

One Voice

Monthly Newsletter of the United Church of Phelps
58 Main Street
Phelps, NY 14532
315.548.2772

www.unitedchurchofphelps.org

Transitional Pastor – Reverend Ellen Donnan
Pastor Emerita – Reverend Shirley H. Filiatreau



FROM THE TRANSITIONAL PASTOR:

We've been invited into a story that begins with HUMILITY and ends with GLORY; never the other way around. ~Jen Hatmaker, 7 Days of Christmas



Advent is over and a new year is beginning. But wait – are they two separate seasons? Or does one continue on into the other?

I believe for many people the two are separated into two different categories, but as a Christ follower, how can they? If my lifestyle is not based on the story of God coming to us in the form of an infant (or humility as the quote above states), how can it end with God's glory through the resurrection of Christ?

We cannot pack away baby Jesus with the Christmas ornaments and decorations, for the story does not end here. We cannot start a new year with parties and celebrations without including Jesus, for we are part of his story. We represent Jesus to those who do not know him. We need to be his hands and feet in a time when many are not wanting to be a part of his story or are struggling to figure out if they want or need a relationship with Jesus. We need to share with others what Jesus has done for us and what the Spirit continues to do in our lives. How else will the people "walking in darkness," to use the image of Isaiah, see God's light?

Advent is over. The celebration of Jesus' birth is over. But the story must continue in our lives as we enter a new year.

I am excited to watch God's hand at work in this area of the world, in your lives, and in my life for I know God is ready to do new things. Are you ready to join God in this important ministry?

My prayer is that God will move mightily, not just in my own life, but also in yours, so that the end of the calendar year finds all of us in a deeper relationship with Christ, using the gifts and talents and fruits of the Spirit, and knowing that God keeps his promises.

You are invited to be part of the story. Will you accept the invitation? God bless!

Ellen



**Martin
Luther
King Jr.
Day**

Birthday Observed- Monday, January 20th

"The ultimate measure of a man [or woman] is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stand at times of challenge and controversy."

~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

What a Wonderful Advent & Christmas at UCP

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the Christmas season full of hope, peace, love and joy! Whether you participated in decorating the church, played tone chimes, sang in the choir, lit the Advent wreath, sponsored one or two of the 72 children from the giving tree, or helped make the children's program such a joy — you made the message of Christmas known. The joy of Christmas was felt by everyone! Happy New Year!

Decorating the Church ~



**** We will un-decorate the church following worship on Sunday, December 29th!
Many hands and helpers will make it go quick! Thank you!!**

Christmas Luncheon at Warfields ~







*Christmas for 28 families
and 72 children*



Hope, Love, Joy, Peace



**We need to hear
from you:**

If you are ill or hospitalized, or need a visit, or simply a card, please let the church office know, or contact Rev. Ellen Donnan. We would then know where you are and that you are in need.

If anyone needs any help with yardwork, some work around the house and such, or a ride to church or doctors appointments and other services along these lines, please contact the office and we will do our best to find someone available to help them out.

Call 315.548.2772

SAVE THE DATE!!!

3rd Annual Comfort Food Cook-Off
Saturday, March 7, 2020 3-5pm



Location and registration information coming soon! Start planning those recipes and revving up your taste buds– three simultaneous locations: Victor, Clifton Springs and Geneva!



UNITED CHURCH OF PHELPS
Contemporary Worship

Join us every Thursday Night

7:00-7:45.

Refreshment and snack will
be provided

315-548-2772

Find us on Facebook



**Food
Collection**

**FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY IS THE
1ST 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
to the altar or LOVE-OFFERING BOXES
sit on the front pews and you can make a
monetary donation during communion.**

**Also – the PENNIES FROM HEAVEN boxes
are at the front door and office door.**

News from

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** for the following:**Nursery Breakout CE teacher subs****In January:**

The Age 3 to 1st Grade Class and 2nd Grade to 5th Grade Class will meet every week at 9:30.

The Jr./Sr. Group meets on the 5th and 19th Sunday mornings at 9:30 and on the 12th and 26th Sunday evenings for Youth Group.

Adult Education Sunday mornings are taking a break until Spring.

Miracle of Jesus: Thank you to Nan, Kathe, Doug, Eddie, Peg, Brian, Paul, Dawn, Linda, Len, Lindsey, Betsy, Marge, Rose, Shelly, Hope, Jane, BJ, Amy, youth group, Ellen, and any other team members I may have forgotten, for putting on The Miracle of Jesus event. It was amazing! See Pictures in this edition!!

**Dates to Know in January:**

January 20: church office closed on Martin Luther King Jr. day

January 25: Presbytery meeting, Hector Presbyterian Church

January Celebrations:

2 - Pat Hemminger

16 - Burt Dennis

18 - Alice Sabin



January 1: Tom & Kay Oosterling

If you would like to have a listing in Birthdays and Anniversaries, please enter your information on Desk Calendar in back of Sanctuary, or call the office: 315-548-2772.

Think of giving not as a duty but as a privilege.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. (1874-1960),
American industrialist and philanthropist



To our UCP family,
The Phelps Lions Club would like to express our gratitude for your generosity. Without you, our Christmas Project would not be a success. We were able to help 28 families and 72 children.
Thanks never seem to be enough, But please except a big heartfelt Thank You.

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 following the Sunday worship service, Sunday, January 19, 2020. The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports for the year 2019, adopt the 2020 budget, elect officers for the year 2020, and to transact any appropriate business that may be presented at the meeting. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held Sunday, January 26, 2020.

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

(Annual report Packets will be available one week ahead of time)



SERMON SERIES

January 5
January 12
January 19
January 26

Matthew 2:1-12
Matthew 3:13-17
Romans 1:1-17
Romans 1:18-32

Wise People Still Seek Jesus
God is Well Pleased
Grace and Faith
Foolish Hearts



***SOMETHING NEW
IN
CONGREGATIONAL
CARE***

To aid all of us in knowing when someone is in the hospital or who needs special prayers, a new white board is now hanging outside Missy's office. If you know someone who needs a hospital call or who needs prayers, please add their name to the board. Thanks!



Want to use the church building for a party or some other event? Need a place for the scouts to have an event? Planning a wedding?

The Trustees have established a new policy that anyone using the building for something other than a church event **MUST** fill out a building use form. You can pick one up from the church office and return it to Missy when it is completed.

This is important because we are trying to do a better job scheduling events so that there aren't so many things happening on the same day. The sooner you fill out a building use form, the sooner Missy can add it to the church calendar so that someone else doesn't expect to use the building on the same day.

There is no fee for church members. So why do members need to fill this out? Well, there are several reasons:

- ♦ The Trustees tried to get a grant a few years ago for air conditioning but were denied because they couldn't prove the need for using the building on the part of the community, which would include your building use for things other than church events.
- ♦ This will aid the church office in knowing what is happening in our building when the office is not open. For insurance purposes, we need to prove that we are aware when an outside group or church member is using the facilities in case something happens.
- ♦ We need to have contact information in the case that something changes or we need to check on timing of events.

Please aid us in coordinating the use of the church building, rather than assuming it will be available. We are a very busy congregation and something might already be planned on the day you desire to use the building.



***Shhh
It's just
a little reminder:***

If church is closed, usually on-ly due to inclement weather, notification of closing will be provided in numerous ways:

Facebook

***Television: R-News, Channel 10,
and Channel 13.***



**Year-End
Statements**

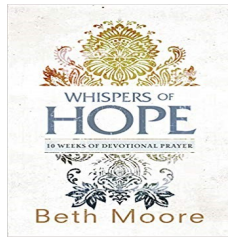
Year-End Financial Statements will be available on January 12th for anyone who contributed over \$250 in 2019. Statements for less than \$250 must be requested. Please see Shelly for more information or to pick your statement up!

Thank you for your amazing support in 2019!

NOTE TO TEAM CHAIRS: Please let Missy know when your team meetings are so we can get them in the bulletin. Also if you are planning special events like fundraisers, the staff would appreciate having that on the church calendar outside Ellen's office asap so that something else doesn't get planned for that date. Thanks for your help!

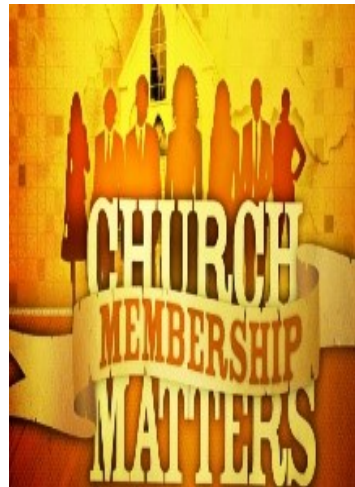
**Newsletter Articles
For February due January 17th.
Send articles to
ucpnewsletter@gmail.com**

Gratitude makes every day sacred. Expressing our gratitude is a gift to the giver. Gratitude for small things makes every day a gift. Sue Bender, author of Plain and Simple and Everyday Sacred



ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Ellen invites you to join her in praying intentionally throughout 2020 for our congregation, while growing in our understanding and ability to pray. She will be using Beth Moore's book *Whispers of Hope* as her focus in prayer this year. You are invited to join her. If you want a copy of the book, please contact Missy by January 15 and she will order one for you. Ellen also invites you to meet weekly with her to discuss what you are learning. Please let her know if you are interested in being part of a small group. Day and time will be dependent upon those interested.



If you are interested in becoming a member of the United Church of Phelps, please let Ellen know. She is working on a workshop for interested people to attend to learn more about the congregation before you make a decision to become a member.

baptism



Several people have expressed interest in being baptized or in having children baptized. Please speak to Ellen and let her know that you are interested. Together, we will select a date for the special sacrament to be celebrated during worship.

A New Year's Prayer

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright,
even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you
when people and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you
for the year ahead.

~Anonymous

www.heartprintsofgod.com

If you have an announcement that you would like to have scrolling on the screen in church before worship on Sunday, please contact Christina or Hope Albrecht. This will be our new way to let us all know about upcoming events.

Thank you

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), Jesuit founder



On January 5th scholarship applications for the Hartmann & Crothers Scholarships will be made available. Applications and transcripts must include your 1st semester senior year grades.

The Hartmann Scholarship will be awarded to a senior at Midlakes who intends to earn a baccalaureate degree. The Crothers Scholarship will be awarded to a senior of an area high school who will be attending an accredited institution of higher learning.

To be eligible for either scholarship the senior must be an active member of the United Church of Phelps. The actual award will be made after the successful completion of the first semester of college; awardee will furnish an official transcript bearing the seal of the college or university to the church office.



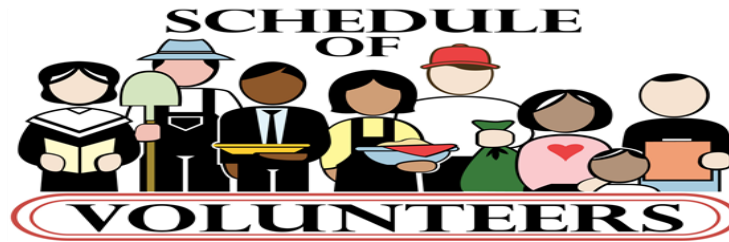
Sunday, January 5th - Epiphany of the Lord

WHAT IS THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD?

The Epiphany of our Lord is the wonderful liturgical festival observed the first Sunday in January. Epiphany is also the season that lasts until the beginning of Lent and encompasses four to nine Sundays, depending on the date of Easter.

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH COMMEMORATE DURING EPIPHANY?

The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord originally commemorated three incidents that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11). Nowadays, most churches emphasize the visit of the Magi (the Wisemen).



Volunteers for January 2020

Ushers and Greeters

Front Entrance

Jan 5 Nan & Jerry Clark

(Communion)

Jan 12 Wendy Holbrook & BJ Hicks

Jan 19 Marge Norsen & Jane Pedersen

Jan 26 Jed & Amy Brandow

Ramp Entrance

Christina & Hope Albrecht

Peg Carlson & Shelly Bengtson

Karen Moracco & Carol Wickum

Penny Albrecht & Cao Adams

Break-Out

Jan 5 Rita Caraballo

(Communion)

Jan 12 Brian Hemminger

Jan 19 Barb Mater

Jan 26 Dawn Norton

Media & Technology

Kelly Bree

Christina Albrecht

Doug Latch

Eddie Albrecht

Acolytes

Cheria Caraballo

Alé Caraballo

Earl Motzer

Payton Reed

Nursery

Jan 5 Amy Brandow & Payton Reed

(Communion)

Jan 12 Samantha Minns & Cheria Caraballo

Jan 19 Erica Motzer & Payton Reed

Jan 26 Rose Copper-Brown & Cheria Caraballo

Lay Readers

Karen Moracco

Christina Albrecht

Rose Copper-Brown

Frank VanNostrand

***Would you like to volunteer for any of the above opportunities? Nursery, Lay Reader, Usher/Greeter?
Please see Hope or Penny Albrecht, Music and Worship Chairs to get signed up!***

How Can We Help You?

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Ellen Donnan 315-521-2593 (Cell)	Lay Member AC: Nan Clark 315.406-5526	Personnel: Rose Copper-Brown 315.719.4292
Church Office: Malissa Arnold 315.548.2772	Advertising: Jed Brandow 315.548.2359	Prayer Chain: Church Office 548.2772
Christian Education: Rita Caraballo 315-548-2083	Media/Technology: Eddie Albrecht 315.946.9729	Prayer Ministry: Nan Clark 585.526.6694
Council Chair: Pat Hemminger 315.548.3546	Member at Large: Betsy Bourne 315-945-2307	Presbytery Elder: Marsha Gibbs 315.548.5546
Custodian: Frank VanNostrand 585.354.4126	Memorial Fund: Cathy Scott 548.9448	Sec'y to Council: Linda Kataskas 315.462.6255
Endowment: Frank VanNostrand 585.354.4126	Missions/Outreach: Peg Carlson 315.789.4713 & Brian Hemminger 315.521.0812	Stewardship/Finance: Patty Dhondt Campbell 585.781.0874
Financial Sect'y: Hope Albrecht 315.946.9729	Music/Worship: Hope and Penny Albrecht 315.946.9729	Trustees: Dan Moracco 315.548.4548
Health/Service: Sharon Peets: 315.573.6849	Nominating: Jane Pedersen 315.548.9397	<i>"God is Good – All the Time!"</i> <i>"All the Time – God is Good!"</i>



"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. **

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## **On-Going Mission Projects Everyone Can Support:**

- \* **1st Sunday of each month:** Food Pantry Sunday. Donations should be placed on the altar
- \* **Pop Top Tabs:** Save those tabs! If your place of work has a vending machine set out a container for people to put them in. Let's help out the Ronald McDonald House!
- \* **NYC Sock Mission:** Please keep the socks, mittens and winter hats coming! This is a great mission we do and it's on-going. When we have enough we ship them out!
- \* **Red Bird Mission:** Please keep box tops coming in! We are amazed at how much good they really do.
- \* **Medicine Bottle Collection:** Save up a group of your containers, peel the label off and wash them in warm soapy water. If label is stubborn, soak them in Oxi-clean detergent and hot water until you are able to easily remove the labels, and the glue. Then bring them into church and put them in the container Matthew 25 Ministries.



Kind hearts are the garden, Kind thoughts are the roots,  
Kind words are the flowers, Kind deeds are the fruits.  
Take care of your garden, And keep out the weeds,  
Fill it with sunshine, Kind words, and Kind deeds.  
*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

