



The Circuit Rider

Canton United Methodist Church



May / June 2024

From Pastor Brett:

Greetings, siblings, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I am writing this article as delegates to the 2020 General Conference are preparing to engage in the business of the denomination in Charlotte, North Carolina. These last four years have been filled with angst and uncertainty as the world was put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which included our scheduled General Conference session. As a result, there is a lot of work that will need to be accomplished in the wake of the delay and the launch of the Global Methodist Church.

One of the primary tasks these delegates will wrestle with is the future of our denomination and if we will include LGBTQ+ individuals fully into the life of the Church. This has been a highly contested topic since the language restricting openly gay clergy and marriage was introduced in the 1970s, with attempts at nearly every General Conference since its inception to remove the language and restrictions. In 2016 and 2019, we thought we had a plan to move forward, but there were many challenges that could not be overcome. Since the Special 2019 General Conference, there has been work on a global scale to present a regionalization plan that would allow more flexibility to adopt practices in harmony with local laws and practices. But this has come at a cost as many congregations, clergy, and laity have left the denomination for the newly formed Global Methodist Church.

Having been through an event that split a denomination in the past with Gene Robinson's consecration as a bishop in the Episcopal Church, it is difficult to see happen again. However, I am holding onto the hope that God's will be done, and the rainbow of God's children will all be welcomed into the life and service of the United Methodist Church. May the grace of God be with us all, and please pray for our delegates across the denomination.

Pastor Brett Johnson



Did you know: The Canton United Methodist Church offers their Sunday Worship services two different ways. You can watch it either in person or on-line through our Facebook page. Our Facebook link is:

[Canton United Methodist Church | Canton NY | Facebook](#)



Our next coffee hour is on
Sunday, May 12th
at 11 a.m.



There will be special treats for all church ladies no matter the age.



United Women in Faith

Annual Spring Rummage Sale & Meeting Dates

Annual Spring Rummage Sale Hours



Thursday, May 2nd - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday, May 3rd - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, May 4th - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Bag Sale)



The United Women in Faith will begin to collect items starting Sunday, April 28th to Wednesday, May 1st. They are asking for gently used household items, clothing, kid's toys, and books. No electronic devices, such as computers, computer hardware, and televisions will be accepted.

Upcoming United Women in Faith Meetings



Wednesday, May 1st at 6 p.m.
(Work Meeting)

Wednesday, June 5th at 6 p.m.



1	Eric S.
1	Michael B.
4	Sheila B.
15	Lorene R.
16	Ben K.
16	David S.
19	Gina C.
20	Katy B.
21	Wesley M.
24	Pat S.
24	Ted L.
25	Sarah B.
28	Anna C.
28	Chris W.
30	Christine W.

Sunday, June 16th



Monday, May 27, 2024

1	Mike D.
6	Anneke L.
7	David W.
10	Ella S.
11	Larry G.
12	Chris M.
13	Maysa M.
17	Matthew B.
20	Judy L.
25	Scott W.
29	Jane B.

**Board
of Trustees'
MEETING**



Tuesday, May 14th – 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 11th – 6:30 p.m.



**Church
Council
Meeting**

Tuesday, May 14th – 7 p.m.
Tuesday, June 11th – 7 p.m.





Free Will Drive Thru Dinner



Tari, Linda, and Mike



Roger & Sheila, Thadine, Judy, Dixie, and Gary

SPOTLIGHT ON CANTON UMC MINISTRIES: FREE WILL MEAL PROGRAM

Did you know that.....?

- Our Free Will Meal Program was launched about 25 years ago by Carlton Doane?
- Over time, the program grew from one meal per month to weekly Wednesday meals?
- 12 volunteers help to pick up/unload donated food and prepare/deliver/distribute 125 meals every week?
- 35 folks in the Canton High Rise/Canton community receive delivered meals every week?
- 25 people come every week to receive food donated weekly from Aldi's and KFC?
- SLU international students benefit from our meals during campus breaks?

Try one of our most popular recipes: Chicken Divan (originated with Ron & Ortha Sibbitts)

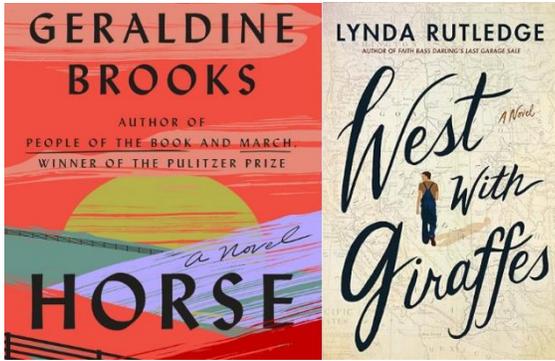
Chicken Divan Recipe

Broccoli	20 Ounces
Turkey or Chicken	2 Cups
Cream of Mushroom Soup	1 Can
Cream of Chicken Soup	1 Can
Mayo	3/4 Cup
Lemon Juice	1 tsp
Sharp Cheddar Cheese	1/2 Cup
Bread Crumbs (Soft)	1 Cup
Melted Butter	1 TBSP

Steam broccoli. Layer broccoli in bottom of pan, chicken or turkey. Mix together soups, mayo, and lemon juice. Pour over Broccoli and chicken. Sprinkle cheese and bread crumbs over them. Drizzle butter over top of ingredients.

Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes.

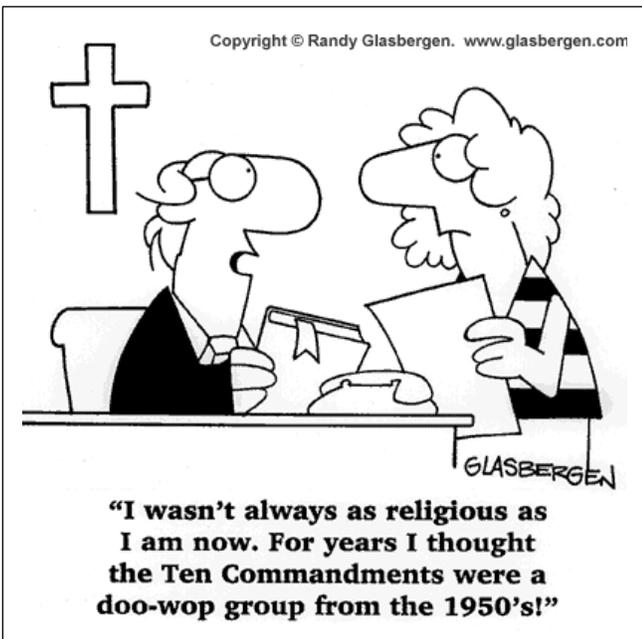
CANTON UMC BOOKLOVERS CLUB NEWS



Saturday, June 13th from
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

On April 6, eight of us gathered to discuss “West with Giraffes” by Lynda Rutledge, a great novel inspired by the incredible true story of two giraffes who made headlines and won the hearts of Depression-era America. We did focus on book questions, but our conversations also went off topic in multiple ways, as everyone shared stories from their own lives. Lots of fun over coffee and warm brownies! Friends & guests always welcome!

Join us for our next session on Saturday, June 15, 1-3 pm, when we’ll discuss “Horse,” authored by Geraldine Brooks. Here’s a preview to capture your interest: *A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history.*



3	Mike & Linda D.
11	Eric & Carol S.
15	Scott & Marcianne M.
24	Ted & Phyllis L.



Seed to Table



April 13, 2024

St. Lawrence University Seed to Table and Community Permaculture Garden student club is soliciting individuals interested in volunteering this summer at the Permaculture Garden. The garden is located behind Commons College at 78 Park Street between Lincoln and Maple Streets. Community support is valued when most students are off-campus during the summer.

Raised garden beds are available from April 29th through September 30th 2024 on a first come-first serve basis and interested people can complete the sign - up form. Bed sizes are: 4'x8', 2'x4' and two tall raised 2'x6'.

Because we expect to have more volunteers than there are beds, not everyone will get their own raised bed. For those unable to obtain their own bed, opportunities will be provided to work on garden projects with other gardeners.

Gardeners may be asked to contribute some of their produce from their bed to community programs. Those interested in having a raised bed in the Permaculture Garden are asked to complete this form as soon as possible. The garden accepts donations of perennial flowers for transplanting into their flower beds and undeveloped spaces.

We are very excited to offer this new opening for "town-gown" collaboration and believe it can create opportunities to expand our connections and understandings of each other.

Please contact Dr, Ashpole at sashpole@stlawu.edu if you would like to be on a mailing list to learn about when activities in the garden are being planned. Sara Ashpole, Ph.D. R. Sheldon '68 and Virginia H. Johnson Professor in the Sciences
Greg Todd President Waste Not Permaculture Inc.

WORRYING ABOUT THE “BIG” STUFF: From Where Will My Help Come?

“Worry,” when used as a verb, is defined by the Oxford Dictionary as “to give way to anxiety or [unease](#); allow one's mind to [dwell](#) on difficulty or [troubles](#).” I must confess that I put this verb into action all too often; in fact, if worrying were an Olympic sport, I'd likely qualify for the national team, perhaps even be considered a medal contender.

Categories of things to worry about come in all shapes and sizes, from the everyday (What if I submitted my payment too close to the due date and get a late fee?) to the gut-wrenching, potentially life-altering ALL CAPITAL worrying situations – the CANCER diagnosis, the addiction CRISIS, the marriage BREAKUP....For many of us, worry (also a noun, it's that important a word) is a constant companion throughout most of our lives.

So how can we learn not to worry, or at least to worry less, especially about every day? In what I think of as the “Do Not Worry” verse, Matthew 6:25, Jesus says, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or



about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?” The lesson continues with examples of how God provides food to sustain the birds and flowers to clothe the fields, concluding with the admonishment to “seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

With aging comes some hard-earned wisdom, including worrying less about the “small stuff,” but I haven't yet learned how to stop worrying completely. I suspect that when most of us are confronted with those CAPITAL LETTER worries, they bring us to our knees, literally and figuratively, because we feel so helpless. We can't even imagine what tomorrow will bring when today is so devastating, when there is so much to overcome.

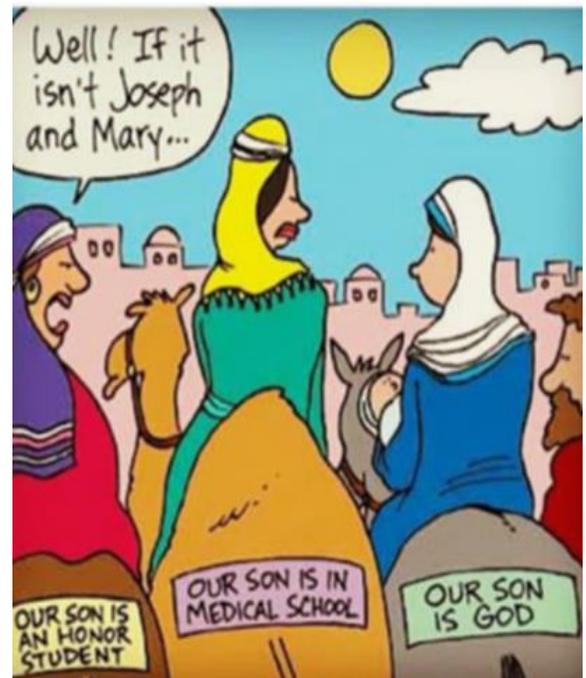
Yet it is then, in our times of deepest worry and anxiety, when we look for strength to just carry on, that we can turn to God's Word to give us that strength. Here are a few verses to keep close for those times:

- Psalm 46:1: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
- Isaiah 41:10: So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
- James 1:2-4 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

- Psalm 9:9-10: The Lord is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O Lord, do not abandon those who search for you.
- John 16:33: I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”
- Philippians 4:6-7: Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.
- Philippians 4:13: For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.
- Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
- Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

As we also find strength and comfort in the prayers we offer for one another, remember to pray for strength for our church family members, as well as for folks whom we may not know, but who may be facing some of those CAPITAL LETTER worries. May God's Peace be with you.

By R.A.M.



Have any ideas for the next newsletter? Please submit it prior to Tuesday, June 18th

CANTON UMC CIRCUIT RIDERS RAISE \$450 FOR CCP!



Left to right-David Sibbitts, Carol & Eric Smith, Paul Sibbitts, Greg Todd

In the 2nd annual bowling fundraiser on April 20th to benefit the Church & Community Program (CCP), Canton UMC's Circuit Rider team raised \$450, thanks to generous sponsorship from our church family and others! The 2024 tournament attracted twice as many teams as the previous year **and raised over \$1,400 total for CCP!** The team had a great Canton UMC cheering squad, including Thadine and Gary Wight, Pat Sibbitts, Mike and Linda Dafoe, and Jane Brown. We should all be proud and grateful that Thadine* and Pat, along with Cheryl Glidden*, Phyllis Lawrence, Denise Koser*, Janice Poole, Joyce Lilholt, and Brenda Curley, are all volunteers for CCP, helping with the Thrift Shop, Back-to-School Program, Holiday Gift Program, and more. And we can't forget Paul Sibbitts, who picks up food at Walmart every Monday for CCP's Food Pantry! *Current Canton UMC representatives to CCP Board.



Special Thank You to Guest Worship Service Musicians! As we continue our search for a music director following Jeff's departure, we extend **SPECIAL THANKS** to **Brenda Curley** for filling our sanctuary with music during Easter Week and again on April 21; to **Johanna Kingsley** for impromptu piano accompaniment on March 17; and to **Pastor Brett** for the always mellow guitar hymns. And **ACCOLADES** to our **Choir** for their **wonderful anthems** for Easter and in April under **Corinne**

Duda's masterly direction. We appreciate their resilience and commitment during a period of transition. ---SPPRC Committee





Canton United Methodist Church
41 Court Street
Canton, NY 13617



May – June 2024 Newsletter

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Upper New York Conference
Rev. Hector Burgos
Northern Flow District Superintendent
Rev. Mike Weeden

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
Join us in our sanctuary
or on Facebook Live
www.facebook.com/CantonUMCNewYork
Brett Johnson, OS� - Pastor
Barbara Reome – Administrative Assistant
TBA - Musician
A & M Cleaning Service - Sexton