

NORTH FERRISBURGH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



Planning Day on Sat, Jan 20th led by Ed Wilkens

A Message from Pastor Kim

On Sat, Jan 20th, twenty people of all ages gathered for an awesome planning day. Ed Wilkens, our leader, made it fun and lively. Said one new member who had to slip out early: *"I don't want to leave, this is fun."*

We looked at developing new ideas for 1) **children**, 2) **youth**, 3) **young adults and parents** and 4) **Faith Deepening Studies** (any class that helps our faith grow).

We also hope to expand lay leadership. See page 3 for more on the ideas that

came out of our Planning Day. For instance, the Sunday After Worship Prayer group was initiated and led by the Webers and the Stonekings.

As we look forward, we rejoice that God is blessing us in many ways. In 2017 our average attendance grew to 84, when many churches are shrinking. Our giving, service, and fun activities increased as well! Sunday Feb. 4th we add a Sunday school class for High School students 9th-12grade! We are so blessed!

Events Link

- ☉ Men's breakfast: Sat. Feb 3rd, 7:30-8:30am in Fellowship Hall
- ☉ High School Class: Begins Sun, Feb 4th with Rob McKay and Kathy Quesnel
- ☉ Laser tag and bowling, pizza at Spare Time: Feb 4th after worship for just \$2. Contact Pastor Kim.
- ☉ Ash Wednesday Service: Wed, Feb 14th 10am and 7pm in Upper Room
- ☉ Wildberries Soup Luncheon: Sun, Feb 18th after worship.
- ☉ Wed Studies starts Feb 21 10-11:30am and 7-8:30pm: "What in the World" A discussion of the prior week's sermon
- ☉ ALPHA Class: Begins Sat. Feb 24th 9-10:30am Upper Room. Speak to Ted Marcy for details.
- ☉ Craft Group: Mon, Feb 26th 6:30pm Upper Room. Talk with Jill Wilkens

Grace and Peace, Kim

NEWS ITEMS

Souper Bowl Sunday: On Feb 4th during worship the youth will collect an offering for our church food shelf. Bring your canned goods, money or a check.

Ash Wednesday: The season of Lent begins Wed, Feb. 14th and goes through Palm Sunday, March 25th.. Lent means "Spring". We prepare our hearts and lives to welcome the resurrection on Easter Sunday. We offer a simple Ash Wednesday service Wed, Feb 14th at 10am and 7pm in the Upper Room. Pick the time that works for you!

Why ashes on Ash Wednesday? The ashes were traditionally made from the previous year's Palm Sunday palms. The Palm Sunday crowd's faith evaporated in the events of Holy week, but those who met the risen Lord show us the way to a much deeper faith. We will focus on hope on Ash Wednesday!

Sermons and Joys and Concerns videos on website: Larry Stoneking is creating a very nice 10 minute video on worship highlights that includes joys and concerns. We also video the sermons each Sunday. YES you can download these to your phone and listen in the car! Click [worship](#) to get to the video

PRAYER REQUESTS

Lift up: Bob Titus, Jeff Siewert, Ken Weber, Bruce Werner, Mary Jane Jenkins, Mary Lou Payne, Stan Smith, Nancy Gomez all home and recovering from surgery, radiation, chemo. Continue praying for full recovery.

montage of worship, and [sermon](#) to get to the sermons. To download any of the videos, click on *vimeo* in the lower right corner and once you are on that page, the download button.



Many Thanks to: • Ed Wilkens for leading the planning day • Tom Nola for building closet and shelving in Upper Room • Diane Shortsleeve, Chick Wood, and Kathy Quesnel for coffee hours during January. • Larry Stoneking for teaching Bible Studies and creating the video montage of worship.

Prayers for Continued Healing: Vince and Nancy Gomez on death of his sister, Jim and Gloria Warden on death of his aunt.

PLANNING DAY GOALS FOR 2018

1. **For faith deepening study:** We will offer “*What in the World?*” Wednesday sermon review discussion studies. These begin on Feb 21st thru March 28th at both 10–11:30am and 7–8:30pm. Choose which time is best for you.
2. **For Youth:** Hold monthly activities and survey the youth to find out their interests. For example, Kathy Quesnel and Rob McKay begin a new high school class during worship Sunday, Feb 4th.
3. **For Children:** Offer regular fellowship activities for children as well as Sunday school. Crafts, hikes, cooking, grandparent/mentoring activities.
4. **Young Adults/Parents:** offer mid-week gathering at the Pavilion for picnics, music, games, playground, socializing.

LENT AND A NEW WORSHIP SERIES

With Lent, Pastor Kim begins a series entitled “*What are You **Up** To?*” The scriptures ask us to consider all that Jesus is “*up to*” and all that he asks us to be **up to** in his name. What pursuits are we **up to** in our lives that call us to be our best selves, and our best selves as the church?

Traditionally, Christians gave up something during Lent. Many find it meaningful to “*take up*” something: a regular prayer time; being in church every Lenten Sunday; a commitment to serve during our free community meal; or some other faith supporting habit.

- Sunday Feb 18th: “*Store Up*”

“*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth*” Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

As we begin Lent, we contemplate our lives. Do we spend time reaching for “must have’s” that our culture says we need? Or are we storing up the things that bring us closer to the reign of God, the good things—the treasures—that fill us and others with well-being of body, mind and spirit.

- Sunday Feb 25th: “*Come Up*”

“*In those days Jesus ... was baptized by John in the Jordan.*” Mark 1: 9-15

This Sunday brings us to the moment at which Jesus comes up out of the waters of baptism to hear, “*You are my beloved.*” We are called to come up out of the depths of whatever seeks to keep us under and know that we are beloved of God.

Important Information

	Sunday Feb 4th	Sunday Feb 11th
Coffee Hour:	Lou and Randy	Carole Stoneking
Liturgist	Jed Hornung	Jed Hornung
Greeters:	Carole Stoneking	Chick Wood
Nursery:	Chris Steadman	Chris Steadman

*“The gospel claims that even in our most uncertain, and difficult moments, the great animating principle behind all that exists is not fate or chance or suffering or illusion, but **love acting through forgiveness.**”*

L. William Countryman in
“Forgiven and Forgiving”

If you can volunteer for an open spot email Christine Steadman 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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