



Jacksonville Community United Methodist Church Gospel Winter of 2018

Pastor -Geri Judd
Organist/Choir Director
Eric Machan Howd
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SO MUCH TO LOVE ABOUT

JACKSONVILLE COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

There are many stories and memories to be shared about makes our church family so special. This month we would like to share a few:

EMILY'S MUSIC BOX

Our church held a vigil for Emily Virkler who passed away at a young age after a long, brave battle with cancer. The night of the vigil, the church was filled with candles and soft music as folks sat quietly in the pews recanting their memories of Emily. After some time, I decided to go over to our school house which we call "the Attic" to do some work on the lighting. I hauled in my tools and ladder and turned on the lights. It was a chilly night and very quiet in the building, as it had been closed for the season. I glanced around at the leftover Christmas items that would be soon packed away for another year. I had been in there for about 15 minutes when I suddenly heard music. After a few minutes, I climbed down off the ladder and slowly made my way around the room toward where the music was coming from. It seemed to be coming from a book shelf in the back corner of the room. On the 3rd shelf of the bookcase was a small nativity scene music box surrounded by angel figurines. The music was coming from the little box. It was playing "Silent Night". Needless to say, I was deeply struck by what was happening at that moment. I saw that the price tag read 50 cents, so I put a dollar in the cash box and took the music box home. A few weeks later, the church was sending Emily's husband Paul and her son Nathan a gift box. I wrapped up the music box and enclosed a note telling them what had happened that night in the school house. I truly believe the music was from Emily. I truly believe she was sending us a message of love from heaven.

Libby Foust

WHAT OUR CHILDREN LOVE ABOUT JACKSONVILLE

Table with 2 columns listing children's names and their favorite church activities. Column 1 includes Caden, Wesley, Sophia, Colt, Dylan, Eli and Sean, Peter, Olivia, and Ayvah. Column 2 includes Savannah, Caden, Dafydd, Micah, and Keira.

FEBRUARY—MARCH CALENDAR

February 1 - U.M.W. at 10:30 am
February 6 - Trustees at 7:00 pm
February 9 - Girl's Hockey Game night
February 10 - Safe Sanctuary Training
February 12 - SPRC at 6:30 pm
February 13 - Church Council at 7:00 pm
February 14 - Ash Wednesday at 7:30 am
March 10 - Spaghetti Dinner 4 pm - until sold out
April 14 - U.M.W. Men's Breakfast 9:00 am



Spaghetti Dinner

March 10, 2018

4pm until sold out

Dinners includes spaghetti, meatballs, sauce bread, caesar salad, applesauce, drinks and assorted homemade desserts
\$10.00 per person and children under 8 are \$5.00

Dine in or carry out!

Wegmans and Collegetown Bagels support the event

Door Prize of a \$20 gift certificate to the Falls Restaurant and Tavern
Please contact Marion Stevens
(stevensm102@yahoo.com)
for more information.



A MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

We are looking forward to 2018 missions activities and we want your, the congregation's, ideas about what we might do throughout the year. In the past, many of our activities have been concentrated during Advent and we would like to try some new things. PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US.

As a beginning we are very excited to be collaborating with UMW (the idea started there) and Christian Education in a Valentines Project for both Juniper Manors, Evergreen House in Jacksonville, and about a dozen members and friends we don't see much anymore. On craft Sunday in February, the children will decorate small bags with crayons, markers and stickers. UMW will have assembled packets of tea with a friendly verse; we will add biscotti, chocolate kisses, and a valentine. This will all be put together in the Hearth Room after church on Sunday, February 11. We will have about a dozen bags that will need to be delivered that week, so let us know if you would like to help. The youth group will deliver to the Junipers on Valentines Day.

February 14 is also Ash Wednesday. Our Lenten offering will be for the Food Pantry. You will find envelopes in bulletins and pews during Lent.

From there, our ideas are flexible, so please help us move forward with your thoughts.

As an Advent wrap up: we collected about \$1600 for UMCOR Disaster Relief. We bought gifts for five children through the Christmas Bureau, and so far, we have delivered about 1000 pairs of socks with many more still in our church stocking and the Shardlow's garage. Thank you.

Beth Hickman, Amy Moe, Lynn Rich

PRAYER CONCERNS

Gail -for brother Roland
Eric- for his Aunt Mary Lou and Catherine
Phyl- for Roger's sister-in-law Julie
Carol- for brother Jack and family
Eileen - for brother -in -law's father Paul
Sarah - for John Barkley
Morgan and LuAnn Swanhart
Alice - for Don, son Mark and baby Cade
Lynn- sister Dorla
Katelin - for stepfather Ray

Keep Paul and Nathan in prayers
Family of Kate Sinko
Lyman family
Cheryl Fletcher
Alice Linton - for cousin Bonnie
Mickey -for Jeff
Bob Bristow
Geri - for Amy Grove
Those affected by fires and mudslides in CA
and all those not mentioned



LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH



BJ and Bob Bristow
1500 Chatham
Waynesboro
VA 22980

Cheryl Fletcher
C/O Cheryl Foster
690 YZ Sailors Rd
Jefferson, GA 30549

Paul and Nathan Virkler
PO Box 28
Beaver Falls
New York 13305

THE ATTIC: BEHIND THE SCENES

The Attic is most visible between SpringFest (mid May) and the Holiday Bazaar (end of November) but it wouldn't be possible to open on Saturday mornings and Tuesday late afternoons without a lot of behind the scenes action. From mid January through early December a small group of women meet weekly to pack up or donate the previous season's items (currently Christmas and winter clothes). We then sort through the accumulated boxes and bins that have been stored in the back room, hanging the next season of clothes, donating more winter clothes, and unearthing more household goods for display in the front room. Besides the women there are a few dedicated men who haul things to the Reuse Center, Thrifty Shopper, or one of the local donation bins. Chief among these helpers is Bill Eisenhardt who is always available to clean, sort, haul stuff and do anything he is asked to keep the Attic running.

Whether officially open or closed, we are always working to continue our mission of service in the community. With our commitment to recycling and reuse, if we have excess or out of season clothes we will try to find another clothing give-away that can use them. Share the Warmth at the Samaritan Center received all of our winter coats after the Bazaar. The SPCA (thanks to Lily Brainard) gets the blankets, towels and stuffed animals that are not quite good enough to sell. We have taken some of our upscale women's clothing to the Women's Opportunity Center to support their effort to prepare women for the workforce. Upon request from the Trumansburg Middle School nurse, we donated several pairs of sweatpants, leggings and shirts for her to have on hand. If there is a family with an emergency, we open the Attic for them to take whatever clothing or household goods they need.

If you know of any person or organization that can use our help, please let Rachel Boyer or Nancy Housworth know. When you volunteer to work at the Attic, you join one of our church's most successful missions. We are ready to take donations again so you may bring them any Sunday after church or contact Rachel Boyer to arrange another time.

THE JOINING

Our church was Enfield United Methodist Church and we were forced to close it. We were introduced to four different churches. When we merged, we protested even going to church for at least half a year. I really missed church, so most of the other members had joined Jacksonville. The first week we went to Trumansburg and the next week we went to Jacksonville.

Everyone gave us a warm welcome. Everything in this church is awesome. All the members are like family and the children are wonderful.

Bill Carlisle

GENEROSITY

When asked to write about what I love about the Jacksonville church, so many things come flooding to mind, like how welcomed I was from the first time I attended, how nurturing you are of the children of this community, how embracing you are of all whether our faith is weak or strong. But particularly, I am so in love with the generosity of this congregation.

I will share with you one small example of this. Three years ago, I presented an idea to support our local food pantry. My mother had recently passed and her church collected a specific item each month to donate to their food pantry. I borrowed the idea in her honor and you accepted the concept. The generous donations from all of you that pile up in the entryway each month warms my heart each time I see it. I think of the people who are receiving these items that food pantry money can't buy.

We are a giving congregation in so many ways, and I love being a part of it.

Thank you all!
Marguerite Sterling

THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN

Leah beamed when I asked her why she loved church and she said, "I love meeting with the people and the children's messages we learn".

Gretta said "happily, i love seeing my friends".

Leah was bummed she missed church today when she heard she missed discussing her loves of church...it was really sweet and melted my heart to know how much she is enjoying church. I know it has been a blessing for me to meet so many wonderful people and to learn and connect with God.

Heather Washburn

LOVE MAKES A CHURCH

Each year I teach a lesson to my second graders about how to find a “good-fit” book, one you can really fall in love with. A good-fit book is one that is not so easy to read that it soon becomes a bore. It’s not so difficult that it is incomprehensible and frustrating. To help explain this concept, I bring in a large bag of assorted shoes: high heels, running shoes, snow boots, Peter’s flip flops. I very dramatically go about trying to find good-fit shoes to wear to school.

Churches are a bit like shoes, and books. As people of faith, we may find ourselves searching for a good-fit church. I’ve been to many, enough to know that every church has its own personality, its own energy. The church of my childhood was an extended family, a warm, happy place where there were friends and grown ups I loved and trusted. For over ten years, my mother pastored at the Longridge UMC in Connecticut. That church, too, became home and a place of great love. I’ve been to churches that felt cold, stiff and even a few where love seemed to be offered on condition.

For several years our little family was church surfing. Our former church, once filled with young families and children, had seen it’s youth population grow and fledge, but not renew. I was longing for my son to experience the same feelings of community and love that I experienced through church as a child and that my older daughter was able to experience. I remember very clearly my first visit to Jacksonville UMC. I was so pleased to see folks there I’ve known for much of my adult lif (Fate? Coincidence?) I giggled through the noisy offering and my heart was filled seeing so many children and families present at the service. Following the service I was welcomed warmly and left that day feeling quite hopeful that the surfing days were over.

In the seasons that have passed, I’ve become more intimate with the feel and fit of JUMC. I’ve witnessed our church’s dedication to children and families, sunk into the warm, welcoming atmosphere and been inspired and awfilled at the commitment to outreach, mission and giving this church holds. I’ve found great comfort and love...a really good-fit!

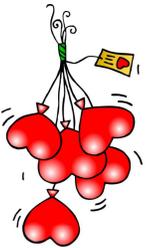
For me, a good fit church is one that is small enough to be intimate, cherishes the joy and blessed goofiness and innocence of children and honors their place in the congregation. A good fit church is more than in and out on Sunday. It’s filled with people who love and care, who hold tight their faith and dedication to each other and to the greater community. A good fit church naturally absorbs God’s love and reflects it back 10 fold.

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

~ Ephesians 4:2-3

Suse Thomas

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P.O. Box 244
Jacksonville, NY 14854



February - Lunch Box Items
March - Cleaning Supplies

TWICE AS SWEET

On Valentines Day, we show our love;
We express our deep affections.
Those who are important to us
Get cards and sweet confections.

But Christian love is not just for
The ones we hold most dear;
Jesus said "love everyone;"
He made that very clear.

For Christians, it is every day
We should care and love and serve
Everyone we meet in life,
Whether they do or don't deserve.

Let's follow Jesus' good command
To love everyone we meet.
Valentine's Day every day
Will make life twice as sweet.

By Joanna Fuchs