

# NORTH FERRISBURGH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Sharing Christ's warm transforming love with our community, our state, our nation, and our world*



“Silent Night” by Candlelight at our Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service last Sunday (photo by Kris Nelson)

## A Message from Pastor Kim

How you are changing lives?

- *“I love church.”* – student in Sunday school.
- *“As I reflect this Christmas, on the many blessings that have been bestowed on me this year, I want you to know that the church is at the very top! I am so grateful to have you all in my life and wanted to remind you, of the impact you make on and in all of our lives and the community every day of the year. Thank you!”* – new member.
- *“So many experience sad times during the holiday season. I am able to cope pretty well because of the trust and hope I hold in my heart.”* – email from long term member.

These are folks unwrapping the true Christmas gifts of peace, hope, love and joy in part because they know you, and you help them grow in their faith.

Remember that God needs and values each of us. No matter where we are in the walk of faith, we make a difference in the lives of those around us and in our world. Even with all the other generous things we did this season, you blew me away by giving over \$3,500 to our Christmas Eve offering. Wow! God is good and is using us for so much good in a tough world. Happy New Year!

Grace and Peace, Kim

## Events Link

- Wed AM Bible Study: Begins Wed, Jan 3rd 10-11:30am Upper Room
- Wed Evening Bible Study: Begins Wed, Jan 3rd 7-8:30pm Upper Room. Both Bible Studies are on The Sermon on the Mount.
- Men's breakfast: Sat. Jan 13th, 7:30-8:30am in Fellowship Hall
- Wildberries Potluck Luncheon: Fri. Jan 19th 12noon at Chick Wood's
- All Church Planning Day: Sat Jan 20th 8:30 - 11:30am. Upper Room. All welcome
- Prayer Group: Meets 11:20am every Sunday in the Upper Room. Seek out Joanne and Ken Weber and Carole Stoneking if questions.

## NEWS ITEMS

**All Church Planning Day:** Ed Wilkens will lead us in a planning day on Saturday Jan. 20th from 8:30 – 11:30am. All are welcome. Most who have attended these events in previous years report that they are lively and fun. Together we have set great goals for our church.

**Service to the Community:** We received heart-felt thanks from our DCF social worker, Andrea Grimm, for both the Thanksgiving food and the Christmas gifts. We also received one note thanking us for food that read: *“When we got the gift we cried. Just the day before we had prayed for food. It had been a long time since we had had to pray for food. It was humbling to have the need and humbling to have the need answered so promptly. Thank you so much.”*

**New Worship Series: Jan. 7th:** We start a new worship series on

Forgiveness. We also celebrate communion and Baptism of the Lord the first Sunday of January. This is a very meaningful time for all.

**Many Thanks to:** • All who decorated the church, directed or helped or acted in the pageant or helped with worship in December!



**Sermons on video:** For those who missed them, you can view Kim’s sermons on Dec. 3rd, 10th, 17th and Christmas Eve by clicking on [this link](#).

## PRAYER REQUESTS AND THANKS

**Lift up:** Todd Whitney (Barbara and George’s son, and Ashka’s dad) has begun chemotherapy for cancer.

We lift up all who are grieving this season especially Mary Jane Jenkins and Bob Jenkins’ entire family.

Roger Marum’s priest and friend, Rev. Zelda Kennedy, who died Dec. 27th. We give thanks for a faithful saint, and pray for her friends, church (All Saints Church in Pasadena), and family.

**Prayers for Continued Healing:** Lorna Brown’s two relatives who were in a

serious auto accident in Utah. Both are in the process of recovering.

Bob Wilkens, Ed’s dad, is home after a remarkable recovery from a fall.

Carolyn and Jim Gray, doing better after a fall and then a move to a new residence. They hope to return to our church in the new year.

Mary Lou Payne is doing well, but will need more chemotherapy in January.

Ken Weber recovering from his cancer treatments, and the Weber’s grandson, Damian, who is in prison.

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## SPECIAL EDITION: NEW SPIRITUAL HABITS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Do you make a New Year's resolution?  
Studies show that most of us fail when we  
are trying to change our behaviors.

*have learned I have to read scripture or a  
devotion daily or I lose my focus on God's love and  
presence."*

However, I hope you will resolve to improve  
your spiritual relationship with God in this  
New Year. Some of our wisest saints say, "I

To help, we list below some resources to  
connect to God's love so you keep spiritually  
strong. Also visit our webpage "[Next Steps](#)"

### **Devotion Books or Websites that Guide a Daily Prayer Time:**

1. [Bible in One Year](#): Each day you are given three passages: OT, NT, and either Psalms or Proverbs each with a brief commentary. If all three passages are too much, just do the New Testament for the year. Can arrive in your email each morning. Begin with Genesis on Jan 1st; end with the Book of Revelation on Dec 31st.
2. "[Openings](#)" by Larry Peacock, a United Methodist pastor. This book takes you through the Psalms in one year. Each day looks at a person who can inspire us, brief commentary on the Psalm, and suggestions for prayer or action the psalm inspires.
3. [Unfolding Light](#) provides an almost daily brief devotional based on scripture and the season by a New England United Methodist pastor, Steve Garnaas-Holmes.
4. [3 minute retreat](#): This site provides a beautiful photo, music, scripture, questions to ponder, and a closing prayer.
5. "[Jesus Calling](#)" This book contains short devotionals for each day.
6. "[Listening to your Life](#)": A book of daily devotions from the writings of Frederick Buechner.

### **Classes:**

1. Two [Bible Studies](#) on The Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7) start on Wed, Jan 3rd. One is in the morning from 10-11:30am; the other in the evening 7-8:30pm. All welcome.
2. [ALPHA](#) exploring the basics of our Christian faith will meet Saturday mornings from 9-10:30am beginning Feb 24th through May 12th. Talk to Ted Marcy to learn more.
3. [New Member Class](#): we go over the basics that help us grow in our faith and any questions people have about our church, church history, UM beliefs. Pastor Kim offers this to any thinking about joining our church.

**Books:** Borrow NT commentary books from our table in the Rainbow Room. Anne LaMott, Frederick Buechner, Henri Nouwen, Kathleen Norris, Eugene Peterson, Nadia Bolz-Weber, C.S. Lewis are authors worth reading. For families: Madeleine L'Engle's A Wrinkle in Time series and C.S. Lewis' Narnia tales use Christian themes in creative ways.

**Spiritual Direction:** Dinny Adamson is a trained spiritual director who meets with individuals in the Ruth Bull Room. The practice of spiritual direction offers an opportunity to reflect deeply on the experiences of your life, and to recognize God's presence and grace in those experiences. Contact Dinny at [hopkins@sover.net](mailto:hopkins@sover.net).

# Important Information

|                     | <b>Sunday<br/>Dec 31st</b> | <b>Sunday<br/>Jan 7th</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Coffee Hour:</b> | Sue DeVos                  |                           |
| <b>Liturgist</b>    | Diane Shortsleeve          |                           |
| <b>Greeters:</b>    | Chick Wood                 |                           |
| <b>Nursery:</b>     | Jamie Steadman             | Chris Steadman            |

*“Come close, now, old holy friend,  
past full knowing, that I may  
know that this deeper mystery I  
am in, and that’s in me, is because  
you have made me holy, too.”*

Ted Loder  
"Wrestling the Light"

If you can volunteer for an open spot email Christine Steadman [nfumc@gmavt.net](mailto:nfumc@gmavt.net) or call the church office at 425 2770. Contact her if you would like to be placed on the email prayer list where we send out prayer requests as they occur.

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