

2021



One Voice

Newsletter of The United Church of Phelps
58 Main Street
Phelps, NY 14532
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FROM THE TRANSITIONAL PASTOR:

What in the world is God up to?

That is a question that I try to ask myself regularly but has been prominent in my mind this summer as I have dealt with a variety of pastoral issues, both here and for Junius Presbyterian Church. What in the world are you up to, God?

We have finally gotten to the place where the COVID-19 pandemic is under control – not gone and with new variants, but those who have been vaccinated can go about without masks on now. We are back in the rhythm of worship in the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. for the summer. There haven't been as many meetings as during the programmatic year. We are enjoying worship in the Methodist Part a couple of times during the summer months. Life is good!

But wait a minute! What is happening? Someone is dealing with a difficult circumstance. A loved one dies. Health issues – not COVID-19 necessarily – arise. Where did all this rain come from? Heat and humidity. Divorce. Financial issues.

What in the world is God up to?

Or is God up to anything?

One of the life lessons that I have learned over the years is that there are times when life seems out of control and God seems very distant, but the reality is that God is using that particular event for a purpose. Maybe we need to have a person who is like sandpaper to us rub us a bit and smooth us out. Maybe we need to experience something because God is going to place another person in our life at a later date who will need our compassion which comes from going through a similar experience. Maybe God is trying to help us depend on Him more, rather than thinking we can handle life on our own. We are not always privy to what God is up to.

A friend recently shared the following story with me and as I read it, I knew God was up to something. I hope you enjoy it!

God Bless! Ellen

(I have edited the original somewhat to allow it to fit the newsletter.)

THE MIRACLE OF THE CAKE by Valerie Pruitt

Now for a mission story. I will call it the miracle of the cake but remember: Do not go to Africa and especially the Congo if you are not adaptable.

In the West, we view adaptability as being able to shift our plans if we need to or we think options. So we have plans ABC, but this gets all skewered in the Congo.

Let's take a simple thing like preparing a meal. We rented what seemed like a really nice safe house to be our sanctuary away from home. It had a stove but wait before you rejoice. Let me tell you this: it was an electric stove and electricity is sporadic in the Congo.

Now if you have been following my stories part of the trip was a wedding celebration and when we got there, the price for a wedding cake was \$500. I told the bride-to-be no way. I will make your cake. After all I have made cakes for weddings before - but I had never done it in Africa.

Anyway, I decided I wanted to make a sample cake. I am anal when it comes to baking. I like exact measurements, so I ask my friend how you bake and cupping her hands she tells me that is how she measures. I am appalled and determined to find myself a measuring cup and some cake tins. But after walking long distances to 2 markets and 6 shops, I am beaten. I give up and I buy an oil jug to act as a measuring cup.

I estimate my ingredients, mix it all up, and put it into a metal pot to bake, for I never found any cake tins. Then I switch the oven on. Simple right? But this is Africa. Simple does not exist. I switch the oven on but instead the grill comes on. The oven does not come on. So hey we start to brainstorm how are we going to get these 4 pots of cakes to bake under a grill. A teenager told me she learnt in science class that if we put foil at bottom of the oven we can create some type of system where heat will be radiated, sounded very complex but worth a try.

With our oven now lined with a roll of foil, we put our cakes in and just as we start to rejoice at our cleverness, with the heat starting, the oven door starts to open. Now the door is ajar, our cakes are bubbling and surely will be spoiled. But wait. We got this. Now with our bums and body weight, we, with human pressure, keep that door closed.

As my bum heats up and begins tanning ... under my clothes, I reflect. Yes, do not go to Africa and especially the Congo if you are not adaptable. Repeat that line several times.

We ended with burnt offerings. The kids gobbled it up, but I sat down exhausted, worried how on earth am I going to bake any cakes in an electric oven, that only the grill worked, and electricity could not be guaranteed. Suddenly impossible started to creep in my mind.

Someone asked what will you do? And I think the kids were having visions of getting lots of burnt offerings to eat. I was having visions of disaster: who ever heard of grilled wedding cakes?

I confidently followed my father's Admonition to never let them see you sweat. I said we will find a way; God will help us. Then I went to my bedroom and, with my teeth chattering, whispered: God now what am I going to do?

God hears whispers and the next day we decided to stop off in this upscale supermarket. As we walked around in wonder at the high cost of everything that we could have bought in a dollar store in USA, I felt the nudge of the Spirit: tell them you want your wedding cake. I marched boldly up to the counter and tried to explain what I wanted but, with an interpreter, the counter person was saying no.

Starting to feel frustrated because I could feel this place was where we were supposed to get the wedding cake, I asked my interpreter to ask for the cake manager.

The cake manager came, and he spoke English. As I explained my predicament, not having an oven, he was shaking his head, as if to say I cannot bake your cake. Ignoring his visual signals, remembering I was not supposed to ask if they could do it, I said I need you to make me 5 cakes and this is how I want it. He says we do not do that.

I said, "Yes, that is for other people. You will do it for me." The manager says, "Ok, this is what I will do" and he begins to discuss how he will help me. I say, "How much?" He says, "You see what we charge for one of my cakes." I said, "No, that does not apply to me. I am special." Laughing, he says, "Ok I will give you 5 cakes for \$40." I said ok and try not to look excited but my hips were juggling in joy, for how great is our God. God is in the business of the supernatural. He wants us to walk in miracles everyday.

So what in the world is God up to in your life?

August Sermon Series:

Characteristics of a healthy church

Aug 1 - Why Should Worship be
Passionate?

Aug 8 - Intentional Faith: What Do You
Want to Learn?

Aug 15 - Twelve Baskets of
Leftovers led by Barb Mater

Aug 22 - Rose Copper-Brown leading
service

Aug 29 - Risk taking
Service

Continuing:
Sept 5 -
Extravagant
Generosity



**Come celebrate RALLY DAY!
Sunday, September 12th 2021**

- Communion will be held
- B.L.A.S.T will start
- Youth Group
- Biblical storytelling by Donna Crouse will be part of worship

Mark your calendar!!!!



**The United
Church of
Phelps
58 Main Street
Phelps, NY**



ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

August 26th, 27th & 28th

8:00 - 5:00

Please enter at office doors.

**We have just about everything!
There's a BARGAIN FOR EVERYONE!!**

BIBLE STORYTELLING

If you are **passionate** about sharing the Word of God and enhancing worship services at The United Church of Phelps, make sure **to mark your calendars for Saturday October 16, 10am to 1pm.**

We will be hosting a Biblical Storytelling Training which will be presented by master storytellers who have been doing this for a long time and are passionate about this craft.

You will get a taste of what Biblical Storytelling is at our worship service on September 12.



AM I ???

Did you guess who July's mystery person was? She has been very involved with education (both church and public school), is a registered cosmetologist and really enjoys a GOOD spaghetti dinner. FINAL CLUE: Her *first* name makes a daily early appearance.... Who am I?



It was our very own member at large, **Dawn Norton!** THANK YOU Dawn for participating and letting us get to know you better!

*If you would like to volunteer to be the next mystery person please call
Mary Ann Gier 315-548-7020



**Worship in
Methodist Park
August 1, 2021
With Communion
9:30 A.M.**

FYI: REMEMBER your chair. Elements will be provided or you can choose to bring your own. *If inclement weather,* worship will be held at the church in the sanctuary.

**Thank you to our Community & Congregation!
YOU ALL ARE AMAZING!**

Committee report from July for Caring Hearts:



We have approx. 40+ people that were reached in the past month with cards, letters, crafts, phone calls or visits. Our amazing team brings a lot of smiles to a lot of people unable to get out easily.

Chairperson: Dianne Rockefeller



**August
2021**

**Birthdays
This Month**

August 2 - Ezekiel Motzer

August 5 - Charlotte Howard

August 6 - Samantha Minns

August 11 - Richard Rockefeller &
Linda DeWeaver

August 13 - Doug Wall

August 25 - Bill Copper

August 26 - Jane Gulvin

August 27 - Cayden Young
** Who's turning 13! **

August 28 - Duane Albrecht

August 29 - Rose Copper-Brown

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

AUGUST 2021

August 5th

Marcus & Cindy Driscoll

August 8th

Bob & Doris Spink

August 15th

Duane & Penny
Albrecht

August 24th

Rick & Erica Motzer

August 30th

Dan & Karen Moracco

Happy anniversary to a bunch of wonderful people! May you have many more happy years!

MEDIA

&

TECHNOLOGY

Media & Technology needs our help. They are in need of a new computer for worship services. The ability to stream and record is getting extremely difficult with the one they have now and with growing need to LIVE stream and record our events and services, this has become a priority. If you would like to donate towards this fund, please mark your donation with "computer for media & tech fund". The goal they are hoping to reach to get the computer needed is \$1500.00. (Deadline is Aug. 15th if you would like to still donate)

ALSO: Media & Technology is looking for people to help out on the team. If interested, see Eddie after a worship service or email him at albrecht_eddie@yahoo.com



CAMP

Casowasco

Not sure if many of you were aware but on July 12th Camp Casowasco was severely flooded and damaged by a microburst that hit the area. Buildings were flooded, boats, vehicles, roads and the shoreline were heavily damaged. Mike Block, Upper NY Conference Director of Missional Engagement, is heading up the clean-up and repairs at the camp. Prayers are definitely needed for staff and campers. If you would like to help out the camp financially, checks can be mailed to:

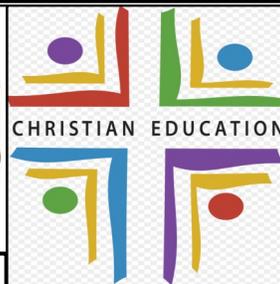
**Upper New York Conference
7481 Henry Clay Blvd.
Liverpool NY 13088**

Please place in memo line "Casowasco relief"

If you have any donation questions or would like to volunteer to help out with this feat, you can contact Mike Block via cell or email.
315-491-0497 mikeblock@unyumc.org

UNITED CHURCH OF PHELPS CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Contemporary Worship
Will resume in
September
On Thursday evenings
At 7:00 p.m.



Join A
Leadership
Team

Fall ZOOM

Bible Study

Join Ellen starting

September 21

6:30 –8:00 p.m.

JONAH

If you want to go deeper, Ellen will provide you with study sheets each week.

FALL ZOOM BIBLE STUDY: JONAH

What happens when your life is interrupted? You have plans. You have figured out your goal for your life. But something happens. You are shocked. You are shaken up. You are compelled to change because you have to deal with the interruption, but most of us would prefer not to be pulled off the track of our plans – which we know are the best plans we could ever have for our lives, right?

As we look into the story of Jonah, we will discover that sometimes what we think of as an interruption is truly God's divine invitation to a life so much bigger than we could ever imagine. We will be viewing portions of Sight and Sound Theaters' performance and interpretation of this story as well as discussion.

FALL BOOK STUDY: WHISPERS by Mark Batterson

September 20- November 29

1:00-2:30 p.m.

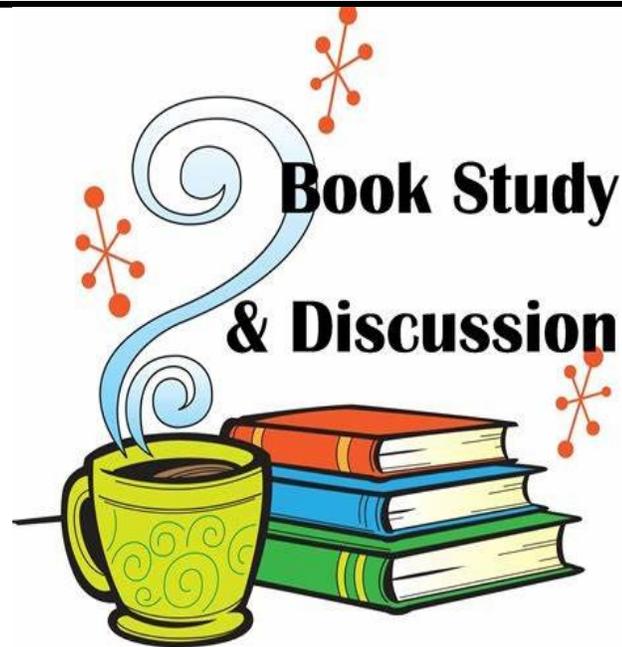
Lounge

The voice that spoke the cosmos into existence is the same voice that parted the Red sea, and made the sun stand still in the midday sky. One day, this voice will make all things new, but it's also speaking to you now!

That voice is God's voice, and what we've learned from Scripture is that He often speaks in a whisper. Not to make it difficult to hear Him, but to draw us close.

Many people have a tough time believing God still speaks. Sure, in ancient times and in mysterious ways, God spoke to His people, but is He still speaking now?

Book Study
& Discussion

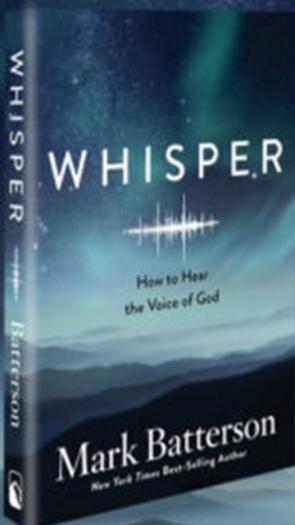


Mark Batterson certainly believes so. And he wants to introduce you to the seven love languages of God; each of them unique and entirely divine. Some of them you might suspect but others will surprise you.

By learning to tune in to and decipher each language, you'll be able to hear His guidance in simple as well as life-altering choices. God is actively speaking through: Scripture, Desires, Doors, Dreams, People, Promptings, and Pain. Batterson gives you the tools you need to unlock each of these languages.

God's whisper can answer your most burning questions, calm your deepest fears, and fulfill your loftiest dreams. Discover how simple it is to hear God's voice in every aspect of your life!

He's speaking, make sure you know how to listen!



WINNER
of the ECPA
"Christian
Living"
Award!

MarkBatterson.com/Whisper

How Can We Help You?

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Transitional Pastor: Rev. Ellen Donnan 315-521-2593 (Cell) | Lay Member AC: Christina Albrecht 315-398-9950 (cell) | Personnel: Rose Copper-Brown 315-719-4292 (cell) |
| Church Office/Adm. Asst: Missy Arnold 207-249-0185 (cell) | Treasurer: Shelly Bengtson 315-247-1927 (cell) | Prayer Chain: Marsha Gibbs 315-548-5546 |
| Christian Education: TBD Rita Caraballo is filling in for BLAST | 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: Dawn Norton 315-521-2899 (cell) | 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: Frank VanNostrand 585-354-4126 (cell) | Missions/Outreach: TBD | Stewardship/Finance: Betsy Bourne 315-945-2307 (cell) |
| Financial Sect'y: Pat Hemminger 315-548-3546 | Music/Worship: Hope Albrecht 315-945-8812 (cell) | Trustees: Dan Moracco 315-548-4548 (cell) |
| Health/Service: 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:

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



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 Dianne Rockefeller 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. **

SUMMER Church Office Hours

Mon, Tues, & Thurs. 9:00 -12:00

EMAIL: unitedchurch@ottcmail.com

Summer hours go till September

FYI:

Ellen will be on vacation Aug. 9 thru Aug 22.



Church Volunteers



Volunteers for August 2021

Greeters: Ramp

August 1st - Hope Albrecht (Worship in Methodist Park)

August 8th - Nan Clark

August 15th - Rose Copper-Brown

August 22nd - Linda Kataskas

August 29th - Hope Albrecht

Lay Reader

August 1st - Ellen Donnan

August 8th - Barb Mater

August 15th - Karen Moracco

August 22nd - Hope Albrecht

August 29th - Christina Albrecht

Acolytes

Acolytes will be returning to service in September

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 or Phone: 315-945-8812