March 2020

Decision making is the process of making choices by identifying a problem or opportunity, gathering information, and assessing alternative resolutions. We all make decisions every day, some say that life is a series of decisions. Some of those decisions seem small and we do them without much thought, things like: what should I eat for breakfast today, or should I put my coat on before I go out? Other decisions seem bigger and we tend to put more thought into them: should I move south to avoid the winter, is it time to retire, or which car should I buy? There seems to be more resting on the outcome of these decisions. We can study decision making processes that are put into a series of steps such as: Define the problem or opportunity, Dig out the relevant information, Determine the alternatives, Deliberate, Decide.

But we are forgetting an important step in most of our decision making.

James 1:5 But anyone who needs wisdom should ask God, whose very nature is to give to everyone without a second thought, without keeping score. Wisdom will certainly be given to those who ask. God’s wisdom is not like human wisdom.

1Corinthians: Don’t fool yourself. If some of you think they are worldly-wise, then they should become foolish so that they can become wise. This world’s wisdom is foolishness to God.

We should in all decisions be asking God FIRST for wisdom. This is especially true of decisions that affect the church. As individuals and committees, PLEASE bathe every step of the decision making process in prayer and listening to the Holy Spirit. When we get stuck in deliberation, step back and pray. Try to come to an agreement without voting, for if we are all listening to the Holy Spirit, we should all be led in the same direction.

In that way, we will be making better decisions.

Shalom

Shalom,
Pam

PLEASE bathe every step of the decision making process in prayer & listening to the Holy Spirit!
Volunteers are needed to provide & serve refreshments following the Church Service. If you have never served, or it has been a while, we invite you to help out by volunteering. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Chase @ 607-844-4386 or send an e-mail to cchase1971@aol.com.

WEB Backpack School Program

We will be collecting:

- March: Cans of Soup (Chicken Noodle, Tomato, Vegetable)
- April: Single Serve Applesauce Cups
- May: Granola Bars

Checks may be made out to Dryden Kitchen Cupboard earmarked WEB.

WEB WORKS BECAUSE YOU CARE!
GROWING WITH GOD
A Spiritual Retreat
Led by Cheryl Hine

The world in which we live is so often a noisy, busy, and distracting world. Do you sense a desire to spend more time with God, but you aren’t sure how? “Growing with God” is a program endorsed by the Upper NY Conference of the UMC, and is designed to help you deepen your relationship with God and notice how God is active in your everyday life.

Growing with God is presented as a series of 4 spiritual retreats, one Saturday per month. Together we will learn prayer exercises and spiritual disciplines which quiet our soul and focus on God’s voice in our lives. There is more information and registration forms in the Fellowship Hall.

Saturdays:
March 21, April 18, May 16 - 10am to 2-3pm

UMCOR Sunday
On March 22nd our church will celebrate UMCOR Sunday and dedicate a special offering to this wonderful program. It will be a day when we can join together with other Christians to share God’s love with people experiencing need. Your gifts support ministries of disaster response, help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

On Sunday, March 22nd you will find specially marked envelopes in your bulletin.

Thank you for giving so others can have a better life!

The Dryden UMC Outreach Committee
May you find God’s Blessing in this footnote!

One day I was doing some research while sitting at the end of a long table in this church’s meeting room, whereupon after sitting for a prolonged time and I stood up to stretch. After completing some neck and shoulder flexes followed by a few knee twists; then a few ankle lifts to stand on my toes—when in walks in our Pastor Pam.

From her view she could not see my feet hidden by the length of the table. She inquired of me and I facetiously responded that I was levitating. Her response did fit the occasion perfectly; quite well that she does have a quick wit and keen humor.

A retired Minister at the time, Rev. Robert E. Gibby (1881-1964) is reported to have actually levitated during a funeral service officiated by him. Rev. Bob Gibby became a respected member of this church after his retirement following fulltime ministry who was involved in its many activities.

During the funeral service it was noticed by one of the parishioners, Mrs. Lettie Burch, that Rev. Gibby’s face shone as if it were polished and a light like a halo appeared and extended out from his head for several inches. Later the parishioner asked of her husband it he had seen this. His reply is not recorded. Later that evening she received a phone call from a woman who also had attended telling her about the same observation.

A few days later, Rev. Gibby stopped at her home and told her that he had a strange thing happen to him during that funeral service. He is reputed to have said that, he felt as light a feather and was floating in the air and that the words he spoke were not his own. And that after a few moments he was back on earth and felt normal once again.

This exert above was taken from a publication titled, “Celebrate, Celebrating 180 Years of Methodism In Dryden,” by Rev. Richard H. Sivers, pastor.

I should like to conclude with some bits of humorous exerts found in some writings that have come my way that apparently passed the “spell check function.” Many were the result of a dropped (or missed) letter or a grammatical error. For instance: “Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.” And another: Jack and Jane were married this past Saturday in the church ending a friendship that started in their Kindergarten School bus.” And finally: “Attend the potluck supper two weeks from this Wednesday and you will heave a delicious meal.”

God bless you, one and all…and…may every day bring you happiness and joy!
$Income Tax Time

**TAX PREP SESSIONS**
The annual Tax Prep sessions are here!

- **Tax Prep Session #4**: March 7
- **Tax Prep Session #5**: March 21
- **Tax Prep Session #6**: March 28

All sessions are from 10 am—2 pm

For more information go to the website listed below or contact:

- **Brian Zapf**
  - Community Tax Program Director
  - Alternatives Federal Credit Union
  - 125 North Fulton Street, Ithaca, NY 14850
  - 607-216-3459  607-273-4611
  - FAX# 607-277-6391
  - bzapf@alternatives.org  www.alternatives.org

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please contact: Karen at drydenumc@gmail.com

If you are receiving this newsletter by e-mail or snail-mail and would like to be removed from the list, please e-mail or call the church office at 844-9861.

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**COMING....**

**OUR CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE**
Start saving your stuff!!

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**DUMC Lay Leadership 2020**

*Administrative Council*

- **Chair**: Janice Downey
- **Secretary**: Vivian Collins
- **Lay Leader**: Hummy VanDeWeert
- **Chair, SPRC**: Nancy Hart
- **Finance Chair**: Charlie Cuykendall
- **Financial Secretary**: Cathy Paddock
- **Trustee Chair**: Richard Church
- **Christian Ed Chair**: TBD
- **Membership/Nurture & Care**: TBD
- **Memorial Comm. Chair**: Ginny Farmer
- **Outreach Chair**: Janice Downey
- **Worship & Music Chair**: TBD
- **Members At Large**: Jim Minor, Judy Starr
- **Historian & Membership Secretary**: Harry Weldon
- **Pastor**: Pam Carey
Stewardship, talking care of what we value, requires us to THINK and speak with honesty and truth. Our society currently overuses words and images to create sensations, sell products, and manipulate people, often for questionable ends.

John 1:1 proclaims, “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

This Bible verse is a magnificent metaphor that equates the idea of Word with the idea of God: the Word is with God, and the Word is God.

Knowing and believing that the Word and God are equal could startle us into silence, but it usually has not. People often talk without thinking about the consequences of their speech on other people and the world.

So, how do we become better stewards of the Word? How do we show respect for its use and its power, for God and for Good?

We can consider Rumi, the Persian poet and musician, and Sathya Sai Bab, a Hindi/Muslim Saint, as if they were in conversation with John and us. Rumi and Sathya Sai Baba taught that there were three criteria or gates that should be opened prior to people speaking. The person preparing to speak should first think about his or her thinking, what we know as meta-cognition.

Our guiding question: When we speak, do we improve the silence?

Is what I am about to say true?
Is it necessary for me to say it?
Is it kind?

Western philosophy has added to these three “gates” by creating an acronym, T.H.I.N.K:
Is it True?
Is it Helpful?
Is it Inspiring?
Is it Necessary?
Is it Kind?

How can we use these questions to become better stewards of the Word?

LENOPEN STUDY
Co-Led by Pam Carey, Judy Starr, & Hummy VandeWeert

Wednesday Evenings
starting March 4 @ 7pm

Thursday Afternoons
starting February 27 @ 3pm

“EMBRACING THE UNCERTAIN”

We will be offering a Lenten study this year using the book: Embracing the Uncertain.

In Embracing the Uncertain, Magrey deVega explores six stories in the Gospels as Jesus travels toward Jerusalem, where he will be crucified. These stories are signposts in the gospel narrative, pointing down at a world filled with uncertainty, yet pointing us forward to a cross that can show us how to follow Jesus with courage, obedience, and the hope of resurrection. Each chapter includes questions for reflection and discussion, and a practical focus for the upcoming week. We certainly live in uncertain times. In addition to the uncertainty in our own lives, there is uncertainty in The United Methodist Church, and uncertainty in our country.

We will announce the times that the study will be offered when it gets closer, but my hope is that everyone will be able to take part in one of the sessions of this study. We will also offer the Devotional book for use during lent whether or not you are part of the study.
Haiti Mission News

In March, we are celebrating the graduation of Evens Darelus and Danio Saul from the American University of Modern Science of Haiti in Port-au Prince. Both have earned degrees in Secondary Education - Science and Mathematics and are currently teaching as well as finishing the written requirements for their certificate and license.

Carol and I met Danio in September 2007 and Evens the following September. At the time, we were just beginning to coordinate the sponsorship program, taking “baby steps” one year at a time. We could not have imagined that God had this wonderful plan for these two gifted students. Carol and I have been blessed to watch God work in their lives and ours, as we seek to open the door of education and opportunity for Haitian youth.

Both Evens and Danio have a strong desire to give back to their community through teaching and mentoring Haitian youth. Evens, who is married and has a baby daughter, remarked my students love seeing me, my wife and daughter when we are in the market. They are working on plans to start a secondary school in the mountains, then youth will not have to leave their families and move to the valley to get a good education.

After a very chaotic summer and fall, with many protests and strikes, things are back to a “Haitian Normal”. For Amide, Napoleon another of our university students, it means classes seven day a week to make up for the months the university was closed. For our elementary and secondary students, it means they will be going to school into July.

We thank God for the nearly 100 sponsors who are making education possible for so many youths in Haiti. On April 25th, we will be having our annual Haiti Tea and Silent Auction at the Waterloo UMC. We are always looking for donations for the auction. 100% of the funds raised are used to provide a school lunch for all the students at Mitspa Elementary School in Verrettes, Haiti.

Serving Christ with you in Haiti,
Pete and Carol Loveland
Did you know that Lifelong provides a variety of programs for learning as well as social activities and events that are open to anyone 50 and over? We have the Spring 2020 catalog in the church office. You can also review the information online at www.tclifelong.org. Lifelong is located at 119 West Court St. in Ithaca and the phone number is 273-1511. Take a few minutes to identify areas that may be of interest to you!
# CALENDAR - MARCH

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<td>Deadline for Newsletter</td>
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<td>5:30-6:30pm Community Dinner (CL)</td>
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<td>10a to 2-3p Growing w/ God Spiritual Retreat</td>
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Dryden United Methodist Church

March 2020