this no live contact time and will continue hereafter for our friends near and unable to attend, as well as those far away. Major milestone here!!
- Music & Worship has scheduled many online worship events through this Lenten season. The church will open for in person worship on Palm Sunday, March 28. We will still be in COVID protocol so enter through the ramp, sit spaced out, and exit through front doors. It will be so wonderful to gather together in worship. Contemporary will continue remote at this time. Thank you to Hope Albrecht and your mighty team along with Pastor Ellen, who has led us through this "desert" experience with COVID.
- Stewardship & Finance will investigate using method(s) which would be easy for donations to be made online and through our website. Currently looking at PayPal, Venmo, and other possibilities. Financially we are experiencing budget shortfalls each month this year totaling a \$10,000 deficit. Please consider sending in your pledge to get this budget back in balance. Whatever you can do, we do appreciate it. Thank you to Betsy Bourne and Shelly Bengtson (Treasurer) and the team who are monitoring our financial health and keep out budget in the best position possible.
- The Church Information Document after review and approval by Leadership Team, was submitted to Presbytery of Geneva's Committee on Ministry. They will review and discuss with Kathe Latch, Pat Hemminger, and Linda Kataskas this report at their meeting on March 25. Once approved, they will permit our church to form a Pastor Nominating Committee (5-7 Members). This team will do much necessary work in calling our next pastor. Your prayers for the process of both this church and the new pastor are welcomed and encouraged.

**Please feel welcomed to attend the discernment time using Rick Warren's Purpose Driven Church at 6:30 and our next business meeting 7PM in the Social Hall on March 10. Bring your questions, concerns, or kudos to share. Be sure to mask and stay distanced. Frank has the Social Hall sanitized and configured so we can maintain safe distances while we meet. Thank you to Frank. If you cannot attend but have an item to raise up, please email me at: [Lindakataskas@gmail.com](mailto:Lindakataskas@gmail.com). *Be safe, Be well, Be blessed in Jesus' name,***

**Linda K**

# Church Volunteers



## Volunteers for April 2021

### Greeters: Ramp

April 4<sup>th</sup> - Jerry & Nan Clark (*Easter*)

April 11<sup>th</sup> - Linda Kataskas & Penny Albrecht

April 18<sup>th</sup> - Shelly Bengtson & Hope Albrecht

April 25<sup>th</sup> - Karen Moracco & Rose Copper-Brown

### Lay Reader

April 4<sup>th</sup> - Frank Van Nostrand (*Easter*)

April 11<sup>th</sup> - Karen Moracco

April 18<sup>th</sup> - Kathe Latch

April 25<sup>th</sup> - Linda Kataskas

### Acolytes

April 4<sup>th</sup> - Cheria Caraballo (*Easter*)

April 11<sup>th</sup> - Alé Caraballo

April 18<sup>th</sup> - Griffin Bowers

April 25<sup>th</sup> - Cheria 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 Hope Albrecht, thank you!!

Email: [halbrecht89@yahoo.com](mailto:halbrecht89@yahoo.com) or Phone: 315-945-8812



### Health Kits

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. See Brian Hemminger for more information.

**All items below ARE NEEDED to complete kits!**

**Kit Items:** One hand towel, one washcloth, one comb, one metal nail file/nail clipper, one bar of soap (bath size), one toothbrush, one tube of toothpaste (4-7 ounces), six band-aids. \* Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure and bring them to the church office. \*\*

### **On-Going Mission Projects Everyone Can Support:**

- > Coupon Ministry
- > Blessing Box
- > Bag Lunch Program
- > Eyeglass collection  
(Done through Lion's Club)
- > Pennies from Heaven
- > Volunteer to be a team members on a Leadership team



A BIG thank you for the prayers, thoughts, letters and cards. All were so appreciated and so thoughtful.

**From:**  
**Darr Wilson Jr,**  
**Dave Sr. & Arvilla Wilson**

# Worship Through Giving



### **NEEDED:**

**PEOPLE INTERESTED IN DOING SHORT DRAMAS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP**

In an attempt to be creative without compromising or lengthening worship, Ellen is looking for people to occasionally do a short skit during the sermon time: teens, adults, male, or female, if you like to perform, this is for you. If you are interested in being part of this, please contact Hope Albrecht 315-945-812 or Ellen.

**Church-Skits**

*Just have fun!*

# How Can We Help You?

<b>Transitional Pastor: Rev. Ellen Donnan</b> 315-521-2593 (Cell)	<b>Lay Member AC: Christina Albrecht</b> 315-398-9950 (cell)	<b>Personnel: Rose Copper-Brown</b> 315-719-4292 (cell)
<b>Church Office/Adm. Asst: Missy Arnold</b> 207-249-0185 (cell)	<b>Treasurer: Shelly Bengtson</b> 315-247-1927 (cell)	<b>Prayer Chain: Marsha Gibbs</b> 315-548-5546
<b>Christian Education: Rita Caraballo</b> 585-520-4970 (cell)	<b>Media/Technology: Eddie Albrecht</b> 315-945-8812 (cell)	<b>Prayer Ministry: Nan Clark</b> 315-406-5526 (cell)
<b>Council Chair: Linda Kataskas</b> 585-732-8892 (cell)	<b>Member at Large: Dawn Norton</b> 315-521-2899 (cell)	<b>Presbytery Elder: Peg Carlson</b> 315-521-4396 (cell)
<b>Custodian: Frank VanNostrand</b> 585.354.4126 (cell)	<b>Memorial Fund: Cathy Scott</b> 315-548-9448	<b>Sec'y to Council: Marsha Gibbs</b> 315-548-5546
<b>Endowment: Frank VanNostrand</b> 585.354.4126	<b>Missions: Brian Hemminger</b> 315-521-0812 (cell)	<b>Stewardship/Finance: Betsy Bourne</b> 315-945-2307 (cell)
<b>Financial Sect'y: Pat Hemminger</b> 315-548-3546	<b>Music/Worship: Hope Albrecht</b> 315-945-8812 (cell)	<b>Trustees: Dan Moracco</b> 315.548.4548 (cell)
<b>Health/Service: Dianne Rockefeller</b> 315-694-3383 (cell)	<b>Nominating: Jane Pedersen</b> 585-738-1899 (cell)	<i>"God is Good – All the Time!"</i> <i>"All the Time – God is Good!"</i>



## Birthdays This Month

**April 2- Glice Gunsalus**

**April 4- Piper Mobley &**

**Armando Caraballo**

**April 13- Mary Ann Gier**

**April 14– Earl Motzer**

**April 15– Rose Smith**

**Monthly Volunteers** needed to help fold and tape newsletters. Generally this is a 2 person job and volunteers would be needed 1 morning or afternoon, towards the end of each month. Job completion time depends on you. If you are willing to volunteer and would like to sign up for an upcoming month, please contact Missy at the church office via phone or email. *Thanks a bazillion in advance for any and all help with this task!*

[unitedchurch@ottcmail.com](mailto:unitedchurch@ottcmail.com)

315-548-2772



## Normal Church Office Hours

**Mon, Tues, & Thurs. 9:00-2:00.**

**Wednesdays by EMAIL: [unitedchurch@ottcmail.com](mailto:unitedchurch@ottcmail.com)**



# EASTER FLOWER GARDEN

## IN MEMORY OF:

Helen & Casper Copper  
Luella & Arthur Pugh  
Louise Heusler  
Family we have loved & lost  
Rev. Shirley Filiatreau  
Our Parents  
His Family  
Their Family  
Edson & Mildred Perry  
George & Alice Estes  
Linda Estes  
Loved Ones  
Thomas Aumayer  
Ken, Barb & Edna Clark  
  
Shirley Hackett  
  
Diana, Byron and Teresa Hutch  
Clifford and Nellie Van Nostrand  
Our Loved Ones  
Our Parents  
Our Parents  
Our loved ones  
Family & Friends  
George & Betty Totman  
Sylvester & Eleanor Totman  
Pastor Shirley Filiatreau  
Carol Vine, my mom  
Loved ones  
Jane Mullen  
Anne Mobley  
Roma Buel

## IN HONOR OF:

Irene & Bill Copper  
My wonderful family & friends  
Evelyn & Charlotte Estes  
Lindsey & Sean Gillen  
Walt & Jane Pedersen  
Ellen Donnan  
Our Worshipping family  
Bonnie Buel

## GIVEN BY:

Irene & Bill, Tom & Rose  
Irene & Bill, Tom & Rose  
Irene & Bill, Tom & Rose  
Missy & Griffin  
Missy & Griffin  
Nan & Jerry Clark  
Lee Adams  
Alfred & Edith Adams  
Parents Carol Adams  
Gloria Orsini  
Gloria Orsini  
Lindsey Kataskas  
Lindsey Kataskas  
David & Kathie Clark / Jason,  
Amy, Kenny & Jane Stevens  
David & Kathie Clark / Jason,  
Amy, Kenny & Jane Stevens  
Frank Van Nostrand  
Frank Van Nostrand  
Bob & Doris Spink  
Walt & Jane Pedersen  
Walt & Jane Pedersen  
Nelson & Jane Gulvin  
Kathy Tubbs  
The Scott Albrecht Family  
The Scott Albrecht Family  
The Scott Albrecht Family  
Kay Oosterling  
Linda & Len Kataskas  
Ted Mullen, Renee & Piper Mobley  
Ted Mullen, Renee & Piper Mobley  
Amy J. Buel

## GIVEN BY:

Rose Copper Brown  
Kathy Tubbs  
Linda & Len Kataskas  
Linda & Len Kataskas  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Amy J. Buel

*The United Church of Phelps*

58 Main St.

Phelps NY, 14532

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PERMIT NO 10



**SUNDAY, APRIL 4th 2021**

**FROM: The United Church of Phelps**