

First United Methodist Church December, 2023



From the Pastor . . .

Friends, I can not believe that December is already upon us with all it's attendant preparations and anticipation of Christ's birth. The Christmas Fair last month was a wonderful success! The Sanctuary is beautifully transformed to embrace the spirit of Christmas.

The Champlain Valley Chorale is a wonderful way to pause and enjoy beautiful Christmas music in concerts Friday the 8th at the Community Church in Schroon Lake, and Sunday the 10th at 3:00 PM in our sanctuary. Many of our parishioners love to sing and participate. I will be playing with the string ensemble during intermission as well as singing.

A new tradition started by Ronnie Romano during COVID is a live-streamed Christmas Caroling Sing-a-long. We will be doing this in a hybrid form on Friday the 22nd at 7:00 PM, so come in person or on our Church Facebook live channel. Ronnie is very talented and can play anything we request of him.

We began Advent a week early this year because of Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday so that on the 24th we will have just the Christmas Eve service at 7 PM. The Crown Point UMC will have their Christmas Eve service at 11 AM.

Our Advent Bible Study has started well with 17 people participating in person and online. We have one more book for any who would like to join in.

I pray that we all may come closer to God during this season of preparation and joy of Emmanuel, God with us!

Peace, Love, and Blessings,
 Pastor Scott Tyler



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The Tiny Tim Program to be known as It Takes A Village.

The new focus of the program will be addressing the year-round needs of more children, so toys are no longer being collected.

If a child needs things like a new pair of sneakers for gym or a new winter coat, *It Takes A Village* will supply that need. We need your help donation to fund the program. A check, made out to Tiny Tim (for the remainder of this year) or cash put in an envelope for Tiny Tim may be sent to the Office. Thank you for your generosity in past years, this year, and in the future.

Please fill out, cut out, and return this pledge card to the office. It may be put in the collection plate, if you like. Thank you for your support!



First United Methodist Church

___ Yes. I would like to make a pledge of

\$ _____ Per year, month, or week
for 2024.

(circle a time-frame, please)

___ I am making my donations online
using the QR code for smart phone
donations

___ No. I am unable to make a pledge at
this time.

Name _____

Address _____

Thank you again for your response!

Now That's A Bright Idea

Our next meeting will be on Jan. 15th at 6:30. As always it is an open meeting and if you have ideas or concerns, you are welcome to come.

Our January meeting starts the year with the election of officers. We then will proceed with the approval of the 2024 Trustee's budget.

At our November meeting the proposal to repair the entire driveway and parking lot was discussed and is being looked on as our big project for 2024.

We also will be looking at updating the Men's bathrooms to comply with state bathroom laws.

Replacing the pellet stove insert at the Parsonage with a gas insert will also be looked at. The pellet stove has not worked for several years, and the gas insert would return the fireplace to looking like a fireplace.

In other news, after a call to the company that installed our sound system eighteen years ago, they were able to diagnose why we were getting the hum. (bad part, that has since been replaced) and help us with the sound that is going out on the Facebook Live Feed. A new interface was purchased and tested on the 19th. It seems to work great. It feeds our sound system directly into the iPhone. Who knew!

As always if you see something that needs attention, contact Donnie, Pastor Scott or myself and we'll do our best to "get 'r' done"! (Or at least put it on the list)

Bill Westervelt, Chair

Happy Birthday

Deb Michela December 3
 Melanie Marshal December 6
 Sierra West December 9
 Shaundra Bartlett-Yaw December 14
 Zyleen Tyler December 14
 Ed Moore December 15
 Marc Potter December 15
 Kimberly Powers December 18
 Amanda Powers December 22
 Mary Gonyo December 30



Family Corner

Happy Anniversary

Jo & Richard Wray December 24
 Mike and Pam Moser December 28

**Christmas Eve
 Candlelight Service
 7:00 at FUMC**

**3:00 Christmas Eve
 in Crown Point**



To My Dear Church Family,

Thank you so very much for all your cards, calls, gifts, visits, thoughts and especially prayers during this difficult time. Rebecca, Tom and I truly appreciate your messages of sympathy and caring.

Thank you and Blessings to each of you.

Sincerely,
Betty Rettig

The Thrift Shop will present Fellowship Coffee on December 17



Please consider signing up in the Narthex to present Fellowship Coffee on one or more of the following dates:

- January 21
 - February 18
 - March 17
 - April 21
 - May 19
 - June 16
- Simple is good!

Sunday Volunteers

December	Flowers	Readers
3		Sue Fahey
10		Jeanne Thatcher
17	Everyone!!!	Sandra Trepanier
24	Everyone!!!	Donnie Norton
31	Christmas Spirit	Ann Westervelt

Flowers on the Christmas Altar

The Altar will start be decorated on December 16. Flowers brought until Dec. 22 will be included, never fear!

If you want a note about your flowers in the bulletin, please get that information to the office by December 20.

Any flowers or Christmas plants are welcome. Any plants NOT taken home on Christmas Eve may be used the following week or dispensed with at the discretion of the Sexton or office.

Please do not bring lilies, as Pastor Scott is VERY allergic to them.

Thrift Shop News

The Thrift Shop elves have been hard at work getting the shop ready for Christmas. We have an abundance of decorations and one-of-a-kind items to help make your holidays special. We had a wonderful turnout for the Christmas Fair. Our proceeds that day were turned over to Lynn Sawyer to be included with the Fair profits.

We have many winter items! Sweaters and accessories are going out each week, and we have many books and puzzles for sale for those long winter days ahead!

The shop will be closed on December 23, so that our volunteers can enjoy time with their families. Your support and our dedicated volunteers are the reasons the Thrift Shop continues to be successful. We receive many compliments on our shop and merchandise. If you haven't been in lately, now is the perfect time- you might be surprised at what you find.

Thrift Shop Committee Members:

Margot Anello, Committee Chairperson

Jeanne Thatcher, Treasurer

Jeanne B. Thatcher, Trustees Representative

Margot Anello, Wanita Blanchard, Lynn Brigan, Betty Messier,

Leona Simpson, Sandra Sprague, Pam Thorne, Sandra

Trepanier, Jeannine Wright

and Rev. Scott Tyler

Thrift Shop Volunteers

Saturday (9-2pm)

2	Margot, Lynn, Jeanne
9	Jeannine, Joan C., Pam
16	Wanita, Sandra T., Marsha
23	CLOSED
30	June, Sandy S.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year from all of us at the Thrift Shop.

From the Sexton's Broom

Merry Christmas!

Advent is here, and the year is fast coming to a close. It has been an eventful year, for both the church, and for me personally.

As I write this, the building is a bustle of activity. Lynn and her elves are busy preparing for the Christmas Fair tomorrow.

As the snow starts flying, which it WILL, I am preparing for mud and salt, my two worst foes in winter. Sadly, due to my shoulder surgery, I am on the shelf as far as snow removal goes. I think that Nate will be able to pick up the slack.

As we enter this Advent season, As we wait to celebrate the birth of our Savior, it's time to look back on the year gone by, and prepare for the year ahead.

As always, if you see something that requires my attention, please let me know- I'm not hard to find!

Donnie Norton
Sexton



NOTE: Bridget reserves the right to shovel snow.

The Ticonderoga Food Pantry

Thank you all for your continued support of the Ticonderoga Food Pantry.

Hours of operation:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 11am-Noon.

The Ticonderoga Food Pantry helped 237 hungry people in October, including 71 children and 51 older people. The level of need for the pantry's food is more than 30 percent higher than last year. Sometimes people's food stamps run out, or they lose a job, or whatever circumstance, and they are in need.

Thank you's and the occasional tear are seen as people are assisted. People must eat well in order to think and live and function well.

Our volunteers continued to work together seamlessly and joyfully, taking people's information and filling requests, and processing incoming food.

In November, the Credit Union sponsored a food drive, and their customers filled up a couple of bins with food they were donating. This type of help from the community is wonderful and directly helpful.

This helps, but much more food must be purchased, mostly from the regional food bank near Albany, and private donations are essential to allowing this to happen. Please keep giving!! Or start giving if you feel the desire to help!! You can place your donation, marked Food Pantry, in the offering plate, or mail it to the church (1045 Wicker St.)

Book Club

Dec 4 at Jeanne Thatcher's at 5

This Tender Land

by William Kent Krueger



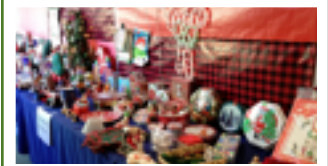
Free Community Dinner

Beef, Baked Potatoes, mixed veggies, and desserts

December 3
4:30-6:00pm

Donations are not required, but are always welcome.

December 22
Ronnie's
Sing-Along
Christmas Concert
7:00pm
At FUMC and on
Facebook



Thank you to all who made the Election Day Dinner and Christmas Fair successful!



Champlain Valley Chorale Concert
December 8
7:30 at Schroon Lake Community Church



December 10
3:00 at FUMC



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1>December</h1>					1	2 9-2 Thrift Shop
3 9:00 Worship, Communion 4:30-6pm Free Community Dinner	4 Sexton Side-kick Appreciation Day	5 7:00 Champlain Valley Chorale	6 1:00 Bible Study in lounge and on Facebook	7 10:00 Worship Meeting	8	9 9-2 Thrift Shop
10 9:00 Worship, Communion 3:00 CVC Concert at FUMC	11 NO Trustees	12	13 1:00 Bible Study in lounge and on Facebook	14 Sexton Side-kick Appreciation Day	15 Sexton Appreciation Day	16 9-2 Thrift Shop Altar Decorated
17 9:00 Worship, Communion Fellowship Coffee by the Thrift Shop	18 NO Ad Council	19	20 1:00 Bible Study in lounge and on Facebook- Last day!!!!	21 Bulletin notes about Altar Flowers needed by today! Thank you!	22 7:00 Ronnie's Christmas Sing Along Concert!	23 Thrift Shop CLOSED
24 3:00 Service in Crown Point 7:00 Candlelight Service at FUMC	25 Christmas Day 	26 Sexton Appreciation Day	27	28	29	30 9-2 Thrift Shop
31 New Year's Eve 9:00 Worship, Communion	New Member Classes: Please contact Pastor Scott Tyler at 585-7995 if you are interested in joining the church as a new member.					