

THE STEEPLE VIEW

SINCE 1758

OLD STEEPLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

AUGUST 2022

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

As I always write this for the newsletter some 10 days before it is sent out, I write from the perspective of this moment.

Thus, the Chicken BBQ lies ahead of us still. Ray Atkins has undergone surgery and we have received encouraging reports from Donna. The effect of global warming is exacting a toll on people across the face of the earth - for now, in the northern hemisphere. But the southern hemisphere experiences their winter droughts and floods in different, confusing ways. Life goes on...

A word of thanks for those who contribute to the health and function of our church community. I especially think of those who have planned and who will volunteer at the chicken BBQ. It may appear to be only a fund raiser, but it is also a test of our ability to unite our efforts to sustain the church. It brings us together because nothing does more to focus us on each other than breaking bread or mastering a hard task together.

The worship service theme for the next Sunday (in this case, July 24th) comes from Psalm 90. This Psalm is about the author's search for meaning and assurance in the knowledge that life is short, and the challenges are large. It ends with these words (the theme);

"Lord O God, may your blessings be with us, affirm the work we do!"

Let that be our prayer for each other and for this community of faith where we find welcome and sanctuary. May you and your loved ones find time to enjoy each other and give thanks for what we have.

Peace,



Old Steeple Community Church
United Church of Christ

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oldsteeplecc@gmail.com
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Minister:

Rev. Dr. Anton DeWet
antondewet@aol.com
631-779-2670

Moderator:
Keith Young

Choir Director/Organist:
Guy M.L. Fein

Office Administrator:
Gail Evans

office hours:
Tu, W, Th 9-2



OUTREACH

We are off to great start collecting supplies for the book bags. Please continue to contribute as you can during July. We will be packing the bags the first week in August. Plan for a delivery before the middle of the month to the Riverhead Schools. Thank you all!

OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) will be our focus during the whole month of August. Old Steeple Church is a part of the United Church of Christ. All across America we unite as congregations, to help fund the life of the church. The four areas we focus on is the 1] National Church office and staff, 2] local churches that need support and ensuring excellence in ministry through this support, 3] outreach projects across our country and our missions abroad. This includes times of natural disasters, and our ministry teams abroad, and 4] we fund the church's Justice and Witness ministries, advocating for those without voice or the marginalized everywhere. THIS IMPORTANT WORK CAN ONLY BE DONE WITH EVERYONE'S SUPPORT. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY AS YOU ARE ABLE. Envelopes will be available.

We can report that it appears the food pantry is not as critically low in supplies as has been the case for almost a year. This is not to say there is an abundance, donations are still needed. If anyone has extra garden vegetables, the pantry is open Monday - Friday 10 am- noon. Fresh fruit and vegetables are very appreciated.

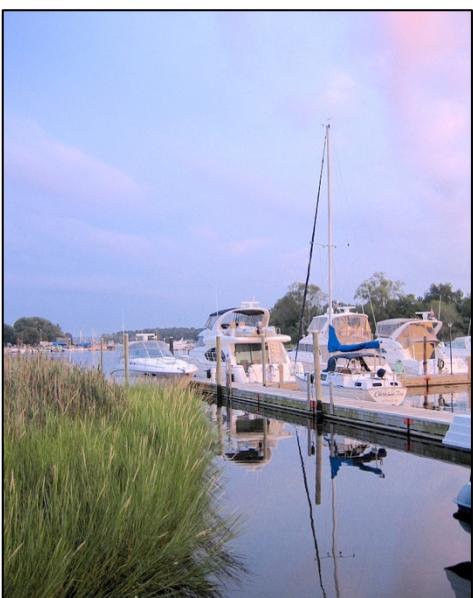
Happy summer!

Andrea for Outreach

COUNCIL MINUTES

July 13, 2022

Moderator Keith Young called the meeting to order at 7pm. Members present were Amy Cosgrove, Edgar Goodale, Andrea Hanulec, Ann Priapi, Kathy Stapon, Liz Wines, Rev. Anton DeWet and Keith Young. Rev. Anton led us in prayer. The minutes of the June 8th meeting were published in the last newsletter. Edgar made a motion to accept them with no additions or corrections and Amy seconded it.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Edgar Goodale reported that the June performance of the endowment was the worst he has seen since becoming treasurer. He explained that the bonds we own go down in value when interest rates go up. Eventually we will collect their full amount at maturity. He also said that the equities in the endowment are all conservative and their value has dropped only a little. Despite this news, the church is financially stable. As of June 30, we have taken in a little more than half of our budgeted pledges.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Anton brought a memorial plaque that Lisa Drozd made. He asked Andrea if Robert would be able to hang it in the sanctuary next to the Ralph Fanning painting in the southwest corner.

Around the exterior of the church there are some things that need attention. The handicap parking signs on the fence have gotten mildewed, the memorial garden has been taken over by weeds, the driveway chain is heavy, rusted and should be replaced with a brightly colored plastic one, the posts it is attached to are leaning over and the warning sign that hangs from it needs to be replaced.

At the parsonage, a person recently came to check the sprinklers that are leaking but they have yet to come back to do the repairs. There are some large dead branches hanging over into the neighbor's yard on the south side that need to be cut and removed. Anton is concerned because if they fall, they will break the fence below or injure kids playing on the other side. Keith will contact Rick about the sprinkler and tree work.

Anton will be taking off 8/3-8/10. He will see if he can find a supply pastor then let Kathy and Edgar know who it will be.

He expressed his concern that Keith has taken on too many responsibilities connected to the church and risks getting burned out. We should work to form a search committee and turn those tasks over to it. Finally Anton suggested that we include an item in each newsletter about progress with the search for a new pastor.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds

Keith will contact Rick Reeve about the issues described in the Pastor's Report.

Edgar told us that the repair work to the steeple is finally complete down to the roof line of the building. Now we need to get estimates on a new roof, fascias, and exterior painting. He said it would be wise to have this information by the end of 2022 so that we can make plans on how to finance and schedule the work. He will speak with Kevin, his son, to get this started.

The repair work on the wall in Luce Hall is put on hold until the fall when worship services move back into the sanctuary.

Outreach

Andrea Hanulec updated the council on the school supply collection. The 48 backpacks she ordered cost about \$200.00. Donations of cash to date are \$300.00. We will continue to collect donations of supplies or money until the end of July. The backpacks will be filled the first week of August and delivered to Roanoke Avenue School. She had a flier from a company that sells backpacks already filled with supplies and will tuck it away for next year.

The food pantry at St. John's is doing a little better this month. Staff there have requested donations of fresh fruits and vegetables. Liz Wines said that she will cut and donate lettuce from her farm anytime Andrea wants to come up and get it.

In August we will collect for OCWM again. To date we have collected \$1366 of \$3500 budgeted.

Worship

Kathy Stapon and Andrea have found potential substitute organists. There are three; John Eyre, Lois Ross and Teddy Turpin.

Attendance at Sunday worship services in Luce Hall has been good. Anton said that he only has heard from two people who felt it was too early. In August we'll decide when to change back to 10am worship in the sanctuary.

This Sunday's service (7/17/22 at 9am) will be outside on the lawn at the parsonage. Anton asked for volunteers to come a few minutes early to bring chairs over from the church.

Anton brought up whether or not he should continue making and posting online services every Saturday. After some discussion there was no objection to stop them now.



Welcoming / Advertising

Anton said that the tickets for the Chicken Barbecue (7/23/22) have all been sold. He will put up 'Sold Out' signs on the front lawn, ask Gail to cancel the radio ad on WLNG and post a notice on the website.

Amy brought up changing the text in the About Us section of the website. She thinks it is not the best description of our congregation. Anton asked Ann to work on a rewrite and she agreed.

Caring

Liz recently visited with Carol Lee and offered to give her a ride to Sunday services. She has been busy caring for herself, her family and animals on the farm.

SEARCH PROCESS

Keith let us know that he has not gotten much more information from the NYS UCC Conference office. They were to assign us an Associate Conference Minister to help and give advice with the search by the end of June, but that did not happen. It may be decided at a meeting they have scheduled on 7/21/22. He showed a copy of the UCC church profile and the Welcoming and Diversity Survey that our search committee will have to complete. Edgar asked if the committee could use that profile if they decide to advertise the job opening outside of the conference. Keith could not answer the question but will try to find out. We discussed writing a job description for posting on other internet sites.

Finally, we put together a list of names of potential search committee members and decided who would speak to each person.

CONTINUING and NEW BUSINESS

- Chicken Barbecue preparation: Kathy, Andrea, Robert and Ann will meet at 8am on Friday 7/22 to bring supplies down from the attic. We discussed the timing for cooking the corn and potatoes. Amy checked the written instructions that are on file in the church office. Anton reminded us that we need strong people to lift pots and pans in the afternoon. Edgar said that he'll have plenty of muscle outside barbecuing chicken and that he will send some of his crew into the kitchen to help with the heavy lifting if needed.
- We discussed compensating Guy Fein for unused vacation days. Edgar will check his records so that we can come up with a number.
- The downstairs AED is missing, Gail noticed it was gone last month. Anton thought he remembered that it needed parts or repair. Before we buy a replacement, he will send out an email to ask if anyone knows where it is.
- Downstairs classroom rental: Keith has been in contact with Jessica de Vera Wells. Edgar and Rick cleared the playground area in preparation for the classes that Jessica de Vera Wells plans to have on site in the fall. She has signed the rental contract but hasn't provided proof of insurance. Since this is required by the contract, Keith will ask her to get it to us as soon as possible. Jessica asked Keith if she could have sod put down in one corner of the fenced area. After some discussion, we agreed that we will stick to the conditions and limits in the contract. Sod would need topsoil, mowing and consistent water and make additional expenses for the church. Edgar asked for clarification of her intentions. Finally, Keith said he couldn't locate the light switch in the downstairs classroom, he found that the lights needed to be turned on at the electrical panel.
- Time Capsule: Edgar is working on getting it put back in the steeple.
- Membership List: tabled until fall or winter

Respectfully submitted, Ann Priapi, Clerk



The Search for Our Next Settled Pastor

Since February, the Council has been working to find our next pastor. In the past, the church has relied on the assistance and expertise of the NYS UCC Conference. Keith Young, our Moderator, has often reached out to their staff by phone and email. The conference recently went through a reorganization that has made it take longer than expected to get responses. Their website lacks resources. As of our last meeting, we are still waiting for them to assign us an Associate Conference Minister whose task will be to help us through the transition. Despite that, we have made progress.

In June, Keith did get to speak with Rev. Gary Ferner, the Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call. With Gary's input, the Council has agreed that it would serve the congregation best to skip finding and hiring an interim pastor. The role of an interim pastor is to help a church repair dysfunction, heal and prepare it for a settled pastor. We believe that Old Steeple is healthy in our spirituality, compassion for others, faith practice and governance. In other words, we are free from major issues or problems that could present obstacles to a new minister. Also at this time, positions for full time ministers in churches with a parsonage get filled faster than interim positions.

So far, the Council has:

- prayed for guidance
- gathered contact information for supply pastors to fill the pulpit on a week by week basis once Rev. Anton leaves
- put together a proposed compensation package for the next minister
- explored other avenues in which to advertise the job opening, that we can use in addition to the NYS UCC Conference
- examined sample profiles from ministers looking for a job (found on the national UCC website)
- discussed the possibility of hiring someone part time to do visitation and calling on friends and members in the time between December 1, 2022 and when the settled pastor begins his or her ministry with us
- reviewed our most recent church profile (2015) and the steps for search and call we used the last time we were in this position
- reviewed the new profile form our conference requires the search committee to complete
- reviewed the 2022 UCC Compensation Guidelines for ministers
- spoken with the Conference about the NYS UCC Welcoming and Diversity Survey; this is a new requirement that will need to be completed as part of the transition process.

Currently we are contacting people about serving on the search committee. Our by-laws require that this committee have at least five who are all members of the Church.

The council appreciates your patience and welcomes your prayerful cooperation and support. We will do our best to keep you informed.

Faithfully,

Keith Young, Moderator

Edgar Goodale, Treasurer

Amy Cosgrove, Financial Secretary

Kathy Stapon, Worship Ministry

Lisa Drozd, Welcoming Ministry

Liz Wines, Caring Ministry

Rick Reeve, Buildings and Grounds Ministry

Ann Priapi, Clerk

Chicken Barbecue Sunday, August 7, 2022

at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE FORWARDED TO SUPPORT PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

Advance sale: adults - \$23; children (under 12) - \$10

Purchase at gate: adults - \$25; children (under 12) - \$10

**For Tickets & More Information,
call the rectory at 631-727-2766; or Caroline at 631-727-0835**

PRAYER LIST

Prayers & Concerns:

Those in harm's way who serve our country including Christopher Mascia, Ben Pileski, William Gilmore Jr., and Justin Kruel.

Our Prayer List includes those in hospital or at home recovering:

Ray Atkins
Robin Duvall
Hannah Galinski
Lucas Mascia
Arthur Schnell
Fred Sherman
Beverly Sherman

Those who are home-bound, recovering at home, or home due to extra COVID precautions:

Grace De Friest
Barbara Fein
Ellie Hawkins - in Florida
Bo Goodale
Gene Goodale
Geraldine Hulse
Carol Lee
Patricia Overs
Scotty Robertson
Everett Rosset
Rachel Sirel
Walter and Betty Stewart
Rev. Bonnie Miller and Arthur
Heather Barrett

Please let us know of any additions or changes. Contact the church office at 631-722-3070; or e-mail oldsteeplecc@gmail.com. Include your name, and let that person know that those at Old Steeple will be praying for them.

A U G U S T 2022

Outreach for August is OCWM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4 Choir rehearsal 10:15 am	5 AA 6 pm	6
7	8 AA 7 pm	9 AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	10 Council 7 pm	11 Choir rehearsal 10:15 am	12 AA 6 pm	13
14	15 AA 7 pm	16 AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	17	18 Choir rehearsal 10:15 am	19 AA 6 pm	20
21	22 AA 7 pm	23 AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	24	25 Choir rehearsal 10:15 am	26 AA 6 pm	27
28	29 AA 7 pm	30 AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

If you would like a copy of our Friends & Family list,
please contact Gail in the church office.