

April/May

Whiteface Community

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Marilyn S. Ward celebrates her birthday February 1

Ashley Fish celebrates her birthday February 26

Mitch Dickerson celebrates his birthday March 10

Don Morrison celebrates his birthday March 10

Church Staff

Russ Mulvey - Choir/
Bell Choir Director

Eric Klotzko - Pianist

Jeremie/Ashley Fish -
Administrative Assistant

Don Morrison - Lay
Leader

**Church Phone-518-
946-7757**

**Thrift Store-518-946-
2922**

A Note From the Pastor



Pastor's Reflection

Dear friends in Christ,

As we step into April on the day of Easter, I invite you to take a moment to reflect on this Easter morning scene....Imagine Mary Magdalene in front of the empty tomb. Weeping, alone, mourning the cruel death of her best friend, Jesus. Wondering who would have been so unkind as to have stolen his body. Then in the midst of her sorrow and pain, she hears a voice, "Mary". She looks up and, in that instant, her sorrow turns to joy. Jesus says to her, "Go and tell the others!" So Mary runs with wings on her feet, joy in her heart and the words on her lips, "I have seen the Lord!" Because of her witness, others came to believe. They, too, went to see for themselves. Their belief was secured and they told what they saw. Because of their witness, still others believed and followed as well. Still today, there are people who see evidence of the Risen Christ, who believe with all their hearts, and who go to tell others.

Now I invite you to recall the ways you have seen Christ. In the excitement of the Kids Club children getting off the bus on Monday afternoons? In the words God gave you to minister to that grieving friend? In your safe passage through that snowstorm? In the fresh inspiration you had as you read that Bible passage? In the help that arrived in the nick of time? In a time of prayer? In the awesome view from a snow-covered mountaintop? In the peace that settled like a warm hug from your Creator? (yes, that *was* a warm hug from your Creator!). How do you share these experiences? Do you leave mention of God out, for fear of sounding foolish or offending?

May we be so overcome with joy at the evidence of our Risen Savior, that we, like Mary, proclaim, "I have seen the Lord!" Will you share your witness today, so that others too may come and see, rejoice and be glad, go and tell! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!

Resurrection Joy!

Pastor Chrys

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Regional Events

First United Methodist
Saranac Lake- FREE
Community Supper 5PM
every Wednesday

Rummage Sale (Saranac
Lake) will be held on
April 26th and 27th from 9
AM to 7 PM and on April
28th from 9 to Noon.

Plattsburgh UMC- Dinner
Church third Tuesday of
the month from 6-7:45PM

Upcoming Events

Pastor Chrys will be
giving a Holy Land
presentation on April 8th at
4 PM with our second
Sunday supper to follow
at 5 PM.

We will be hosting a
movie night on April 24th
at 6:30 PM. We will be
showing "An
Inconvenient Sequel:
Truth to Power"

A taco bar will be held on
May 5th from 11:30 AM to
1:30 PM

UMW Blanket Sunday
will be on Mother's Day
May 13th. Forms will be in
our bulletin two weeks
before the event.

Kids Club

Recently in Kids Club, the children have been learning about the events surrounding Jesus' death and Resurrection. We are so often astounded and inspired by their insightful questions and realizations!

They have been enjoying making and playing percussion instruments for our music time.

In crafts, the children have been decorating placemats to give to Meals on Wheels recipients.

Thank you to everyone who supports Kids Club with their prayers, teaching, skills, time, care and snack and craft supplies!

Kids Club News

Diane Wainwright

One afternoon, while Pastor Chrys was reading the account of the Resurrection that went along with a game of Bingo we were playing, one of our boys quietly nudged his mom and said, "You should listen to this." This child is one of our deep thinkers. Before Kids Club, he knew absolutely nothing about Jesus; six months later, he listens attentively to our teaching and asks unbelievably deep questions.

Another time, three of our boys hung around to talk a bit more about the Resurrection story while the rest of the kids went off to play. They wanted more information and asked some detailed questions about what happened to Jesus, including what happened to him in the days before he rose from the dead. After answering the boys' questions and asking them if they understood what we had told them, one of them said, "Yes, and now I feel better because I know what happens when you die." He had such a look of relief on his sweet face and happily went on to his next activity.

These children are, without a doubt, hungry to hear about Jesus, and it is truly a privilege and honor to be able to share Jesus and the Bible with them, and to love them.

As much as the children get out of Kids Club, I think I get even more because I get the double blessing to work with devoted, talented, creative, and patient women, from whom I learn every single week:

Nancy, who not only purchases the food and lovingly prepares their snacks but also tries to find out what each child likes and provide it for them. I also know that she tells the kids to take only two cookies but will always give them another if they ask!

Carol, who also buys the food and helps prepare snacks when Nancy is away, has such a wonderful relatable way with the kids. It's just amazing to sit back and watch what happens when she is with them.

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Jenn, who leads fun, interactive, and creative games and tells stories so that even I can't wait to hear what happens, even though I already know the outcome.

Bonnie, who plays endless matching games with our youngest kids while lying on the floor (*lying on the floor!*) and to whom we can turn any temporarily unhinged child over and has them engaged and calmed down within a minute. I think she's also created more than a few jigsaw puzzle addicts.

Ashley, who is always present to lend a hand anywhere that it's needed, and has the innate sense to know when to distract a little one (or me!) before they (or I!) get out of control.

Chrys, the backbone of our Kids Club, whose love for these children is so powerful we can all feel it. She also patiently teaches them how to make "music" with some odd instruments (many of which are homemade), and lets each staff member do our own thing and run with our own ideas, yet somehow makes it all work together for good.

And our junior assistants, Gemma and Anson, who are taking on more of a leadership role this year. The younger children look up to them, and we are so grateful for their presence in Kids Club.

If you've ever considered being a part of this ministry, please talk to one of us, or better yet, come and spend some time with us on a Monday afternoon. Meet the children, and see what we do and where you might fit in. There is a place for everyone in this inspiring and uplifting ministry. Do you have a special skill? Come and show the kids! And if actively participating is just not for you, that's OK. Maybe you'd agree to pray for these kids every day.

Mission-Outreach Team

Our brand new Mission-Outreach Team began in January 2018. Our purpose is to grow the church by creating entryways into the life of the church, pathways for congregation and community members to be involved hands-on in missions and for church and community to engage in faith exploration. We gauge our success by the number of new people whom we engage with in spiritual matters and mission opportunities.

With more entryways, each of us in the congregation will have more opportunities to invite newcomers in. Pay attention to the weekly church announcements in the bulletin and on the Jay Community News (online). From movies and discussion on current topics, to the chance to build a house through Habitat, to a Cinco de Mayo celebration, and more, we are off to a great start!!

We are systematically creating a culture of openness, welcome and invitation where people from all walks will be able to experience the life-changing and empowering love of God, joining with us through whatever entryway calls them.

In these uncertain times, we can provide a church home where folks find belonging and acceptance, a place to serve and grow in faith, a place where they can deepen in their relationship with God and the world.

Revelation(s)

Diane Wainwright

I generally think too much and exhaustively try to figure things out. Not things like electricity and math, but things in my own life, especially what to do next when I know whatever I'm doing is not working out so well.

There have been three (and probably more if I really try to figure it out, but there I go again . . .) very specific times in my life when I gave up, feeling defeated after exhaustively trying to make something happen on my own after much frustration, tears, and anxiety. In prayer, feeling broken, I finally said, "God, I give up trying. You're going to just have to plop this new thing in my lap because I just have no idea what I'm supposed to do about such-and-such right now. I've tried everything I can think of, and nothing has worked." And that's when He was able to help me.

I had an awesome revelation about this matter this morning while reading a Joyce Meyer devotion: You see, what I thought was *total failure* on my part—not being able to figure out where I should turn next to solve my issue and eventually giving up trying—was God's chance to bring me what He wanted for my life, what was truly best for me and the answer I was looking for once I stopped trying to do things on my own. And when He did, I didn't mind at all that what He brought me was even better than what I could have imagined for myself.

But that's exactly what God does. It's OK to ask Him to just plop something in our lap when we have no idea where we should turn or which direction we should go. In fact, it's what we're *supposed* to do. It's our job to trust Him and do good in the meantime, while we're waiting for our answer. As Joyce Meyer wrote, "Trusting God brings life. Believing brings rest. So stop trying to figure everything out, and let God be God in your life."

It's Not You, It's Me

Diane Wainwright

I have on my work desk the heart-shaped Valentine's Day doily a child in Kids Club made with his name on the back and a Bible verse on the front. If you were in church the day we did this and wanted to participate, you chose a heart and agreed to pray for the name of the child

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on the back of it during the season of Lent. The heart that I chose sits on my desk to remind me to pray for him, and since I know the child's name, I have the front of it facing me, the one with the Bible verse on it. Whenever I see it, I smile and think of the child and pray for him.

Today has been "one of those days" in my house. I am as a rule overly sensitive and do not let things roll off my back very easily, and so I was frustrated with my spouse's uncharacteristically grouchy mood. I decided to just stay in my office and work, keeping out of the way; you know, if you can't say anything nice. . . . I was annoyed, thinking that I really don't need any aggravation right now, and who is he to be grumpy, I'm the one who should be grumpy with a work deadline fast approaching, when WHAM, I saw it . . . *really saw it this time*, the doily with the Bible verse "Love is patient, love is kind" (1 Cor. 13:4). I had been anything but patient and kind to him. While I looked at that doily every single day, I never really saw it.

What an eye opener and very cringe-worthy moment. How can I not see what's right in front of me? How can I be pleasant at church on Sunday morning and then not be the same at home? I guess home is where we can just be ourselves, let our hair down, but I think my hair is getting too long. It's time for a new style.

Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking to put together a team to help with a Habitat project. There is a current project ongoing in Keene Valley. If you are interested please email Joe Rine at swimmingmoose@frontier.com

Here is some information on the current project: The home is currently closed in and has power and heat. They are now working on the interior, sheetrocking is done and interior painting has started. Habitat does provide rollers, covers, trays and brushes. If you have your own, feel free to bring them.

Here is the schedule for the next couple of weeks (starting at about 9 AM): They will be working at the Beede Road house on Saturdays for the next month. There is finish work, finishing with varnish, odds and ends on the outside, electrical work and setting cabinets.

Directions to the site: Beede Road is on the north end of Keene Valley going east off of Route 73. The site is the first driveway on the left, part of a fairly recent logged lot. If you get to a bridge you have gone too far.

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Whiteface United Methodist Church

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