

Pastor's Message

Choice, Chance, Change

You must make the choice

To take the chance

If you want anything in life to change

These words were posted on a sign at one of our local establishments here in the Tioughnioga Valley. When I read this it brought me home to the truth of these words.

You've all probably heard the definition of insanity. If you do the same thing in the same way over and over again and yet you expect to get different results. And we all hear this and think of how ridiculous that sounds. But I wonder how many of us do this very thing over and over again. Yet we say we're tired of the results being the same.

The definition of the word "Change" in its noun form is "the act or instance of making or becoming different". Does anything need to be different in your life? Have you thought about your weight and been highly dissatisfied as you stand on the scale morning after morning? Do you wish a relationship would change, but you continue to do the same thing and handle situations in the same way you've always handled them. Or in the area of your finances have you realized it again and again that things can't continue as they are? And yet you won't make any changes.

Many times we think that someone else ought to change. And yet change that doesn't begin with us might be the wrong change. Have you yet realized that most of the change in the world needs to be a change in ourselves?

You must make the choice to take the chance if you want anything in life to change. That sounds like personal responsibility to me.

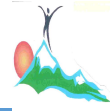
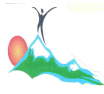
This principal is what the gospel of Jesus Christ is built upon. Notice who initiates the change in these words: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." God initiated the change. And because God initiated the change, the door was opened for others to change. Others could go from eternal death to eternal life. All because God made one change in things, he sent his one and only son. Anyone who opens and decides to follow God's change would be empowered to eternally live. That's quite a change, to once upon a time live for temporary to living for eternity.

Now it was God who initiated this change and yet many others reap the benefit of this change. All change is like that. It has a ripple effect. If someone decides to begin taking charge of their weight, others will see and be inspired so that they too may begin to take charge of their diet and exercise. When someone begins to work on their relationships, others will see that and begin to think that they can begin to improve their relationships. Or when someone becomes more financially wise, others see that and may begin to ask how they can alter the budget issues they're facing. And best of all, what about when one person receives the change that God initiated by sending His son to die for them. That one person moves from living out of eternal death to living out of eternal life and others see this change and may begin to want that type of change for themselves.

Do you see anything in the world that needs to change? You must make the choice to take the chance if you want anything in life to change.

See you all in worship &

Merry Christmas to all, Pastor Vern



Administrative Board

The Administrative Board met on November 5th with seven members present. Before the meeting the board talked to a realtor about selling the Parish House. When the meeting began Bonnie's resignation was accepted and Janet was nominated to be the secretary/clerk for the board. The discussion about the Parish House resulted in reviewing all the work that needs to be completed. The estimates will be reviewed and compared to what it will cost to keep the building verses selling the property. The Financial Secretary reported for October, the General Fund \$5982.65. The additional room has been completed by the contractor. A thank you note was sent to the contractor that donated the cross. Another contractor will be building the steps to the new room. The painting of the interior of the church will be completed before the Christmas concert in December. Decorating the church will be put on hold until the painting is completed.

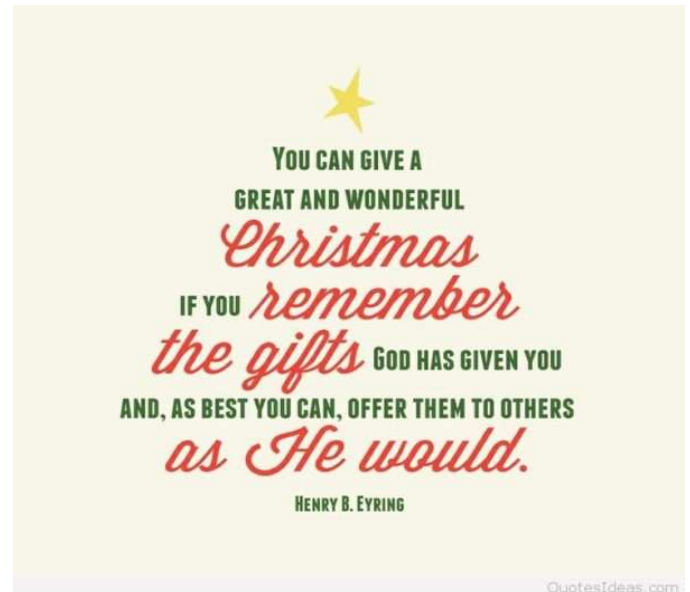
The next meeting will be December 3rd.

Respectfully Submitted, Janet Furlough, Clerk

Cookies and Cocoa

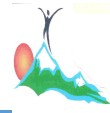
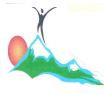
Cookie Exchange Party

Please bring a dozen of your favorite cookies to share for an hour of cookies, sharing and holiday fun. See you at the Parish House on Saturday December 1st at 10 AM.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- Dec 6 Jeremy Downs
- *Dec 6 Vern and Roxanne Groves
- Dec 7 Lynn Wightman
- Dec 11 Kenneth Paddock
- Dec 14 Logan Graham
- Dec 17 Janet Furlough
- Dec 18 Kenny Wood
- Dec 25 Noelle Gast
- Dec 29 Amy Best
- Dec 31 Lora Burdick



Countryside Community Choir Presents

Go Sing It On the Mountain by Pepper Choplin

Sunday Dec 2nd @ 2:30 pm Cortland Seventh Day Adventist Church

Sunday Dec 9th @ 7 pm Pompey Community Church

Sunday Dec 16th @ 2:30 pm DeRuyter United Church

Free Will Offering



Advent Challenge

Do a Reverse Advent Basket

Each day of Advent (Dec 2 - 24) means that one item to supply the DeRuyter Food Pantry would be added to the box. And then on Christmas Eve, you can bring your Reverse Advent Box filled with all the food items to the 8 PM Christmas Eve Service at the **United Church of DeRuyter**.



Want to be part of this? Just get a cardboard box or any other sort of box and begin to place one food item into it each day of Advent, beginning on Dec 2nd.

If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

James 2:15-16

Suggested Items for Reverse Advent Box

Toothpaste, Toothbrush, peanut butter

Canned items:

Fruit, Vegetables, pork & beans

Tuna fish, Beef stew

Boxed items:

Pasta – macaroni, spaghetti, ziti

Au gratin Potatoes, Rice

Breakfast Cereals, Oatmeal

Soap: Bar soap, laundry soap, dish soap, shampoo

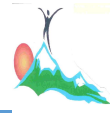
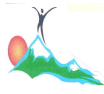
Please watch for outdated stamps on donated items

Women's Fellowship

Watch for the DeRuyter Mitten Tree it will be at the Church in December. Choose a child to purchase a Christmas gift for and then bring back to the church.

Thank you to all who helped with the Harvest Pork Dinner. Plans are under consideration to move the next dinner to the spring time when there will be less community dinners.

December 12th bring cookies to Shawn's to prepare the Christmas baskets for delivery.



Calendar of Events

Each Sun @ 11am– Sunday Service, except Christmas Eve Service @ Parish House at 10

Each Tues. @ 8:30 am– Prayer in Pastor Vern’s office (all welcome to join)

Each Wed. @ 6:30 pm –Prayer @ Ginny Moore’s home (all welcome to join)

Sat Dec 8th- Men's group meets @ 8 am. Lynn’s Diner in Cuyler

Sat Dec 22- Men's group meets @ 8 am. Parish House (bring a breakfast dish to pass)

Dec 1-10 AM Cookies and Cocoa @Parish House

Dec. 2 – 1st Sunday of Advent – Communion

Dec. 3- Admin Bd. @7 PM

Dec. 6- Spiritual Bd. @ 7 PM

Dec 8- 8AM Men’s Group @ Lynn’s Diner

Dec. 9 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Dec. 16 – 3rd Sunday of Advent –Sunday School Youth presenting/Hymn Sing

Dec 22- 8 am, Men’s group meet @ Parish House (bring a breakfast dish to pass)

Dec. 23 – 4th Sunday of Advent – 10 AM Breakfast Brunch & Christmas Reading @ Parish House

- * Bring a breakfast dish to pass
- * Bring your own table service
- * Coffee will be provided

Dec 24 – 8 pm Christmas Eve Service (Don’t forget to bring your Reverse Advent Basket)

