



Orchard Park United Methodist Church

WEEKLY NEWSFLASH

When reading 1 John 3:1-7, it is obvious that God wants us to move on to perfection; wants us to become like Christ; wants us to be “entirely sanctified” in this lifetime. That is God’s will for us and for the world. The author of 1 John is realistic about the ways of the world, about the presence of sin or rebellion, but he does not despair. Instead he offers the hope that “We are God’s children now, what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.” It is clearly God’s desire then “to work in us, with us, and on us until we fully reflect the spirit and character of Jesus” not just when it’s easy and when it won’t be embarrassing, not just when it isn’t in conflict with our other loyalties and priorities, not just when nobody is looking. But all day, every day, rain or shine, hard times, easy times, when we feel like it, and even when we don’t. Maybe especially then.

We may be God’s children now, but it takes all of our lives to grow into that family relationship. Coming to faith is not an event, but a progression. Moving on to perfection, “becoming habitually filled with the love of God and neighbor,” and “having the mind of Christ and walking as he walked,” is a kind of spiritual pilgrimage where we struggle to understand God and ourselves; where we move from birth to death, from new birth to eternal life, from fear to joy, from doubt to confidence.

Growing into the likeness of Christ does not mean that we will all be just alike, but there will be a distinct family resemblance. However, just as there is a resemblance within families, so also each member of a family is distinctive and unique. Thus, as we become more like Jesus, we also become more of our truest selves. As God’s children now, we are freed to explore possibilities even with our admitted flaws and limitations; we can say “yes” rather than “no” or “maybe” or “who, me?” and we can give ourselves permission to color outside the lines, to be who we really are – a unique and unrepeatable miracle of God.

excerpt from sermon “We are God’s Children Now” by Rev. Lisa Caine of Oconee Street UMC, April 19, 2015

April 18 Worship Participants

Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM

Pastor: Jennifer Stamm

Music Director: Meiko Reigelman

Liturgist: Scott Pugh

A/V Operator: Margot Ip

The flowers on the altar on April 18 are given to the glory of God and in honor of Donna Kroh's grandson's Steven's 25th birthday.



Upcoming Events

April 18: **Native American**

Ministries Sunday

April 18 @ 9:30 AM:

Adult Sunday School

April 18 @ 10:30 AM:

Sunday worship

April 19, 9:30 AM-1 PM:

Sewing Circle

April 24 @ 10 AM:

UMW Gift Day at

Trinity UMC Grand Island

Adult Sunday School takes place Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. This week, we will begin a new study called "Roll Down, Justice!" This Biblical Reflection was written by Faye Wilson and features the music and reflections of Mark A. Miller.



April Birthdays

Mattie Stamm (4/7)

Mike Stamm (4/7)

Candy Carberry (4/8)

Thank you to this month's
St. Pauly's Clothing Shed
volunteers!

George Slocum (4/4)

Ed Nuse (4/11)

Linda Carroll (4/18)

Mike Waters (4/25)



Volunteer Opportunities

- **Altar Flower sponsors** - fill out an envelope and pink slip found in the church.
- We are collecting shoes, sneakers, flip flops and sandals for **Clara's Closet**. Please place footwear in bins under coat racks downstairs. Please tie sneakers together.
- April 18 is **Native American Ministries Sunday**. This is a Special Sunday where our generosity as a church equips and empowers Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus.

Prayer Requests

- Continue to pray for Vignesh and his family. Vignesh would love to receive mail during his healing! His address is:

Vignesh Stradley
158 Montrose Ave
Buffalo, NY 14214

- Pray for Candy and Joe's neighbors: Roger, Debi, and Scott.
- Pray for Lurly Hunsberger.
- Pray for Beth Stuart's friend, Tony.

Have a prayer request you'd like to share? Has God answered your prayer? Email opumc@verizon.net or call Pastor Jen at 603-4470. We will include your prayer request or praise report in next week's NewsFlash.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

James 5:16

Orchard Park United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation.

We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.