



The CHIMES

Summer 2026

Red Hook United Methodist Church
4 Church Street, Red Hook, NY 12571
845-758-6283 redhookumc@umcoutcome.org

Rev. Caroline Berninger....



After a full year as pastor of all of the churches in this* Cooperative Parish, I write with a heart full of appreciation for the variety of people, ministries, and communities we encompass. Even though the origin of NYAC's parishes was the generally depressing math of too many shrinking congregations facing rising expenses and fewer pastors, it's actually heartening to recognize that we CAN in fact do new and wonderful things together without losing the distinctive presence of the individual congregations. Dare I say that's been FUN?! By the grace of God, it is good for us AND for our Christian witness in all of our communities. We're trying to publicize each church's events in every church—and I have been pleased to see so many people showing up at each other's churches' events.

AND we have had several parish-wide "5th Sunday" events: Outdoor worship and picnics last August and this May at Wilcox Park—with one at the Pine Plains park scheduled for this August 30, an organ concert by Red Hook organist Terry Earles the first Sunday in Advent (with a parish-wide lunch), and combined Palm Sunday worship at Elizaville with brunch afterwards. We are now planning an event on Saturday September 19th—in conjunction with Red Hook's "Hardscrabble Day"—to receive donations of money, nonperishables including food, pet foods, and personal care items for all of the churches' food pantries; and I will do Blessing of Animals during the day. Come one, come all!

Also in September, I will have two or three times of meeting with people who would like to join the church. After church on September 6 and 13 and possibly 27 look likely! Let me know either in person or email if you are curious about joining the church, whether as transfer from another church or for the first time. You will be good for the church, and the church will be good for you.

Really! Showing up for church is not only good for the community, it's good for YOU. A 2023 documentary on the decline of civic involvement over the past 50 years featuring social scientist Robert Putnam, titled *Join or Die*, notes that being an active participant of just one group—anything from a club to a civic association to, yes, a church—measurably decreases your chance of dying prematurely. More than one group?—more decrease in early death. And the benefit of participation in groups extends far beyond individual health. The health of society, of our nation, correlates with group involvement. Putnam and his coauthor provide lots of data and have good news for us—we CAN turn our country to the better; it's been done before. BUT: a turn to the good is not a spectator sport, and not something that we can do while we are each in our self-made bubble. We can do it; but WE have to do it together.

Sharing love of God and neighbor in a Christlike way will look different from person to person, church to church, and from one time to another. Our shared ministry through the Cooperative Parish gives us new possibilities and new friends and neighbors.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Caroline

“...let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

**The confusion about WHAT our CP is continues; as of July 27, we are listed at different places on the NYAC.com website as the Northeastern Hills, and the Northwestern Hills. If anyone can come up with an appropriate name that works for us relative to one another—and not relative to the other CPs in the District—I would be more than willing to propose it to the Powers That Be!*

***Pastor Caroline's office hours are planned for
Mondays and Thursdays, and by appointments.
For pastoral care, she can be reached at 845-758-6283
or by email, Caroline.Berninger@nyac-umc.com.***



Message From Music and Worship Committee

The Music and Worship will join the choir on Thursday, September 3, for a luncheon and meeting before we resume choir practice. At noon, (12 p.m.), Music and Worship will have their meeting followed by a 1 p.m. potluck style lunch.

Please bring something to share. At 2 p.m., the choir will rehearse. If you are interesting in joining the choir or would like to learn more about the Music and Worship Committee, please come!

Thank you!

Rev. Barbara Melzer and Terry Earles



A Note of Thanks from the Finance Team

Oh no! The finances (money) people!

Our church is built on solid ground. Thanks to so many for doing so much in so many different ways. As no surprise, it was a tough winter, with snow removal and fuel oil costs devouring money from our account. Somehow, somewhere, and with other new expenses popped up, we were OK. Why? Special thanks to the Trustees and all their hard work to get the Parsonage repaired, ready for rental, and better yet rented! The steady monthly income is a real boost.

A special thank you to the Church Street Nursery School who contribute yearly money to the church for fuel and other expenses. Also, thank you for initiating and paying for a large part of the new floors. Their generosity and having little ones fill the halls add so much to the church atmosphere.

A very SPECIAL THANKS to YOU the Congregation (members, friends, guests) for your unwavering financial support. Yes, money is needed, but it's only one small part as we strive to support each other, our church, and our mission work.

God Bless,

Your Finance Team (*Pat Bowman and Jennifer VanVoorhis*)



Cans and bottles for redemption are being collected.

Please place your bag of cans & bottles in or near the bench by the Church Street entrance. For more information, please see Betty Tabor.



Notes from the Trustees

Look to the Heavens; & you might be Blessed with a view of our newly repaired & repainted steeple. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Scott Cano, a regular attendee of RHUMC, & his company Dutchess Pride Construction who made this tremendous contribution to our whole congregation.

Please be sure to thank him when you see him.

Ron Horiszny

Chairman of the Trustees

Old Flooring



This summer several floors in the Education Building received new floors. The next time you are in the church building, look down. This project was HUGE! We are thankful for the Nursery School, who coordinated the move and paid a significant portion of this expense. It was a lot of work! We ask

for your continued patience as we return items to their homes.

Thank you to all who helped!

New Flooring



RHUMC's Food Pantry

We are a member agency of the Regional Food Bank of NENY. We serve the population of Red Hook NY School District. It is open most Sundays from 12 noon to 2 p.m., except for the fifth Sunday in the month, and on major holidays. The food pantry has been serving many individuals and families, around 60 weekly.

We are very thankful for all the donations, and the many volunteers that help. Many come from various churches and/or outside groups. There are many opportunities to volunteer and help us feed the hungry. On the first and third Tuesday, around 10 a.m., we receive our food delivery from the Regional Food Bank. If you are available on Sunday mornings, volunteers receive donations from Hannaford and Tops Grocery Stores which needs to be sorted and put away. Thank you for all the prayers and support. Our food pantry could not flourish without all of YOU!

For more information, call the church office (845-758-6283) or email Janice Williams at janicelwilliams@hotmail.com.



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith/UMW

Our Unit of United Methodist is still functioning, but our name has changed.

WE ARE NOW KNOWN AS UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Our mission statement has not changed.

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

We meet on the third Monday at 6 PM. of each month, Sometimes we meet in the church lounge and sometimes in members' homes. Our officers include: Joan Murray, Pres. 845-758-5189, Kristi Colburn, Vice Pres. 845-835-6111, Secretary-Kathleen Bryan 425-985-4425, Treasurer- Janice Williams 845-750-3057. If you have any questions, please contact one of these women.

Some of our activities this past year have included a tea in May attended by many local women, a lovely Christmas Party hosted by Marianne Grassi and this past week a picnic with make your own Sundaes. Ice cream and toppings provided by Susan Juchem, our friend from Rowe UMC.

As fall approaches, it is time for us to begin fulfilling the serious business of our mission statement and get involved in mission programs. All women are welcome. Our first meeting will be September 21, at 6 PM in the church lounge. If you need a ride, please call one of the officers. Plan to join us.

Are you called to be a liturgist?

One very meaningful way you may serve God at the RHUMC is through assisting with the Sunday morning liturgy. Liturgists frequently help lead the congregation in prayer, read Scriptures, and assist with the distribution of the bread and cup during Holy Communion. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Barbara E. Melzer, Music and Worship Committee or Pastor Caroline.

Are you called to be an Usher?

Would you like to be an Usher? This is an important ministry of hospitality. You will be one of the first people visitors see. An usher is essential to the worship of our congregation. If you are interested in serving in this way, please reach out to Rev. Barbara E. Melzer or Pastor Caroline.

NYAC 2026 Report Joan Murray

Thank you for sponsoring my registration to NYAC this year. Some of you may want to consider attending next year. There were so many blessings throughout the entire four days.

It was exciting to be in a conference with fellow Christians of all backgrounds and different cultures. Many of the delegates wore clothing native to their birth places. Much of it was so very colorful, which if you had tuned in to the Conference website, you would have marveled as I did.

The greatest blessing for me was being there knowing that we all believe in Jesus Christ and love all people as he taught us to . It was thrilling to be part of 400 voices.

The legislative part of the conference dealt with adopting resolutions presented by their sponsors. We spent a lot of time electing candidates for General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference to be held in 2028.

Five candidates were ordained as full elders in the UMC.

There were six candidates for Provisional Elders and six young people for confirmation.

There were no controversial issues to debate this year as in some past years.

The only new resolution that needed approval was a collection to be included in Disability Sunday Celebration on the third Sunday in September.

All other resolutions that were approved were published in a 162 page booklet that each of us had in advance.

Bishop Bickerton was most happy to get all business taken care of so that everyone could enjoy the Knicks basketball game.

Sunday morning worship service room was overflowing, Some of us were invited to go to an overflow room. I did as told and found myself in a room of over 100 seats alone. Eventually 4 others joined me. As the service was beginning an usher appeared and invited us to join the large crowd in the main worship room. In the very front row, there were seats for us. It was a thrill since I had watched most of the conference on a screen.

Bishop Bickerton is a special kind of speaker. If you have the opportunity, watch some of the conference on the NYAC website. www.nyac.com

Northeastern Hills Cooperative Parish Events/Services:



Sunday, August 30, 10:30 a.m.

at

the Lion's Pavillion at Stissing Lake Beach
in Pine Plains

Please bring a dish to share.

Pleasant Valley UMC's Community Meals

August 21, Friday, 4-6 p.m., eat in only

Menu: Taco Salad with Tortillas

A colorful poster for "Pack the PANTRIES" featuring a golden retriever and a tabby cat sitting behind two wooden crates labeled "PET FOOD" and "FOOD PANTRY". The crates are filled with various pet food and human food items. The background is decorated with autumn leaves and pumpkins.

Pack the PANTRIES
Feed Families. Feed Pets.
Share God's Love.

Hardscrabble Day
Saturday, September 19, 2026
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
(Rain or Shine)

4 Church Street
Red Hook, NY 12571

Featured
Blessing of the Pets
Pastor Caroline will be offering
on-the-spot blessings throughout
the day.

We're Collecting

- Pet Food (Featured Collection)
- Non-Perishable Food Items
- Monetary Donations

All donations support the
Northeastern Hills
Cooperative Parish
food pantries.

THE NORTHEASTERN HILLS COOPERATIVE PARISH

Red Hook United Methodist Church	Pine Plains United Methodist Church	Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church	Rowe United Methodist Church	Elizaville United Methodist Church
 4 Church Street Red Hook, NY 12571	 2023 East Church Street Pine Plains, NY 12567	 92 Martin Road Pleasant Valley, NY 12569	 1376 Route 199 Milan, NY 12571	 726 Route 2 Elizaville, NY 12523

*Together, we can nourish our neighbors—two-legged and four-legged.
Thank you for sharing God's love in our community!*

