



Henderson United Methodist Church

2004 Camphausen Avenue
 Erie, Pa. 16510
 Phone 814-453-6041
 Pastor Harry Raymond Speakman, Jr. Cell 814-450-3150
 Email: HRSpeakman@gmail.com

Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

Henderson Happenings

Reflections from Ray: June 2015

Times of transition are challenging. Besides dealing with all the emotions that are swirling around in my head, there is the task of sorting through lots of stuff that has been accumulated during these past years while in Erie. I suppose it is a good thing that clergy move occasionally to force us to glance through all this stuff to determine if it is indeed necessary and worth keeping.

Actually I think my "packrat tendencies" of saving stem back to our evacuation from the Congo when we had to leave everything behind, and had only the clothes we were wearing. They took all the seats out of the plane to get more people in, and the plane took off a half hour before the Communist rebels arrived with less than noble intent. I think that event has made me want to hold on to whatever I got. And everything has some sort of memory. Yes, I still have my Spelling Test Book from second grade and the Valentine from "my first true love" in fourth grade. Guess I'm a bit too sentimental. I realize that for my own good, I do not want to become a hoarder. I have watched TV shows that really convinced me of that !

God has done a tremendous work in my life by enabling me to finally realize that my earthly belongings are just "stuff", and that my life and worth is not tied up in stuff. I need to ponder in my mind what is really essential, and keep focused on the main thing. Otherwise, a lot of extraneous things can take over my life. For years I have sung the chorus: "Seek

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Pastors are on the move

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ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." What needs added is not more boxes of books or filing cabinets filled with papers, or trinkets from travels. It is the necessary essentials like faith, hope, love, and joy for the adventures, and enough good health to sustain us along the way. Thanks for your friendship and encouragement along the journey ! Now it's back to the attic and basement to sort and lighten the load by getting rid of unnecessary stuff !

Blessings,

Pastor Ray

By the Grace of God

On May 5th I was shocked by a phone call informing me that my mother had had a serious stroke. I was able to get my friends at work to take my classes, leave was granted, a plane ticket bought and I flew to Tampa. It seemed that my mom only had hours or a few days to live. The blood clots were inoperable and she was comfort care only.

I tried to prepare myself for her funeral and wondered if I would get there in time to say goodbye. Day four she stabilized and day five I arrived at the hospital. It was Mother's Day and what a Mother's Day it was. Four jubilant daughters who saw a little progress. The next day the doctor started talking about rehab and when she got to rehab we became the four helicopter daughters making sure she got excellent care.

Every day there was something new to celebrate: sitting up in a wheelchair, saying one spontaneous clear sentence, playing a game of Chinese checkers with no help, graduating to a soft food diet, slight movement in her paralyzed leg, reading a Bible verse out loud.

God had mercy on us and gave us our mother back. She has retained her mind and her personality. She has a long way back with therapy to learn to talk, and move her right side. I am grateful to have been able to spend twelve days with my mom. What a gift.

Thanks be to our God of surprises and miracles. The Healer. The Hope when there is no hope.
~ Jane Hackenberg

The *Will of God*
will never
Grace of God take you where the
will not
protect you.

Flag Day June 14, 2015

The flag of the United States represents freedom and has been an enduring symbol of the country's ideals since its early days.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 3 - Cynthia Drew
 6 - Takara Henderson
 18 - Michelle Retzer
 18 - Breashia Snider
 22 - Alizé Henderson
 24 - Patrick Harden
 25 - Arlina Henderson
 29 - Gerbrina Snider

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HAPPY

JUNE HELPERS

Announcer - Carl Greeter - Betty
 Scripture - Michelle
 Counter - Margaret / Michelle
 Usher - Walter and Youth

JULY HELPERS

Announcer - Brandy Greeter - Margaret
 Scripture - Kathy Counter - Mary / Brandy
 Usher - Walter and Youth

SUMMER PROGRAM

Summer Program starts June 29th at Noon.
 It will be Monday Tuesday Thursday and
 Friday from Noon until 3pm
 Any questions contact Brandy at 453-6041

EUMA NEEDS

TOWEL TYPES - The supply of towels
 (bath towels and paper towels) at The Ref-
 uge is very low. If you can help, new or gen-
 tly used bath towels and paper towels can
 be dropped off directly to the shelter at
 1027 E. 26th St., Erie. **Thank you!!**

**FOR:**

Jane Hackenberg's Mom who suffered a stroke
 Drew and Williams Family
 Cynthia Drew and Ronnie Drew
 Sandi Williams, Ruby Hull, John Czuwara
 Louise Smail on lost of her brother
 Susan Speakman
 Pastor Jane Myers
 Pastors in transition
 All our volunteers

SUMMER CAMP

We have 9 children going to camp this summer.

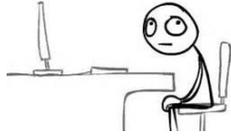
June 28th - July 4th **Swim Camp** ages 8- 15
 July 5 - 11th **Airsoft Camp** ages 13 - 17
 July 12 - 18th (**ARC**) Astronomy Rocketry an
 Computer Camp ages 13 - 17
 July 12 - 18 (**MACD**) Music Art Creative
 Drama Camp ages 13 - 17
 Aug 9 - 15 (**EPC**) Exceptional Persons week
 long Camp ages 13 - adult

We will be having fund raisers to help pay for
 the camp. Donations are appreciated.
 We know how much the children enjoy going
 to camp and we enjoy sending them.



Random Thoughts

It was announced recently that 2014/2015 Erie County Poet Laureate Cee Williams was approved for another year as Poet Laureate of Erie County. Cee received the appointment because of his tireless efforts to promote the spoken word artistry in his community.



Cee is founder of Poets' Hall at 1136 East Lake Road Erie, Pa. where poets of all experience levels are invited to share their writings. Keeping the hall open has been a struggle for Cee and his board of directors as they continue their efforts to be approved as a non-profit organization. They survive on donations and membership dues; non-profit status would open the hall up for more corporate donations as those donations would be a tax write-off.

Often-times parents are the last to know about the not so good things that their child does; so can you imagine how this parent felt when he first heard his son read some of his poetry! I had not a clue about this side of my son and it wasn't even a bad side. He's got skills! He has a way with the written word and can spew them out with such emotion that leaves me in awe. This is my son! I'm impressed and quite proud of him. Can this be the same kid that years ago when I asked him to trim my hedges he cut a huge gap through them. I must have known he had skills at that time, because I never gave him the hedge cutters again.

Poets' Hall has set up a gofundme account for its newly opened "The Drew Literary Center by Poets Hall". If you would like to help with this effort you can visit the following website: www.gofundme.com/poetshall.

Checks or M.O to: Poets' Hall C/O Cee Williams
434 E. 2nd St. Erie Pa 16507

Just a thought
~CW



I Got Questions

Where have all our children gone? Does anybody know? Are they safe? What have they been doing with their lives? Do they keep in touch with their families? Do they thank their parents for the many things that they have done for them? Or. Do they hold grudges because they think their parents should have done more? I hope that's not the case!

Do you know me?



Do the children even remember the church that helped to raise them? The church that ran summer programs for them to help keep them safe and give them a place to experience positive things during the summer? Do they remember the church that during financial stability and even financial instability found ways to send them to Wesley Woods for a unique Christian experience? Do they remember the adults who took time from their busy schedules to drive them to and from camp?

I got more questions. Where are you children who are now adults? Do you have a church home? If you don't, would you consider coming back to Henderson? Our doors and hearts are always open to welcome you back. Bring your children with you and just maybe we will have something to offer you and them in Christ's name. God gave us all certain gifts and I bet you have some that we could use at Henderson! Won't you come on back for a visit? You just might like what you find here.

Just to answer the question, "do you know me?" over the picture above; Christopher Williams, better known on the poetry scene as "Cee", current Erie County Poet Laureate.



See ya

Will I see you soon??

To Pastor with Love



My first encounter with Pastor Ray was on Sunday, February 24, 2013. I came to church and there was a man sitting at the piano and he said his

name was Ray I told him my name and that I went to church here as a child. He had earrings in his ears and I thought he was the organist. When people came in, he went to greet them and then I realized he was the pastor. His sermon hit home with me and I have been coming ever since.

June 29, 2014 Pastor Ray baptized me and welcomed me into the membership of Henderson UMC. He has always been there for me when I had a question or problem. I can honestly say that Pastor Ray and the Henderson congregation brought me back to Christ. I wish him much happiness and health and peace in the future. I will miss him.

~Margaret Harrison

I will miss Pastor's music and teaching us new songs. He is a GREAT piano player.

~Wanda Brunner

Pastor Ray.....when I say his name or think about him I think...HAPPY. Most always there is a smile on his face. He is always happy to assist, he is happy to serve, he is happy to be alive. That happiness and joy rubs off on those around him.

~Barbara Carpenter

Thank you Pastor Ray for all you have done for me. For all the times you visited with me when I was hospitalized or in rehab, thank you. For making your way to the back of the church to greet me and inquire how I felt after I had been absent for a while, thank you. I enjoy the music you bring and thank you for baptizing my grandson Chandler.

~ Sandi Williams

I like Pastor Ray because he knows how to communicate with others on their level. He is also prompt, on time and dependable. Pastor Ray is very friendly and when he came here he introduced his wife to us. What else can I say? He is always willing to help us. We are blessed to have had him as a pastor.

~Walter Porter

Pastor Ray I feel is a wonderful pastor. I appreciate the times he came to the hospital and my home to visit me and other family members. I also appreciate all of the cheerful cards he has sent. Good luck Pastor Ray.

~ Sister Kate

Pastor Ray, thank you for the wonderful service you have given to Henderson Church. We will miss you.

~ Ashlee Ramos and Family

Pastor Ray, thank you so much for all the great sermons that you have given the last couple of years. I was honored that you were able to baptize Chandler last summer. I will forever be grateful for that. You will be missed very much. Keep in touch. Love always.

~ Sydney and Chandler

What can I say that has not already been said Pastor? You didn't know what you were getting into when you came here and we didn't know what to expect from you. I do know that after a rocky start the path became smoother. There were still some bumps along the way but under your leadership we rolled over most of them as if they were tiny pebbles. Your spiritual leadership, piano playing ability and genuine friendship was just what this hurting church needed at this stage of our journey to the Cross. Praying that you will find peace, joy and success as you move on down the road and do whatever it is that God has planned for you to do.

From glory to glory

Carl

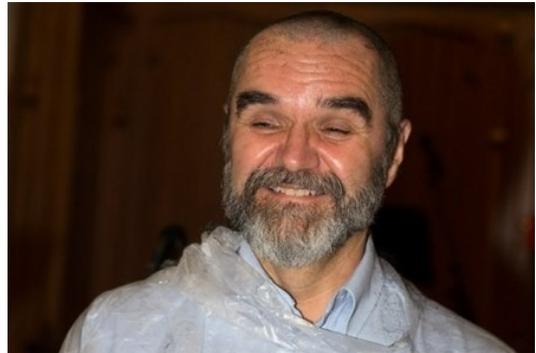
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Church Helpers for June – Announcer – Carl Greeter – Betty Scripture – Michelle Usher- Walter and Youth Counter – Margaret / Michelle	
Office hours are M – W- F 10 am to 1pm & Emergency Food non-food-week 12 – 1pm	
1 st Monday	Shoe drive is going on until July 1 st . Thank you for your unwanted shoes.
2 nd Tuesday	UMW Sub sale continues until June 4 th Sub pick up June 5 th .
3 rd Wednesday	
4 th Thursday	
5 th Friday	Subs pick up and pay today. Food Pantry Pick up at 9:00 a m
6 th Saturday	Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community 9 am
7 th Sunday	Combined church service at 11 am at Simpson. Farewell to Pastor Ray after church services Please bring a dish to share. Children to Summer Camp for ABC/123, Adventure, Adventure Pony Sampler Horse Pony Camp* (GH)
8 th Monday	
9 th Tuesday	Food Pantry Volunteer Meeting Noon
10 th Wednesday	Food Pantry Pick up of Perishables 9 am Food distribution Noon – 2 pm
11 th Thursday	Annual Church Conference 11 th , 12 th , 13 th , 14 th
12 th Friday	Food Pantry Pick up at 9:00 a m Girl Scouts 6- 8 pm
13 th Saturday	Annual Church Conference continues
14 th Sunday	Flag Day Church 9:30 Pastor Ray at Ordination Service Children leave for Summer Camp for Jr Pony, Adventure, Canoe, CIT, CSI, HTL, Horse, Pony
15 th Monday	
16 th Tuesday	
17 th Wednesday	
18 th Thursday	
19 th Friday	Food Pick Up from Second Harvest 9 am Help needed unloading
20 th Saturday	AD Council meeting 10 am
21 st Sunday	Father's Day Church 9:30 Children leave for Summer Camp for Jr Pony, Adventure, Backpack Ad- venture Camp, HLT, Extended Horse, Pony.
22 nd Monday	
23 rd Tuesday	Food Pantry Volunteer Meeting Noon
24 th Wednesday	Food Pantry Pick up of Perishables 9 am Food distribution Noon – 2 pm
25 th Thursday	
26 th Friday	Food Pick Up from Second Harvest 9 am Girl Scouts 6 – 8 pm
27 th Saturday	
28 th Sunday	Church 9:30 Graduation Party after services in Ministry building. Children leave for Summer camp for Swim, N4J, and Extended Horse
29 th Monday	Summer Program starts 12 pm – 3 pm Contact Brandy for information.
30 th Tuesday	Summer Program 12 – 3 pm



Erie-Meadville District Superintendent Joe Patterson told his churches he'd shave his head if they reached their fund-raising goal to support the Red Cliff Sanctuary, their district-to-district building project in Zimbabwe by May 17, 2015. They did it, and Zim Partnership Coordinator Sandra Matoushaya did the honors.

[Photos by Gary Laboski]



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Dear Pastor Ray

I don't know where to begin other than to say "thank you". Your hand is always reaching out to welcome every one who comes through Henderson Church doors whether young or old. Thanks for being there for our children teaching them about God and showing love and kindness to all. We will miss you but it's never good bye for who knows what God's plan is for our future.

Love

Ruby

Pastor Ray I really enjoy your piano playing, your singing and your preaching. I love the way you visited my family when they were in the hospital. I will miss you.

~ **Betty**



The 2015 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community Erie takes place Saturday, June 6, 2015, at Presque Isle State Park. This year's Walk will benefit 23 health and human service organizations.

The 5K Walk starts at 9:00 am with onsite registration beginning at 7:45 am.

Please consider walking to support EUMA or Second Harvest.

June 21, 2015



Remember your Dad

SPECIAL SERVICE ON SUNDAY, JUNE 7th

On Sunday morning, June 7th, we will join with our sister churches to have ONE COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE at 11:00 AM hosted by the Simpson Cascade UMC located at 2113 Sassafras Street with a luncheon afterwards. This will be Pastor Ray's final Sunday with us.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Kathy Fuller, Mary Adams, and Pastor Ray will represent our churches at Annual Conference at Grove City College to be held from June 11-14. In addition to the regular business, they will be electing delegates to represent us at the General Conference to be held in 2016 in Portland, Oregon.

Third Annual Shoe Drive

Henderson is collecting unwanted shoes in any condition. Please keep shoes in pairs with rubber bands and drop them off at Henderson UMC, 2004 Camphausen Ave. This drive runs between May 1 and July 1, 2015.

Summer Program



Henderson UMC is seeking teen (age 15 and over) and adult volunteers for our summer day program.

This summer our program focuses on the creation of the world. We will be exploring a different day of the creation each week. We are seeking volunteers to help the children with projects, singing/worship time, guest speakers, transportation for field trips, etc. Our projects for the summer include making volcanoes, terrariums, setting up an aquarium, dinosaur diorama and more. Please call 453-6041 if you would like to help or have children who would like to participate.

A Pastoral Letter

(2 key paragraphs in the midst of turmoil)

As we wait patiently for the advent of God in the midst of chaotic and confusing events, we long for a time where human life is valued, where one's skin color does not matter, and where everyone is entitled to the fullness of life.

First and foremost, we call our church to prayer. Our God knows what we cannot know. Our God responds in ways we are unable. We urge you to take time each day to intentionally pray without interjecting opinion and to place these matters into the hands of our loving God. We encourage you to pray for peace in the midst of turmoil, for calm spirits to emerge, for hearts that often rush to judgment to be softened, and for a spirit of civility to arise that will lead to deeper understandings and solutions. Won't you join us as we pray?

[Letter from Bishop Bickerton and Bishop Meekins]