

West Charlton United Presbyterian Church
1331 Sacandaga Road, Amsterdam, NY 12010

Non-Profit Organization
Galway, NY 12074
Permit #8



The Beacon



WEST CHARLTON UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 882-9874 www.westcharltonupc.org September, 2011

New Opportunities for Sunday School & Family Worship

Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray. Proverbs 22.6

For decades now, our Christian model of religious education has been church-centered, family-supported. But we are discovering that we all need a time to learn as well as to worship and we need to see them in a different relationship. This new relationship is the family-centered, church-supported model. What does this mean? Beginning September 11, 2011 there will be Sunday school for all from 9:30-10:15 a.m. and a Family Worship Service for all from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

We plan to provide a wonderful Sunday school support system to ensure that we all are exposed to themes, issues, and topics that are vital to our faith development. Sunday school challenges us to practice the tenets of our faith in a social context of like-minded persons. And it allows us to bond together as a loving community of God's children, who in turn can encourage as well as challenge each other to live our faith more clearly.

We are also given an opportunity to test our faith in a safe, loving and protective environment. As we wrestle with concepts and points of faith we also sort through our emerging questions.

While Sunday school is a tremendous asset in growing our faith, family worship is also necessary in the life of our blessed families. There is nothing more inspiring than to see whole families praying together, worshipping together, and sharing our gifts and talents together as we seek to honor and comfort God's heart and build an identity together as blessed families. Family worship is a time when we can see how the children, teens, young adults and adults respond to that same message. When this happens, it can be an exhilarating experience.

Family worship also challenges each family to recognize how God can touch the life of each family member in a different way as they worship together. What better lesson for the children than to see their parents genuinely offer their hearts and minds to God with love and tears? How inspiring and enriching for the parents when they see their children experience God with their pure and open hearts and minds – free of concepts and perceptions?

Of course, the success of such a model depends on having an effective Sunday school program and a family worship service that can appeal to each age group in the congregation. This is our goal; there may be a tremendous gap between the ideal stated above and the reality of our own particular situation. However, we believe that this is an ideal worth working toward, that is, if we can change our thinking from children as learners and adults as worshippers; to all as learners and worshippers.

So, how do we reach this point? What steps can we take toward this paradigm?

1. We are hiring a nursery care provider to provide care during Sunday school and worship, so that parents may attend both.
2. Teachers won't teach every week, enabling them to attend Sunday school as well.
3. Welcome parents into the Sunday school class by creating a family-friendly culture so parents know what their children are learning and they can be more effective home educators as well.

4. Adults both younger and richer in years need some time to talk about the core of our faith, ask serious questions, and look at how we can live our faith more completely. Therefore both a teen and adult class/s will meet at the same time as children meet? Also, if you are not interested in the particular class/s being offered you are still invited to stay, socialize and share what's happening in your life with others.

5. Create a family-friendly service: If the worship services are aimed only at the adults in the congregation, the children and youth will quickly become bored and will probably become disruptive. But, if we strive to develop an intergenerational ministry approach for family worship, we include everyone. We started this approach over the summer and we have received many compliments as well as support for this style of worship to continue all year.

6. We will continue to use Program Bulletins effectively: Including fun learning activity in the worship bulletin that small children can do during the service time. It might be coloring a small picture that relates to the sermon topic. Or it might be a list of ways that the family can follow through on the sermon during the week.

7. Be dedicated to a family-centered program: If our faith community is truly dedicated to building strong families and to seeing our children mature into adult men and women of faith, then this can become a reality.

For these reasons we are seeking your support for both Sunday school for all ages and a Family Worship Service for all!

Peace in Christ, Pastor Tom

On the 10th Anniversary of 9/11

At WCUPC will join others in a Saratoga County County-Wide Moment of Silence and Memorial Bell Ringing in remembrance of the tragic events of 9/11/01.

Please join us on the front steps of the church at 8:40 a.m. for a time of silence and pray followed by a bell ringing at 8:46 a.m.

Choir News

Choir will begin again on Sunday, September 11. Rehearsal will begin promptly at **9:00 AM** and as far as I know now, choir will assist in leading worship that day. We look forward to seeing and hearing people who have sung in the past and **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**. Anyone age 13 and older is invited and encouraged to join. No experience is necessary. All voice parts are needed. Don't worry- we'll make room for everyone. A bonus is that the chairs in the choir loft are more comfortable than the pews. If there are people who would like to sit with their family or friends during most of the service, you may do that. You would come to rehearsal at 9:00, sit with your family/friends during worship, join the choir for the anthem when the ushers come forward to receive the offering, then go back to your seat immediately following the Doxology. A core group of choir members will sit in the choir loft for the entire service. In addition, if you are interested and willing to sing for special occasions, such as Christmas, Lent or Easter, you may do that. Just let me know.

We can also use instrumentalists for many anthems and as special music during the summer. If you play any instrument at all, please consider sharing your talent with us. If interested in any of the above or need questions answered, please contact Barbara Cervenka at 882-6676 or e-mail bcervenka@aol.com or regular mail at 5234 Bliss Road, Ballston Spa, NY 12020.

Thank you,
Barbara Cervenka

Greater Galway Community Services Association

The second Clothing Drive of the year sponsored by Greater Galway Community Services will be held Saturday, September 17 from 9am to 1pm at the Galway Lions Building on the Galway-Ballston Road.

Take part in a "win-win" opportunity by donating gently-used clothing. All clothing goes to the City Mission of Schenectady which, in turn, provides the Food Pantry with gift certificates for use by Pantry patrons at the Glenville Mission Thrift Store.

Now is the time to gather up those out-grown children's clothing, some you may have outgrown and will never fit into again or just something you may not need anymore.

We are hoping to fill the Mission's truck which will be parked in front of the Lion's building that Saturday. Your donations will be greatly appreciated by those less fortunate. Thank you in advance.

Our **Ham Dinner and Bake Sale** will be on Saturday, September 17 at 3:30-6:30. (Eat in or Take Out). It's our church's biggest annual fundraiser and your help is needed! There's lots to do and many hands make light work... you can put up fliers (available at church) and sell tickets to your friends, family, neighbors, coworkers (see Judy Knowlton for tickets), bake some goodies for the bake sale (see Chris Nelson), help with pre-cleaning, food prep (making coleslaw, potato peeling, etc.) or volunteer to help with the dinner (see Marcie Page)- and of course support the event by attending!

If you can't attend, you can make a donation... buy some tickets and give them to people you know who may not regularly get a home cooked meal, or deliver some takeouts to shut-ins... another way to help: give a contribution of \$10 or \$20 to cover the cost of a pie, or a few dinners. There are many ways to reach out and make a difference while helping to raise funds.

Questions? Contact Marcie Page 258-1303

Treasurer's Report

Local Fund:

Balance 6-1-11	-	\$5,335.89
Receipts	10,005.00	
Expenses	11,900.43	
Balance 7-1-11	-	\$7,231.32
Receipts	9863.00	
Expenses	11,020.20	
Balance 8-1-11	-	\$8,388.52

Scotch Church Quilters:

Janie Byrd, Barbara Pickney,
Mary DeBie and Lolly Arnold

Made 28 walker totes which Janie delivered to Maplewood Manor this week. They were very appreciative.

The quilters are making some special items for the harvest Auction in October.

Louise Smith Circle (Morning circle)

New Date: Tuesday, September 20 9:30am
At Ruth Mathias' home on Perth Road



Sunday School Taught Here

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF PAGE

Sunday School begins at WCPC for all ages on September 11th at 9:30 a.m.
Nursery care provided

Workshop Rotation Sunday School: grades K-6th

The Parable of the: Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, and Lost Son

Bible Passage: Luke 15: 1-31

Memory Verse: *Luke 15:10*

Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one person who repents.

Goal's for the children to:

- Realize that God loves us and never gives up on us
- Know that God forgives us and welcomes us back when we go astray

Teen Sunday School

The Prodigal Son *Feeling God's Grace*—At the beginning of Luke 15 we find Jesus sharing the good news. While the tax collectors and sinners gather around to listen, the Pharisees and religious scribes grumble disapprovingly in the background. So Jesus (as Jesus often does) turns this moment into a teaching moment and tells them the parables of the lost, including the parable of the prodigal son.

In this study, youth will explore the parable about two sons and the grace they receive from their father—a grace that is unconditional, overwhelming, and could even be described as "prodigal" (recklessly extravagant). Youth will explore how the characters in this story respond to God's grace, then reflect on their own connections with these characters and the youth will explore their understandings of God's grace.

Adult Sunday School

Book Study (4 weeks) *A Portrait of Jesus*

There are countless paths to follow when seeking spiritual guidance, but thousands of years of religion and theology cannot replace the premier example that Jesus himself set. In *A Portrait of Jesus*, bestselling writer Joseph Girzone recaptures the truth of Jesus that is presented in the Gospels and gives a compelling vision of the person Jesus' contemporaries must have known. In his most powerful work yet, Girzone seeks to personify Christ in the minds of readers by asking some simple questions: "What did people see in Jesus as he walked down the street? How did he approach others and what would these people take away from meeting him? What do his actions tell us about how we can live our lives today?" According to Girzone, Jesus was not a holy man who went "around Nazareth asking everyone if they were saved, and forcing religion" on them. Rather, according to Girzone, Jesus was popular simply because he understood human shortcomings, didn't judge people because of their flaws and accepted them on their own terms. In short, Girzone argues, people saw in Jesus a beautifully balanced human being with a sense of humor. Girzone examines the way that Jesus approached others and what Jesus' actions tell us about how we can live our lives today, arguing that there is an earthy quality in Jesus' spirituality. Girzone's Jesus was a warm, personable and understanding man who, with a nod and a wink to human foibles, succeeded in balancing the needs of humanity with the demands of divinity. Yet, despite Girzone's sincere wish to bring Christians into deeper intimacy with Jesus, his gentle, holy fool of a Messiah will leave others shaking their heads in disbelief at such a naive, watered-down portrait of Jesus.

Books can be purchased @ www.bn.com or www.amazon.com

Happy Birthday to all those who have a Birthday in September

Rev. Marie King, 3rd
David Wood, 5th
John King (Burnt Hills), 6th
Paul Byrd, 8th
Dirk Weaver, 10th
Jean Weed, 13th
Barbara Pickney, 15th
Connie Wood, 17th

Monika Gonzalez, 19th
Shirley Palmateer, 22nd
Suzanne Arnold, 25th
Elizabeth Thomas, 25th
William Nelson, 27th
Sonja Greenhill, 28th
Aileen Donnan, 29th
Lorenz Hohlenkamp, 29th



September

Lay Worship Leaders

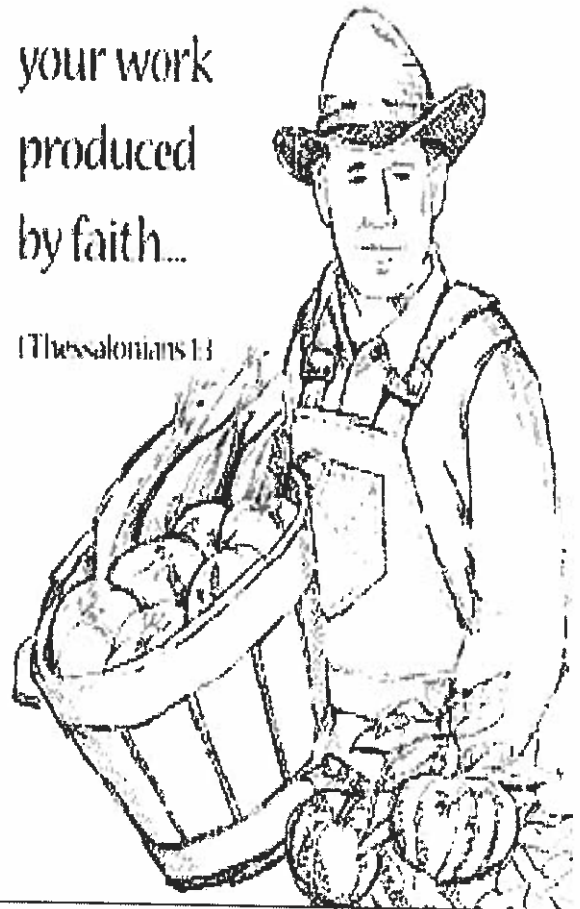
4 John M. King
11 Geralyn De La Fleur
18 Sharon Bellamy
25 Susan Phemister

Greeters: Georgia and Lou Haller



We continually remember
before our God
and Father
your work
produced
by faith...

(Thessalonians 1:3)



~ WCUPC September 2011 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Note: Worship Service time change on 9/11/2011</p>						
4 9:30 Worship	5	6	7 7PM Deacons Meet	8	9	10 Wedding (DeLaFleur)
Flowers: John & Helen King	12 <i>Labor Day</i>	13 <i>Touise Smith-Greale 9:30-AM</i>	14	15	16	17
11 FALL KICK-OFF FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY COMMUNION 9AM Choir Practice 9:30-10:15 Christian Ed All Ages 10:30 Worship Service						
Flowers: Connie & Dave Wood						
18 FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY 9AM Choir Practice 9:30-10:15 Christian Ed All Ages 10:30 Worship Service	19 Presbytery Meeting at Silver Bay	20 Presbytery Meeting A at Silver Bay <i>Louise Smith CIRCLE 9:50AM</i>	21 Helen Killough Circle 7:00 PM	22	23	24
Flowers: Frances Rowe						
25 9AM Choir Practice 9:30-10:15 Christian Ed All Ages 10:30 Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	
Flowers: Holly McConchie						