

Old Steeple Community Church

Steeple View

MARCH 2023



SINCE 1758

Old Steeple Community
Church
United Church of Christ

POB 154 | 656 Main Road
Aquebogue, NY 11931

631-722-3070
oldsteeplecc@gmail.com
oldsteeplecommunitychurch.org

Moderator:
Keith Young

Choir Director/Organist:
Guy M.L. Fein

Office Administrator:
Gail Evans

office hours:
Tu, W, Th 9-2



An Update From Our Search Committee ...

On February 9th our Local Church Profile was accepted and published on the internet by our Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Gary Ferner. This was truly a group effort, the thoughts and prayers of many people went into writing it. We are grateful to have been so thoroughly supported by the council members along with Janet Wright, Paulette Sherman and Gail Evans. If you would like to read the complete profile, you can find it at this web address:

<https://oppsearch.ucc.org/web/fastsearch.aspx>.

Find Old Steeple Community Church on the list, then follow the links.

Here's the ministry description that a searching pastor will see on this website:

We are seeking an energetic minister who will not only address the needs of the congregation by offering relevant worship, understanding and comfort, but also will help us extend our mission more extensively into our diverse neighborhoods. The new minister will support us in our efforts to improve our community, as well as challenge, encourage and inspire us to think in new ways that will, in turn, help our church family and friends to grow. The minister will become thoroughly familiar with our community and its leaders, collaborating with them to increase Old Steeple's involvement with relevant mission efforts.

Please see the next page for the poem that we included in our profile.

The Search Committee:

Fay Young
Barbara Crowley
Jean Lapinski
Nancy Goodale
George Reeve
Ann Priapi

A View from the Steeple (by Fay Young)

We the people of the Church
Known as Old Steeple
Are feeling bereft -
Our Good Pastor has left!
Retirement and family
Have called him away,
Now we need a new Leader
To help show us The Way!
Our talents are many,
Followers too few
We'd like to see more
In our Church's pews!
But we are resilient - creative too,
Always willing and able
To find new avenues!
We are musicians, teachers, librarians,
Photographers, nurses, housewives,
Farmers, and business people too!
Quilters and knitters to name just a few!
And WOW we do have a
Great Chicken Bar-B-Que Crew!
Scholarships, school backpacks
Filled to the brim -
Hundreds of Soup Cans
Many bring in -

To fill the Food Pantry
To help feed the needy,
And help children to prepare for school.

Soup Suppers, Potluck lunches,
Coffee hours after Church -
Our Luce Hall kitchen
is just the place and offers
Us, and many, plenty of space!

We worship each Sunday
To thank our Dear Lord,
For all that he's given us.
Family, friends, food, homes
And so much more.
We pray for the sick, bereaved, shut-ins,
downtrodden, the poor -
And for the innocent victims of war.

This view from the Steeple
Of our Church, its Diverse people,
Will give a synopsis
Of what it is like to be us.
And we hope and pray too
It may lead us to You.



OUTREACH



The updated number of cans and packages of soup for our January collection is 771! You are so generous, thank you.

Many have responded to our need for additional funds to support Maureen's Haven. Please donate.

Our ongoing food collection and weekly delivery to St John's of Riverhead Food Pantry is, well, still ongoing. Tremendous need is still evident in our community. In keeping with our motto "You Can Count on Us", we continue to partner with St. John's in gathering and delivering groceries to their food pantry. Please give as you are able, either groceries or monetary gifts so that we may continue this mission. St. John's volunteers greet us with grateful smiles as we help stock their shelves. A little bit counts to those who are hungry. Thank you for your generosity.

With Gratitude, Andrea for Outreach



The Outreach for March is **One Great Hour of Sharing** (OGHS). Here is important information about this mission:

Dear Friends,

Did you know ... ?

Through your generous support of the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering, the UCC's Wider Church Ministries has the ability to provide Disaster Ministries, Refugee Ministries, and Sustainable Development initiatives each year.

In 2022, through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, the UCC was present with our neighbors in tangible ways, standing in solidarity and mutuality to respond to ongoing and emerging needs, and work for the benefit of all. Working collaboratively with Conferences, local, national, and global partners we helped to provide clean water, food, education, health care, resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, emergency relief, and disaster preparedness and response.

This year, we are encouraged to receive the OGHS on **Sunday, March 19** using the theme **"It's Time to Share,"** based on Galatians 6: 9-10:

"So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith."

I hope you will give generously to this March mission project.

Thank you, Rev. Janet Wright



COUNCIL



Council Meeting Minutes, February 8, 2023

Moderator Keith Young called the meeting to order at 7:10pm and thanked everyone for coming. Present were Amy Cosgrove, Andrea Hanulec, Kathy Stapon, Rick Reeve, Keith Young, Ann Priapi and Rev. Janet Wright. The minutes from the January meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter, Rick made the motion and Amy seconded it.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Edgar was in Florida and sent his report by email. It stated the endowment value has increased, ten thousand dollars were transferred to checking to pay for the new furnace, our pledges for the year are off to a good start and the new office copier was installed yesterday (2/7/23). The monthly payment on the copier will remain the same but our per copy cost will be 40-50% of what it had been. Our expense for pulpit supply will be over budget this year, as expected. While Edgar is away Gail will send him bills that arrive and he will pay them remotely.

PASTOR'S REPORT

In the absence of a full time pastor, Rev. Janet has been hired to attend to the church's pastoral care needs. She reported on her work in January visiting those in hospital, calling on shut-ins, and doing training work through the NYS UCC conference and networking with both the conference and the Suffolk Association of UCC churches. After some discussion the council agreed to reimburse her for expenses for training and the time spent in these sessions. We encouraged her to coordinate with Lisa Drozd on the sign on the front lawn. If Janet will provide the messages, Lisa will have one of her employees change the sign during Gail's office hours.

Janet let us know about the Riverhead Clergy Council's plans for Lent (in part, more to come). She will write up an item for the next newsletter.

Ash Wednesday service - 2/22/23 7pm at First Congregational

First Lenten service - 3/1/23 7pm at Old Steeple

Maundy Thursday service - 4/6/23 7pm at Old Steeple

Good Friday service - 4/7/23 7pm at Baiting Hollow

In the past, before the pandemic, churches had refreshments after the weekly Lenten services. Since we will host the first one we talked about doing this on 3/1. Amy volunteered to make coffee, Kathy, Ann and Andrea will enlist others to bring desserts.

Janet brought up the idea of participating more actively in the 2023-2024 season of Maureen's Haven as part of our outreach work. Currently we provide financial support, in the past we had volunteers prepare meals

and help serve dinner to the overnight guests. We talked about possibly providing the bag lunches on a regular basis. Janet will write an item for the newsletter to publicize the idea and generate interest.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds

The filter system for the sanctuary heater has been installed; Corelli Drywall will soon do the repair to the wall in Luce Hall; new thermostats have been installed; Rick will remove Rev. Anton's name from the outside signs; Rick, Edgar and Robert Hanulec intend to inspect the parsonage and its grounds soon to itemize needed repairs. The light in the rear parking lot and the one on the front sign have not been working properly, Rick will ask Joe Doroszka to check them out. Kathy let Rick know that there have been roof shingles found in the parking lot. The painting of the offices is nearly complete, the wall behind the copier still has to be done.

Outreach

Andrea reported that since the costs associated with Maureen's Haven have increased, there will be a special collection for it in February. We collected 721 cans of soup and \$260 cash for the food pantry at St. John's in January. Andrea let us know that the food collected here has been way down since the new year started. She'll ask Gail to put an item in this Sunday's bulletin about contributions for earthquake relief efforts in Turkey and Syria.

The outreach projects going forward are: March - One Great Hour of Sharing, April - Neighbors in Need, May - Church World Service (blankets & tools), June - Strengthen the Church, July - School bags & supplies, August - Our Church's Wider Mission, September - Maureen's Haven, October - Church World Service and the Blessing of the Animals, November - Habitat for Humanity, December - Angel Tree & Veterans of the Cross.

Worship

Kathy let us know that we will have Rev. Joan Finck leading worship for February. Keith will work with Kathy on securing the services of other supply pastors in the months ahead. She asked if we want to have an Easter egg hunt this year, so we decided to revisit the question next month. There are lots of supplies left from past ones.

Welcoming / Advertising

Lisa will have the plaque for the time capsule finished soon. Amy will work with Lisa to update the 'What We Do' page of our website. The page is full but there are still items that we want posted. Since we bought time from the web designer, they may be able to get his help.

Caring - see Pastor's Report

Continuing and New Business

- In 2023 we will offer two \$1500 scholarships.
- Keith will ask Gail to complete the National UCC Directory Reporting/Survey/Data using data from the Annual Reports
- New batteries have been ordered for the AEDs
- Janet has continued to keep the council up to date on NYUCC happenings. She mentioned they are having a program for rural churches soon.



Search Process

Ann let the council know that our Local Church Profile is finished and thanked the helpful efforts of the council. Tomorrow Gail will email the document to our associate conference minister for validation. Once validated our job opening will be posted on the web with a link to the profile. The search committee will meet soon to discuss the next steps in the process.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Priapi, Clerk



PRAYER LIST



Prayers & Concerns:

Those in harm's way who serve our country including Christopher Mascia, Ben Pileski, William Gilmore Jr., Thomas Pagano, and to the friends and family of Fred Sherman.

Our Prayer List includes those in hospital, at home recovering or taking extra COVID precautions:

Ray Atkins
Barbara Fein
Guy Fein
Gene Goodale
Geraldine Hulse
Lucas Mascia

Patricia Overs
Scotty Robertson
Beverly Sherman
Walter and Betty Stewart
Michael Taylor

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.

MARCH 2023

Outreach for March is **One Great Hour of Sharing**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	1 Lent service at Old Steeple 7pm 	2 Choir rehearsal 10:15	3 AA 6 pm	4 hall rental 10-4
5	6 AA 7 pm	7 Council mtg. 7 pm AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	8 Lent service at St. John's RC Church 7 pm 	9 Choir rehearsal 10:15	10 Book Club 10:30 am  AA 6 pm	11
12 Community Board meeting and pot luck luncheon	13 AA 7 pm	14 AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	15 (no OSS) Lent service at Salvation Army 7 pm 	16 Choir rehearsal 10:15	17 AA 6 pm 	18
19	20 AA 7 pm	21 SV articles due AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	22 Lent service at First Congregational 7 pm 	23 Choir rehearsal 10:15 newsletter articles due	24 Book Club 10:30 am  AA 6 pm	25
26 265th anniversary of Old Steeple! 	27 AA 7 pm	28 AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	29 Lent service location TBD 7 pm 	30	31	1