

PRAYER PROFILE: UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SCOTTSVILLE—a valley neighborhood congregation

“OUR CHURCH IS A REFUGE FOR OLD AND YOUNG, POOR AND RICH, HURTING AND THRIVING PEOPLE, FROM EVERY WALK OF LIFE ... GOD’S LOVE HOLDS US TOGETHER.”



Brief History: Union Presbyterian Church of Scottsville was founded in 1822 and for many years was also known as the Wheatland Presbyterian Church. (The village of Scottsville, with a population of nearly 3,000 residents, is within the geographical boundaries of the Town of Wheatland.) The church building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and has been classified as an example of Mid-19th Century Romanesque-Revival architecture, deemed worthy of preservation for future generations. Throughout its celebrated history, the Congregation of UPCS has established itself as a center of Spiritual renewal and social events, deeply recognized in the surrounding community. According to recently installed pastor, Rev. Kevin Hershey, the congregation provides volunteers and continuing support for the regional food pantry and has promoted annual fund-raising events in support of Children Awaiting Parents.

Current Events: Since mid-March of 2020 to the present days, the most commented-on event in the life of this church is occurring every Sunday Morning in its parking lot! In compliance with New York State and local determinations resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic response, Sunday worship service is now being held in the form of a “drive-in” event with a temporary altar and pulpit gingerly setup in the back deck of the pastor’s own pick-up truck. The service is broadcast live via FM-signal to vehicles properly parked and safely distanced in pre-marked spaces in the parking lot. This “drive-in” worship service is held in ecumenical partnership with two local Episcopal congregations, attracting an attendance that varies from 40 to 60 vehicles. The Palm Sunday Worship Service included a “car-procession” through the village streets, with vehicles displaying palm branches from their windows in celebration of Holy Week. Indeed, a great display of creativity, faith, and congregational participation. A very special Sunday worship service occurs June 14 when local high-school and college graduates will be recognized and celebrated, also using the car drive-in format. (The Wheatland School District superintendent and high school principal are scheduled to participate in the ceremony). Readers of this page are invited to attend.



Prayers: Ecumenical prayers were offered by the two pastors (Rev. Kevin Hershey and Rev. Johnny Ross from Saint Andrews Episcopal Church) officiating at the June 7 Sunday worship service:

- For continued blessings of health and safety for all facing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic
- For peace and racial justice following ongoing social protests now gripping the country
- Of reassurance and faith that God will provide the people and our civic leaders with the necessary wisdom and abilities to guide us to a better future

Union Presbyterian Church of Scottsville

Address: 1 Browns Avenue, Scottsville, N.Y. 14546

Office phone: 585-889-1604

Website: <http://upscottsville.org>

Pastor: Rev. Kevin Hershey

Sunday Worship Service: 11 a.m. (10 a.m. July-August)

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