

# The BellRinger

The Newsletter of Nicolls Memorial Presbyterian Church

August 2017

## Nicolls Memorial Presbyterian Church

PO Box 605, 228 Crosby Blvd.  
Old Forge, NY 13420

*Our Mission:  
To Live Out Christ's Love  
By Nurturing Spiritual Growth  
and Fellowship  
and by Reaching Out  
in Faith and Love*

### Interim Pastor

Rev. Pamela J. Peterson

### Pastor Emeritus

Rev. James L. Ulrich

### Organists

Judith Barker

Susann Rundell

### Secretary / Editor

Mary Brophy-Moore

### Sunday Schedule

Early Worship: 7:30 am

Worship Service: 10:00 am

Sunday School 10:00 am

Sunday Service Broadcast on

WBRV-900 AM, 101.3 FM

WLLG-FM 99.3

Online (live @ 10am):

themoose.net

### Office Hours

Mon Fri: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Phone: 369-3475

Fax: 369-6172

E-mail: [nicolls@frontiernet.net](mailto:nicolls@frontiernet.net)

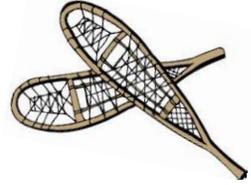
Web site: [www.nicolls.org](http://www.nicolls.org);

Here you'll find weekly worship  
bulletins.



## Notes from the Sky Pilot's Page

by Rev. Pamela Peterson, Interim Minister



Hafiz says, "The beauty of the mountain is talked about most from a distance, not while one is scaling the summit with life at risk. That is the time for silence, one-pointedness, reflection, and drawing upon all your skills so you might return from the cloud's domain and inspire others to breathe closer to God, while still human, the way you did."

Prayer is, indeed, "breathing closer to God." It isn't hard to imagine ourselves being held in the arms of our Lord, feeling his chest rise and fall and the wisps of his breath brushing our cheek. It isn't hard to imagine feeling our tears slide down our cheek and mixing with those wisps of breath creating a wordless prayer of, "hold me close lest I lose this moment."

How many times have we held someone in our lives this close with this wordless prayer? The scriptures assure us that, "...the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express..." (Romans 8:26). What is this "groaning" that the Spirit does for us? The original Greek in this scripture verse can also be interpreted as "sighing." That long drawn out breath that escapes us when we are at our breaking point is the same long drawn out breath that the Spirit uses as intercessory prayer to our Lord on our behalf. When you hear yourself or someone else let out a long sigh, be mindful of it. Take the time to ask, "What is that all about and how can I pray about that in this moment?" Don't be surprised if that action results in a tear slipping down your or the other person's cheek.

Sharing our prayer stories is an important part of our call to Christian community. When other hear how we are strengthened and supported in prayer they are encouraged to allow themselves to "breathe closer to God" through prayer as well. It is through the breath of our community that we are called to pray prayers of intercession and supplication for others. Our prayer chain is one place where we are able to reach out in the confidence of Christ to share our prayer needs. Another is during worship when we share the joys and concerns of the community in the voices of the community. Yet another prayer opportunity is to request a visit from myself and/or our deacons for prayer support.

During the month of August our worship theme is "Praying In, Praying With." I invite you to take this opportunity to intentionally consider your prayer life. How has it impacted your faith? Where have you been called upon to offer prayers for others? What do you find yourself only being able to sigh for in prayer as the words escape you? Bring these questions with you to worship each week and discover how the Spirit is working through prayer in your life, in our church, and in our community.

Prayerfully yours, Pastor Pam

**Transitions**

Each month we share “transitional experiences” within the Niccolls family. Please call the church for more information or if you have an individual to add.



**Birth**

Connor Terpening- son of Sarah & Matt Terpening, grandson of Naomi & Don Kelly  
 Avery Bourgeois - daughter of Sara & Aron Bourgeois, granddaughter of Robert & Mary Moore and Zoe Gosnell

**Marriage**

Keith and Carlie (Hunkins) Chaney

**Condolences**

Loretta Gaudin  
 June Kiefer  
 Rev. Dr. Robert Charles Ellson - Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Utica from 1978-1990

**Update from the PNC**

Thank you to everyone who completed the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Self Survey. Data from the survey was used by the PNC to prepare the Ministry Information Form (MIF). The MIF was submitted to and approved by Session. The MIF has been sent to the Presbytery of Utica’s Committee on Ministry for their approval. Once we receive notification of approval we can then list the Pastor’s position on line and begin the next phase of our search.

**Stewardship Snapshot for June 2017**

Actual Income & Expenses June 1 – 30, 2017

Income	\$ 13,537.12
Expenses	\$ 12,646.03
	\$ 891.09

Fiscal Year-to-Date

(October 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
Income	\$170,145.21	\$131,800.00
Expenses	\$113,687.79	\$131,800.00
	\$ 56,687.42	\$ 0.00

**Caregiver Support Groups Grow!**

The Deacons have been hosting a community Caregiver Support Group in conjunction with Luther Care/Community Wellness Partners of Utica once a month since May. Beginning on Sunday August 6 a second monthly support group opportunity will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Deacons feel that by offering a second monthly support group on the first Sunday of the month it may make attending worship, communion and other Sunday morning events possible for those providing support to their loved ones who are living with memory issues or other chronic illnesses. Some in-home support may be available through Lutheran Care/Community Wellness Partners for those who qualify.

The support group that meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the Social Room will continue to meet. New members are always welcome and encouraged to attend either or both groups. Social Workers from Lutheran Care and Pastor Pam facilitate the groups. Lutheran Care/Community Wellness Partners are also able to provide outings and other respite opportunities for those living with memory issues.

Both support groups are open to the public and there is no cost associated with the groups. With the addition of the Sunday group, it is the hope that those who worship at any church in the area would have time to attend the group and continue on to their home church for worship. If you have any questions about the groups, please feel free to contact Pastor Pam at the church office.



Mission Boutique help wanted! Guaranteed to have a great time while doing good deeds for others!

## Nickels for Nicolls 2017

On July 30<sup>th</sup> Nicolls will inaugurate the fifth annual *Nickels for Nicolls* fund raiser. *Nickels for Nicolls* was inspired by Cullen Rose who wanted to find a way to help provide clean water for those who lack it. This year, as in the past, *Nickels for Nicolls* will help support a mission trip of people from First Presbyterian Church of Cooperstown to Honduras to install a Living Waters for the World water purification system in a poor Honduras village.

Most Honduran villages have a local water supply. Typically it is not from a clean source. Sometimes water comes from a contaminated stream or spring. This water is often the source of water borne diseases, and it is especially hazardous to the health of children. The Living Waters system takes the water from such sources, purifies it, and bottles it. The water is then sold to local people at a nominal cost. Proceeds are used to provide such things as replacement filters and to provide free water to those who cannot afford the nominal cost. The Living Waters team also provides instruction in hygiene to local mothers and children.

Here's how *Nickels for Nicolls* works. On July 30<sup>th</sup> (or later) you may pick up a bottle provided by the Worship Committee from the Narthex. You take it home and fill it with change and bills (checks are also more than welcomed). On Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, we will collect the bottles. (Or you can return them to the church office at your leisure.) Your offerings will be dedicated during a worship service soon after.

As in the last few years, we hope to reduce the use of non-recyclable bottles for the *Nickels for Nicolls* program. It's not too late to donate a bottle or two. And, of course, you may use your own – BYOB is in order!

For the last several years the *Nickels for Nicolls* fundraiser has brought in around \$1500 to support the Honduras Living Waters installation. Hopefully, with your help, we can match that again this year.

## "Look at what the kids have been up to!"

Windspark Poem (from worship with liturgist Alison Eyre Albright)

*I dreamed  
I was a butterfly  
On a flower  
Eating pollen  
Excited*

Haiku (from worship with Pastor Pam)

Wet grass beneath me  
Birds chirp singing feathers song  
Sun shines above me

Acrostic Poem (from worship with Pastor Pam after July 4. The bold capital letters spell "Fireworks" and a second poem was started from the N in "noisy.")

**F**lash  
**I**ghts  
**cR**eation  
**bE**auty  
**poW**er  
**wO**w  
**huR**rah  
**sK**y  
**NoiS**ey  
i  
c  
e

## Dining with dōTERRA

On Thursday, August 3rd, you are invited to the kitchen of Nicolls Church to cook with and learn about essential oils. There will be two sections available, the first from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and the second

from 5:00 7:00 p.m. Have you wondered how to make cooking more fun, and more nutritious? Come experience the versatility of pure, therapeutic grade essential oils as you make some amazing dishes. See for yourself how everyday ingredients are enhanced with ease as you add these flavorful oils. Sue Castilla, Certified Holistic Health Coach will lead this fun, and educational experience! Sue has been leading classes around the Mohawk Valley and now we are pleased to have her as our facilitator. The oils are not only used for nutritious cooking but there are many types that have health benefits as well. Sue is very knowledgeable and loves to share this information. Each class is limited to ten participants, and pre-registration is required. Contact Naomi Kelly at [naomikelly58@gmail.com](mailto:naomikelly58@gmail.com). A \$20 donation is suggested. This workshop is sponsored by Weaving Home.



## New Christian Education Curriculum Introduced

*from the CE Committee*

The Christian Education Committee, along with Pastor Pam and others, is creating a new and unique Sunday school and faith formation curriculum for the children and youth to begin in September. Led by Pastor Pam's experience and training as a Family Educator prior to her attending seminary, the curriculum will be based on eco-spirituality using the Reggio Emilia approach.

The Reggio Emilia approach is an educational philosophy described as student-centered and constructivist that utilizes self-directed, experiential learning in relationship-driven environments. The program is based on the principles of respect, responsibility, and community through exploration and discovery through a self-guided curriculum. The aim of the Reggio approach is to teach how to use the symbolic languages of children (e.g. art, music, drama, exploration of nature) in everyday life.

The committee feels that everyday life for children in the Adirondacks includes the understanding of care for creation, being mindful of their surroundings and learning about those surroundings while in relationship to God and the community. It is the hope of the committee that the families of Old Forge will be drawn to the new curriculum through their appreciation for the Adirondacks.

The curriculum will be set up in "block learning" style, with the children working on a theme or block of learning for an extended period of time, revisiting it throughout the year as they develop a sense of curiosity about the theme or block. The first theme to be introduced will be "Gardening in the Adirondacks" with Jeff and Star Livingstone. Pastor Pam notes that this style of learning is fun, chaotic and often times messy. Parents should be prepared to encourage the children to dress for outdoor play as the majority of learning will take place outdoors rather than in the confines of the church.

A full presentation on the new curriculum will be offered on Sunday, August 13 immediately following worship. The Curriculum Crew currently includes Pastor Pam, Sue Freese, Jeff and Star Livingstone and Rev. Naomi Kelly. If you would like to join the crew, they meet every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Pastor's Study. Please dress for the weather as the crew is creating the curriculum...in nature. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer but cannot attend the crew meetings, please contact Pastor Pam.

## Christmas in August

The volunteers at the Mission Boutique Thrift Shop will hold a "Christmas in August" sale in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, Aug. 16 from 7 to 8:30pm, Friday, Aug. 18 from 10am to 12noon and 7 to 8:30pm, and Saturday, Aug. 19 from 10am to 12noon.

The shop receives an abundance of Christmas items throughout the year, so there will be a wide variety of items available. In addition to Christmas items, there will be other holiday items available as well, including Easter, Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day.

This is a great opportunity to stock up on holiday items and help others at the same time. All proceeds are used for mission outreach such as the church's emergency food pantry, the Community Transportation Service, Home Aide Service of the Central Adirondacks (HASCA) and Utica's Hope House soup kitchen.

The Mission Boutique will also be open during sale hours. Grab a friend and come!



*Nancy Dowd and Lynda Ryan, Christmas in August organizers.*

## Community Spotlight

The Big Moose Community Chapel Annual Bazaar & Festival is on Saturday, Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 2pm. Held rain or shine, the bazaar features locally made balsam pillows plus Adirondack and "moosey" items, quilt raffle, bake sale with homemade fruit pies, kids' games, Chapel tours, holiday items, food and live music. Family friendly but no pets, please.

# ~ August 2017 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>DEACON OF THE MONTH:</b> <b>Marcia Macdonald</b>		<b>1</b> 10 am Christian Ed Curriculum Crew	<b>2</b> 9:30 am Mission Boutique Sorting 10-2 Senior Program 7-8:30pm Mission Boutique Open	<b>3</b> 9:30 am Christian Ed Committee Meeting 2-4 & 5-7 pm Weaving Home Cooking Class	<b>4</b> 10am-12pm Mission Boutique Open 7-8:30pm Mission Boutique Open	<b>5</b> 10am-12pm Mission Boutique Open
<b>6</b> 7:30 am Early Worship 9 am Caregiver Support Group 10 am Worship Service	<b>7</b> 9:30 am Mission Boutique Sorting 5:30 pm Grief Group	<b>8</b> 10 am Christian Ed Curriculum Crew	<b>9</b> 9:30 am Mission Boutique Sorting 10-2 Senior Program 7-8:30pm Mission Boutique Open	<b>10</b> 1 pm Caregiver Support Group <i>Food Sense</i> Orders Due	<b>11</b> 10am-12pm Mission Boutique Open 7pm <i>Living the Questions</i> Group 7-8:30pm Mission Boutique Open	<b>12</b> 10am-12pm Mission Boutique Open
<b>13</b> 7:30 am Early Worship 10 am Worship Service 11 am CE Curriculum Presentation	<b>14</b> 9:30 am Mission Boutique Sorting	<b>15</b> 10 am Christian Ed Curriculum Crew	<b>16</b> 9:30 am Mission Boutique Sorting 10-2 Senior Program 7-8:30pm Mission Boutique Open / <i>Christmas in August</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10am-12pm Mission Boutique Open / <i>Christmas in August</i> 7-8:30pm Mission Boutique Open / <i>Christmas in August</i>	<b>19</b> 10am-12pm Mission Boutique Open / <i>Christmas in August</i>
<b>20</b> 7:30 am Early Worship 10 am Worship Service	<b>21</b> 9:30 am Mission Boutique Sorting 5:30 pm Grief Group	<b>22</b> 10 am Christian Ed Curriculum Crew	<b>23</b> 9:30 am Mission Boutique Sorting 10-2 Senior Program 7-8:30pm Mission Boutique Open	<b>24</b> <i>BellRinger</i> Deadline	<b>25</b> 10am-12pm Mission Boutique Open 12:30 pm <i>Food Sense</i> Pickup 7-8:30pm Mission Boutique Open	<b>26</b> 10am-12pm Mission Boutique Open
<b>27</b> 7:30 am Early Worship 10 am Worship Service	<b>28</b> 9:30 am Mission Boutique Sorting	<b>29</b> 10 am Christian Ed Curriculum Crew	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

AA meets in the Social Room: Sun. 5:30pm, Wed. 8pm, Fri. 9am & 8pm, Sat. 8pm.

## August Birthdays

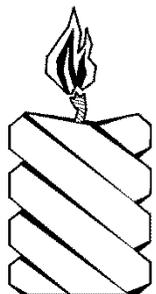
Leif Frymire 8/9

Brandon Beal 8/15

Sherm Skinner 8/15

Joyce Turner 8/16

Stuart Nelson 8/23



**HAPPY  
HAPPY  
HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!**

Lydia Bartel 8/24

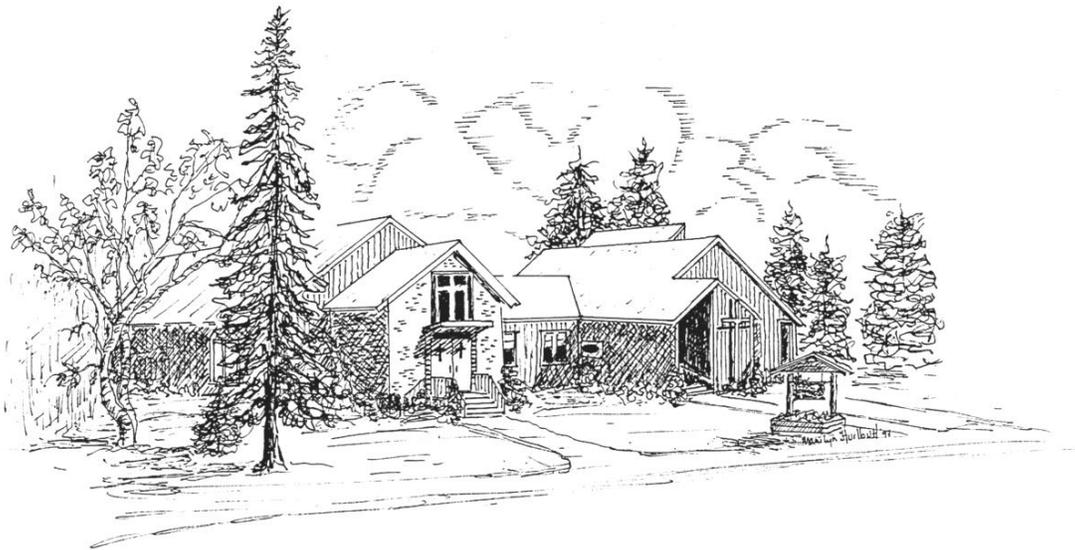
Mary Petrie 8/24

Elizabeth Eddy 8/29

Lorrie Skinner 8/30

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Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 605  
Old Forge, New York  
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