

The Shorelight – June 2026

Amber Congregational Church Newsletter

Loving relationships that are committed to God, accountable to each other,
involved in Christ's transforming work in our world.

Worship News

Pentecost isn't as well-known as Christmas or Easter, but for Christians it's very important. It is about the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. They were frightened and confused but became men who would face martyrdom for what they believed. Pentecost is from the Greek word 'Pentekostos', which means 'fifty'. It's the 50th day after the Sabbath of Passover week and in Judaism is called the Feast of Weeks. The word Pentecost has become more common, but traditionally the Church celebrated it as Whitsun – 'White Sunday'. It is possible that this is because it was a day for baptisms and those being baptized would wear white. Another explanation is that it comes from the Anglo-Saxon word 'wit', which we still use for verbal cleverness, but which meant 'understanding.' Pentecost was when God poured out the wisdom of the Spirit. It is the fulfilment of two promises. One is in the Old Testament (Joel 2:28), which says, "I will pour out my Spirit on all people", and one in the New Testament, where Jesus says he will send another Counselor, the Spirit of truth (John 16: 5-15). Luke's gospel talks about the violent wind that filled the house. Breath or wind is a symbol of the Spirit of God. In addition, tongues of fire separated and came to rest on each of them. Jesus told his disciples, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). In John 8:12 he says, "I am the light of the world." This marked the beginning of Christianity as a purposeful movement and a new community, believers. When Peter preached immediately afterwards, around 3,000 people believed and were baptized.

*Lord, as the Pentecost season arrives,
I do not want to just mark the dates on a
calendar.*

I want to live what they mean.

Fill me again with Your Holy Spirit.

*Let the fire that fell in Jerusalem fall fresh in my
heart.*

*And let this Pentecost season mark a new
beginning —*

for me, for my family, for my church.

Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

Nancy Barber

Worship Director

Thank you to our May guest speakers.

May 3rd - *Our Sure Hope of Heaven, a Rock in
Troubled Times* – Pastor Bradd Walker

May 10th – *God's Word – Without it, all other
Anchors are in Doubt* – Pastor Bradd Walker

May 17th – *Share Your Story* – Jill Masters

May 24th – *Pentecost: The Holy Spirit Will Come
Upon You* – Rev. Rick Chaffee. Followed by the
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

May 31st – *God's grace as woven throughout the
life of John Newton* – Sue Ellen Harris. A morning
of scripturally inspired music performed by our
very talented church family. Closing with the final
hymn "Amazing Grace" by John Newton.

The average Worship attendance for the month of May was 46. The budget for 2026 is \$120,230. Offerings as of May 30th total \$47,024.

Amber Congregational Church Search Committee - Update

The Search Committee met on May 5th and 19th. The next meeting is scheduled for June 2nd.

Job announcements for both the full-time pastor and interim pastor positions have been posted to various websites. We have received resumes from three potential candidates. We will continue to research additional venues and opportunities to share these vacancies.

Please join us in praying for the pastor that God is preparing for Amber Congregational Church.

Christian Education

Bible Study

Friday morning bible study has resumed. Please join us as we continue our study of the Book of John. Class begins at 10:30 a.m.

Outreach

Baby Bottle Fundraiser continues until Father's Day June 21st

Our pink and blue Baby Bottle Banks in the Kish room and Church entrance are starting to fill up. This fundraiser for New Hope Family Services is raising funds between Mother's Day and Father's Day.



New Hope started in 1965 as an adoption agency. That service continues to the present day. In 1986 they opened their doors as a pregnancy center offering education, pregnancy options, counseling and resources for women and men facing a pregnancy decision. These resources, including free medical services such as ultrasounds, pregnancy tests, and counseling are offered in a safe, supportive environment. Other important support includes Miscarriage and Infant Loss help, and referrals to other medical and community services. With Father's Day coming, the customer care for men includes fatherhood programs, pregnancy options info, adoption counseling, and support for new dads. An unplanned pregnancy can be a difficult time for both women and men partners. Info is key to overcoming being overwhelmed by all involved. Supporting this fundraiser by placing coins and paper money in our bottles helps a vital mission at New Hope.

DON' FORGET. The first \$250 of donations in the bottles will be matched. A most recent count shows over \$100 in the bottle banks.

If you prefer to donate online - this link will fill the virtual Baby Bottle

<https://engage.suran.com/newhopefamilyservices/s/give/new-gift?slug=661c844d0ee1484>

Thank you from New Hope for making their mission possible.

Homeless Bags Outreach Mission - We want to know more

The Outreach Committee has been assembling an average of a dozen homeless care bags a month for distribution by you. We couldn't have done it without those who have a bag in their car or on a walk and see an opportunity.

We are reviewing and assessing this program to find out how to improve and how you use the bags. For June and July, we are asking for feedback on your experience with the bags.

Please let us know in a number of ways.

- 1) Talk to these members of the Outreach committee - Cathy Smith, Jim Frary, Deb O'Brien, Nancy Barber
- 2) There is an information card on the Kish Info table and in the church entryway. Leave in the basket or hand to a committee member.
- 3) Fill out an info card that is in the pew and drop in the offering plate.
- 4) Email Cathy at cjsmarietta@gmail.com

The information we would like to know –

- *If you take and distribute bags, how often?*
- *Are there specific locations where you hand out a bag regularly?*
- *Can you suggest locations where the need is?*
- *Do you have ideas for key items to put in the bags to offer?*
- *What sort of feedback do you get when you pass on a bag?*
- *Do you have suggestions so others can be comfortable handing out bags? What works for you?*
- *What are your thoughts about including a few \$ bills in the bags*

Thanks for helping us determine how best to continue and improve this program. We are invested in the bags and addressing immediate relief, providing specific comfort needs and offering a sense of dignity.

Cathy Smith
Outreach Director

Something to think about today...



If God already saved you from it, stop trying to go back.
Isaiah 43:18 (God has something new for each of us.)

Trustees Notes and News

If you have time, skills (carpentry, painting, gardening, plumbing, etc.) and would like to help with projects at the church or parsonage, please let a Trustee know.

Reminder: We have a few small children's chairs, a couple of shelf units, as well as a stained glass window available for a donation. All donations for these items will go towards the purchase of new Sunday school furniture for our older children. Feel free to ask a Trustee to bring an item upstairs if you are not able to navigate the stairs. We are happy to help.

Doug LaFrance
Trustees Chair

Food Pantry News and Needs.

The Marcellus Food Pantry is always in need of donations. Here are some ways to donate:

AMAZON

Go to: Registry & Gifting, then Registry
Enter: Jen Tedesco & New York
Click on Marcellus Food Pantry, then select items.

OR use this link

<https://www.amazon.com/reg.../gl/guest-view/1Q3HVPYP1X07H...>

VENMO@MarcellusFoodPantry (Last 4 of the phone # 1428)

Donations can be dropped off in the yellow donation bin at the Presbyterian Church North Street Entrance. Same doors that the daycare uses.

DROP OFF DONATIONS TO AMBER CHURCH

- Baked Beans
- Salad Dressing
- School Snacks / Goldfish Packets
- Granola Bars
- Microwave Popcorn
- Spaghetti O's / Soup
- Jello / Pudding
- Sandwich Bread
- Tuna / Vienna Sausages
- Taco Kits / Taco Ingredients
- Conditioner / Lotion
- Feminine Products (Tampons/Pads)
- Dry Cat Food

Thank you,
Gail Frary

Fun Committee Event



Please join us on **Friday, July 24th** at **Little York Park** in Preble for **Cortland Repertory Theater's 7:30 pm** performance of ***Daddy Long Legs***.

Please contact **Lynn LaFrance @ 315-480-0696** by **Friday, June 12th** to reserve your ticket(s). Church members \$34/other guests \$44. If interested, bring your picnic dinner and meet us there at 6:00 to dine before the performance (picnic tables and covered areas are available).

Daddy Long Legs is: A charming "rags to riches" musical romance! In the early 1900's, Jerusha Abbott, the "oldest orphan in the John Crier Home," is given a rare change to attend college by a mysterious benefactor – on one condition: she must write to him every month, never knowing who he is. As her letters unfold, Jerusha discovers inspiration from the warm, worldly Jervis Pendleton, as his reply letters open her eyes to new possibilities. In a moment of whimsy, she nicknames him "Daddy Long Legs." But as her confidence blooms, a life-changing secret waits to be revealed. Filled with humor, grace, and beautiful melodies, *Daddy Long Legs* is a heartwarming story of imagination, independence, and finding one's own voice.

Dates to Mark on Your Calendar

Friendship Luncheon – The Friendship Luncheon will be this week on **Wednesday June 3rd**. Lunch is served at noon.

We have enjoyed seeing everyone this past season and hope you have an enjoyable summer. See you in the fall. The next luncheon will be Wednesday September 2nd.

Anyone wishing to help please contact Linda Henderson. 315-378-7305.

Supper Club – Please join us with your favorite dish to pass on **Saturday, June 13th at 6 p.m.** *NOTE: Supper Club will meet at church this month. Plans for a picnic this summer to be finalized.*

Benefit for Mel Simmons – Saturday, June 20th – See last page for more details.

Fun Committee Outing - Friday, July 24th – Cortland Repertory Theater – *Daddy Long Legs* performance at Little York Park, Preble.

Annual Retreat – Saturday, September 26th. Mark your calendars. More details will follow.

Women's LYFE Conference

The LYFE 2026 Conference was held this past Friday and Saturday, May 29–30, at the First Baptist Church in Johnson City. We had a group of 11 women attend this year, and the speakers were especially inspiring, offering many valuable takeaways.

Next year's conference is scheduled for the first weekend of June. We hope you will consider attending.

Walk Worthy Women's Conference

The Mars Hill Network's *Walk Worthy Women's Conference* was held on Saturday, May 30th at Northside Church in Liverpool. The guest speaker was Erin Davis who spoke on Colossians 1:10 "...walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." Cathy Smith, Nancy Barber and Lois Chaffee attended the conference and thoroughly enjoyed it. Next year's conference is scheduled for the last Saturday of March.

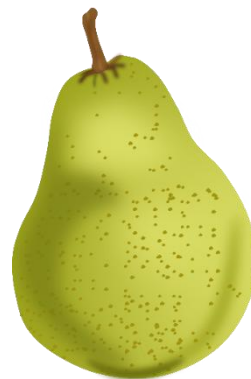
In the Kitchen at Amber Congregational Church

This month's recipe is one of Arlette Sherwood's (from Elba Home School Association) brought to us by Lois Chaffee.

Pear Salad

- 1 pkg (small) Lemon Jello
- 1 ½ c Pear juice (add water to juice from canned pears to make 1 ½ c liquid)
- Dash of salt
- 1 can pears (15 ounce)
- 2 small cream cheese (8 ounce each)
- 1 small Cool Whip (8 ounce)

- ✓ Boil juice/water and salt
- ✓ Add Jello, then blend in blender
- ✓ Add pears and cubed cream cheese and blend
- ✓ Add Cool Whip and blend
- ✓ Pour into bowl, chill until firm.



Do you have a recipe to share? Please pass them along to Cheryl Curtis (crsadodge@gmail.com or call me at 315 882 8359).

Monthly Church Calendar

June 3, Wednesday, Friendship Luncheon at noon

June 4, Thursday, Trustees Meeting 7 p.m.

June 6, Saturday, Elders Meeting 9:30 a.m.

June 13, Saturday, Supper Club 6 p.m.

June 19, Friday, Ladies Game Night 7 p.m.

June 20, Saturday, Joint Leadership Meeting
(Elders and Trustees) 9:30 a.m.

June 21, Sunday, Father's Day

June 28, Sunday, Coffee Hour 10:45 a.m.

Bible Study – Friday mornings at 10:30

No Choir practice through the summer.

Attendants

June 7 – Tom Schmidt

June 14 – Travis Field

June 21 – Mark Henderson

June 28 – Andy Henderson

Greeters

June 7 – Linda and Andy Henderson

June 14 – Doug and Lynn LaFrance

June 21 – Roxanne Pikarsky and Penny Case

June 28 – Dawn Grace Simmons and Adele Reagan

Acolytes

June 7 – Dawn Grace Simmons

June 14 – Mark Henderson

June 21 – Andy Henderson

June 28 – Laurie Just-Torrance

Psalm Readers

June 7 – Psalm 127 – Mark Henderson

June 14 – Psalm 134 – Dawn Grace Simmons

June 21 – Psalm 141 – Laurie Just-Torrance

June 28 – Psalm 148 – Penny Case

Nursery*

June 7 – Darlene Field (Cheryl Ferris)

June 14 – Cathy Smith (Dawn Grace Simmons)

June 21 – Darlene Field (Cheryl Ferris)

June 28 – Cheryl Ferris (Darlene Field)

**If you are unable to do the scheduled date, please contact one of the others to substitute or trade with. Hopefully there will be more participating upon which the schedule will be revised.*

Thank you for serving the Lord in this capacity as our church begins to grow with children. Truly a blessing!

June Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Mike Wetherell (1)

Mike Curtis (2)

Carley Sniffen (10)

Gary & Roxanne Pikarsky (12)

Rick & Lois Chaffee (14)

Daniel Southard (15)

Jacob Wheeler (16)

Scott Trendowski (17)

Alex Henderson (17)

Doug & Lynn LaFrance (20)

Ben Wheeler (24)

Connie Carlton (24)

Faith Stopyro (24)

Kathy Trendowski (28)

As you know, our dear friend Mel Simmons, suffered a traumatic injury this past November. Thankfully, he is recovering, but has been unable to return to work – yet.

On June 20th a benefit will be held at the Lakeside Fire Department Rec Hall. Please see the insert below for more information about the tickets, the “go fund me” page and other ways to support Mel at this time.

If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Grace Simmons for more information (315) 439-9398 or dawngrace918@gmail.com.

Benefit for **MEL SIMMONS**

A Proud & Dedicated Member of the Fire Service Since 1961



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, June 20, 2026
2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Lakeside Fire Department Rec Hall
1002 State Fair Blvd.
Syracuse, NY 13209

Email: AmberFireDepartment1949@gmail.com



In November, Mel suffered a traumatic injury and now is unable to work. Please join us for a benefit and enjoy good food, raffles and live music.

Tickets Call: 315-636-7714
Paid Tickets will be picked up at the door

Check Payable to:
William Simmons
C/O Dawn Simmons
PO Box 225
Marcellus, NY 13108

\$50 per Ticket <https://gofund.me/standingwithmel>

RSVP DEADLINE: JUNE 6, 2026

