

SMC Newsletter June 2022

Happy Pentecost Sunday!! June will be a more relaxed month, so enjoy the sunshine and the warmth. Please send me any information you would like included for next month. Many blessings, Patty



ECW Update

ECW will be sponsoring a **pulled pork dinner** for the community on **Friday, June 17 starting at 4:30pm. TAKE-OUT ONLY**. Pick-up of orders will be outside the Parish Hall. Pulled pork on a roll, potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, and strawberry shortcake for \$12.

Portions of the proceeds will benefit Double H Ranch, the Hadley-Luzerne CSD Summer Breakfast Program, the Maxfield Community Food Pantry, and other work of the ECW in support of our community and church.

Call 518-696-2193 with questions and **we strongly suggest** you place your order ahead of time by calling 518-696-3030 on/after June 14th.

The **next ECW meeting** is this **Friday, June 10, at 10:30 am** in the parish hall. We hope you will attend!

God willing, in July we will go ahead with the **Summer Bazaar** for the first time in 3 years on **Saturday, July 30th**. Many more details will follow in June.



An Update from Meryl on Birthdays and Anniversaries.

The birthdays for June are:

Jo Burgess June 4th, Donna Reynders June 4th, Anson Williams June 5th, Tristan Kathan June 23rd.
Apologies for the belated dates.

The anniversaries for June are:

Rich & Claudia Daubney June 4th.

Please give Meryl your birthdate so we don't forget anyone's birthday! You do not need to give the year!
Please notify Meryl of any upcoming anniversaries. Photos are also welcome from these occasions.

VBS

Ecumenical VBS

There will be an Ecumenical VBS, grades K-6th, at Church of the Nations July 19-21st from 6-8pm.

For more information you may email corinthvbs2022@gmail.com or contact Eva Guenther at guenthersteva@frontiernet.net



SMC Studies, and Services

Fr. Lou will continue his Facebook morning prayer on Thursday mornings at 8:30am.

The liturgical color for Pentecost, June 5th is RED, the rest of the month is GREEN.

Thank you to Deacon Rick Littlejohn for leading morning prayer on Pentecost Sunday. We heard it was a wonderful service and we are so grateful for his willingness to serve while Fr. Lou was away at the Albany Episcopal Diocesan Annual Convention.

Thank you to Noel, Jackie, Barbara BL, and Eric for being our delegates. Patty and Barbara B also went to participate in the weekend's events.

DOK

The meeting for the DOK is on Sunday, June 26th after church in the Parish Hall/Sanctuary.

The DOK class for new or rededicating members will have their last meeting on Monday, June 6th at 9:30am. The induction will be in August!

Alpha is Postponed

Alpha was postponed due to COVID illness amongst the leaders. Although there hasn't been any further spread of COVID, we did not know that at the time! We will reschedule it for the fall.

Prayer Requests

***Please Pray for:** We pray against all evil. The victims and families affected by the horror of the incident in Uvalde, the situation in Ukraine, Sarah S. and Family, Peter, Nancy and Family, Margit, The Hughes Family, Alan, Bruce Young's family, Barbara BL, the Hayes family, Vanessa, , Linda & Mason, Amy H. & Maddie, Sylvia C., Sharon K., Carol, Marissa, Mary Carol & Alan, Jennifer, Judy, Kailee & Dante, Claudette, Bob & Schuyler, Michelle, Paul, Mary & family, Mark M, Marika J., Eduard & Mariana, Kathy, Joyce & Jackie L., Jack G., Sonia, Carole, Greta H., Sue Ellen R., Sharon M., Bill C., Brenda B., Nancy C., Anson, Rashida and family, our community's youth, the men and women in law enforcement and in the armed forces of our country, the victims and families of the COVID-19 pandemic. All those whose needs are known only to our Lord.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer for Bishop Smith, the Standing Committee, the Profile and Search committee, and for Holiness of life in every Episcopalian. Additionally, please see: <https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/prayer/jnml>

****It is time to update the prayer list. Please contact Erich Kaminsky by email at erichkaminsky@yahoo.com or by phone or text at 518.502.4075 with updates.**

Odds and Ends.

Silver Bay YMCA Resort, sit of the Albany Diocesan Convention June 3-5th.

Jennie, Fr. Lou, and Patty on National Marker Day with town historian Pam Morin after cleaning our church marker together.

A Note from Ruth:

The "Stars and Stripes" we proudly fly
on high poles pointing to the sky.

Our red, white, and blue "Old Glory"
a great part of America's story.
Thirteen colonies the stripes show:
Fifty stars are the states we know.

Our flag is a symbol of freedom so dear;
We'll fly "Old Glory" year after year.

Thank God our forefathers took a stand

to start a free country in a new land.


For our great nation let us all pray
as we fly the flag on this special day!

by M. Cagle

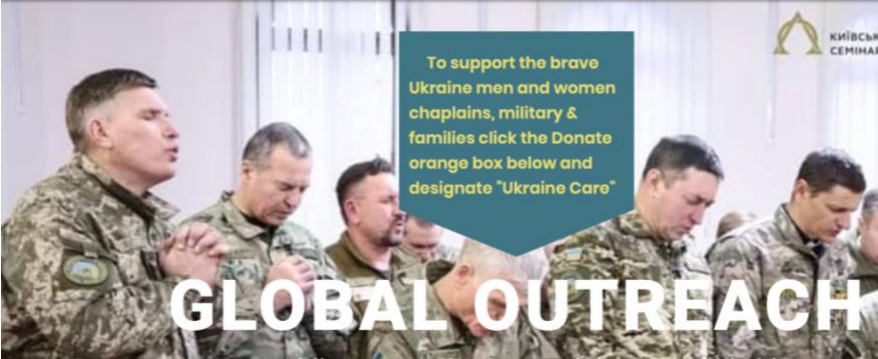




tomorrow at 5:00 PM
2 more notifications

 **OLIVE BRANCH**
INTERNATIONAL

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GLOBAL OUTREACH

A note from Noel Dawes:

St. Mary's recently donated \$1,200.00 to Olive Branch International (www.olivebranchintl.com/) through their Ukraine Care outreach. Further donations are welcomed from interested individuals but must be designated for Ukraine Care in the check memo line.

These are extracts and summaries from a Zoom meeting that took place on May 16 with about 12 Ukrainian military wives. It was hosted by two military wives in the USA, one of whom also served for many years in the Army. Their names are Caroline and Linda. Meryl and I know them both very well and for many years. Linda has been a distinguished speaker and attender at two recent Welcome Home Initiative retreats. Both ladies serve alongside me as members of the governing Board of Olive Branch International. Each of us, along with Meryl, have carried out short term missionary visits to the military men, women, and families of the Ukraine Armed Forces many times starting in 1995.

Zhanna leads the Olive Branch Ukraine (OBU) ministry to military wives and widows. The ministry is carried out on a regional basis, and she coordinates each region. She lives in Irpin, which was terribly devastated before Easter, but she was thankful her own home had only two broken windows, although her neighbor's homes were destroyed. Her husband is an Army doctor and is on active duty as is her younger married son. Other members of her family are not living in Ukraine. Zhanna is also a teacher and has been teaching remotely. Her 80 years old mother lives in a town near the

Belarussian border so Zhanna has been with her for much of the time since the invasion. Zhanna has been teaching remotely as well as staying in touch with ladies in the various clubs. She is especially grateful that the six tents that were purchased for the women's camp in Kherson were not destroyed. Her prayer requests are for safety for her family, especially her husband and son, and her mother. Zhanna commented that "no place is safe," and that everyone would be different after the war, but that she is praying that they will "stay close and united" like they are now.

Tanya is a widow from Kherson who owns the women's camp "Garden of Eden" and is the leader of Club Woman's Heart. She has safely evacuated from Kherson and is now in Bulgaria. She was concerned about not having a ministry during the war but has joined a volunteer team working to help the military. She is the one who initiated the request for help with the purchase of the drone... "a helicopter with eyes." They are trying to raise 200,000 hryvna, approximately \$7000. They have raised 16,000 hryvna (\$500). This group also shares a prayer team guide. She reported that the camp "Garden of Eden", where the 6 tents went to, is undamaged and that people are staying there. Her prayer requests are:

1. For the residents in Kherson and the military trying to liberate them from the Russian occupation.
2. For provision of the drone and other needed military supplies.

Irina is a young single Christian woman from Irpin who was a tax adviser before the invasion. She now lives in Poland. She has spoken at some of the women's conferences that Zhanna organized before the invasion. She is involved in a ministry that provides shelter for refugees. She also is a purchaser for humanitarian supplies, even though she does not speak Polish. She is also involved with a media service, Christians for Ukraine, which discusses relevant topics from Christian perspective. Ukrainians are able to share their stories. They also monitor war crimes of Russia. A Polish law firm gathers information. They have a brochure "Prayer of a Ukrainian." They receive wartime requests and provide supportive scripture. Her "dream" and prayer request is for:

1. A summer camp for Ukrainian children who are behind in their education.
2. A camp to train teachers, maybe with help from Canadians, Americans, and British friends who love Ukraine.

Nataliia is a young woman from Vinnytsya, southwest from Kyiv. She has a beautiful voice, is nicknamed "the Golden Voice" and has sung at military gatherings in the past. the "Golden Voice." She stated that the Ukrainian Air Force is no longer in Vinnytsya but is at an undisclosed location. She is with Club Samaritan. Her church prays twice daily. They had a prayer marathon, praying 24 hours a day for Mariupol for an hour at a time. She requested prayer for:

1. Strength to do His will.
2. For families to be reunited in their homes.

Irina is an older woman from Mykolaiv who spoke of the relentless 5 am bombing and air raid warnings. "They are bombing everything." The Ukrainian military has established checkpoints around the city and has dug trenches to defend their city. The Russians were repulsed from the city and surrounding area in March. She requested prayer for:

1. The city of Mykolaiv and for Ukraine.
2. The military defending their country.
3. Peace.

Galina is Zhanna's assistant who also lives in Irpin. She left for a while but has returned. She praises the Lord that her house is undamaged and that she has gas, internet, water. Her building was not hit but had some broken glass. The school across the street and a car were heavily damaged by bombs. Galina has continued to answer calls on the suicide hotline throughout this wartime which has helped her with her own stress. The Minister of Veterans has asked her now to help with a hotline for

veterans. She will be going through training to prepare for this job. She acknowledged that there is a different strategy for active duty and veterans. She requested prayer for:

1. Her head to be clear so that she can learn what she needs to know for the new hotline job.
2. Mariupol... "only God can defend."

Galina (another one) is also from Irpin. She is the mother of Katya who is married to a soldier Sasha. Katya and Sasha have a little girl Masha. When the war began, Sasha left and the rest went to Lviv. Irina has now returned to Irpin to a home that has been destroyed. She is staying in Katya's flat which has no windows. Her daughter and granddaughter have gone to the city close to where Sasha is serving so that they can occasionally see him. Galina was visibly, painfully downcast. She said that she had "a pain in her soul." She is living in a building that has only one other occupant. She spoke of the silence in the evening. She mentioned long lines for food and clothing. Galina has always been a cheerful giver, blessing Ukrainian friends and American friends with her beautiful crocheted and knitted items. She is now working with a ministry of the Greek Catholic church, which she says is "soul satisfying." She requested prayer for:

1. A family she is friends with whose husband has returned to Ukraine after a military training course in the USA. Their home in Irpin has been destroyed. Their future is uncertain.
2. Her daughter's family and Sasha's safety. He is a soldier fighting.

Olga is a long-time interpreter for OBI. She and her extended family fled from Irpin and have been in western Ukraine. Olga spoke about her parents fleeing from Luhansk eight years ago after their home and church were destroyed. They "dreamed of a place to live." Now their new home in Bucha has been destroyed. Olga and Victor's home in Irpin has been damaged. Her husband Victor is a Marine amputee. Her brother is currently serving. She requested prayer for:

1. Understanding WHY?
2. Her brother's safety.

Nadya is a pastor and head of an OBU unit in Dnipro. She works with a refugee center and another Christian sister works with a center that temporarily houses handicapped refugees before they are sent to the West. She mentioned the need for food and diapers. They work with military bases and refugees, especially those who lost family members and need help with paperwork. She spoke of being "connected with other ministries." She requested prayer for:

1. Teamwork.
2. Being able to meet needs for food.

Marina and her family left Kyiv for a few weeks to go to Cherkasy but have returned to Kyiv. She works with her husband Valentyn, head of OBU. Way of Truth church services have resumed. Each evening they have online prayer meeting with church members. They pray daily with Valya, Vasily's wife, for the military. They also pray with the OBU team members and deliver humanitarian aid in Kyiv, where she said that "it is kinda peaceful." Her prayer requests were for:

1. Misha, their oldest son, as he and his family return to Irpin.
2. Valentyn's mother, whose apartment building where she lived in Chernihiv was destroyed.

Olga left Brody with her younger children to seek refuge in Poland. Her husband is serving in the military and her oldest daughter Sasha opened a place to distribute humanitarian aid. Her prayer request was for:

1. Victory.
2. Peace.
3. Families able to return home.
4. Sasha's spirit to be uplifted.

Other ladies were on the call but did not speak or were not visible... **Luda** from Irpin, **Valentina** from Kropyvnytsky, and another **Galina** from Irpin.

Linda and I shared the ways in which we and other ladies here have communicated with each other to provide updates about friends so that we could pray. We told them how we were trying to inform our friends through helpful Facebook posts so that could understand the country and people of Ukraine, as well as posts that provided information about what was happening in Ukraine.

Nadya from Dnipro prayed during the time that Ukrainian sisters spoke. Linda prayed as we closed.

Update on two ladies from **Hostomel** in first **Club Ruth** who were reported to have been captured. Both were captured by Chechens and taken to Belarus.

Galina was able to go to Poland and get flight to Brazil to live with her daughter. She has posted on Facebook about the pain she has experienced as the result of communicate with family and friends in Russia. They do not believe her.

Anna apparently had fewer options. She was sent to Russia to live with her sister in the Urals. Anna had her phone taken away but had memorized Zhanna's number and called her. She has a son Igor who attended several early English camps. He has been serving in the military. They have not been able to reach him. Please pray for him.

Elena is a third lady who was taken to Belarus with Galina and Anna. Zhanna is uncertain where she is.