

February 2012

# The Messenger

## Avon United Methodist Church



*Washington*



*Lincoln*

Pastor Kim writes...



Dear Friends,

February is the month of love. Western culture usually focuses on the romantic side of love. We know, however, that more aspects of love exist. There are at least four different words for love in Greek.

- Eros – Romantic love that we enjoy celebrating in February
- Philia – love and affection shared between friends
- Storge – protective love given from parents to their children.
- Agape – Unconditional love (one that is the hardest to achieve).

The love that Christians work to attain is Agape. When reading 1 Corinthians 13, each time the Bible says love, the word is Agape. As Christians, we believe that God gives us that Agape love. God loves us in our everyday lives; God loves us when we do wonderful things; God loves us when we do less than wonderful things. God loves us more than we can imagine, more perfectly than the most perfect parent could love his or her child.

This February, I am especially grateful for your love and support. Over the past few months, I have spent more time than I would like in my office to complete my ordination process paperwork. At the time that I am writing this, I have not finished, although by the time you read this, I will be finished. You have demonstrated your love for me as well as your love for others through our life together. Thank you for showing God's love!

During this month when we celebrate love, why not do something to share your Agape love for others? Large acts or smaller acts, God will bless our world through them, and God will bless you! You may never hear how you have touched others' lives through these acts this month. God is indeed changing lives. Why not make this month the month of love?

May you know God's love for you and may it overflow to those around you!

See you Sunday!

Pastor Kim

# Mission Ops

by Mark Blakely

## Our Hand, in "Hands4NY"

A very specific goal was set in June at the Upper New York Conference gathering in Rochester... to attempt to provide one million meals to needy residents throughout our geographical area by June 2012! This initiative was given the name "Hands4NY" and churches throughout the conference were invited to participate in this combined church effort. As explained at the project website: Hunger is on the rise in Upstate New York. Nearly 15% of people living in Upstate New York do not have enough food to meet their needs. The face of hunger is growing and changing. Did you know that last year Upper New York food banks served more children and senior citizens than ever before? What if together we took one year to address hunger issues in our communities, joined by heartfelt compassion for all of God's children who are suffering from hunger? What if we did our own thing in our own way – in our own community, but joined our hearts in one effort? We would be the church mobilized. We would be God's hands and feet, gathered together in one accord to impact hunger.

Since June, I have been keeping track (by weight) of all our donations to the Avon Food Pantry and through the end of December, our congregation has donated 380 pounds of foodstuff, including one 23 pound turkey. According to our Conference, a formula for estimating how many people this amount of food would feed is found by dividing the total weight by 1.3, which would equate to 292 people being fed locally through our contributions to the Hands4NY project. Our food pantry donations also regularly include laundry soap and dish detergent, as well as personal care items such as shampoo, toothpaste, and bar soap. I attempted to get an "official answer" as to how these types of donations should be treated but when I did not receive a reply, decided to include half the weight

of all nonfood items in my monthly food totals. (In theory, more money is available for groceries if a family does not have to spend it on other such necessary items in a grocery store. Hence, 55 pounds of our 380-pound year-end total is represented by nonfood donations.) I also divided the weight of any juice donations by half, as their weight is rather disproportionate as compared to food value.

There are several other categories by which our cooperative contributions to easing hunger can be measured, including donations of money to support community food programs such as food pantries. Our annual "Pennies for the Pantry" project raised a bumper crop of donations this past November and December. Although I am still waiting for a final bank total on all of the 123 pounds of change I have deposited, I am estimating that between \$600 and \$650 was collected inside those two big glass jars. That is a phenomenal contribution from our congregation, and nearly three times the average of what has been donated in recent years. We would especially like to note the enthusiasm of our children during the "Conversations with the Children" portion of the service, and thank them for their help in collecting and encouraging the donation process! According to Conference formula, a \$2.50 donation can feed one person. Thus, we will be credited with feeding as many as 260 people through our cash donations. Totaling the contributions of both projects, we have the combined equivalent of our church helping to feed 550 people in our community! That really puts a different perspective on what our generous efforts can do, doesn't it? And according to the latest figures from our Conference (available at the Hands4NY web site) they have already surpassed 800 thousand in their goal to provide one million meals by June 2012. Looks like we will easily overshoot the original challenge. Yes, we are truly "gathered together in one accord to impact hunger." Amazing what many churches joined in a team effort can do to show compassion for their neighbors. Thank you for your part!



## Feeling the Connection

Submitted by Terry Cullinan, CLM

What a way to kick off the New Year of 2012... sharing the Word of God and experiencing the connectional culture unique to the United Methodist Church. What is the connectional culture? It is a United Methodist tradition, local in thrust but global in reach. It is not only linked from one charge conference to another, one district to another, or one church to another, but it is a web of relationships within the people. We share a common tradition of faith, Doctrinal Standards and General Rules, a common mission, and common ethos characterizing our distinctive way of doing things.

We will be experiencing "connectionalism" through music as we exchange choirs with the Geneseo United Methodist Church for a Sunday. The upcoming workday to help others who are experiencing the devastation of flooding in our state is another example. Globally, we support the United Methodist African University.

I personally experienced being "connected" when I substituted for Pastor Matthew French at the Honeoye Falls United Methodist Church on New Year's Day. I entered the door and felt a friendly feeling drawing me further into the sanctuary. Being greeted by the smiling music director and an outstretched hand of welcome made me feel immediately at ease in an unfamiliar location.

As a District Certified Lay Speaker I participate in the connectional ministry as a substitute for vacationing pastors. The codicil to that is that it only occurs when it works with the events happening in my home church. I felt at ease knowing the order of worship would be similar, with the possible exception of a few descriptions in the bulletin. The service flowed along with Scripture, music and the Word. With a simple but loving handshake, the congregants wished each other well as we "passed the peace." There was definitely the feeling of caring and love among the people, just as I experience each day within our church family. The subtle differences in worship were overshadowed by the "connectionalism" that binds us together as United Methodists. This is a unique characteristic of our faith which encourages us to see the world as God's

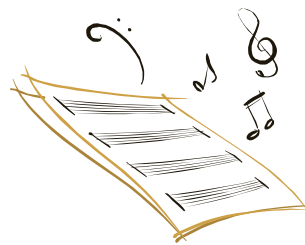
family; and we are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thank you for sharing me with our brothers and sisters in Honeoye Falls and for encouraging me to grow in my faith.

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you so much for my Christmas gift. Your generosity was overwhelming. It is such a joy to be in ministry with you, and I look forward to this year where we will experience God's blessings in abundance. Thank you!

Pastor Kim



### Mark Your Calendars!

We have the unique opportunity to host a 40-member tour choir from Iowa on Sunday, March 4! They will arrive late afternoon and perform an evening concert.

Nancy Sullivan had a phone call from the choral director from her alma mater, Iowa Wesleyan College, last week asking if our church would be interested in hosting this group of musicians touring the East Coast in March.

Iowa Wesleyan College is a private four-year liberal arts college of the United Methodist Church located in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Founded in 1842, it ranks as the oldest coeducational college located west of the Mississippi River. Nancy sang with this group for four years, and we hosted them in her senior year in 1976. We hope to fill the sanctuary and ask that you spread the word. We will update you as plans develop.

"Serve the Lord with gladness:  
come before His presence with singing."  
~~ Psalm 100:2 ~~

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#### Avon United Methodist Church Staff

**Certified Lay Minister: Terry Cullinan**

**Instrumentalist: Mark Brennan**

**Custodian: Bob Wright**

**Nursery supervisors: Elise Stinnett and Brenda Munzinger**

**Director of Music: Linda Rosebrough**

**Office Manager: Debbie Slakes**

## 2011 BUDGET SUMMARY

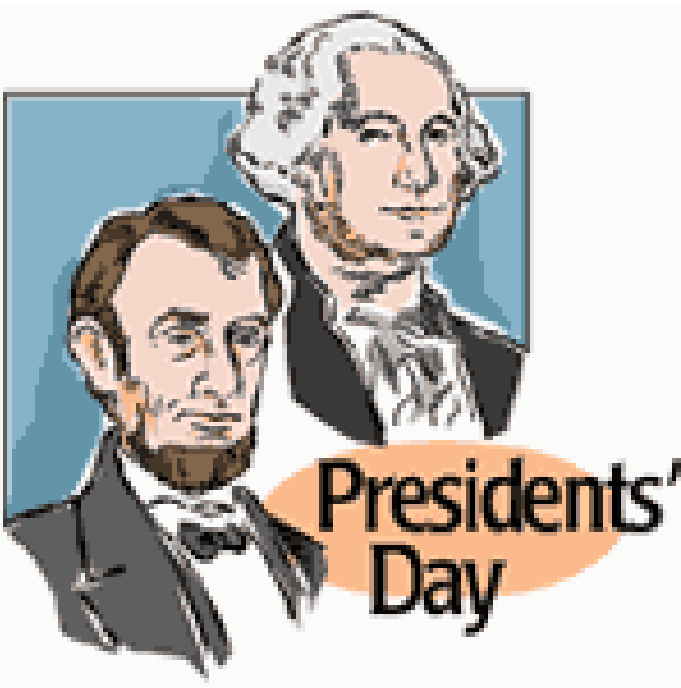
Submitted by Bruce Burritt, Ad Team Chair

The final 2011 Budget Report shows the following summary information. A copy of the full report is available at church.

-\$164,766.83 Expenses  
\$155,751.64 Giving and Other Revenue  
- \$ 9,015.19 Deficit

As reported in the December Messenger newsletter, this deficit will be paid from designated Housing Funds. The Administrative Team authorized up to \$12,000 for this purpose last fall. Only \$9,015.19 is required to balance the budget/bank account.

If you have any questions please contact a member of the Administrative Team.



### Choir Exchange

The Avon and Geneseo United Methodist Choirs participated in a choir exchange on January 29 and will again on February 5. The combined choirs sang in Avon on January 29 at the 10:30 service and will sing in Geneseo on February 5. This is an exciting opportunity for our choirs to join together in harmony. We hope you will enjoy our special music.

# Thank You!

Dear Church Family, Thank you for your Christmas gift. I appreciate your generosity and kindness.  
Love, Linda

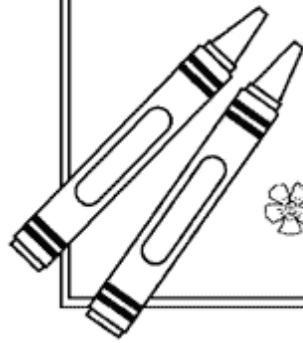
AUMC, Thank you for my Christmas gift. I truly enjoy my relationship with our church. Bob

Dear Church Family, I often think the word "Gratitude" sounds so simple or bland compared to the feeling it represents. A better word I have not found and I find the need to use more words. Coming into the Christmas season, I was not sure what it would mean to me this year. Surprisingly enough, I found an overwhelming joy and peace, which I consider a gift. This gift I received not only came from God but you. I am very grateful for the gift card but the greatest gift that lasts a lifetime is the gift of love I feel in this church. It is something I carry with me throughout the days and weeks. Thank you for all you do... offering support, encouragement and mentoring. I know my Christmas experience would have not been so filled with joy and the Spirit without you in my life. With much love and good wishes for each of you, Terry

Thank you for your love to me expressed in the gift at Christmas. I consider you all a really important part of my life and am delighted to be a part of your church family. Debbie

**"Agape love  
is the love which loves  
because of its own  
inherent nature,  
not because of the worth  
or excellence of its object."**

— Paul E. Billheimer —  
Don't Waste Your Sorrows



# Just for KIDS

## Joyful Psalms

Psalms 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150 are joyful songs!  
They all begin and end with the same sentence.

Write the words below in alphabetical order inside the squares.  
Read down the second column to see the sentence from Psalms.

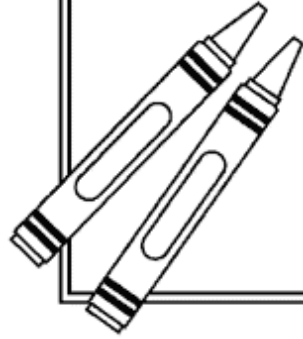
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- FEAST
- KHAKI
- MOUTH
- ESSAY
- LLAMA
- ORBIT
- CARRY
- UDDER
- BRUSH
- ITEMS
- APPLE
- LEARN
- CIDER




Answer: - - - - - !



# Just for KIDS

## Fruit of the Spirit

In the summer we watch flowers, vegetables and fruit grow from tiny seeds and buds. That is also how we grow as children of God – from tiny beings. And as we grow, we need to grow “fruit of the Spirit.” In Galatians 5:22-23 we read about those “fruit of the Spirit.”

Find the “fruit of the Spirit.”

Write the letter from each fruit onto the numbered lines below.



1 2 3 4

5 2 6

7 4 8 9 4

7 8 10 11 4 12 9 4

13 4 14 15 9 2 12 10 16 2 1

17 11 12 18 12 4 13 13

19 2 2 18 12 4 13 13

15 8 11 10 20 15 21 14 12 4 13 13

19 4 12 10 14 4 12 4 13 13

**2012 Lenten Luncheons**  
at the  
Avon Central Presbyterian Church  
Tuesdays at 11:45 a.m.

**The Beatitudes: Attitudes for Kingdom Living**

February 21	“Accepting the Kingdom”	Avon United Methodist
February 28	“Being Comforted”	Avon Wesleyan Church
March 6	“Our Inheritance”	Avon Central Presbyterian
March 13	“Finding Meaning”	Epiphany Lutheran
March 20	“The Power of Mercy”	St. Agnes Roman Catholic
March 27	“Seeing with the Heart”	First Presbyterian of Avon
April 3	“Becoming God’s Kids”	Zion Episcopal Church

*\$2.00 Donation to cover cost of paper supplies  
Thank you.*

# The Messenger

**Avon United Methodist Church  
130 Genesee Street  
Avon, NY 14414**

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