



Dear Siblings in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Grace to you and Peace in the name of Jesus Christ, whose triumph over fear and death is made known to us through the power of his resurrection. His resurrection is now our resurrection as we live in new life, new creation, new promise together!

### Call to Prayer Regarding Human Sexuality and Our Church

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I believe God is going to do something new in our church! We are Easter people waiting and praying for a Pentecost moment! In worship this past Sunday, I called us as a congregation to a time of prayer and listening for the future of our church. In the next 3 years our United Methodist Church will discern matters regarding human sexuality and their connections to marriage and ordination. Our United Methodist Church of Queensbury will be affected by proposed changes. I encourage you to go to our church's website ([www.qumc.church](http://www.qumc.church)) and view the sermon from this Sunday to receive more details of our way forward. We need to move to a culture of asking and telling our stories and resist the temptation to remain silent on these matters.

Here then is our call to prayer: Mondays until you hear otherwise, from 6:30PM-7:30PM there will be a prayer service in our sanctuary for the future of our church, its leaders, and its peoples. Next week we will begin a new worship series titled Sacred Relationships: How the Early Church Can Guide Our Conversations. This will be a foundational series upon which we will build in the fall listening conversations with one another in small groups. We need to ask questions and listen to one another's stories about how Christ is the center of our self-identity and all of our relationships. I cannot overstate the urgency of these conversations so that we are prepared as a church to know where God is leading us as a United Methodist family of faith. First and foremost, we must pray together. "And you shall seek me, and find me, when you shall search for me with all your heart." - Jeremiah 29:13.

I believe God is going to do something new within us and through us... will you please join me in that prayer and that belief! Pentecost is coming!

### Youth Ministry Update

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We give thanks to God for the wonderful leadership that Mike and Mary Ellen Burns have offered through the past 4 years in our church's ministry with Youth. They have helped to create a wonderful youth ministry of which we are all a part. Mike and Mary Ellen are stepping down from youth leadership and actively seeking new ways to be in ministry in the life of the church. And while we are emotional about their passing the baton, what better way to honor their faithfulness than to continue growing a vital and sustainable youth ministry!

For the rest of the school year, UMYF (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) will be from 5:30 - 7:30 at the parsonage. This Sunday (May 7th) we will have a picnic and a "welcome to youth group" moment for our newly confirmed members. It's at that time we will begin to plan the summer and next steps as UMYF in the fall. Your youth's input is integral to our next steps! UMYF will include grades 7-12 going forward as well. Myself, Megan, Amanda Sander, and Karen Kowalczyk are on board for counseling youth ministry in this next year! While we are needing to cancel the mission trip this year, our plan is to go to Rutland, VT next year from either June 24-June 30 or the next week. We will work on creating a youth-led youth ministry model in the coming year philled with phait, phun, phellowship, phundraising, and phoutreach. Again, we would not be where we are without the faithful leadership of Mike and Mary Ellen. When you see them next, please thank them for their faithful service!

## Children's Ministry and Lifelong Discipleship Formation Update

I believe God is going to do something new! We are also in need of having a conversation about the very future of our church: our children and their discipleship formation. Our Director of Children's Ministries, Kristen Lambiaso, and I will be leading a presentation/discussion time following services every Sunday during the month of May. We will present the findings from our Discipleship Formation Task Force that has been working through the winter to develop a plan for incorporating our children and youth more fully into the life of worship while also deepening their faith through education. Please plan to join us for at least one of these conversations to ask questions and discuss the potential changes to our Sunday Morning worship schedules starting in the Fall.

We will present a rationale for re-prioritizing our Sunday Morning Schedule as follows:

- 8:30 - Early Morning Worship Service
- 9:50 - 10:45 - Education Hour for All Ages / Combined Coffee Fellowship Opportunity
- 11:00 - Later Morning Worship Service

This proposal is open for discussion as a church during these May Sunday moments following the services.

## Upcoming Worship Opportunities

Also, I'd like to remind you of the following wonderful worship opportunities coming up.

- May 7th - 8:30 & 10:30 - Confirmation Sunday & Communion at both Services
- May 14th - Combined 9:30 service - Celebrating all the women in our lives on Mother's Day (with breakfast following hosted by the Men's Group - volunteers still needed!)
- June 4th - Combined 9:30 service - Celebrating Pentecost & Ordination with breakfast to follow
- June 11th - Cutts Memorial Scholarship Sunday
- June 18th - Combined 9:30 service - Celebrating all the men in our lives on Father's Day (with breakfast following hosted by the Women's Group - volunteers still needed!)
- June 25th - Return to 8:30 & 10:30 Worship. Both will continue throughout the Summer.

## Ordination News

Lastly, I'd like to express my deep appreciation for each of you. Thank you for your faithfulness to Christ's church to which we are called. Your presence is integral to its thriving vitality! I have deeply enjoyed being your pastor for the past 4 years and am excited for the 5th year to begin. I believe God is going to do something new! In light of this newness, humbly I ask you to pray for me as your pastoral leader as I pray for you and your membership in this Body of Christ. On June 3rd at 2pm (you are invited to attend!) in the OnCenter in Syracuse, New York, Bishop Mark Webb will place the yoke of Christ on my shoulders, lay hands on me, and ordain me an Elder in Full Connection in our United Methodist Church. I truly mean it when I say that I would not be the pastor that God has called me to be without you and without our church. You have been empowering, encouraging, and patient with me in my journey as a pastor and, for you all, I am deeply grateful!

"Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen." - Jude

I believe God is going to do something new! Let's pray and live into that belief together!



Rev. Phil Phaneuf