



THE MESSENGER

Vol. 68, Issue 3

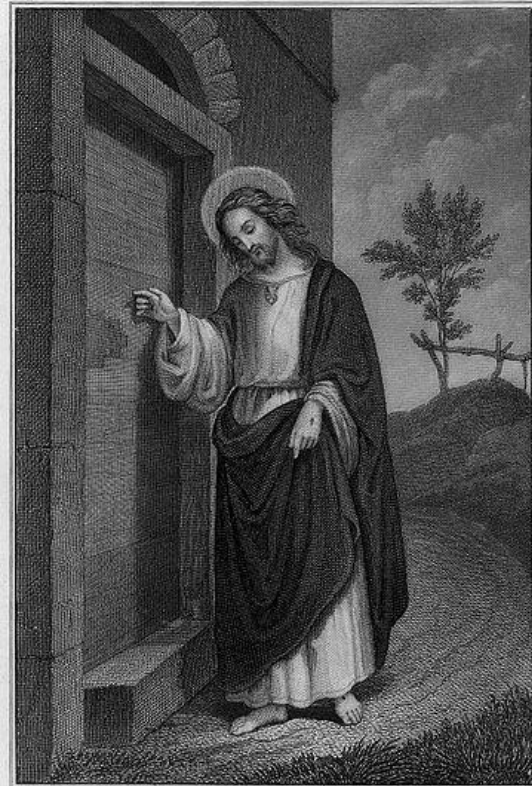
April 2024

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR:

Revelations 3:20 – “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with them, and they with me.” One of the famous paintings of Jesus is when he is standing at the door knocking. The image has been reproduced by many different artists and differs slightly by what each artist visualized. There is one thing in common as we look at each different painting- there is no doorknob. Jesus Christ cannot open the door; he is kept out until someone on the other side opens the door. It is just like the old saying that you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink. We can tie up our neighbors, family and friends, drag them to church, but we cannot make them open up their hearts to Jesus. Jesus waits patiently outside everyone's door to be let in. We can introduce them to the door which Jesus is standing behind waiting on them. Some people take a little longer than others to answer the knock at the door, so the knocking continues. The church today plays an important role in waiting patiently with Jesus on the other side of the door to be let in. Imagine the painting in your mind, Jesus is standing outside a door knocking and the entire congregation of believers are standing behind Jesus waiting. On Sunday mornings when we gather for worship it is often the same families, the same faces, the same voices that are present. On the Sunday's when a stranger comes in to worship, they have just opened the door. The congregation of people standing behind Jesus reply; “Here

we are, standing with you, so you are not alone to answer the door, inviting Jesus to come into your heart”.

~ *Pastor Jeff*



Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

~ Joshua 1:9



United
Women
in Faith

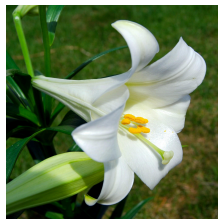
~ Nancy Schwab

It was decided at the March meeting to skip our April meeting because that is the day of the solar eclipse. Since there are two fish dinners in April, we will be selling our baked goods and working in many ways to support the dinners and our church. It was mentioned that our baked goods sell out immediately. Please help us by donating baked goods: cookies, brownies, small loaves of bread, coffee cakes, etc. Packages of cookies should be in baggies with 6 items. Brownies should be packaged in baggies with either 2 large or 4 small ones. Small loaves of bread are good as well as half loaves. All proceeds from both dinners will be given to the Boiler Fund.

Saturday, May 4th is Niagara Frontier District Gift Day at Hamburg UMC from 9:30 to noon. The information for donations is included at the end of the Messenger. There will be printed copies on a table in the narthex. We hope to have several women from Churchill attend the program and drop off our items.

WORSHIP TEAM REPORT

We look forward to celebrating the meaning of Easter with you on **Friday, March 29th for the Good Friday** service at 7:00 p.m. and at our two Easter services on **March 31st**: 7:00 a.m. Sunrise service followed by a continental breakfast and the regular 10:45 service which will include some very special music. All are invited to come to either or both services to celebrate our Lord's resurrection.



If you purchased Easter flowers, they can be taken home after the 10:45 service on the 31st.



FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

~ Rick Roehner

2024 INCOME AND EXPENSE

For the first two months of 2024, the church has a shortfall of approximately \$9,000. However, the church has paid its full amount of the Shared Ministries to Conference. This is around the same shortfall that was experienced in 2023.

Please, if you are behind in your offering to the church; try to make up your offering in the next few months, if you are able. It is important to continue to send in your offering, even if you are not attending church service.

Thanks to everyone who has maintained their offering this year. And if you are able to give over your normal annual giving please do. Your offering will be greatly appreciated. We are blessed to have such a giving congregation.

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

Individuals 70 ½ and older may be eligible for a QCD. This special tax break allows the donor to take from their IRA for charitable purposes and avoid income tax on the distribution. See your financial planner or income tax preparer to see if this applies to you.

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

For the 2024 Stewardship Campaign twenty-six pledges were received totaling \$65,364 including \$6,124 for the Capital Fund. This compares to the 2019 Stewardship Campaign forty-two pledges received totaling \$76,620 including \$3,820 for the Capital Fund.

If you haven't made your commitment to church, you can still do so by turning in your 2024 pledge. A few extra packets for the 2024 Stewardship Campaign and pledge sheets are available on a table in the narthex.

REMINDER

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

P.O. Box 155
Boston, New York 14025

BLANKETS+ 2024



~ Nancy Schwab

The total collected for this year, our 30th, is **\$1778**. That amount is the most in the past 3 years. Thank you so very much to all who gave to help those in need all over the world. Your support shows how much Churchill Memorial members want to spread God's love and caring.

FISH DINNERS



The Spring Fish Dinners will be held on April 5th and 19th, 4:30-7:00 PM. We will be offering dine-in or take-out service. The cost is \$15 per dinner. Please contact Joanne Campbell (716-812-0745) if you can help on the 4th OR 18th for making German potato salad or the 5th and 19th for the dinners. We also need pies. Thank you!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CORNED BEEF SANDWICHES

Corned beef sandwiches were served after the service on St. Patrick's day, March 17th. Good food and fellowship was enjoyed by all in a crowded parlor. The event raised \$631 for the music fund. Previous years the donations went to the Bell Choir fund and, most recently, to the boiler fund. The music budget for 2024 was cut back significantly so this money helps fund music program on-going expenses such as new music, equipment, visiting musicians, etc. Thanks to all who donated!



DONATIONS GREATLY APPRECIATED



Pastor Jeff and Mike Campbell are collecting donations for Roswell Park Cancer Center. Jeff is going to participate in the Ride for Roswell. Mike is a player in the 11 Day Power Play. We both appreciate any donations we receive toward the battle against cancer. These donations can make a difference for individuals and families of those diagnosed with any form of the illness. We thank you for your support in the battle against cancer.

PPR REPORT

~ Sandy Wittmeyer

One of the charges of the PPR committee is to review salaries annually. Recommendations for increase are made based on the guidelines from the District and minimum wage guidelines. Wage increases totalling almost \$5,000 for employees (including pastor, maintenance, music, finance, and secretary) were approved for 2024.

If you are interested in joining the PPR Committee or any other committee, please contact Pastor Jeff.

ADMINISTRATION BOARD MEETING

~ Mike Campbell

The March Ad Board meeting was held on March 21, 2024 at 7PM. Attending the meeting were Pastor Jeff, Doug Miller, Sandy Wittmeyer, Gail Proctor and Mike Campbell. Jeff opened the meeting with a prayer after noting that Dominic was doing better and that Roberta Gard from the Colden church is not doing well. In the Pastor Report Jeff noted that UMCOR buckets will be collected in coming weeks, the Upper NY Annual Conference will be held May 30-June 1st, and the four-year General Conference will be held April 23rd-May 3rd. Jeff reported that we had 50 people in church March 17th and about 30 in Colden totaling about 80 for the two churches. We need 120



people to support a full time pastor per the District.

Mike reported that the Child Center is doing well with close to 60 children attending. The Center closed one day due to the boiler failure, but the second day all but the infants were able to attend by using the parlor and big room end. There was a recent bench-marking exercise done comparing our operations to another local day care center. Our salaries are similar and the cost to attend at our center is a little lower. The Child Center is now giving out recruitment bonuses to anyone who recommends a person who is hired. They are also giving signing bonuses to new employees after ninety days of employment. This money comes from a grant that was received from New York State. We are always looking for new employees so don't hesitate to recommend someone you know.

Sandy gave Nancy Schwab's reports for the Worship Committee and the United Woman of Faith (see articles above). Sandy also gave the PPR report. Mike gave Rick Roehner's Finance report, and Doug gave the Trustee report. Mike reported that the Spring Fish Dinners will be on April 5th and 19th. Mike reported that the corned beef sandwiches after the St. Patrick's day service was a big success. Food and fellowship were enjoyed by all and we raised \$631 for the music fund. The music budget for 2024 was cut back significantly so this money helps fund music program on-going expenses such as new music, sound equipment, visiting musicians, etc. This money is needed to keep our great music program at a high level, but the Boiler Fund is still active as we have raised \$11,500 toward our goal of \$50,000. The Narthex boiler is planned to be replaced this summer so we will continue to raise money through donations and various events including a chicken barbeque in the summer.

The Board agreed that future meetings will be held at 6PM instead of 7PM. The next meeting is April 18, 2024 at 6PM in the parlor.

MESSENGER ARTICLES

~ Sandy Wittmeyer

Articles are due by **April 18th** to churchillmessenger@gmail.com for the May Messenger.



NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES

~ Doug Miller

The walkway light pole closest to the parking lot has been rewired. A new spot light installed on top of it will help illuminate the church entrance end of the lot.

We are still working towards getting a lift to replace the bulbs in the front cross. We will try to coordinate it with an exterminator to spray for carpenter bees at the same time so we don't pay twice for one.

The parking lot will be scheduled for a seal coat when weather allows. We waited until spring to hopefully get a better coat that wouldn't be scraped away with plowing, and salt.

Our boiler fund is currently at \$11,500. We are hoping to raise approximately \$50,000. We don't have an exact cost yet, as prices are very unpredictable. Please pray for the best outcome in these matters.

Thank you all for helping to support our work!

Doug Miller

Trustees8019@gmail.com

716-908-8007

SPRING TEA AND FASHION SHOW

~ Bread Of Life Outreach Program



Bread of Life Outreach Program presents

SPRING TEA and FASHION SHOW

BASKET RAFFLE and DOOR PRIZES

Saturday, April 27th 12:30-3:30 (doors open at 11:30am)

Colden Fire Hall - 8448 Gutekunst Road, Colden

All proceeds to benefit Bread of Life Outreach

\$25 tickets available at Gabe's on the Hill or by mail. Please include a check to BOLO with your name and number of tickets to BOLO Tea Tickets, P.O. Box 113, Colden, NY 14033.



APRIL 2024



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2 9:30 am Spiritual Class	3	4 1 pm Bible Study	5 4:30 - 7 Fish Dinner	6
7 10:45 Service <i>Communion</i>	8 <i>Total Solar Eclipse</i> No meetings	9 9:30 am Spiritual Class	10 7 pm Choir	11 1 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Trustees	12	13
14 10:45 Service	15	16 9:30 am Spiritual Class	17 7 pm Choir	18 1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Ad Board <i>Messenger Articles due</i>	19 4:30 - 7 Fish Dinner	20
21 10:45 Service	22	23 9:30 am Spiritual Class	24 7 pm Choir	25 1 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm CCC Board	26	27
28 10:45 Service	29	30 9:30 am Spiritual Class				

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

~ Romans 15:13



UWF Niagara Frontier District Gift Day 2024

<p>Clara's Closet diapers - sizes 4 and 5 baby wash baby lotion sanitary napkins (no tampons) shampoo dish soap laundry detergent underwear and socks (children and adult) gift cards for Christmas Tree Store</p>	<p>Hamburg Blessing Box cereals canned fruit tuna spaghetti sauce pasta canned vegetables peanut butter jelly salad dressings</p>
<p>Eden Blessing Box laundry detergent Shampoo and deodorant toothbrushes and toothpaste tissues toilet paper (4-6 packs) general cleaner body wash</p>	<p>Kenmore Community Food Bank cereals tuna canned Fruit spaghetti sauce pastas peanut butter jelly</p>
<p>Pink Bag Project for Lady Vets <u>Bags for Men Vets</u> <u>Bags for Women Vets</u> unscented soap hairbrushes Irish Spring deodorant shaving lotion body lotion, shower gel men's wipes chapstick men's deodorant bar soap men's shampoo full size 2-in-1 shampoo men's body wash mini-Kleenex packages individual toothbrushes toothpaste</p>	<p>Lockport CARES Homeless Shelter bottled water coffee and creamer granulated sugar snacks and chips kitchen trash bags paper towels paper plates and paper bowls Powdered drink mixes gallon size Ziploc bags laundry detergent</p>
<p>Seneca Street After-School Program paper towels napkins juice boxes nutritional snacks dish soap laundry detergent 6 oz cold cups disinfectant spray cleaning cloths liquid soap</p>	<p>Wesley's Place Tim Horton's gift cards (\$5) Tops/Wegmans gift cards large sidewalk chalk travel size hand lotion wrapped candy (no peanuts/tree nuts)</p>
<p>Quilts for Charity (Amherst: Trinity UMC) Usable fabric and supplies for quilting projects</p>	