



:: Worship – Sundays 10:30 am ::

Church Office: 518-235-3851

Church Office Hours

Sunday & Monday - Closed

Tuesday-Friday - 9:00am - 12:00noon

{due to flexible summer hours, please call ahead!}

Saturday - Closed

Email: office@cornerstonecl.org

Web: www.cornerstonecl.org

July - August 2010 Newsletter

Inside this Month

Page 2 - A Very Special Invitation

Page 4 - Summer Worship Schedule

Page 6 - Summer Backpack offering

Page 7 - A Letter from the Presbytery

AN INVITATION

As many of you know, Ethel Pike and Gary Miller are getting married on Saturday, October 2nd.

They are extending an open invitation to all who would like to be present as they profess their vows of marriage to God and each other. The wedding ceremony will take place at 2:00 pm, with a small reception immediately following in Fellowship Hall. A light buffet will be served.

If you would like to attend this celebration, Ethel and Gary ask that you reply to one of them by Wednesday, September 1, 2010.

Ethel's phone # 209-5814

Gary's phone # 542-2065

Or you may call the Church Office

(Tue-Fri. 9:00 am-noon) at 235-3851.

PERSONNEL MINISTRY TEAM

Church Treasurer Bill Jarosz has announced his intention to leave that position at the end of 2010.

A job posting will soon be distributed to members of the congregation, posted in the church, and on the church's website (www.cornerstonecl.org). Duties are likely to include:

- paying the general bills and liabilities of the congregation;
- handling all aspects of payroll in a timely manner;
- preparing written monthly financial reports for the Church Council;
- attending meetings of the Stewardship Ministry Team to assist with preparation of the annual church budget;
- reconciling bank statements;
- and filing quarterly tax reports.

The Church Treasurer is a member of the Church Staff and an ex-officio member of the Church Council. The successful candidate should have the ability to use standard financial software (e.g. Quicken for Non-Profits or similar) and be eligible for bonding. This will be a volunteer position.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

On Sunday, June 6, the Sunday School presented their Children's Day Program titled "*A Tale of Two Youth Groups*" (and you all spoke loud and clear (good work kids)! After the program the students and teachers received certificates of recognition and thanks and the youth provided some joyous hand clapping music. Following the service a Church Family Picnic was held in Fellowship Hall (due to inclement weather the picnic in Frear Park was canceled), and a good time was enjoyed by all, complete with hot dogs, hamburgers and all the other good stuff that goes with picnics. We are very proud of our Sunday School children and youth and their teachers!!

SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

Skye Farm Summer Camp brochures are available in the Church Office. They are full of activities for nearly every age level and interest.

For many years the Cornerstone Community has been able to help our families with camp fee scholarship assistance— and because of the generosity of so many, we can do so again!

The maximum scholarship per camper will be ½ of the Summer Camp Fee OR \$170.00 – whichever is less.

To apply, please copy the completed Camp Application you've sent (with your deposit) in to Skye Farm, and drop it (the copy) off at the Church Office. Note: the initial camp deposit must be paid by the family.

The deadline for applying for a Summer Camp Scholarship was Sunday, June 20. Applications for scholarships received after that date will be considered on a first-come first-serve basis as funds are available.

Sign up now... these camps are very popular and tend to fill-up fast! An adventure awaits you this summer... Enjoy!

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 4, 11, 18 – 9:30 am Worship here at Cornerstone

July 25 – Cornerstone, First United, and Oakwood Avenue at Oakwood at 9:30 a.m.
Preaching: Rev. Siegel

Aug. 1 (communion) - Cornerstone, First United, and Oakwood Avenue at First United at 9:30 a.m.
Preaching: Rev. Lusak

Aug. 8 - Cornerstone, First United, and Oakwood Avenue at First United at 9:30 a.m.
Preaching: Rev. Siebold

Aug. 15- Cornerstone, First United, and Oakwood Avenue at Cornerstone Community Church, Lansingburgh at 9:30 a.m.
Preaching: Rev. Siebold

August 22 - Cornerstone, First United, and Oakwood Avenue at Cornerstone Community Church, Lansingburgh at 9:30 a.m.
Preaching: Rev. Lusak

Aug. 29 - Cornerstone, First United, and Oakwood Avenue
Worship In Frear Park at 9:30 a.m.
Revs. Lusak, Siegel, Siebold

Sept. 5 and 12 - Worship at Cornerstone at 9:30 am

Sept. 19 - 10:30 am Worship

2010 ECUMENICAL VBS BEGINS JUNE 28

This year, participating churches are:
St. John's Episcopal,
Christ Church United Methodist,
Oakwood Avenue Presbyterian,
Cornerstone Community,
First United Presbyterian
and St. Paul's Episcopal churches

The Scripture theme is Jesus' Parable of the Sower (Mark 4).
Children and their leaders will learn about Jesus,
will help build community,
and will grow in faith as they become stewards of God's creation.
Open to children from kindergarten through grade 8,
registration forms are in the Church Office.
Registration fee is \$5.

Explore a Scripture story, sing, play, and learn together.
Meet new friends.
This VBS is a summer experience you won't want to miss.

ReNew: The Green VBS
Grow in Faith. Have Fun.
Change the World.

We're offering two options this year!

Come for one or the other or BOTH!

Monday - Thursday, June 28 - July 1 - 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
at St. John's Episcopal Church at 146 First Street, Troy

AND/ or

Monday, June 28 at St. John's and Mondays July 5th, 12th, 19th
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
at Oakwood Avenue Presbyterian
on the corner of 10th and Hoosick

SUMMER BACKPACK & SCHOOL SUPPLY PROGRAM

We are again working with the Lansingburgh Boys' & Girls' Club in
an effort to supply back to school supplies for area students.

During the months of June & July the loose offering will be used to
purchase backpacks for as many children as possible.

There will also be a bin at the rear of the Sanctuary for school supply
items to help fill the backpacks.

We are being asked to purchase any (or ALL) of the following
school supplies for the backpacks:

loose leaf paper
70 sheet spiral notebooks
pencils
pens
markers
crayons (16 or 24 per box)
kids safety scissors
rulers
pocket folders.

The staff of the Boys' & Girls' Club are aware which families are
most in need of assistance and will distribute them on our behalf
before school resumes.

We ask that you get your donations to the church by August 1.

MEDITATION GARDEN BRICKS

Some of you may have missed out on the original opportunity to
place a brick memorializing a loved one in the Meditation Garden
on the north side of our Church building.

If you would like to now purchase a brick to be placed in the garden,
you will have another chance. Additional engraved bricks may be
purchased for \$20.00. If you are interested, please contact Julie
Sproat (or the Church Office, 235-3851) for specific information.
We will need a minimum of 10 bricks in order to place an order.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESBYTERY (edited) (June 22, 2010)

On June 8, 2010, Albany Presbytery made the difficult decision to put the Hebron Center property up for sale. The decision followed a long and painful season of discussion and debate, and the decision itself has been met with a variety of reactions. Some are relieved that a decision was made and that attention may now turn to new mission opportunities, including new ways to serve Hebron's traditional emphasis on youth ministry. Some, however, are deeply wounded and angry, especially those in Washington County and elsewhere who have deep connections with Hebron Center.

For over forty years the camping program served an entire generation of young people who came to know Jesus Christ and experience a profound sense of community at Hebron. Though the decision to close does not deny the value of this history, it is understandable that these young people, their parents, grandparents, the counselors and volunteers who put their love, sweat, time and resources into the program and the place are grieved and hurt.

Therefore, I ask all of us to do several things in the next weeks and months: First, please pray for those for whom this decision has been so hard, and for the whole presbytery pray for healing, for comfort and for guidance as we work and plan together for new ministries for all our young people to emerge.

Second, if your church is one of those for whom this decision cuts deeply, please consider inviting me or another presbytery leader to attend worship, a session meeting or some other gathering. Whether it is simply to listen and hear your anger and grief, or it is to respond to questions about the process, the decision and the future

Finally, I encourage you to publicize and, if you are able, to attend a special gathering at Hebron Center ... for late July or early August. an afternoon where the camp would be open to come and enjoy the grounds one last time, to play, and share memories followed by a dinner, then a Hebron style worship around the cross near Lamar Lodge, where we would sing around the campfire, share stories, celebrate communion, then conduct a liturgy that would recognize that Hebron's formal ministry is at an end. The event will be open to anyone who would like to attend.

More will need to be done in the wake of this decision. Healing will be slow and reconciliation will not come easily. So for now, please pray, invite one of us to come visit, and help us publicize the closing gathering and worship.

In Christ,..... Cass Shaw, General Presbyter

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

During the summer months we will still be having a Fellowship Hour following worship, but we will not have a sign-up sheet. If you plan on attending church and would like to bring some refreshments please feel free to do so. We will be serving coffee, ice tea and lemonade.

LOOKING AHEAD AT WORSHIP

Challenge: Pastor Siebold will take requests for sermon topics during June, July and August. Do you have a scripture passage you want to hear about? Write it down and pass it along to Pastor Siebold. The scriptures below are tentative pending any 'challenge' scriptures.

Special Offering for July and August:

The Loose Offering is being dedicated to our Back Pack/ School Supply program. See details of how you can help within this newsletter.

July 4 – The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Celebration of our nation's birth.

Celebration of Holy Communion by intinction

Topic: *Church and State? What's the problem?*

Anthem: (subject to change through the summer)

"Song of Gathering" – words by J. Paul Williams
music by Douglas Nolan

July 11 – The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Topic: *Predestination and Prevenient Grace? Who cares?*

Anthem: *"Flying Free"* – words and music by Don Besig

July 18 – The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Topic: *Open – ideas anyone?*

Anthem: *"I will Rejoice and Be Glad"*

text: Psalm 118:24; music by Joseph M. Martin

See the Summer worship schedule on page 3 for locations and details.

SCOUT AWARDS RECOGNIZED

Jarret Currier, Andrew and Paul Haupt, and Corey Mazurek, all of Cub Pack #5, have completed the requirements of study and service for the God and Family study program. Pastor Siebold was their counselor through the process.

An awards ceremony will be planned during an upcoming service of worship at which each will receive an emblem and patch in recognition of their hard work.

CONGRATULATIONS to each of you!

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

At this time, we have email addresses for 70 members/families of the congregation. Periodically we send out brief meditations, calendar updates, etc. If you would like to share your email with the church office, please send an email to pastor@cornerstonecl.org. This will insure we have it correctly. Thank you!

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?

37 people now receive and read their monthly Newsletter by email. It's simple to change your 'subscription' from the paper Newsletter to a convenient digital version – send an email to pastor@cornerstonecl.org requesting this service. As soon as the Newsletter is 'published' it will be sent to you as an Adobe (.PDF) file – the bonus is that you will usually receive YOUR copy before the paper copies are even brought to the Post Office! Another bonus is that YOUR digital version doesn't cost the congregation \$.44 postage each and every month (not that you're not worth it!). Sign up now!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Our recent High School graduates include:

Sarah Cipperly; Scott Langlais; Rachael Rebhun; Jenna Rowe; Matthew Whalen and Robert Wolf.

COUNCIL & MINISTRY TEAM MEETINGS

Church Council Picnic	Sat. Aug. 21, 5:00 - 8:00 pm	
	at Pastor Siebold's home in Rotterdam.	
Worship & Music		none scheduled
Trustees	Tues., Sept. 28 6:30 pm	Lounge
Church Life/ Member Care		none scheduled
Education		none scheduled
Personnel		none scheduled
Stewardship		none scheduled

CALENDAR EVENTS FOR JULY & AUGUST

Note – the traditional centerfold calendar is not included in the summer edition of the Newsletter. Please see www.cornerstonecl.org for any calendar updates, or call the Church Office (235-3851).

FOOD PANTRY

Our Food Pantry is in need of:

- cold cereals (non-sugar coated)
- pastas (spaghetti, elbows and other types good for macaroni salad)
- mac n' cheese
- canned meat dinners
- canned fruits and veggies.

Please do **not** donate baby food as we do not have very many requests for it and it becomes quickly outdated.

Thank you.

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION

If you would like to have your birthday and/or your anniversary listed in the Newsletter, please write the information on a piece of paper and hand it to Connie Goodwin any Sunday morning.

JULY & AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

JULY & AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

JUNE BAPTISM

A NOTE OF THANKS

The family of Pearl Powell wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and cards.

“Personal information has been removed from this page for privacy concerns.”

FROM THE PASTOR

Church Office phone: 235-3851 / Email: Pastor@CornerstoneCCL.org

Some thoughts from the world’s faith traditions...

BUDDHISM: Remember that you are like other people. As you fear and suffer, so do they. Therefore, do not do those things that will cause them trouble. As you would not harm yourself, do not harm others.

CHRISTIANITY: Always treat others as you would like them to treat you.

CONFUCIANISM: What one does not like to have done to oneself, do not do to others.

HINDUISM: Do nothing to others which, if done to you, would cause you pain.

ISLAM: No one is a believer until he loves for others what he loves for himself.

JUDAISM: What you do not like, do not do to your neighbor. Love your neighbor as yourself.

TAOISM: Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain, and your neighbor's loss as your own loss.

When it appears that another person’s faith tradition is not as ‘good’ as your own... maybe it is because you don’t understand your own tradition very well.

It is true that all faiths are not the same... but all faiths are genuine insights into the nature of humanity and the nature of ‘God’ (as the different traditions define ‘God’)

This world shares many faith traditions. All these traditions and faiths may not be interchangeable, but they all can be meaningful within the context of a person’s culture and world-view.

Be careful of the rumors which abound on the internet with tales of this or that group of people who are ‘destined’ to hate us by their ‘god’. Just like within Christianity, there are those within other faith communities who claim a tradition of hate and darkness instead of love and light - that doesn’t make them ‘right’ anymore than we are ‘wrong’. Many Christians feel the need to be exclusive. But Jesus did not teach us to be exclusive, but inclusive; or to condemn, but to bring life.

Take time to learn about your neighbors... about their faith, their hopes, their dreams for their lives. Don’t succumb to the hate and fear of the world. Remember: Always treat others... even “those people” ... as you would like ‘them’ to treat you. Tolerance... it’s about being Christian.

See you in Church!

Pastor Allen