



## ***One Voice***

**Monthly Newsletter of the United Church of  
Phelps**

**58 Main Street**

**Phelps, NY 14532**

**315.548.2772**

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

**Transitional Pastor – Reverend Ellen Donnan**

**Pastor Emerita – Reverend Shirley H. Filiatreau**

### **FROM THE TRANSITIONAL PASTOR:**

*2 May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. 3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. 4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 **God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ.** This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.*

*6 So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. 7 He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. (Ephesians 1)*

The above is a great reminder to all of us that no matter what we experience in this life, we need to praise God “who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.” EVERY spiritual blessing! Even through difficult times? Yes. Even when we do not like what we are experiencing? Yes. Even when our family and friends do not agree with our opinion? Yes.

Even though 2020 felt anything but blessed to many, God did and continues to bless us with every SPIRITUAL blessing. When we accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we were not guaranteed freedom from struggles but we were guaranteed God’s blessings. What blessings did we receive during the craziness of 2020?

- ♦ WE ARE CHOSEN BY GOD!
- ♦ WE ARE LOVED BY GOD!
- ♦ We have not been rejected by God no matter who we are or what we have done.
- ♦ Our sins have been forgiven.
- ♦ We are assured through our faith in Jesus that we will eventually spend all eternity in the presence of God.
- ♦ We have hope, peace, joy, wisdom, and other spiritual gifts from God.
- ♦ And so many more blessings!

No matter what we go through or what differences we have with one another, we are united in this: We have been chosen by God to be set apart and different from the rest of the world and “without fault in his eyes,” adopted into His family. What a wonderful gift God has given to us!

The challenge comes in remembering these blessings, remembering that others have also been adopted into God’s family, and trying to see others through God’s eyes, rather than our own limited eyes. When God looks at you, God sees a wonderful person that He created for a particular purpose or call or things to do for God – to spread the news of Jesus Christ to all we meet. And that is true for all those whom God has adopted, not just ourselves.

2021 – perhaps one of the goals we can all commit to (no matter what we experience) is giving God thanks on a daily basis for our *spiritual* blessings and looking at others through Jesus' eyes, with compassion and love.

*I pray that 2021 will be a blessed year for all of us and that we grow closer to God each and every day! Ellen*



**January Sermon Series:**

The theme verse is

"Behold, I make all things new."

~ Revelation 21:5

**January 10 :** A New Year with New Beginnings *Revelation 21:1-5* **\*\*WITH COMMUNION\*\***

**January 17 :** Hope: Rooted in Love *Deuteronomy 6:49*

**January 24 :** A Challenge for a New Year *Matthew 22:36-40*

**January 31:** New Beginnings: Starting with the Truth *Luke 3:1-20*



**Happy Anniversary**

**Kay & Tom Oosterling on Jan. 1st!**

**Happy Birthday!**

**Jan. 2nd ~ Pat Hemminger**

**Alyson Hathoway**

**Jan. 16th ~ Burt Dennis**

# Annual Church Meeting

**NOTICE** is hereby given by the call of the Council that the Annual Meeting of the members of The United Church of Phelps will be conducted AT 11:00 A.M. **Sunday, January 17, 2021 via ZOOM**. Any questions about the zoom meeting, please contact Ellen via cell phone or email. The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports for the year 2020, adopt the 2021 budget, elect officers for the year 2021, and to transact any appropriate business that may be presented at the meeting. The annual report will be posted to the church website and if a hardcopy is needed, you may call or email to request one at the church office for you to pick up or receive via email.

A quorum of 10% of membership must be present to conduct the meeting.

**(Annual Report Packets will be available ahead of time on church website and the church office by Jan. 14th)**



Pastor Ellen Donnan

Cell phone: 315-521-2593

transitionalpastorphelpsunited@gmail.com

**\*\*Amendments\*\* to The United Church of Phelps Constitution and Bylaws  
Proposed for vote: January 17, 2021 Congregational Annual Meeting:**

BLUE is removed (line through), RED is new included wording (In **BOLD**)

1. Page 2: ARTICLE III: Affiliation

This church shall maintain affiliation with both ~~North Central~~ **Upper** New York Conference of the United Methodist Church and the Geneva Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (USA). ...

*(Approved by Leadership 11/10/20)*

2. Page 7: Under Section 2: Staff: Subsection D: Custodian(s): Item 3:

The ~~Trustees~~ **Personnel Team** shall be responsible with **the Trustees** and the Pastor(s) to conduct an annual performance review and recommend the terms and conditions of continued service.

*(Approved by Leadership 11/10/20)*



# YOUTH GROUP SCOOP

Youth group will be meeting via ZOOM starting Jan 24th. Please make sure Ellen has a good email for your child to participate or if you have questions or concerns about the zoom, please contact her. All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to participate.

**Meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m.**

transitionalpastorhelpsunitied@gmail.com

## Mission & Outreach Ministry

**Health kits** - **THANKS TO ALL** who brought in supplies for the Health kits. I have dropped off **20 kits** to the Victim Resource Center of the Finger Lakes in Newark in December. They were very appreciative and thanked the church very much for helping them with this need. We still need the following to complete more kits:

Toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, Feminine Hygiene products, Gallon bags. Thanks again for all of your support.

**Pennies from Heaven** – Please do not forget this worthy mission. There are boxes at both the entrance and the exit doors. This money goes to the Phelps Food Cupboard.

Thanks so much for always being so generous when a need arises. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

**Dianne Rockefeller (315)694-3383**  
Dianne.rockefeller@silganplastics.com



**Newsletter Articles**  
**For February due**  
**January 18<sup>th</sup>. Send**  
**articles to**  
**ucpnewsletter@gmail.com**



### BAG MEAL LUNCHES

Beginning the Monday after Thanksgiving (Nov. 30) we will no longer be in the kitchen for meal pick-up.

We will continue through the Winter to put bag meals in the Blessing Box Cooler found out front to the side of the building.

We will miss seeing you. Please call the church office if you find yourself in need of food.

May God Bless each of you!



Unfortunately the Catholic Church that had taken over the processing of the medicine bottle ministry (program), is no longer doing so. The time and cost of doing this was quite great. I am sure this saddens many who have been faithfully contributing to this ministry but where one door closes, another will open. Perhaps this opens up an opportunity for another, closer to home, ministry in need of our help. If you have any suggestions or feel you have a calling and would like the help of others, please write in or email the church office so it may be brought to the Mission & Outreach Team.



## Food Collection

**FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY IS THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH!**

**The Phelps Community Food Cupboard depends on our generous donations. This is a mission that everyone can participate in. Bring your non-perishable items or you can make a monetary donation.**



### Answer for last month's "Who are We?"

Did you guess correctly? Did you end the year with a perfect score on your "Who are We" guesses? Well these brown-eyed, animal loving , transplants were Missy & Griffin!!

Thank you so much to the both of you. We loved getting to know some special things about you and are so happy you came here from Maine!



### Our first "Who Are We?" for 2021!!!

I gained my first work experience working in my parents' store. After graduating from SUNY Geneseo, there were various library and lab technician jobs and a year teaching in Alaska. I also spent 2 years in Germany when my husband was in the military. I have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. Through the years I've sung in various choral groups. Some things I enjoy are: ice cream, relaxing with a good book, gardening, and watching & feeding birds. Since coming to UCP in 2008, I've enjoyed helping with Vacation Bible School. You might not know this about me but I free lance write. I have submitted articles to magazines which were published, (mostly short fiction). Do you know who I am?

The answer will be in February's newsletter or if you can't wait, you can call 315-548-7020 and make your guess.

If interested in being a mystery person for the "Who Am I?" column, call and speak with MaryAnn Gier at 315-548-7020. Also if you choose to sponsor a "Who am I?", that donation will go to funding the newsletter, such as paper, printing and mailing costs. Thank you to all who have donated!



I just wanted to say to everyone that sent thoughts, prayers and cards, Thank you!!! They were so very much appreciated!

Love,

**Dianne Rockefeller**




Health & Services

Our newly evolved committee is up and running. Our primary 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 be smiles and laughter. We have 10 committee members and almost 50 people we are reaching out to regularly.

Caring Hearts (Health & Services)

Chairperson: Dianne Rockefeller

*have a dream*  
that one day every valley shall be exalted,  
and every hill and mountain shall be made low,  
the rough places will be made plain,  
and the crooked places  
will be made straight.



**Martin Luther King Jr.**  
**Day**  
**Monday Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> 2021**  
**OFFICE CLOSED**

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*  
*August 28, 1963*

# How Can We Help You?

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Ellen Donnan 315-521-2593 (Cell)	Lay Member AC: Christina Albrecht 315-398-9950	Personnel: Rose Copper-Brown 315-719-4292
Church Office/Adm. Asst: Missy Arnold 207-249-0185 (cell)	Advertising:	Prayer Chain: Marsha Gibbs 315-548-5546
Christian Education: Rita Caraballo 585-520-4970	Media/Technology: Eddie Albrecht 315-945-8812	Prayer Ministry: Nan Clark 315-406-5526
Council Chair: Pat Hemminger 315.548.3546	Member at Large: Dawn Norton 315-521-2899	Presbytery Elder: TBD
Custodian: Frank VanNostrand 585.354.4126	Memorial Fund: Cathy Scott 315-548-9448	Sec'y to Council: Linda Kataskas 585-732-8892
Endowment: Frank VanNostrand 585.354.4126	Missions/Outreach: Peg Carlson 315-521-4396 & Brian Hemminger 315-548-4952	Stewardship/Finance: Betsy Bourne 315-945-2307
Financial Sect'y: Pat Hemminger 315-548-3546	Music/Worship: Hope and Penny Albrecht 315-945-8812	Trustees: Dan Moracco 315.548.4548
Health/Service: TBD	Nominating: Jane Pedersen 585-738-1899	"God is Good – All the Time!" "All the Time – God is Good!"

## "Gifts of the Heart 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 Peg Carlson or Brian Hemminger for more information.*

**{Band-aids, hand towels and toothpaste 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:**

- \* **1st Sunday of each month:** Food Pantry Sunday. Donations should be placed in baskets as you enter in the ramp entrance.
- \* **Medicine Bottle Collection:** It has been brought to our attention that this ministry is no longer happening. Very sad and hope that perhaps another calling will open up in this place.
- \* **Coupon Ministry:** Peg Carlson has graciously found a group of people to do this great service. Coupons can only be used up to 2 months back from them receiving them so please bring in your most recent dated coupons. Thank you Peg and the people helping with this much needed ministry.

## Normal Church Office Hours

**Office is remaining closed and staff only unless otherwise scheduled**

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

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

