

“Red Door” News: Covers of Love IMO Karen Jones

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 * Sunday Worship: 10 AM



Dear “Red Door” members and friends,

To view or print M4Ms for Warming Station and Souper Bowl of Caring, SCC Curing Invitation, and/or this RDNews – see attachments

Welcoming unhoused inside... the bitter winter temperatures and wind chill have reminded those of us with warm homes and food on the table how challenging it must be for our unhoused neighbors. Thankfully there are people in our community responding to the need.

When it is dangerously cold the County buildings in Cooperstown and Oneonta, the Warming Station, and First United Methodist on Chestnut Street in Oneonta are opening their doors. If you – or someone you know – is interested in this work, please contact Rev. Casey Bradley at 607-432-4102 (office) or 607-267-6372 (cell) or pastor@firstumc-oneonta.org

Our Mission Emphases this winter includes Moments for Mission that talk about --

- January: Oneonta Warming Station (not too late to donate!)
- February: Souper Bowl of Caring for The Salvation Army Food Pantry

See the M4Ms attached for more information.

Covers of Love: Karen Jones coordinated the Covers of Love ministry for 15 years at St. Paul’s Episcopal in Sidney. They created bedrolls for the unhoused in Broome and Chenango counties from quilts, wool blankets, and sheets which were filled with clothing, food, and a Bible. The sewers prayed over each finished bedroll for the person who would receive it. Now the group is asking for new or gently used sleeping bags instead of making bedrolls.

In memory of Karen, we are doing a special appeal for Covers of Love. Kathy Watkins, Senior Warden at Saint Paul’s, wrote about their Mission Wednesdays. They are open from 9:30 AM to 12 Noon except for the 1st Wednesday of the month. Volunteers work on Covers of Love and run a Free Clothing Room. At 11:00 AM they serve a Free Hot Meal. They usually feed about 30 people. Well done for a small congregation of six people all over 70 years!

Covers of Love collection boxes are outside our church offices and the music room to receive sleeping bags, underwear, socks, tee shirts, sweatpants & sweatshirts, gloves, scarfs, hats, coats, non-perishable snacks (ex. individual peanut butter packets, cheese crackers, tuna packets, fruit snacks) and Bibles. The completed bags are distributed to the homeless community in Binghamton and through Catholics Charities Offices locally.

To donate money – please mark it “Covers of Love.” Checks should be payable to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church (25 River St., Sidney, NY 13838) with Covers of Love on the memo line. Deadline for this special appeal is Sunday, March 1st. Pastor Walton-Leavitt will take all donated items and monetary gifts to Sidney on Monday, March 2nd.

Worship & Music: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday, February 15th. If joining from home, please have your elements nearby.

Ash Wednesday (February 18th) begins the Season of Lent. Many churches use a rite called the *Imposition of Ashes*. The sign of the cross with ashes on the forehead is a powerful reminder of our sinful nature and our total dependence on God for forgiveness and salvation.

All are encouraged to attend a local service at a time that is convenient for you:

- 12:00 Noon and 7:00 PM at St. James Episcopal, 305 Main Street
- 12:15 PM at First Presbyterian, 296 Main Street
- 4:30 PM at Hartwick College, Shineman Chapel (enter Hartwick Drive)
- 5:30 PM at Elm Park United Methodist, 401 Chestnut Street
- 7:00 PM at First United Methodist, 66 Chestnut Street
- 7:00 PM Atonement Lutheran, One Center Street, Oneonta

Curling Invitation for Wednesday, February 18th

The Winter Olympics are beginning — and with it an increased interest in the sport of curling. On February 18th everyone is welcome to come to the Schenectady Curling Club to see how the game is played — AND to try to “throw a rock” or “sweep a stone.” We expect members from Boy Scout Troop 23 — and folks who are taking a CCAL class “Introduction to Curling.”

RSVP by Monday, February 16th with Pastor Walton-Leavitt (see contact info below).

Lenten Soup Lunches begin Sunday, February 22nd after worship. Sign up in the social hall to bring soup, sides, or dessert. For more information, contact Rebecca LaBarr.

Community News

Habitat for Humanity of Otsego County needs volunteers to work behind the scenes to help select partner families, find new land to build on, to raise funds, to offer support for families through the building process and beyond. For more info call HFHOC at 607-432-6552.

Five Docs on America: On Friday and Saturday, February 6 & 7 Jeri Wachter and Joe Stillman, award-winning filmmakers, will host a mini-film festival starting at 2:00 PM in the Loft at the Foothills Performing Arts Center, 24 Market St, Oneonta. See details attached.

Attached:

- 1) January M4M: Oneonta Warming Station
- 2) February M4M: The Salvation Army Food Pantry
- 3) SCC Curling Invitation for 2026-02-18
- 4) 2026-02 Five Docs on America
- 5) This RDnews

Thank you for sharing this news with others — especially those who do not use email...



First United Presbyterian (the “Red Door” Church)

Worship at 10:00 am on Sundays at 381 Main Street, Oneonta

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Cynthia Walton-Leavitt at (607) 242-8184 cell; or cynuff@aya.yale.edu

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