

# THE CHURCHMOUSE CHRONICLE

A publication of the First United Methodist Church of Lake Luzerne, New York  
Featuring Christopher Churchmouse and his View from the Pew

September 2016

## Summertime Memories

Our summer is over, but here is a short review of the summertime ministries and events of our congregation.

### Summer Backpack Program



For another year, our congregation has generously provided not only food, but spiritual support for a family of six during the summer. We delivered food and shared our faith weekly through scripture readings and prayer with the family. Thank you to the many church family members that provided food, funds, bible readings and devotion to making sure the deliveries were packed and delivered every week. We truly fed 'people's bodies, souls and spirits.'

Jan  
Editor's Note: This is an extension of the HLCS program which gives food to families on a weekly basis during the school year. In cooperation with HLCS we entered into this ministry and we have been blessed in return.

### Breakfast for the Children



Our summer breakfast at the Hadley Luzerne playground program was once again a great success. This year we served breakfast Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. On Friday the playground program is at Hadley Park and the children received a snack on those days. Each day for breakfast we served anywhere from 60-73 children. Breakfast consisted of pancakes or French toast with bacon or sausage. They also enjoyed fresh fruit, orange or apple juice and milk. We did one day where they receive "treats." We have a person in our community who purchases and donates danishes, donuts, bagels, and special breads. It is a nice surprise for the children and they enjoy it very much. This year we were able to host breakfast three times a week. Many thanks to Stewart's for their Holiday Match grant; and also to St. Mary's Episcopal Church's ECW. These ladies are a wonderful group of women who look for special ways to help out in our community. We received a monetary gift from them and they are looking forward to helping out again next year. I am so thankful for all of you from both churches who so faithfully helped out each morning. Looking forward to July 2017! Deb



## Vacation Bible School

In today's society we are surrounded by the fantastical, imaginary superheroes created by the likes of DC and Marvel. They have given children fictional characters to look up to that save the world because they have powers that we normal humans can only dream of. However, this summer at Vacation Bible School we introduced the children to *real* superheroes. The people who did things beyond the abilities of that time were able to do so because they listened to God. They learned about Noah's wife, who despite never being named or acknowledged for her contributions; obediently followed the directions given to her in order to make building the ark and collecting the animals possible. Abraham's trial of obedience with his son Isaac may have caused some disquiet among the older children but they learned that God would provide what was needed if we only listened to Him. Joshua was another the children learned about, as well as the fact that merely doing as they were told allowed Jericho's walls to fall to the Israelites with only their own feet and horns as weapons. Lastly they took a look at Jesus' mother Mary. Mary, being a young girl, most likely had only the simplest of dreams for her future. Instead, Gabriel told her about a future as the mother of our Savior. This showed the children that God has plans for us and sometimes those plans are not the ones we have for ourselves.

We rounded the five week "school" off with a lesson about the "Armor of God," and a picnic at Smead Park in Hadley. The picnic seemed like the highlight of the VBS for the children. Our pastor cooked the hot dogs while they played and together with their teachers Leslie, Deb, and Donna, they enjoyed a wonderful meal in the fresh air. It was decided that we would have to come back one day with the whole congregation.

Not everything went as planned but we hope that the lessons learned will stick with the children who attended the "Superheroes of the Faith—No Capes Needed" VBS throughout their lives so that they know, a *real* superhero can do extraordinary things so long as he or she follows God's commands.

Donna

## Garage Sale Plus



Although we did not have our garage sale during the town wide event, we still were successful and raised more than last year. Thanks to generous donations from our congregation, community members and the Upriver Café, we had a lot of nice items to offer at our sale.

The bake sale also had variety and we thank all that contributed to that as well. And last but certainly not least, the fish fry. It is one of the things we have done that make this event even better and we cannot thank the folks at Moby Dick's Fish Fry Truck (of Argyle, New York) enough for their participation.

This year we expanded our advertising and reports from the day indicated that at least one person had seen our ad everywhere we advertised. Guess the old saying that it pays to advertise rings true. Thanks to our crew who erected our covers and helped to move the merchandise, we can't do this without you. And thanks to all of you who came!

Pastor Casey conducted a blessing of the animals during our day as well and he had four participants, none of whose owners we knew. He was greatly encouraged by this participation. Hopefully there will be more next year. Note on this – he will bless not only dogs, but other pets as well.



From The Pastor

**It's been a pretty busy summer at church. Between breakfasts up at the school twice a week throughout the month of July, food deliveries each Thursday, working at the community food pantry every Saturday, our bake/garage sale and fish fry, and countless other programs and opportunities for ministry, this summer has seemed jam packed with work! I remember when summers meant vacations and relaxation, yet it seems like we were busier than ever this last summer.**

**As most know, I spent my summer working with the chaplains at Albany Medical Center. In addition we also spent the summer following Jesus as he ministered around Galilee and then began his walk to Jerusalem. We were invited to follow along in His footsteps. I also know that each of you has your own summer story, your own personal kind of busy.**

**Take a moment. Rest. Refresh. Close your eyes if you will and take time to be renewed. You deserve it, you need it. As the Psalmist writes: "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). In the busiest moments of our lives it is often far too easy for us to think that the work of creation rests on our shoulders. It is too easy to think that if we break our link in the chain, everything will fail and fall apart. Take a few moments and rest, know that God is Lord not just of the activities, but of the restfulness too.**

**This fall we are going to be studying the life of David. Israel's great king, the man who formed a nation. I was studying his life in preparation for this series and came across the description of David's life as a mercenary in the wilderness. His predecessor on the throne, King Saul, had been hunting him ruthlessly for years. David had retreated to a place called Engedi, one of only two fresh-water springs in the wilderness around the Dead Sea. It is an oasis of life surrounded by desert and a sight of beauty in the midst of what must have seemed like an endless wilderness.**

**This is the image of rest that I would offer to you today. Let a moment of rest wash over you, refresh you, and strengthen you, so that the busy wilderness of the world may not overtake you this day. Just as God worked for six days and rested on the seventh, take a moment to rest and refresh your life after the busyness of this summer.**

**God Bless You, Pastor Casey**



### **Christopher Churchmouse and his View from the Pew**

**The summer has been quite busy for the folks. The backpack program every Thursday in July, there was a lot of cooking downstairs (but they took it all!) for the breakfasts and we had some really good times watching the Sunday School kids come back for a few weeks (they had games, lessons, craft projects and oh, yeah, food!!) In case you didn't know it, we mice really like it when the folks have food.**

**The fellowship times on Sunday are really good. The folks come downstairs after their Worship service and they talk (and eat!!) and it seems to be a nice time for everyone.**

Boy did the folks have a lot of stuff for their garage sale! The tables downstairs were all covered at one point, but the four ladies that came seem to be able to organize it all and straighten things out. There wasn't much that came back either. We were over prowling around in the garden, observing as we do all things connected with the Church folks and saw all the people that came. Wow, were there a lot! We also understand that they made out quite well from their sales. That fish fry truck was busy also.

Now that September is here, we expect that the Sunday School will return and that there will be more things planned. Understand a group will come in Thursday mornings; and then the choir will be here Thursday afternoons. That will be a busy day!

Until next time, God Bless You, your church mice, Christopher, Peter and Timothy



**FALL**

**Bible Study**



Our fall will start with a Study on King David taught by Pastor Casey.

Study times are: 6 pm at South Corinth on Wednesdays (began September 7) and  
10:30 am at Lake Luzerne on Thursdays (began September 8)

For more information or to obtain a study sheet, please contact Pastor Casey at our church office.

The study will run for four weeks. Also in conjunction with this, the sermon series will also pertain to David. Midweek scripture readings will be available in the church bulletin and on our Facebook page.

**Sunday School 2016-2017**



Our Sunday School year will begin on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to begin our worship with the congregation in the Sanctuary at 10:30 for the first 15 minutes of the service. Immediately after *Time for Young Disciples*, we will move downstairs. As in previous years, the students will be a part of the worship service the first Sunday of every month.

Our curriculum is God's Word – The Bible. For the first half of the year, we will focus on the book of Proverbs. Proverbs is one of the greatest tools for knowing right from wrong in the most important matters in life. Students will be stressing the meaning of one verse each week as we actively involve each child in role playing, crafts, experiments, and games. Our goal is for the message of each Proverb will last a lifetime as the children encounter life's challenges.

Another goal is to keep the families informed, therefore, a private group – Lake Luzerne United Methodist Sunday School- has been created on Facebook. Only family members, Sunday School teachers, and Pastor Casey will be able to post, view the posts and respond.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me, Leslie Carpenter, at 696-3402. If you know of anyone you would like me to contact to join our Sunday School, please let me know as well. I thank you.



### **Bottle Money to go to Sunday School**



For several years our congregation has contributed their empty bottles and cans that held a deposit to the Church. At the August meeting, the Administrative Council voted to have the proceeds go to the Sunday School. Further clarification was requested by our Sunday School Superintendent at September's meeting and it was decided that the money was to be used for special projects of the Sunday School which were to be established by the Sunday School Superintendent.

September is World Hunger Awareness Month and so the Sunday School special project of the month is collecting monetary donations to the Society of St. Andrew. This group is able to provide one meal for each two cents donated.

Each month the Sunday School special project will be noted here in the newsletter. For those of you not familiar with the can and bottle collection, we have a receptacle in the Sanctuary vestibule and invite you to place your clean cans and bottles in there.



As most of you know, our front steps are in need of repair/replacement. This needs to be accomplished in the very near future. The Trustees have given out information for bids to be submitted but so far have not had enough response to be able to award the bid to anyone. Can anyone help? One of the important things to note concerning this or any other work done by others is that we must have an insurance certificate covering the work and workers. Specifications are available by contacting our Trustee President.



### **DAYS AND DATES TO REMEMBER**

Sundays – Worship at 10:30 am  
Sunday School at 10:45 am  
(Resumes September 18)

**Thursdays – through the end of September  
Study on King David at 10:30 a.m.**

**Thursdays – Voices of Praise at 4:30 pm  
(Rehearsals start again September 15)**

### **Events**

**October 3 - Administrative Council Meeting at 6 pm**

**November 8 - Election Day Dinner**

**November 19 – Annual Charge Conference at Saratoga Springs UMC at 10 am**

**November 22 – Sunday School to make Advent Calendars after school**

**December 4 – Sunday School Christmas Program during Worship AND the Hanging of the Greens  
Following our Fellowship Time**

**Editor's Note: Many thanks to contributing writers, Leslie, Deb, Jan and Donna, also to Pastor Casey for help putting this up on the website and of course, cannot forget our friends Chris, Peter and Timothy, where would our Church be without church mice!!**

**God Bless You All**

