



## THE MESSENGER

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February 2023

### FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR:

One morning I looked out the front window to a view that was simply amazing. Down in the valley below, I saw trees covered in light crystal flakes from the extreme cold snowfall, and the branches glistened in the rays of morning sun. The snow on the front lawn was pure white without any animal or human tracks to detract from its beauty. I lifted my eyes skyward towards the Kingdom of Heaven to thank God that I am in the safety of our home where we were protected from the last few days. The night of the Christmas Eve that was not is still fresh in my mind and will remain there for quite some time. Three days before the holidays, the wind was howling outside with a lot of force; so much so that the walls of the house trembled as it protected my family inside. The snow swirled sideways across the yard, which made it hard to know if it was snowing or just blowing. It was just as dangerous for the plow truck operators to be on the roads in the whiteout conditions. On occasion, they had to pull off to the side of the road to wait for the visibility to return. The travel bans that were in place for three days were lifted at different times in different areas, but the officials were still advising caution when out traveling. We waited out the storm while some essential workers had to venture out and endure the conditions with the hope of making it to their destination. On the news, I heard reports of people complaining about being stuck in their location. The gospel of Matthew reminds us to become quiet, pray to God, and be

thankful that we are safe, happy and together, while praising the life we have and God's name. The disciples and Jesus were once crossing water when a storm came up. The disciples were afraid and became excited, running about in a panic. They awoke Jesus saying they were going to drown. Jesus got up and calmed the waters and said "you of little faith. The storm will pass and soon our lives will return to normal." I think many times we act more like the disciples in the boat who are anxious because this is not our plan. If we could spare only one life by waiting out the storm it is worth the effort. May we all gather alive and well at the end of the storm.

*~ Pastor Jeff*



Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

*- Mark 4:30-32*



United  
Women  
in Faith

~ Nancy Schwab

Happy 2023 to all! Before I begin with the New Year news, I want to say **"thank you"** to so many hard-working, supportive women in our unit. Because of you, our 8th annual Christmas Cookie Bake sale was a huge success. Our total income from the sale was \$2110, thanks in large part to all of the bakers and cookie decorators who spent many hours working on this major fund-raiser.

Another activity that we use to raise funds for the organizations we support, both local and world-wide, is **our pie-making "crew."** This group met 6 times last year and made a total of 235 apple, blueberry, rhubarb, strawberry rhubarb and blackberry pies. It's a lot of work, and it's also a great social time for this "crew", so "thank you" to all of them.

Several women met recently to discuss and help make plans for 2023. Although all programs are not yet finalized, the following is a summary of what we hope to do for the first six months of this year:

**Saturday, February 11th, 10:00 a.m.** -- Business meeting in the parlor, followed by a potluck lunch to welcome the new year and enjoy fellowship together. There will be a sign-up sheet on a table in the narthex to indicate what you'd like to bring.

**Saturday, March 4th** -- World Day of Prayer at Faith United Church of Christ.

**Monday, March 13th, 10:00 a.m.** -- Business meeting followed by the Call to Prayer and Self-denial program led by Ona. Bring a lunch, dessert provided.

**Saturday, April 1st, 9:00 a.m. - noon** -- Niagara Frontier District Communion Breakfast and Memorial service.

**Monday, April 10th, 7:00 p.m.** -- Speaker from Whirlwind Veterans' and Warrior Retreat

**Monday, May 8th, 6:00 p.m.** -- Dinner at 3 Girls Restaurant to celebrate our mothers and all the women in our lives.

**Sunday, May 14th** -- United Women in Faith Sunday in church

**Monday, June 12th, 7:00 p.m.** -- Speaker TBA

**July/August** -- Field trip

More information will be listed in the upcoming monthly Messengers.

## **News from your Trustees**

~ Doug Miller

We've been working on putting new faucets in the Narthex bathrooms. It turns out they needed new shut off valves as well. As time permits they will all be replaced. The small kitchen sink has been snaked, and we found that the problem was more because the septic needed to be pumped. So that's been done as well.

Please don't forget about the boiler fund! At this time it has a balance of \$2960.

We have been in contact with the contractors that gave us estimates last year so they can hopefully give us this year's estimate. We would like to start this later this year. If you remember the average price was around \$100,000!

As always, call or email us at [trustees8019@gmail.com](mailto:trustees8019@gmail.com) with any suggestions.

## **OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO THE FOLLOWING FAMILIES:**



Mary Ann & Tom Kreuder with the passing of their son Robert Faulring.

Missy, Shelby & Josh Buckley with the death of Missy's father James Majchrzak.

Sandy, Andy, Victoria & Nathan Wittmeyer with the death of Andy's mother Alice Baird.



## **FROM THE FINANCE TEAM**

~ Rick Roehner

### **2022 INCOME AND EXPENSE**

For the first eleven months of 2022, revenue was \$156,034 and expense was \$161,351 for a shortfall of \$5,317. The offering was down \$5,356 from last year while expense was about the same.

The Church is current with its obligation to the Conference for the pastor retirement benefits as well as the Shared Ministries. The church did continue to pay its Conference obligations for December 2022.

Fortunately, in November 2022 the church did receive a handful of generous offerings from its members. This went a long way in reducing the shortfall that was expected to occur for the year.

Please, if you were behind in your offering for 2022; you can make it up in your current offering in 2023, if you are able. Please note on your check or envelope what amount is for 2022. Thank you to everyone who has maintained their offering during the year. Your offering is greatly appreciated. We are blessed to have such a giving congregation.

### **2022 ANNUAL OFFERING STATEMENTS**

Some 2022 Annual Offering Statement will be available on a table in the narthex. Others will be mailed out early in February or before.

### **2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Some Offering Envelopes for 2023 are available in the narthex.

### **REMINDER**

If you are sending something to church, please use the following address:

P.O. Box 155

Boston, New York 14025

*“Count your many blessing, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done”*

*---Johnson Oatman Jr.*

## BLANKETS+ 2023



Blankets+ will be introduced on Sunday, January 29th, which also happens to be the 29th year Churchill has participated in this fund-raising event. Our three giraffe friends, Imani, or Faith, Hope and Love will be there to share in the program. Church World Service has been very busy this past year supplying blankets and the "plus," which includes school kits, hygiene kits, welcome backpacks and emergency cleanup buckets to many places in the U.S. and around the world. Churchill received the following letter last spring:

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift to the CWS Blankets program. As families and communities around the world recover from emergencies and struggle in the face of unprecedented challenges, you are standing with them. Now more than ever, we are so grateful for your generous support.

Your contribution provides warmth, comfort and hope to neighbors near and far. It provides a tangible reminder to migrant families that they are not alone as they seek safety. It wraps refugees in warmth as they arrive in the United States to build a new future. It provides comfort to our neighbors who have lost homes or are struggling in the face of extreme challenges. Around the world, your support means relief and hope.

Because of you, Church World Service is able to respond when disasters occur and support is needed. Thanks to your compassion, we can -- and will -- change lives.

Sincerely,

Rick Santos, President and CEO of CWS

Please consider donating generously to the Blankets+ fund during the month of February. There will be a table in the narthex with envelopes and some brochures. If you write a check, please make it out to Churchill Memorial UMC and note that it's for Blankets+; then one check will be sent in March for all our 2023 donations. Last year's total from our congregation was \$1665 to help people in need, here and around the world. Any questions, please contact Nancy Schwab. Thank you once again for your continued support.

## FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM

The Worship Team would like to thank all of those families who stayed after church in December to decorate the tree and put up the candelabra, and all those who helped in January to take down and put away all of the Christmas decorations. All things went well and we appreciate your help.

Anyone who is interested in joining our team, please contact Pastor Snyder or Nancy Schwab. We always welcome new members and your input.

## CHURCH KEYS



If you have a church key (for the old / new locks) would you please let Diane Helmbrecht know.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

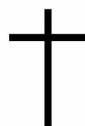


The email mailing list will be used if church services will be canceled due to weather. Facebook and TV announcements will also be utilized. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Ad Council.

## MESSENGER ARTICLES

~ Sandy Wittmeyer

Articles are due by **February 16** to [churchillmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:churchillmessenger@gmail.com) for the March Messenger.





**THANK YOU NOTES FROM OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS**

Dear Churchill Memorial UMC Scholarship Committee

I wanted to thank you for awarding me the college scholarship. I am off to a great start in the electrical engineering technology program at Alfred State and am very thankful for the support.

Thanks, Drew Cassidy

Dear Churchill Family:

Thank you for your generous gifts over the years. Every package you've sent to me meant so much to me that I can't thank you enough.

With gratitude, Bryce Mateer

Dear Scholarship Committee members

I am reaching out to thank you for selecting me as a recipient of your scholarship. I am extremely honored and grateful to receive this award. I believe that you will be pleased to know that this will be a great help towards the cost of my first year at R.I.T. and that I plan to make the most of this generous gift you have given me. Thank you once again for selecting me

Sincerely, Derek Moelbert

Scholarship Committee

Thank you so much for the scholarship for the 2022-2023 academic year. I will be spending this fall semester at the University of Granada in Spain, where I will get the last 15 language credits I need for my degree in Adolescent Spanish Education. The money will help with my travel expenses.

Thank You, Victoria Wittmeyer

**ADMINISTRATION BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

~Mike Campbell

The January Ad Board meeting was held on Thursday, Jan. 19th at 7PM at the church. In attendance were Nancy Schwab, Doug Miller, Sandy Wittmeyer, Pastor Jeff, and Mike Campbell. Jeff opened by saying how great it was that the whole nation got together to pray and support the Damar



Hamlin family. We hope that the nation will continue to work together for other people in need in the future.

Jeff noted that we did contact two of the TV stations when church was canceled on Christmas Eve and Day. The Board agreed that going forward we would communicate closings via three avenues: TV stations (NBC, CBS, and ABC), facebook, and an email from Churchill Messenger. The end of the year report was completed and accepted. In 2022 we averaged about 37 people in church on Sundays. With people that watch on-line the number is about 50. Jeff reported that the Charge Conference held in December went well.

Nancy gave the Worship and United Woman in Faith reports including that the Woman's group donated about \$7,000 in 2022. This is a great accomplishment! We are blessed to have such a dedicated group under the excellent leadership of Nancy Schwab.

Doug gave the Trustees report. He noted that we continue to look into boiler quotes and that we had about \$3,000 in the Boiler Fund. Jeff gave the financial highlights. We ended 2022 with a negative balance of -\$4880 which was much better than we thought it would be back in the fall. Thanks to everyone for the increase in donations late in the year to get us close. We also paid all of our Shared Ministries.

Mike gave Child Center highlights as things continue to go well at the Center. There are about 55 children enrolled. They recently received a \$19,300 grant from the State which is a big financial boost. Mike also noted that the Spring Fish Dinners will most likely be on April 14th and 28th. He will confirm in the next month. The next Ad Board meeting will be March 16th at 7PM.

*"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."*

John 15:12


**FEBRUARY 2023**


Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			<b>1</b> 6:30 Cub Scouts 7 pm Choir	<b>2</b> 1 pm Bible Study	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 10:45 Service <i>Communion</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:30 am Spiritual Class	<b>8</b> 7 pm Choir	<b>9</b> 1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Worship Team 7 pm Trustees	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10 am United Women in Faith Meeting
<b>12</b> 10:45 Service	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:30 am Spiritual Class	<b>15</b> 7 pm Choir	<b>16</b> 1 pm Bible Study <i>Messenger</i> <i>Articles due</i>	<b>17</b> 5:30 pm Cub Scouts Blue and Gold	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10:45 Service	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:30 am Spiritual Class	<b>22</b> 7 pm Choir	<b>23</b> 1 pm Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:45 Service	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:30 am Spiritual Class				