



## THE MESSENGER

Vol. 69, Issue 4

May 2025

### FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR:

“Do you love me? (I can really move.) Do you love me? (I’m in the groove.) Do you really love me?” The Contours, “Do You Love Me (now that I can dance)”

Following Jesus’ death and resurrection, the apostles left Jerusalem and returned to their former lives as fishermen on the Sea of Galilee. That’s where they met Jesus again, as he prepared breakfast for them on the shore. That’s where he asked Peter the question, “Do you love me?” not once, not twice, but three times. Each time Peter responded that he did indeed love his Master; and each time he was told to “Feed the sheep”.

Today, Jesus asks us the same question. And offers the same command: Feed the sheep. That is to feed the hungry, the lost, the lone and lonesome, the unseen ones around us. As the Prophets so often said, care for the widow, the orphan and the stranger among us.

That is especially important today, as Christians are faced with a world in which the stranger is far too often derided, abused, dehumanized and reviled. As followers of the Prince of Peace, we are told to give shelter, sustenance, comfort and sanctuary to the very ones the world would disown. It isn’t easy, in the present climate. But then, being a disciple never was meant to be easy.

We are faced with the demands of contemporary American culture becoming ever more entrenched in discrimination, suspicion and outright hatred for those who have looked to America as a place of hope, an opportunity, and a safe harbor in an otherwise hostile world. To stand

against these cultural expectations may earn us condemnation, threats, and even criminal attacks. But, we are inheritors of a long history of standing against the authorities of this world and standing for the Author of the world.

It is certainly a first step to write or call our representatives at every level of government. We cannot, in good conscience, stop at that point. We are called to publicly stand in opposition to the forces of hatred and evil. We are called to provide that safe haven for the powerless ones. While Boston has not seen great activity by Federal or State forces, that does not mean that we can't be affected by such events.

I cannot dictate to the church how to respond to the unfurling events that make the news every day. But, as a Pastor, I can ask you, the people of the church, to give thought to what might be done, what may happen, and to "prepare for the worst while expecting the best". I am old enough to remember the events of the Civil Rights marches of the 1950's and 1960's. I saw the news films of police dogs attacking children and marchers being struck by streams from fire hoses. I remember the day Martin Luther King died, I remember where I was when I heard of the assassination of Robert Kennedy. I saw the flag being lowered when President John Kennedy died. But, more than these we should celebrate and emulate those countless individuals who, unnamed by history, stood shoulder-to-shoulder against hatred. By making plans now, we can be ready should action ever be needed. As any good Scout will tell you, it is always a good idea to "be prepared".

As Rep. John Lewis said, "Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America." In that redemption, we also offer redemption to God's precious people.



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Certainly we can pray for those victims, and for the victimizers. We can be ready to act, and hope that action is never needed. We can, like Peter, answer "Lord, you know I love you!" Just remember that His answer to that proclamation of love was the command "Feed my lambs. Feed my sheep." We are not just members of the flock; we are also empowered as shepherds.

~ Pastor Evelyn Woodring

### **A NOTE FROM LOREINNE CURNEW**

Thanks for the cards sent; they have truly brightened my day. I have moved in with my daughter (Kayann) & son-in-law (John) and my new address is:

Loreinne Curnew  
c/o Sypniewski  
11094 Blanchard Road  
Holland, NY 14090

### **WORSHIP TEAM**

~ Nancy Schwab

Our next meeting is Thursday, May 8th at 6:00 p.m. in the parlor. Please come and join us and become involved in all that we do to keep Churchill Memorial a great place to worship.

On **Sunday, April 27th**, our new pastor, **Dr. John Loeser**, will be leading the service while Pastor Woodring takes a little time-off. There will be a coffee hour following the service for you to meet and talk with him. We hope you'll come and spend some time getting to know him. He "officially" becomes our pastor on July 1st.



United  
Women  
in Faith

~ Nancy Schwab

**Saturday, May 3rd -- Hymn Fest and Breakfast.** We have been working hard to get things ready for this event. We will be serving breakfast starting at 9:00 a.m. and will need help in the kitchen and donations of baked goods, juice, fruit and egg casseroles, like we had at the April 12th NF District meeting. There are sign-up sheets on the table in the narthex for you to indicate how you can help with this major fund-raising activity.

**Sunday, May 11th -- Mother's Day Sunday will also be UWF Sunday.** If you would like to participate in the service in any way (lighting the candles, reading the scripture, helping with the coffee hour), please let Nancy Schwab or Pastor Evelyn know.

**Monday, May 12th -- Our May meeting will be held at the 3 Girls' Restaurant,** starting at 6:00 p.m. with dinner, followed by a short meeting. More information on the dinner will be announced in church and there will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. We hope you can come to share in a delicious meal and great fellowship with the women of our church.

**Saturday, May 17th -- Niagara Frontier District Gift Day** will be held at Orchard Park United Methodist Church, 3700 N. Buffalo St., OP. From 9:30-10:30 there will be 10 vehicles in their church parking lot to collect items that are needed by the various agencies. The list is included in this Messenger and there are also some copies on the table in the narthex. Please leave your donations at the narthex table designated for gifts by Friday, May 16th. Also, please sign up for attending this event so that the hostesses know how many to expect. Coffee and pastries will be available from 9:30-10:30, then the worship service starts at 10:30 with the speaker Le' Candice Durham sharing information on Candice's Mobile Pantry.

A special **"thank you"** to all of the women who have helped in so many ways these last few weeks with making pies, baking and working at the District Memorial service and Communion Breakfast, plus so many other "things" that come up during the year. Your help is appreciated more than you can ever know.

## MESSENGER ARTICLES

~ Sandy Wittmeyer

Articles are due by **May 15th** to [churchillmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:churchillmessenger@gmail.com) for the June 2025 Messenger.

## SPRING FISH DINNERS

~ Mike and Joanne Campbell

The 2025 Spring Dinners will be held on **Fridays, May 2nd and May 16th**. As usual we will be making German potato salad the previous Thursdays. Look for sign up sheets in the narthex. We look forward to seeing you all then and hope for warmer weather!

## COLLEGE AGE MINISTRY

~ Gail Proctor

This month we will be mailing our last envelopes to the Churchill Memorial college aged young adults for the school year. The purpose of the college age mission is to remind the recipients that the church people pray for them and support them during this special (and sometimes difficult) time of their lives. This year we had 15 recipients of packages for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentines Day, Easter & Exam week (for those in school).

Please continue to support these young people with prayers for their safety and success as they finish up the school year.

## OFFICE HOURS



*Pastor Evelyn's office hours will be*  
Wednesday 9 – noon at Churchill  
Saturday noon - 3 at Colden  
and by appointment. Feel free to contact her at either church.



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## FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

~Rick Roehner

### 2024 INCOME AND EXPENSE

For the year 2024, the revised revenue was \$165,813 and the revised expense was \$171,989 for a shortfall of \$6,176. See the included Income and Expense Summary table for an indication of revenue and expense for the last seven years. For 2024 fortunately, the utility bills were much lower than last year. Especially the heating bill, mainly due to the installation of the new heating system.

The 2024 shortfall does not include the unpaid payments of \$4,146 to the Conference for Shared Ministries for the months of July, August, and September 2024. These are payments that the church feels it should be making. But due to the church's poor financial status it was necessary not to make these payments.

### 2025 OFFERING STATEMENTS

Offering Statements for the end of March 2025 were available in the narthex for some members; others have been mailed out in April 2025.

Some members may have noticed that their 2024 pledge was carried over to 2025 for a couple of months. We apologize for not getting the 2025 pledge in at the beginning of 2025.

### 2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

If you haven't made your commitment to church, you can still do so by turning in your 2025 pledge. You can turn your pledge in by putting it in the offering plate or by sending it to the church.

The current 2025 pledged amount stands at twenty-seven pledges at \$65,084.

## FINANCE MEETING

There will be a finance meeting at 6:00 on June 17, 2025 at the church. (This is a correction from the date of June 24, 2025 stated at the March 18th meeting.)

## REMINDER

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

P.O. Box 155  
Boston, New York 14025

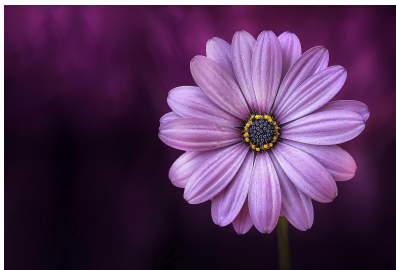
Thank you for your continued support of the church!

## **FROM THE AD BOARD**

~ Mike Campbell

The next meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2025.

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her." ~ Proverbs 31:25-28



**MAY 2025**

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				<b>1</b> 1:00 Bible Study 5:30 pm Bell Practice <i>Prepare for the Fish Dinner</i>	<b>2</b> <b>4:30 - 7 Fish Dinner</b>	<b>3</b> <b>9:00 - 11:30 Hymn Fest</b>
<b>4</b> <b>10:45 Service</b> <i>Communion</i> <i>Bells play during worship</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00 Spiritual Class	<b>7</b> 7 pm Choir	<b>8</b> 1:00 Bible Study 6:00 pm Worship Team 7:00 pm Trustees	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>10:45 Service</b> <i>UWF Sunday</i> <i>Happy Mother's Day!</i>	<b>12</b> UWF Dinner at 3 Girls	<b>13</b> 10:00 Spiritual Class	<b>14</b> 7 pm Choir	<b>15</b> 1 pm Bible Study <i>Prepare for the Fish Dinner</i> Messenger articles due	<b>16</b> <b>4:30 - 7 Fish Dinner</b>	<b>17</b> NFD Gift Day at Orchard Park UM Church
<b>18</b> <b>10:45 Service</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:00 Spiritual Class	<b>21</b> 7 pm Choir	<b>22</b> 1 pm Bible Study 7 pm CCC Board	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Fellowship Hall rented
<b>25</b> <b>10:45 Service</b>	<b>26</b> <i>Memorial Day</i>	<b>27</b> 10:00 Spiritual Class	<b>28</b> 7 pm Choir	<b>29</b> 1 pm Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” ~ John 13:34-35