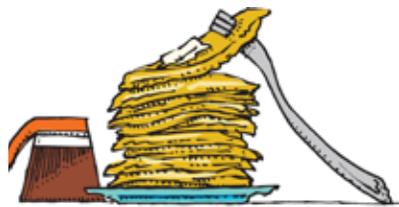


# All of Us

Liverpool First United Methodist Church February - March 2016



## Shrove Tuesday pancake supper to be served Feb. 9

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a FREE pancake supper from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 9 to celebrate Shrove Tuesday, the last day before the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Shrove Tuesday, also known as Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday, is named after the tradition of using up all the fat in the house in preparation for 40 days of fasting as we prepare to celebrate Easter.

Lent is 40 days because Jesus spent 40 days in the desert, fasting and praying and being tempted by the devil. This time of spiritual discipline strengthened him for the ministry work ahead of him. We pray that the spiritual disciplines we take on in Lent will likewise strengthen us for the ministry work to which God calls us.

Even if you aren't planning to fast this year, please come and enjoy pancakes to mark the end of the season of Epiphany, and the beginning of the season of Lent.

A free will offering will be accepted for this year's Appalachian mission trip to Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky.

## Syracuse Pops Chorus performs on March 18

Join us in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. on March 18 for an exciting night of Broadway music presented by the Syracuse Pops Chorus, under the direction of Lou Lemos. This will be held following the second Lenten Fish Dinner on Friday, March 18. Open to the public, so invite your friends and neighbors! Order your dinner by Monday, March 14. Free will offering for the concert.



# Easter Sunday Worship

**6:30 a.m. in Johnson Park**  
Dress warm, bring your own lawn chair

**8:15 a.m. in the Chapel**  
Quiet service of prayer and Holy Communion

**9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary**  
Celebration of the Resurrection  
Discovery Zone for Children & nursery care for infants is available

**11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary**  
Celebration of the Resurrection

*The church is handicapped accessible.*

## Sunday afternoon women's Bible Study begins Jan. 31

Develop a deeper walk with God as you seek the Lord for your battles first. *The Battle Plan for Prayer* equips believers to create their own prayer strategy and be specific and strategic in prayer.

This eight-week study is on

Sundays from 12:30 to 2 p.m. starting Jan. 31. It will be in the Junior High classroom downstairs, led by Alison Mapes. Childcare will be provided every week! You can email Alison at mapesfam506@yahoo.com to register.

## Lenten Fish Dinners: Feb. 26 & March 18

Friday, Feb. 26, and Friday, March 18, are the dates for our annual Lenten Fish Dinners. These haddock dinners feature fish fresh from Boston and homemade macaroni and cheese. They are pre-sale only; dine in or take out. You may order using the forms below.

### FISH DINNER ORDER

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate Feb. 26 \_\_\_\_\_ and/or March 18 \_\_\_\_\_

(order by noon Feb. 22)

(order by noon March 14)

Amount paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Child (6-12) \$4** \_\_\_\_\_

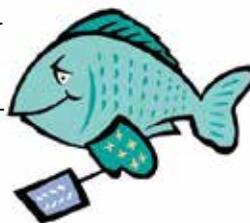
**Child 5 & under** \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult \$10** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Dine In

Take Out



## Ash Wednesday Worship: Feb. 10 at noon and 7 p.m.

Traditional worship services including (optional) communion and imposition of ashes will be held in the Sanctuary at 12 noon (immediately following the 11 a.m. study on *Gilligan's Island and the Seven Deadly Sins*) and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10.

## Lenten midweek worship: two options

You are invited to prepare your heart for the celebration of Resurrection by participating in mid-week worship at 7 p.m. on any of the six Wednesdays during the season of Lent.

A time of worshiping God through praise music, prayer, communion, and a video presentation of *Gilligan's Island and the Seven Deadly Sins* will be held in the downstairs Worship Center.

Simultaneously, a time of sharing in worship through hymns, liturgy, prayer, silence and communion will be held in the sanctuary.

By offering two different styles of worship experiences, we hope to share the journey of Lent with people from a variety of backgrounds. Invite a neighbor to worship with you!



## From Pastor Brian

Rev. Dr. Brian Homan - Senior Pastor



A new year always affords us a new opportunity to start fresh; however, we always carry over baggage from the old year, which prevents it from being a truly fresh start.

As we begin 2016, the church begins with a budget deficit, not to be confused with a cash deficit, of \$2,045.16. We also carry over claims from 2015 obligations for payment of \$5,041. What this means is that for the first time in many years we

will not have paid our Shared Ministries representing our connectional partnership with the greater United Methodist Church. Our commitment for 2015 was \$56,196, of which we will have paid \$23,415, leaving \$32,781 unpaid. Last year we were acknowledged by the Annual Conference as one of the few churches of the 900 in our conference to pay our commitment in full. We will not enjoy the pleasure of that distinction this year.

How does this impact us? We carry on paying our local bills challenged to fulfill our 2016 commitment of \$57,120. Our inability to pay impacts the ability of the general church to fulfill its mission work. **It is the hope of the Finance Team that within three years we will be on track of paying our full fair share.** To get there the Team has suspended any special offerings, except for the One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday offering, of which 100% goes toward disaster relief efforts of UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Any special offerings will go towards our Shared Ministry obligation and any local projects will have to be self-funded.

The Finance Team is challenging the church to increase giving to Shared Ministry by 20%, or \$5,000, over what we paid in 2015. Our prayer is that through education regarding the ministry that Shared Ministries provides, and a focus of giving toward connectional mission, we will attain this goal and even exceed it toward fuller participation.

As an aging church, we have lost support from families who have retired and moved away from the area or who have died. The loss of industry in the region has caused many to leave the area due to the changing employment environment. We share this challenge with other churches in the region. However, we have also enjoyed an increase in new families this past year and we hope that with time, our losses may be mitigated by our gains, and with good stewardship we may embrace a promising future financially and of growth in ministry.

Our meeting this challenge will require our greater faithfulness in extending hospitality and participating in Invitational Evangelism. This is not something new; it is working intentionally at fulfilling the Great Commission of Jesus to "go and make disciples." We do this not solely for the purpose of increasing our financial base, but because we believe our community and world needs Jesus and what the church has to offer. This will also spur on our ministries to engage the needs of the community so that our ministries better meet what those outside the Purple Doors need. This compassion will increase our faith and strengthen our ministry if we accept the opportunity.

We can do this by pursuing a deeper walk with Christ personally and with one another with the Holy Spirit leading the way. Pray for the church; pray for our community and let us lend our hands to the plow to answer the call with passion and faithfulness.

### Liverpool First United Methodist Church

604 Oswego Street, Liverpool NY 13088 315-457-5180

Ministers.....	Every member of our congregation
Pastors.....	Brian Homan and Alison Schmied
Pastor Emeritus.....	Milton T. Jefferson
Director of Christian Education .....	Karen Gloyd
Director of Music Ministries .....	Nancy James
Organist.....	Bill Young
Administrative Assistant, <i>All of Us</i> Editor .....	Kate Smith
Publications & Membership Secretary .....	Cathy Temple

## From Pastor Alison

Rev. Alison Schmied - Associate Pastor



Often in worship we pray the way Jesus taught his disciples, including the words

*"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
And forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil"*

(Matt. 6:9-13).

Those can be powerful, life-changing words.

**What is the kingdom for which we are praying?** Our Christian faith draws on the images of Hebrew scripture to say that God's kingdom comes when the oppressed are set free, the sick are healed, the blind receive sight, the poor have good news preached to them (Isa. 61:1-2, Matt. 11:4-6, Luke 7:21-23). Sometimes, as human beings, these goals seem impossible. But we continue to work and pray toward them, because **with God, nothing is impossible.**

**For whose forgiveness are we praying?** As we pray to be forgiven, we pray also to be shaped by God into people who forgive. Sometimes, people's actions seem beyond our capacity to forgive. Yet our faith teaches us to continue to work and pray toward forgiveness, even praying for our enemies and those who make life more difficult for us (Matt. 5:44), because **with God, nothing is impossible.**

**From what temptations and evils do we pray for deliverance?** Some are personal and daily struggles, such as temptations to do things that are unhealthy for us (1 Cor. 19-20). As we mature spiritually, we add additional temptations to the list, as we are led to work and pray for deliverance from the temptations to apathy and complacency regarding the status quo. Transforming this world into a place where the oppressed are set free, the blind receive sight, the sick are healed, and the poor receive good news seems an overwhelmingly big task. But **with God, nothing is impossible.**

That is the message of Jesus, told in his birth and in his resurrection and all the miracles in between: **with God, nothing is impossible.** (Luke 1:37)

Let us work and pray to live lives that show we believe it.

## Pastor Alison to travel to Nicaragua

Dear Church Family,

I will miss seeing you in worship on February 14 and 21, but you will be in my prayers. I will be traveling to Nicaragua as a part of a Volunteers in Mission Team hosted by the Genesee Valley District of our Upper NY Conference.

We will be working with Project Chacocente, a not for profit organization whose mission is to bring families out of the dump outside the city of Managua to live in a sustainable, interdependent community. Our main purpose in visiting is to build relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We will also help out in whatever hands-on ways we are able.

If you would like to learn more about Project Chacocente, you may go to their website, [outofthedump.org](http://outofthedump.org)

When I return, I expect I will have stories to share. Until then, please keep me and the mission team in your prayers, as you will be in mine.

Blessings,  
Pastor Alison



## Church Family News

### Baptisms

Lydia Grace Murphy, daughter of Bethany and Daniel Murphy, was baptized on Nov. 15, 2015. She is the granddaughter of Kathy and Rev. Dr. Brian Homan.

Penelope Amelia Solini, daughter of Paul and Robin Solini, was baptized in our church on December 6, 2015. She is the granddaughter of Kay Phillips.

### Marriages

Suzanne Marie Pietrowicz and Bob Edward Patrick were married in the church on December 26, 2015.

### Thank you messages

Thank you to all the people who sent me congratulatory 100<sup>th</sup> birthday cards and notes. I enjoyed and appreciated every one!

Ruth Peckham

Thank you so much for your generous donations to our Christmas Store. As a recipient, your business was much appreciated. God bless you all,

Kathy S., Life Skills at Brown Memorial United Methodist Church

To all who donated to the Christmas Bake Sale, and to all who shopped, a big "thank you! Together we raised nearly \$600 toward the ministries of our church!

Dinner/Fundraising Committee

St. Joseph the Worker Food Pantry is truly an ecumenical based program. As you know, we serve the greater Liverpool area. Many churches and businesses in the area support us and our outreach for the community. Without that support our mission, to serve the needy in our community, would not be as easily reached. I want to acknowledge the support that your church gives us on an ongoing basis. Almost every Sunday we have a delivery from your church to our pantry. It is always delivered with warmth and smiles. It is greatly appreciated. We are overwhelmed by the support that is given by you to the program. What a joy it is to have the support from your congregation. Thank you.

Jennifer Woodburn, St. Joseph the Worker Church

Thanks everyone who donated to Gifts for Baby Jesus this past holiday season. The Teen MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) greatly appreciate your contributions.

Liverpool First UMC United Methodist Women

### Selling like hotcakes!



On Sunday, Jan. 10, the Men's Club held a pancake breakfast to raise funds for "Maxo", the Haitian student they have supported since 2009. Free-will offerings given by our congregation at the breakfast netted \$464.12, which will be used to help cover tuition expenses for Maxo, who is now in medical school. The men's club members thank all who contributed, and hope you liked the pancakes. Thanks also to the men who cooked and served the breakfast: Steve Auyer, Ed Betts, Ken Blechl, Rich Ertinger, Doug Greene, Bill Mann, Rod Porter, Bill Sanford and Neal Schantz. They enjoyed putting on this event, and it was rewarding to see Fellowship Hall full of congregants enjoying the meal.



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## Ministry update: Where are we going; what are we doing in 2016?

### Growing spiritually

Since his arrival as lead pastor at Liverpool First, Pastor Homan has provided a schedule of weekly Bible readings and daily studies by social media for the church to read and follow. Something new for 2016 will be coordinating these weekly themes with the teaching on Sunday mornings, to encourage greater study and understanding of the Bible. The daily readings will be drawn from *A Guide to Prayer for All God's People*, published by Upper Room Books.

### Youth ministry

We continue to develop our Youth Ministry by our leadership in a Regional Cooperative Youth program with several other United Methodist churches in our area. Meetings rotate between churches or include special events. Youth and their parents may refer to the winter and spring Youth meeting schedule printed in this edition of the *All Of Us*. We intend to offer a Confirmation experience in the fall in cooperation with our sister churches.

Joining with other churches in programming for youth does not mean the youth of Liverpool First will no longer meet. Pastor Homan will gather involved youth with adult mentors of their selection to assist in designing local events to reach out to unchurched youth they know. He is also planning with them a summer mission trip to the Buffalo region working with Gateway/Longview, a United Methodist residential school and treatment center and to Seneca Street UMC, an urban mission.

### Urban ministry & Missions

We have joined in partnership with the urban United Methodist churches, called *The Syracuse Church*, toward the redevelopment of ministry in the urban area with particular investment in Brown Memorial/Westside Urban Ministry. The Trustees are leading the renovation of the house we own on Hazel Street so it can be utilized for mission and ministry. The Outreach Team is creating a brochure to describe the mission and outreach opportunities available to the congregation to become in-

involved in meaningful ministry. This April we are sponsoring a mission work team who will travel to Redbird Mission to serve in rural impoverished eastern Kentucky.

### Worship alternatives

The informal worship service, *The Gathering*, has moved to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, and various Bible Studies and small groups led by laity and pastors are being offered at multiple times to provide members with choices that fit their schedules. To improve our worship experience on Sundays, the Worship Team is creating a booklet for distribution describing the meaning and purposes behind our weekly rituals in worship.

### Invitational Evangelism & Christian Discipleship

We continue our emphasis on Invitational Evangelism to fulfill our commitment to *making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*. A new Witness Team is designing opportunities and providing resource and training to assist our outreach to our community.

Short term small group courses in Christian Discipleship are being offered to assist people with becoming comfortable with using their Bibles, understanding what being a Methodist Christian is about, growing deeper in prayer, and identifying our unique giftedness to be effective in service. To this end we are encouraging our Lay Servant ministry and look forward to developing a team of trained Congregational Caregivers who will be informed regarding issues people of our culture face and prepared for providing spiritual care and direction. Qualification to become a Caregiver will require completion of our core discipleship classes in addition to completing training designed by the American Association of Christian Counselors entitled *Caring For People God's Way*.

Check out our website, Facebook page and watch our weekly news to learn of opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth and service.

Come and grow with us!

## Regional Youth Events

- Feb. 5-7 SOLID Retreat at Casowasco.  
 Feb. 21 Understanding Islam  
 Visit to Islamic Center near SU.  
 March 6 1-3 p.m. program, Journey Of Faith UMC, Clay  
 March 20 (Palm Sunday) Program at Liverpool 1<sup>st</sup>  
 April 3 Program with Christ Community UMC  
 April 10 (Native American Awareness Sunday)  
 Visit Onondaga Nation  
 April 22-24 UP!WORD at Liverpool Holiday Inn  
 May 15 Earth Day mission project  
 Journey Of Faith UMC, Clay  
 May 29 Pool Party: Christ Community UMC

Summer Mission Retreat (Dates TBA) Travel to Buffalo to tour and do service project at Gateway-Longview and service projects and children's summer program at Seneca Street UMC Church, 1218 Seneca St., Buffalo, NY 14210

## What's Up Downstairs? by Karen Gloyd, Director of Christian Education



Winter was a busy time in Discovery Zone as we learned about the birth of Jesus. We celebrated His birth with a party where we sang Christmas Carols, ate cookies and shared a Christmas gift bag with everyone from the nursery to high school.

Thank you to all youth who participated in the 5 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service. It was a beautiful service which was made even more special by the offering of your talents as singers, actors, narrators, and offering takers.



We look forward to the excitement and fun that Spring will offer as we begin learning more about Jesus and how we can be more like Jesus.

### DZ2

During the 11 a.m. Sunday service, we now offer a supervised children's time for children ages Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. This is available for families who attend church, volunteer or attend classes during both the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services. For details or if you need nursery care during this time, please call Karen at 457-5180.

### Heifer Project

Thank you to everyone who contributed donations to the children's mission, Heifer Project! Discovery Zone has raised enough in donations to send flocks of chicks to 37 families! These chicks will aid families by providing food and a source of income for years to come. I am so proud of the work that was done by our children to aid these families!

### Summer Sunday School

Beginning on June 26, we will start our Summer Sunday School program. This will run from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Sundays from June 26 through Aug. 28. (no class on July 3) We need volunteers to assist with this fun group program. Call me, Karen, to join us for a summer of Sunday fun with the kids! Even if you are only available for a week or two, we still need you, so call!

## Senior Ministry News

### Wednesday, March 16

Luncheon in the church Fellowship Hall at noon; \$15 per person

Menu: corned beef or ham, cabbage, potatoes and dessert - Catered by the American Legion Women's Auxiliary

Program: Rev. Bruce Webster will lead us in an Irish Sing Along (Rev. Webster was our associate pastor from 1985-88)



### Wednesday, April 13

Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall at noon; \$15 per person

Menu: oven roasted chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, macaroni & cheese, roasted vegetables, fresh garden salad, bread & butter, and dessert - Catered by Tabatha's Family Tree

Program: *Antique Road Show* presented by Allen Storinge, Antique Appraiser with Syracuse Antiques Exchange

### Friday, April 29

Dinner in the church Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m.; \$15 per person

Menu: Hoffman hot dogs & coneys, salt potatoes, ice cream floats and dessert - Catered by LFUMC Men's Club

Program: *The Smith Family Fortunes* presented by the Onondaga Historical Association's curator of history, Dennis Connors.

*All are welcome to attend the April 29 event, regardless of age. Please check the posters at church for information on the program.*

## SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 31st - Family Sledding 2pm - 4pm  
 Clay Town Park South, located on Buckley Road  
 across from the North Medical Center

FEBRUARY 27th - Family Game Time 2pm - 4pm  
 Liverpool First United Methodist Church

MARCH 26th - Family Scavenger Hunt 2pm - 4pm  
 Liverpool First United Methodist Church

APRIL 16th - Family Event TBA

Watch the bulletin for more details!

## One Great Hour of Sharing Special offering will be taken March 6

The annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering taken on March 6 will go to help cover the annual operating expenses of UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

UMCOR, the humanitarian relief organization of the worldwide United Methodist Church, receives all of its funding from direct donations. It is not supported by the General Board of Global Missions.

UMCOR is one of the most efficient disaster relief organizations, because it provides relief services through a system of United Methodist congregations and volunteers. Wherever disaster strikes, UMCOR works through local churches and infrastructures to bring hope and healing to people in need regardless of their religious beliefs or affiliation.

Because of the generosity of United Methodists around the world, UMCOR's administrative costs are covered in this one annual offering, allowing 100% of every dollar given for disaster relief work to go entirely to relief work. Please give generously in the special envelope in your bulletin on Sunday, March 6.



## Schantz recognized for service



The GE Syracuse Elfun Society (retirees of General Electric) recognized Liverpool First UMC member Neal Schantz for his service to the community by naming him Elfun of the Year for 2015. Each year, the group recognizes a member who has done an outstanding job of providing community service work for Elfun activities and in the community. Neal participates in many Elfun Community Service work projects, and has been a volunteer at Elderwood in Liverpool since 2008. He spends several days a week there, working with long-term residents at various activities and accompanying them on field trips. More recently he has been on the Board of Directors for the Volunteers-In-Partnership and President of the Board for the last several years. The activities staff knows Neal as the "go to" guy whenever they need help with a special activity. Neal has also been a tax preparer in the AARP's "Tax Counseling for the Elderly" program for about 10 years.

## Office space available at 600 Oswego St.

Our church owns and manages the blue office building next door. We rent at reasonable monthly rates. Currently available are a small suite of four offices and common space on the lower level for \$600 per month. Also on the upper level is a single office available at \$300 per month. All include free parking. If you are looking, or know someone looking, for space near major highways, please contact Dave Fulmer, manager, at 315-457-4087, or the church at 315-457-5180.

## 2016 Sophie Graze Scholarship applications available in March

The Sophie Graze Scholarships, which assist church members with continuing education beyond high school, will again be awarded in June. Applications and guidelines will be available from Kate Smith in the church office in mid-March. Any church member continuing post-secondary education may apply. If you are the parent or grandparent of a high school senior who is also an LFUMC member, please give your name to the commit-

tee and encourage applying. The Scholarship Committee also coordinates with the Dollars for Scholars Committees in the Liverpool, Baldwinsville, and Cicero-North Syracuse school districts. Questions can be answered by Pastor Brian or Karen Gloyd.

Applications are due in mid-May, with awards made in late June. Call Kate at 315-457-5180 for information.

## Support young mothers by providing meals for their meetings

Our church hosts meetings for a Teen MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) group, and they could use help in providing the young mothers, their children and the volunteers that facilitate the program with meals.

Volunteers may either prepare a meal and drop it off at church on the meeting day, or donate gift cards to area grocery stores or restaurants.

Teen MOPS provides a faith-based, supportive, and nonjudg-

mental environment where teen mothers come together with others who are in a similar life situation. Through the relationships formed at Teen MOPS, young moms gain confidence, learn about mothering, and grow personally. They find encouragement, and can share their joys, frustrations, and fears. There also learn from guest speakers and take part in fun activities.

Contact the church at 457-5180 if you would like to help.



### Easter Flowers

Would you like to honor your loved ones by purchasing flowers to decorate our altar for Easter? Please return this form, with payment, to the church office. Thank you for helping to provide a beautiful altar this Easter.

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ Lilies at \$8 each  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Azaleas at \$11 each

( ) In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

## Overcoming the Seven Obstacles To Life and Love - the *Gilligan's Island* connection

*"Just sit right back and you'll hear a tale, a tale of a fateful trip, that started from this tropic port, aboard this tiny ship. The mate was a mighty sailor man, the skipper brave and sure. Five passengers set sail that day for a three-hour tour. A three-hour tour. The weather started getting rough; the tiny ship was tossed. If not for the courage of the fearless crew, the Minnow would be lost. The ship struck ground on the shore of this uncharted desert isle, with Gilligan, the Skipper too, the millionaire and his wife, the movie star, the professor and Mary Ann, here on Gilligan's isle."*

In 1965, the American public was first treated to the whimsical story of Gilligan and six other hapless castaways, trapped on a small Pacific island after their pleasure cruise ends in a violent shipwreck.

During the show's three-year run (ninety-eight episodes), the island's inhabitants attempted to leave the island. Yet the castaways were strangely unable to get off the island, apparently doomed to spend eternity in each other's company.

There is, however, a dark secret about this "comedy" you may never have realized. The island is a direct representation of Hell. Nobody on the island wants to be there, yet none are able to leave. Each one of the characters represents one of the 7 deadly sins:

Sherwood Schwartz, the creator of Gilligan's Island, said he patterned the 'seven stranded castaways' after the seven deadly sins but he didn't admit it until years later in his book.

Our LENTEN STUDY beginning Wednesday, Feb. 10 will study the Biblical inferences of the Seven Deadly Sins through the story of Gilligan's Island. Using video clips and our Bibles we will examine how these sins plague our culture today and the answers offered to us through faith in Christ. Sure it will be fun and funny, but each discussion will help us grow deeper in awareness of the blessings of the cross.

**Join us Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; or Sundays at 11 a.m. or 5 p.m.**

**Limited registration of thirty participants, so call the office at 457-5180 to sign up.**

## Fish Dinners: The catch

Join us on Friday, Feb. 26 and Friday, March 18 for our annual Lenten Fish Dinners. These haddock dinners include fish fresh from Boston, cocktail and tartar sauces, homemade macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, Italian bread, dessert and beverages. Eat in or take out. The meals are pre-order only by noon on Monday, Feb. 22 for the 26th, and Monday, March 14 for the 18th.

Cost is \$10 per dinner. Children ages 6-12 \$4, children 5 and under FREE. See page 1 of this newsletter for an order form.

The other "catch": Volunteer sign-ups are posted in Fellowship Hall for Thursday food preparation and Friday set-up, preparation, and serving. Please help your church by attending and/or helping!

## Make time for daily reflection during Lent

Lent is the season of the church year in which we prepare for Easter. It is 40 days, reminding us of Jesus' 40 days of fasting and praying in the wilderness before he began his public ministry. As we also renew our focus on spiritual disciplines at Liverpool First UMC in this Lenten season, may we also be strengthened by the Holy Spirit for ministry in Jesus' name.

### Daily devotional opportunities:

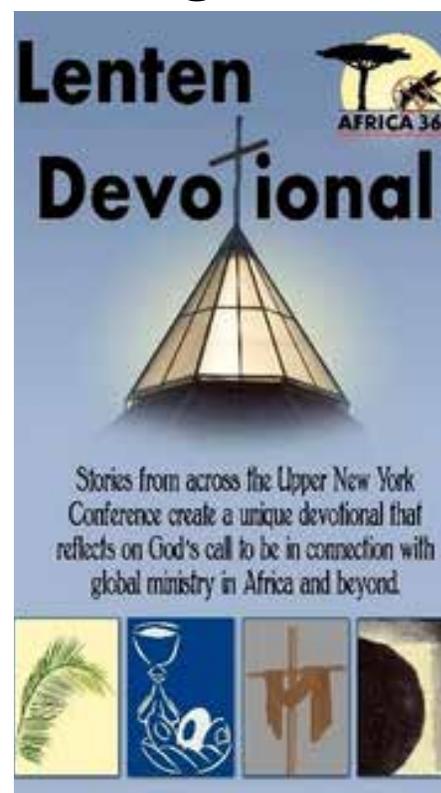
Daily Scripture readings are printed in the worship bulletin each week. They are also posted, together with Pastor Homan's daily reflections, on the Liverpool First UMC Facebook Page, and are available by email. Send an email to BSHoman@aol.com to be added to the daily devotional email list.

### Africa 360 Lenten Devotional available

Clergy and laity from across the Upper New York Conference, including our own Bill Patton, have shared their stories about Imagine No Malaria and Africa University. These stories have been compiled and published in this brand new Africa 360 Lenten Devotional. Proceeds from the sale of this devotional will benefit the Africa360 initiative.

*Africa 360 Lenten Devotional is available for free download:*

[www.unyumc.org/mission/Africa-360-Toolkit](http://www.unyumc.org/mission/Africa-360-Toolkit)



## Prayer and Holy Communion in the Chapel Sundays at 8:15 a.m.

Did you know that a quiet service of prayer, scripture, and Holy Communion takes place every Sunday morning from 8:15 to 9am?

We read the liturgy and prayers of the day, and listen to God's Word through the scripture reading using a form of prayer called lectio divina. We share in the presence of Christ among us through the sacrament of Holy Communion.

This gentle service has been faithfully attended by about 12 people over the last 20 weeks, and there is room for many more. If your week could use a moment of quiet reflection, or if you're curious about this different way of spending time with God, please come try it.

The Chapel, located downstairs just to the left of the stairs from the back parking lot entrance, is accessible by elevator.

## New Member event - March 5

If you are new to the Liverpool First UMC Congregation, or even if you've been here for a long time, if you are considering making it "official" by taking membership vows, you are invited to a New Member Event on Saturday, March 5. Watch the worship bulletin for details.

New Members will be received in the 9:30 and 11 a.m. worship services on Sunday, March 13. Please speak with a pastor if you are thinking about joining.



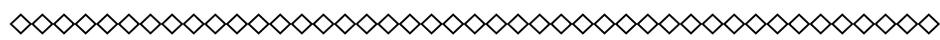


## April Fools' Day Pasta Dinner!

A pasta dinner will be served by the Red Bird Mission team on April Fools Day, April 1.

It's free, so you'd be foolish not to come!

A freewill offering will help support our mission trip to Appalachia April 23-30.



## Retirement or Estate Planning?

Are you and your family planning for retirement, or thinking about your final plans? Our church has benefited greatly over the years from legacies left to us by members who have passed.

The Trustees administer a number of endowments and the Memorials sub-committee plans for direct gifts from members' estates and giving. If you wonder how this is done, or have questions about estate planning or a gift, please speak to a pastor. They will help you with your thought

process and will put you in touch with Trustees and church members who can answer those questions and help you plan for what you want done in your memory.

A recent example is the Scholarship Fund to benefit post secondary education study by church members. This was the result of Sophie Graze's legacy. Though she herself had no children, Sophie wanted to help our young members. Church planners helped her carry out her wishes.

### All of Us Publication Dates

The *All of Us* newsletter has changed its publication schedule to five times per year. Upcoming issues are:

Spring (May & June)

**News Deadline: April 11**

Summer (July & August)

**News Deadline: June 6**

Autumn (September - November)

**News Deadline: Aug. 8**

We are working to enhance digital communication options. If you wish to receive the newsletter by email, please send your email address to [lfumc@liverpoolfirstumc.org](mailto:lfumc@liverpoolfirstumc.org) Check out the church web site at [liverpoolfirstumc.org](http://liverpoolfirstumc.org), and like us on Facebook.

## Invitation to pray

Prayer Partners invite you to be a part of the group that meets Mondays at the church, from 3 to 4 p.m. Learning how to call on God in prayer is one way that we develop our relationship with God. We receive requests from many different sources and for many different needs, such as healing, comfort, strength, wisdom, protection, etc. If you are interested please call Pastor Alison at 457-5180, Pamela Phillips at 451-1087 or Barb Halstead at 622-0752.

## Notes from Nancy

Nancy B. James, Director of Music Ministries

Happy New Year to one and all! After such a wonderful Advent and Christmas season, I think we are off to a wonderful start to the New Year. We have been blessed with mild weather, meaningful worship experiences and personal blessings from God that continue to multiply. At this time of year, when our blessings seem aplenty, and the temperatures are getting colder, I think of those who have so little. With a warm roof over my head, food in my refrigerator, friends and family only a phone call away, I am reminded to keep being thankful every day, and not to focus on the miniscule details of life as if they were the end of the world. While I am not a big fan of New Year's resolutions, I have promised myself to continue my work from last year - focus on the positive, live, laugh, love and give, work hard, pray often, spend more time with friends and family, and take better care of myself. A tall order, I know, but all things of great importance.



The music here at LFUMC is also of great importance to me. I want you all to know that I make it a priority each week to program music that will lift up the Word of God, enhance the themes and sermons that our Pastors deliver, and allow our visitors and regular congregants the opportunity to praise God through music. I hope this was evident throughout this past Advent and Christmas season. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many wonderful performing groups here in our church. Thank you to our brilliant organist, Bill Young, our Spirit Singers with Alison Mapes, Alleluia Choir with Kathy Nortman, Wesley Ringers with Becky Dunstone, and of course our own Chancel Choir. We are very blessed!

Turning this New Year corner, it appears that Lent and Easter are just around the corner. Wow that's fast! This season we can look forward to hearing a cantata we did a few years ago, "The Weeping Tree" by Joseph M. Martin, but this time we will have a small instrumental ensemble accompanying us. It is a beautiful piece with narration and presentation of elements of Christ's journey to the cross. "The Weeping Tree" will be performed on Palm Sunday, March 20. I hope you will put it on your calendar.

Now that winter is here, I hope you all enjoy the snow, stay warm and healthy and come share in our wonderful Sunday morning worship experiences as often as you can.

## Advent Family Breakfast Fun!



Nearly 90 people came to eat breakfast, make crafts, and enjoy a visit with Santa at our annual Advent Family Breakfast on Dec. 5. Pictured here with Santa are Jen Murray Stein and her daughter, Tessa. Tessa is the granddaughter of Pat and Dave Murray.

# Mark Your Calendar

- Feb. 9 4:30-6:30 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Feb. 10 Noon & 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship Services
- March 13 Daylight Savings Time - turn clocks ahead one hour
- March 20 Palm Sunday
  - 9:30 a.m. Choir Cantata *The Weeping Tree*, Sanctuary
- March 24 Maundy Thursday
  - 7 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary
- March 25 Good Friday
  - Noon Ecumenical Service, St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church on Tulip St.
- March 27 Easter Sunday
  - 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service, Johnson Park
  - 8:15 a.m. Service of Prayer and Communion, Chapel
  - 9:30 a.m. Family Worship, Sanctuary
  - 9:30 a.m. Children's Discovery Zone, Downstairs
  - 11 a.m. Family Worship, Sanctuary

## Happening Throughout Lent:

- Sunday Worship at 8:15, 9:30, and 11 a.m.
- Bible Study: Gilligan's Island and the Seven Deadly Sins  
Sundays, 11 a.m. & 5 p.m.  
Wednesdays, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.
- Midweek Worship with Holy Communion  
Wednesdays 7 p.m., Sanctuary and Worship Center  
(downstairs)

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