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February Mission Project:

Hope Made Real

**“Hope Made Real,”
Rwanda Africa**

This is a ministry created and administered by Saint John's-Newberry member Arlene Brown. “Hope Made Real” is dedicated to improving the lives of orphaned and abandoned children and the poor and vulnerable people of Urukundo village in Rwanda.

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your warm Christmas greetings and gifts. It was a joy to spend my first Christmas with you.

It's difficult to believe but Lent is already upon us. Ash Wednesday is February 22nd. We will have worship at 7:00 p.m. Each year for Lent I try to preach a series that is relatable and will help us to take a look at ourselves and reflect on what needs changed or cleansed in our lives. This year's sermon series is called Holy Vessels...From Brokenness to Healing. The series will begin on Ash Wednesday and continue through the final weekend in Lent (April 2), and then we will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter weekend.

We will be using sea glass in the sanctuary and around the gathering area as our visual. Sea glass is broken, tumbled, and eventually ends up on the shorelines for people to collect. It may take years for this process to happen. The same is true for us, as God's people.

Marcia McFee is the creator of the idea and liturgy for the series which was created in 2022. She writes as we were coming out of the pandemic restrictions and a difficult time, in some ways, “the scars that 2020 created are still affecting us.” As we begin 2023, we still are trying to recover from those scars. Because of that I think the reminder that, “Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love,” is important. Our lives have been shattered and our sense of wholeness— body, mind, and spirit — like a glass vessel fractured into pieces.

May this Lent be a “season of recovery” for our physical, communal, mental, intellectual, and environmental health, as we explore the healing narratives of Jesus that tell of divine solidarity with human suffering and remind us that we can begin a journey toward making something beautiful from that which is seemingly broken.

As we move through Lent, may we be reminded that Jesus can restore the broken and turn it into something beautiful. Please join us in person or on Facebook throughout Lent to see how we can seek recovery from our brokenness.

Blessings ~ Pastor Lori



The monthly meeting of the Church Council was held December 14, 2022. This report is submitted to communicate to our congregation the work of the Council. By way of background, the Council serves as the Administrative Board, Trustees, Finance and Staff Parish Relations Committees in a governance and oversight role over all ministries. Church Council meetings are open meetings except when the Council deals with Staff Parish Relations matters.

The following are the major items from the Council's agenda discussed at the December meeting:

- For our spiritual development we began a study of the book "Autopsy of a Deceased Church – 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive" by Thom Rainer. We will identify those ways to stay healthy and alive. The prayer commitment for Chapter One was the following: *Dear God, open my eyes that I might see my church as You see it. Let me see where change needs to take place, even if it is painful to me. And use me, I pray, to be an instrument of that change whatever the cost.* We encourage the congregation to also consider this prayer and the challenge it poses for us.
- Approved November 16th Council meeting minutes
- Reviewed November Council newsletter report.
- As we do every meeting, we reviewed the monthly financial report and balance sheet. We are running a surplus of \$13,111.21 at the end of November due to the fact expenses are less than budgeted and we use endowment fund income to support our plan for ministry. Our envelope giving continues to run behind what we budgeted.
- The safety and security team reported a successful fire alarm test and continues to discuss ways to effectively monitor doors on Sunday morning.
- Learned we need to update our copyright license to permit streaming on Sunday morning. Pastor Lori is to meet with First UMC technology coordinator to review the platform and licenses they use.
- Approved the purchase of a new computer from Compu-Gen to replace the media computer in the sanctuary. Cost is donated by an anonymous donor.
- We have advertised for a choir director but have not received any interest. We will include an update on music ministries in the next newsletter.
- We approved a job description for sanctuary technology operators. All who operate media, sound and streaming are part of our unpaid staff and will sign the job description.
- We learned SOTA is moving forward with the formation of a 501c3 corporation. They will prepare a draft agreement for the use of church facilities for Council review.
- Pastor Lori and several members of Council attended a "Pathways to Discipleship" workshop within the past month. They reported it was a good experience and follow up is in the works.
- We decided we will have a yearend meeting in February with the congregation to review the work of Council during 2022. This time frame will give us time to advertise it in the February newsletter. We will invite the congregation to dialogue with Council and answer any questions.
- Moving forward we will continue the practice at the beginning of our meeting to provide time for any member of the congregation to address Council with any comments or concerns. Time will be limited to five minutes. This will permit input without the need to stay for our entire meeting.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please talk to me or to any member of the Council (Pastor Lori, Bob Burns, Mark Ertel, Scott Hall, Elaine Hinston, Nancy Jacobs, Erin Kuriga, Cathy Prowant, Ed Souter Sr., Jan Walters).

Bob Weaver, Church Council Chairman

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT JANUARY 2023

The monthly meeting of the Church Council was held January 18, 2023. This report is submitted to communicate to our congregation the work of the Council. By way of background, the Council serves as the Administrative Board, Trustees, Finance and Staff Parish Relations Committees in a governance and oversight role over all ministries. Church Council meetings are open meetings except when the Council deals with Staff Parish Relations matters.

The following are the major items from the Council's agenda discussed at the January meeting:

- For our spiritual development we discussed chapter two in the book "Autopsy of a Deceased Church – 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive" by Thom Rainer. We will identify those ways to stay healthy and alive. The prayer commitment for Chapter Two was the following: *Dear God, please let me be a part of the solution and not the problem. Show me what I need to see. Open my eyes to your reality. And give me the courage to move forward in the direction you desire.* We encourage the congregation to also consider this prayer and the challenge it poses for us.
- Members of Council reviewed, and all signed our council leadership covenant.
- Approved a music ministries article to be included in the newsletter. We are fortunate to have members of our congregation who have stepped up to assist with choir directors and organist/pianists since we have not been able to hire someone on a permanent basis.
- Approved December Council meeting minutes
- Reviewed December Council newsletter report.
- Received and reviewed minutes from the Finance Team meeting.
- As we do every meeting, we reviewed the monthly financial report and balance sheet. We had a year-end surplus of \$10,709.05. This was only possible with the infusion of \$51,368.52 from Endowment Fund Income and the fact expenses were well under budget, primarily because we did not fill the position of Children's Ministry Coordinator at \$10,400.00 and realized a savings of approximately \$23,000.00 since we were without a full time pastor for three months. As part of our approved 2023 budget we will only take income from the Himes Endowment Fund account in the amount of \$34,576.91; we will not fund the Children's Ministry Coordinator position; and we will have a full time pastor the entire year. Some expenses will increase.
- Reviewed fourth quarter balances as of 12/31/22 for our endowment accounts. Even though the market is still down from its all-time high, all accounts except the Tingué account have recovered and are above original principal amounts. As a reminder we are only taking income from the Himes Fund in 2023 due to this situation. The Himes Fund was never below the original principal amount.
- Learned we need to update our copyright license to permit streaming on Sunday morning. Pastor Lori is to meet with First UMC technology coordinator to review the platform and licenses they use.
- The computer in the sanctuary has been replaced. Cost was donated by an anonymous donor.
- We learned SOTA is moving forward with the formation of a 501c3 corporation and the first meeting of their Board of Directors will occur later this month. They will prepare a draft agreement for the use of church facilities for Council review. No additional church conferences are needed for SOTA to move forward.
- Once again we will have Saturday morning Lenten devotions starting February 25th.
- We decided we will have a yearend meeting on February 19th at 7:30pm with the congregation to review the work of Council during 2022. We will invite the congregation to dialogue with Council and answer any questions. Snow date February 26th.



- Council reorganized and elected officers as follows: Bob Weaver chairman (elected at church conference); Cathy Prowant vice chair; Bob Burns Trustee representative; Nancy Jacobs secretary; Bob Weaver Staff Parish Relations Liaison.
- Moving forward we will continue the practice at the beginning of our meeting to provide time for any member of the congregation to address Council with any comments or concerns. Time will be limited to five minutes. This will permit input without the need to stay for our entire meeting.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please talk to me or to any member of the Council (Pastor Lori, Bob Burns, Mark Ertel, Scott Hall, Elaine Hinston, Nancy Jacobs, Erin Kuriga, Cathy Prowant, Ed Souter Sr., Jan Walters).

Bob Weaver, Church Council Chairman

Church Council Town Hall Meeting

Church Council is always interested in feedback from the congregation. To provide another opportunity for that to happen, Council will hold an informal informational meeting with the congregation on Sunday, February 19 at 7:30pm in the lounge. Snow date will be February 26. We will review the work of Council in 2022 and answer any questions or concerns the congregation may have. All are welcome to attend.

Saturday Morning Lenten Devotions

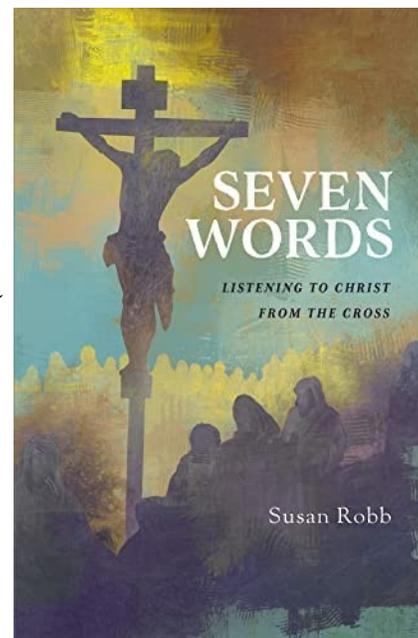
Once again this year, as we have done for numerous years, we will share in Saturday morning breakfast and devotions during Lent. This will start February 25 and run for six weeks ending April 1, Palm Sunday weekend. We will start at 8:00am and be done by about 9:00am.

We will meet in Fellowship Hall for the first gathering. This will be a continental type breakfast consisting of pastries or baked goods, fruit, yogurt, coffee or tea. There will be no cost to attend but an offering to offset costs will be taken.

Lent is a time for self-reflection and deepening one's relationship with God. One of the ways we can do that is through reading and meditating on God's word. The devotions will provide one such opportunity.

We will use "Seven Words – Listening to Christ from the Cross" by Susan Robb. Robb looks at the seven last words of Christ from the cross through a lens that finds life and hope in his final sayings, while exploring each from a biblical and historical perspective. She offers a reflection on each one during the six weeks study.

Everyone is welcome to attend.



Music Ministries Update

Church Council has struggled to find staff for our music ministries positions. Based on comments shared with us we felt an update was in order.

We have advertised for an organist/pianist ever since Megan left in July of 2021. Persons to fill such a position are just not available. We are fortunate in our congregation to have three persons who are assisting on a temporary basis. Thanks to Doreen Mileto, Ben Manetta and Irenay Weaver for sharing their musical gifts.

We have advertised for a choir director since Ellen resigned in October 2022. We have not been successful in this endeavor either. Choir directors are hard to come by. We are grateful that two folks have stepped up to assist on a temporary basis. Thanks to Doreen Mileto for sharing her talents as vocal choir director and for Stacey Heyes sharing her talents as bell choir director. Doreen originally had planned to only serve until years end but has agreed to continue into 2023.

Some have asked why we no longer have a cantor on Saturday night. We thought it would be helpful to recall the history on this issue. During the height of Covid, when we could not worship in person, we set up a process to stream worship services. Since Ellen could not direct choirs, we redefined her responsibilities to include being cantor for the streamed worship service. At one time we were live streaming the Sunday morning early worship service. Due to some issues with the sound quality of the old sound system we discontinued streaming the Sunday morning early worship service. When we went to streaming the Saturday night service, we once again asked Ellen to be cantor so the music could be heard via the streaming. With the new sound system, the quality has improved, and we will return to streaming the Sunday morning worship service as soon as we work out some copyright issues. Due to Ellen's resignation we no longer have someone available to cantor. Kent Weiland had assisted for a time but is no longer available. We do not have anyone else available. Pastor Lori has agreed to permit her microphone to be open during hymns so there will be someone leading. We will not be paying a cantor.

If anyone from the congregation knows of interested persons to become part of our music program staff, please pass that information along to a member of church council.

The schedule for our musical groups performing special music will be as follows:

First Sunday: The Voices of Grace

Second and Fourth Sundays: Praise Band early service and
Chancel Choir second service

Third Sunday: The Bell Choir

Fifth Sunday a soloist, vocal duet or similar



Thank You

To Saint John's-Newberry Church Family,

I would just like to say thank you for the gifts of greeting cards and many ways you expressed your love and care. Everything was greatly appreciated.

In Christian Love,

Shirley Morris

Dear College Care Committee,

I wanted to reach out and thank you for my monthly care packages! I look forward to them every month, especially the short stories in them! It means so much to me that I know my church is praying for me! I am so thankful to have everyone at Saint John's-Newberry!

Thanks again,

Jocelyn Cruz

Saint John's-Newberry Church,

Thank you for my Christmas package that you gave me. I enjoyed reading all the cards which were so uplifting.

Much love and prayers,

Norma Lockwood

I want to thank the church for the poinsettia plant. It is so beautiful. I also want to thank Rick & Nancy Jacobs for giving me communion.

June Shireman

Thank you so much for the cards, poinsettia and goodies over the holidays. Your thoughtfulness was much appreciated.

Happy New Year,

Dorothy Douty

I enjoyed each and every Christmas card I received in the mail from members of Saint John's-Newberry. It is a blessing to read each one and recall memories with so many of you. Thank you for thinking of me at this time of the year. Glory to God and peace to us on earth.

Ruth Smith

Prayer Chain Report

Please pray for: Beth Ziegler, Cheryl Kontz, Patty Wehr, Vicki Schneider, Dan Walmer, Denny & Kim Davis, Eric Barr, Danielle Fantaskey, Barb, Riley O'Connell, Nancy Sanders, Dorothy Douty, Beth, Cody Michael, Art & Patty DeParlos, Merle Campbell, Bob Smith, Bernie Helminiak, Sarah Dyer, Cindy Cybulski, Sierra, Maggie Stack, Grant Fausey, Mark Lauchle, Barb Breining, Nancy Hembree, Frounchetta Keller, Suzanne Richard, Mike Jacobs, Lee Shipe, Bob & Faye Thomas, Frank & Robin Sanders, Heather Counsil, Greg Goodwin, Phil DePasqua, Denise Miller, Kaeden Barr, Wendy Keller, Robert & Nancy Eiswert, John Gummo, Rob, Sherry Paul, Nancy Sanders Peters, Shirley Morris, Linda Daughterty, Max Ameigh, Phyllis Ludwig, Brian Hunsinger, Frank Connor

Our love, prayers and sympathies to the families and friends of **Jimmy Bender** and **Bob Rice** upon their recent passing.

The Prayer Chain contacts are Shirley Morris (570 323-4310). If unable to contact her, please call Ann Allison (570 326-4671).

Prayer is an important part of being a Christian. It is important that we pray for each other daily. The prayer list is equally as important. When people are going through difficult times they need extra prayers. **The prayer chain team is asking that when you have someone added to the list that you keep them up to date on the situation. Prayer requests will remain on the prayer list for 2 months. If after that 2 month time period they need to remain on, please notify either Shirley Morris or Ann Allison. Thank you for your willingness to pray for others!**

Prayer for Others

Our Bishops —

Cynthia Moore Koikoi &
Sandra Steiner Ball

Our Superintendent —

Rev. Dr. Paul C. Amara

Our Local United Methodist Churches —

Dushore/Laporte

† Those serving in the Military...

John Affield, Jeffrey Bache, Joel Barr, Kaeden Barr, Josalyn Bradley, Nathan Byer, Chase Bower, Richard Campbell, Brian Clarkson, Joey Cummings, Robert Daugherty, Joe DeArment, Cameron Dickey, Aaron Fillman, Joe Fioreth, Ron Furman, Andrei Helminiak, Randy Hosier, Jeremy Johnson, Eric Miller, Andrew Pepperman, Taylor Prosba, Matthew Ricci, Jeffrey Richard, Sarah Sanner, Col. David Smith, Brett Snaufer Jr., Jason Starr, Charlie Wolf, Jason Work.

† Our College Students...

Jocelyn Cruz, Juliana Cruz, Hannah Freezer, Maria Davis Johnson, Spencer Karasek, Makenzie Karasek, Kylie Kirkendall, Lydia Kirkendall, Ethan Kuriga, Emily Litz, Sam Litz, Jake Lusk, Lane Lusk, Gabe Manetta, Alicia Meyer, Katie Penman, Jordan Phillips



Help Mama Arlene

Mama Arlene is in great need of funds to build an additional three classrooms for her 1,100+ students and 41 teachers. Due to this, we will be sponsoring a Rigatoni & Home-Made Meatball Fundraiser dinner on Saturday, March 25th, from 4-7 p.m.



Be on the look-out for early ticket sales, \$10 for adults and \$5 for 6yrs and under (\$12 for adults at the door) and more information as to how you may be able to participate with the event.

If you would not be able to help or attend, please be praying for this as well.

Questions, please contact Tony Mileto, 570-916-0071.

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS...

Happy Birthday

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|------------------|----|------------------|----|
| Doreen Mileto | 2 | Darrin Wascher | 15 | Nancy Sanders | 24 |
| Shannon Wapinsky | 2 | Connie Hepler | 17 | Jane Sperow | 24 |
| Suzie Curry | 4 | Jane Penman | 18 | James Bryan | 25 |
| Dominik Goode | 7 | Shirley Morris | 19 | Linda Cohick | 26 |
| Della Mae Carothers | 9 | Marcus Smith | 19 | Francesca Rupert | 26 |
| Mike Jacobs | 10 | Kim Fredo | 20 | Emma Jean Waltz | 26 |
| Lisa Hepler | 12 | Kylie Kirkendall | 21 | James Furey | 27 |
| Ann Yeagle | 13 | Dante Cruz | 22 | Miranda O'Dell | 27 |
| Robb Curry | 14 | Holden Furey | 22 | Jason Pick | 27 |
| Don Richard | 15 | Paul Colley | 23 | | |

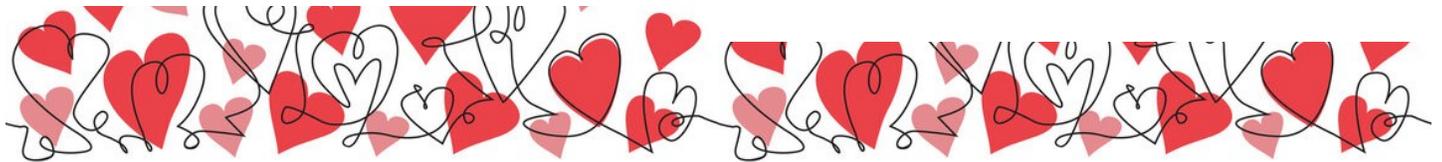
Happy Anniversary

Michael & Sharon Kuriga

February 24, 1973

Richard & Nancy Jacobs

February 28, 1981



Memorials and Honors

The following have made contributions to the Memorial and Honor Fund to the Glory of God and in Memory of **Geraldine Reed & Faith Englert**: Sean & Cindi Jo Miller; in Memory of **Mark Steele**: Sandra Steele; in Honor of **Pastor Lori Betsworth**: Tracy Fox; in Memory of **Louis Hunsinger, Sr.**: Doris Hunsinger; in Memory of **My Husband, Sam**: Tracy Fox; in Memory of **My Son, Samuel**: Tracy Fox; in Memory of **Peggy Elder**: Anonymous; in Honor of **Dan Reed**: Sean & Cindi Jo Miller; in Memory of **Ronald E. Barner**: Mary Ruth Barner; in Memory of **Ray Mahaffey**: Lori Mahaffey; in Honor of **Frank & Lynne Girardi**: Madelyn & Van Brown; in Memory of **James E. Hamm & Harry & Beatrice Beach**: Betty Lou Hamm; in Memory of **Steve Britton**: Ann Burns; in Memory of **Brian Michael**: Ann Burns; in Memory of **Kathy & Leroy Mosteller**: Laurie Mosteller; in Memory of **Robbie Curry**: David Bower; in Memory of **Karl Peters**: Ann Burns; in Honor of **God**: Crystal Hill; in Honor of **Lauren Zarzyczny**: Ed & Sally Souter

Saint John's-Newberry, UMC

2101 Newberry Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

Phone: 570-326-5569
E-mail: secretary@stjnumc.com

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We're on the Web!

<http://stjnumc.com>

Reminders

The **JANUARY/FEBRUARY UPPER ROOM** daily devotionals are now available on the literature rack located in the Lounge area. The cost is \$1.00 for the regular print, \$1.50 for the large print.

Church Office Hours are Monday - Thursday 9am to 3pm, **Closed Friday**

During lunch breaks, staff meetings and after office hours you may leave messages on the voice mail answering system (570 326-5569).

All general information and questions may be sent to: secretary@stjnumc.com

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| <p><u>DUE DATE FOR MAILED COMMUNICATOR</u> <u>FEBRUARY 15, 2023</u> THIS WILL BE DECEMBER/JANUARY COMBINED</p> <p><u>COMMUNICATOR MAILED:</u> <u>FEBRUARY 22, 2023</u></p> <p>Articles may be submitted via e-mail to: secretary@stjnumc.com</p> |
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Take a look at our website at:

<http://stjnumc.com>



<https://www.facebook.com/saintjnumc/>

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- Rev. Dr. Lori Betsworth, *Pastor* ·
· Joyce Paulhamus, *Church Administrator* · Kristine Michael, *Secretary/Treasurer* ·
· Steve Martin, *Sexton* · Jennifer Jacobs & Vanessa Bennett *Child Care Providers* ·
· Becky Ciabattari, *Director of the School of the Arts* · Cal Phillips, *Director of WECCC* ·
· Church Office, 570/326-5569 · WECCC, 570/323-6297 · Saint John's School Of The Arts, 570/327-5575 ·
· Communicator articles, secretary@stjnumc.com · Home Page, <http://stjnumc.com> ·