



## New Year's Greetings

A Note From Pastor Kevin Slough

### Special points of interest:

Coming soon:

- Garage Sale
- Mission Update

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Greetings Beloved People in Christ! Like a thief in the night January 2011 has already past. The snow seems steady; the cold is bone chilling and at last daylight is growing longer, at least till 6:00PM! No matter how much we resist time passes and life continues.

On Monday January 17, we remembered the works and ministry of Martin Luther King Jr. As I prayed in remembrance of freedom and over the work for freedom that must continue I found myself filled with peace and thankfulness to God. I rejoiced over the simple blessings in life.

I prayed in thanksgiving for our ability to walk and communicate, to think and dream, to hold onto memories and to make new memories, to work and play, to love and cherish, and much more. All of this was centered on how won-

derfully and fearfully God made each of us. Just like the seasons change we do too. Sometimes we have full health and other times less than full health. Sometimes we feel full of life and other times we feel short of life. Sometimes we feel freedom and other times we feel like something in life has taken us as prisoner. In all situations of life we have reason to rejoice and give thanks to the Lord. In sickness and in health the Lord is with us and loves us!

Psalm 27: 1 says, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" I challenge you to live without fear knowing that the Lord is in control and that the Lord is the stronghold over your life. If

God is leading you whom or what should you fear?

What are you most thankful to God for and how do you communicate that to God and others? I encourage you to make a mental inventory of the simple things God has blessed you with over the years and to give thanks. I ask that you would tell someone else of your blessings and to whom you are thankful to.

May we each in our own moment of peace and thankfulness offer it up to God in Prayer. Know that you are loved by God and your Pastor. Peace and Grace,  
Pastor Kevin

## Fellowship Notes



A big Thank you to all who gave us recipes for the cookbook.

The cookbook's have been very popular. Thank you also to Jean-nine for putting them together and printing them. We made money for the new floor in the gathering room.

The 2 families we provided Christmas dinner for were very grateful. Thank you to all who helped, we could all sit

at our dinners and think that 2 families in our community also were having a great dinner because of your gift to them.

In the New Year we had a chili luncheon the first Sunday in February, thank you all for bringing dishes to share.

We wish you all a great New Year. Let's continue our love for people in our world.

1 Corinthians 13:13  
"and now these remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."

In Jesus name,  
Marilynn Amberger



## Fellowship Extra

Did you receive 'stuff' for Christmas and now have to 'hoe out' to find a place for the new?

**That's good!** Why? Because you can **begin** to think what might be saleable at this spring's garage sale. Put the date on your calendar now,

**May 19, 20 & 21**, while you are reading this newsletter, or it might get procrastinated and forgotten until you

come upon another area that needs hoeing out also! We want all kinds of stuff, from stands, tables, dressers, chairs ...which can be set out in the yard as a 'draw'...to greeting cards, working appliances, and gifts you've received that are not going to be re-gifted to others.

By the way, does anyone have a canopy that can be borrowed for that weekend?

We have some guidelines for saleable items that we've written down from other years of doing these sales; but, for now, just **know** your Church family is having the sale so that you can tell friends, relatives, neighbors. They may want a place to benefit from stuff they don't need anymore also; or they may want to have us take

still sellable stuff from their garage sales prior to our date; or they may just want to give our church and mission 10% from their sale. Be a giver. Be an ambassador for ways others can give to God, even when they don't come to worship with us.



## Trustees Notes



I would like to thank everyone involved that took their personal time to help maintain the professional look of the Church grounds.

We would also like to

Thank those who have taken the time to shovel and salt the walkway into church. It is very much appreciated by all!

Thank you Dave Walter

## Christian Education & Discipleship Ministry Notes

### Ongoing opportunities for growing as disciples:

**Sunday Mornings:** Worship at 9:30 am

Adults: **9:30-10:45am**, then 15 minutes for coffee/treats/conversations.

**11:00am Study of the Letter to the Ephesians**, Led by Pastor Jeff Crawford and Lorretta Slough.

Children: **9:50-10:30 am**. This means children ages 3 and up to age 13 attend worship with their parents or grandparents, then leave the service to attend Sunday School either downstairs or in the conference room until communion is served to all disciples.

Teaching in January: Stefany DeLorme; helper, Jane Agron.

Teaching in February: Bob Fathergill

Teaching in March: Anita Ricci; helper, Chris McCarthy

Teaching the first two weeks of May are Donna Coleman and Karen O'Donnell.

**Helpers are needed from the congregation for February, and both teachers and helpers for April, half of May, and June.**

The **Wednesday morning Bible study** with lunch afterward group is ongoing also. The study for the next six weeks is the Letter to the Philippians. The leadership is varied,

but we follow a study guide with comments and questions to read and answer. The fellowship is inspiring and we do not feel intimidated by our lack of knowledge of the Bible! The soup and sandwich lunch is provided by signing up to bring a single item, making the meal. We also support a child from Brazil through World Vision ministry by each of us donating a dollar a week. **Come and join in any Wednesday—10:30 am.**

**New Opportunity coming in March: Lenten fellowship groups.**

We will start off by coming to a service together on March 9th, Ash Wednesday, at the Seneca United Methodist

Church. Carpool from our church: 6:30 pm for a service at 7:00 pm there. Then, for the next six weeks prior to Easter, plan to prepare your heart through reading and sharing from small booklets prepared especially for the season of Lent (the church will provide and hand them out on the first two Sundays of March.) Sign up for your preference of time and place to fellowship on the poster-board at church.



## Mission Notes

Updates on the mission that started at our local ERUMC in 2003;

The Mission has expanded so much that not only have we have built 27 homes for people in desperate need, we have sponsored 6 children for college with one graduated this past November 2010, her name is Esther Miranda and she graduated with a degree in tourism and business administration with minor in English. (Esther has been able to help us with English Spanish translation in the past two trips). We started a tutoring program with 6 students one teacher and is now 60 students and 5 teachers, the program is run out of the Telica local school ( Miguel

La Reynaga) and is sponsored by a Monroe County Social Worker Todd Ranous, family and friends + fundraisers.

The Kids Kafe, program is about feeding 100 children for lunch three days per week, and sponsored by a local the local affiliated church Morning Start Missionary Baptist Church of the Rochester and is run by a local pastor and also a Monroe County Social Worker Tina Owens, the church program is located at the Fuente De Vida ( Fountain of life ) Baptist Church in Telica and run by the Telica local pastor Oscar Juarez.

This year Todd Ranous and Halyma Chevez we were able to start a new Sewing program, having hire 3

seamstress to do 24 uniforms for children of the program and to teach 6 young adults how to sew. The three teachers are committed to help the program to start and have agree to teach the children for free (3-4 months) until we are able to find sponsors for each child to continue learning a trade. We have an unwed teen aged mother of one, two 16 years old boys who have no support system and three young girls, all of them with very poor backgrounds. ( If anyone is interested we are looking for sponsors for each child \$25.00 per month for either the sewing program or the tutoring program, your choice, as well

accepting donated sewing machines.)

This year Mission trip has six affiliated churches Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, Seneca UMC, New Life Presbyterian Church, Ionia UMC, Bloomfield Congregational Church, and ERUMC we looking to meet on 2/10/11 and determine what the mission will be doing this coming year, we will keep you posted. The Pennsylvania Salem church have decided to go the opposite year so the children of Telica will benefit from a yearly missions instead of every other year.

Your Mission Coordinators  
Tony & Halyma Chevez

## Evangelism Notes

Evangelism, that scary “e” word that keeps turning up at the strangest places and times, it scares us doesn’t it. I know I have mentioned it many times; well this is the section about Evangelism. Anyways, this is the start of a New Year and time to think of new things.

Let’s start with how we experience our faith. Do we experience the Love of God in our lives? How does that make you feel, does it make your heart feel as though it will overflow? Or is it a constant, comfortable feeling, one that you don’t want to disturb. Or is it more head knowledge instead of heart knowledge.

Hopefully you’re in the first category, your heart overflows. Now, isn’t that something you’d like to share? Think of it as sharing the best news you ever got in your life, like the joy you want to share when you

get engaged, or the impending birth of your first child, something like that. If we are so willing to share those kinds of “good” news why shouldn’t we want to share the Good News of how Christ has saved us and filled us with His joy and love?

There’s a hymn that expresses this quite well:

PASS IT ON

It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.

That’s how it is with God’s love once you’ve experienced it; you spread his love to everyone; you want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding; the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming.

That’s how it is with God’s

love once you’ve experienced it; you want to sing, it’s fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I’ve found; you can depend on him, it matters not where you’re bound.

I’ll shout it from the mountaintop;

I want my world to know; the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

**1Jn 4:10** Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

Every blessing to you,  
Jeannine F McMullen

**Jesus Christ said: "the Son of Man came to serve, not to be served"**



## Worship Notes

Throughout my life I have found God in many places and situations. I especially see Him best in the beauty of our environment and in the changing of the seasons.

The following is taken from “Daily Guideposts 2010”, it speaks to me, I pray it also speaks to you.

Margot Gilhart

“Lift up your eyes on high  
And see who has created  
these stars...He calls them  
all by name...” Isa 40: 26  
(NAS)

It was a predawn day in the

snowy stillness of the Alaskan woods. Clusters of spruce trees huddled together beneath a vast black dome strung with stars. I twirled in circles, trying to see them high above me. *I wish there’d be a shooting star*, I mused.

Thanksgiving was nearing. Gratitude poured from me in praises To Father, Son and Holy Spirit. With upraised arms I called, “All that is with in me, bless Your holy name!” Just then a shooting star split the sky. Wonder gripped me. It was as though God had written His name in

the heavens just for me. Then a second shooting star flamed in the sky.

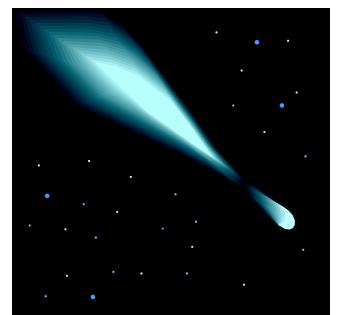
Despite the chill I couldn’t leave. The Holy Spirit seemed to leap and laugh and exult in the cold with me. I looked toward the North Star. A third shooting star cut across the sky. My spirit soared.

As if God understood I needed to come back to earth, He shut down the show. Our star-conversation ended; it was time to go in.


*Magnificent and awesome God, dwelling in far-flung*

*splendor amid all that You have made, what a privilege it is to meet You in Your glorious creation!* —CAROL KNAPP

If you have any ideas on how to decorate the church for Lent and Easter they would be very much appreciated, see Margot Gilhart. Thank you and God bless you all.



# Calendar for February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Bible Study 10:30 to noon.	3	4	5
6 Worship 9:30 AM Bible Study Ephe- sians after church	7 6-7:30 PM Girl Scouts #44	8 Leadership Council mtg 7:30pm	9 Bible Study 10:30 to noon 7:30-9 PM Investment Club	10 7PM Choir Practice	11 4 PM-Midnight Scrapbooking	12
13 Worship 9:30 AM Bible Study Ephe- sians after church Emmaus 5-7 pm	14 <b>Valentine's Day</b> 	15 Grace Urban Minis- tries	16 Bible Study 10:30 to noon	17 7PM Choir Practice	18	19
20 Worship 9:30 AM Bible Study Ephe- sians after church	21	22	23 Bible Study 10:30 to noon	24	25	26
27 Worship 9:30 AM Bible Study Ephe- sians after church	28 Girl Scout #44					

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## Poem of the Month

### NOT ASHAMED

I am not ashamed  
(whether or not it's wise)  
To claim Jesus as my LORD  
As I look to the skies

For a day is coming  
When believing is a crime  
And our lives could be forfeit  
With no reason or rhyme

Even now in some parts  
It's not wise to let others know  
For there are so many  
Who are His ardent foes

We have brothers and sisters  
Who live in pagan countries  
They are persecuted and killed  
Because of others theologies

But they do not count the cost  
Just the same as Jesus did

They truly live for Christ  
And do as He has bid

So let us with Jesus  
Not ashamed or counting the cost  
As we live and work for Him  
Bringing the Gospel to the lost

Jeannine Faith