

First United Methodist Church January, 2024



From the Pastor's Pen

Thank you friends for your love, support, gifts, prayers, and graces for me, my family, the congregation, the staff and volunteers. You are wonderful! I am slowly recovering from my bout of influenza. I am hopeful of being able to speak loud enough for you all to hear me through the sound system on Sunday!

As I write, it is in the midst of the twelve days of Christmas. Somehow we are experiencing the weather of England, thick fog and rain, instead of snow and the winter wonderland of the Adirondacks. Be assured that regardless of the vagaries of the weather, God is with us, and new life is before us.

This is a time for reflection, prayer, and embracing new life as followers of Jesus Christ. I would like to suggest that as we discern new goals we choose one that needs God's presence and help to make it possible. Then we break the larger goal down into discrete steps that we can engage without feeling overwhelmed. Too often we bite off too much and give up when we feel overwhelmed. This is when prayer is essential to help us find balance and peace in heart, mind, and soul. My point is that conversation with God, ie. prayer, is the beginning and center of all that we do. All life is better with God!

May these new seasons with God overflow with love and joy in our lives!



January, 2024

Peace, Love, and Blessings,

Pastor Scott Tyler



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Now That's A Bright Idea

Our next meeting will be on Jan. 8th 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.

A number of things are on the table to look at for this new year. The driveway will be discussed as will the updating of the men's bathrooms. A new gas fireplace insert for the parsonage is up for discussion.

If you have any ideas, please come to the meeting or see me, Donnie or Pastor Scott.

With the increases in the cost of everything, having Sylvamo use Fellowship Hall has been a great help. They have 8 training sessions scheduled for 2024. The income will help fund the projects we are discussing.

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 of Trustees

Book Club

Keep Reading!!

The Book Club has no official book for January, and any meeting plans are not firm yet, so grab a book you like, and stay tuned.



From the Sexton's Broom

Happy New Year!

2024 has arrived, a new year, full of hope and wishes for peace and prosperity for all.

A busy time for your sexton, as we come to the end of Advent, with Twelfth Night. The greens come down in the Sanctuary (pine needles galore!), snow, salt and ice tracks in (eventually), and myriad other winter chores.

Committees will be starting up after the Holiday season hiatus. Trustees and Ad Council will meet with project ideas. More things to keep your sexton gainfully employed and out of trouble. I have my own TO DO list that I am working on, tempered by the restraints put on me by my still recovering shoulder. Six to twelve months before full recovery, according to my doctor. She informed me that due to the amount of damage I inflicted on it, I will be closer to twelve months. We will do what we can.

As always, if you see something that requires my attention, please let me know. I am not hard to find.

Donnie.

Sexton extraordinaire



Family Corner

Happy Birthday

Jeannine Wright January 4
 Mary Thompson January 4
 MaryLou Greenough January 11
 Pam Thorne January 11
 Marsha LaPointe January 18
 Leslie Anderson January 23
 Bill Westervelt January 24
 Beverly Sann January 29

January 7
 Epiphany Sunday

 January 14
 Human Relations
 Sunday

 January 15
 Rev. Martin Luther
 King, Jr. Day



Zyleen enjoying her 21 balloon bouquet.

Happy Anniversary

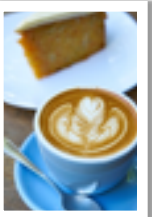
Mike & Hilda Forand January 1
 Glen & MaryLou Greenough January 15
 Bob & Claire Bartlett January 26

Happy
 New
 Year!

Donnie and Bridget would like to thank the Congregation for their generous Christmas gifts. We are very happy to have the opportunity to work here and support this wonderful faith family, and its many missions.

Taking down the greens
 January 8 at 9:30
 Join in!

Fellowship Coffee
 Presenters are needed for 2024
 Please consider having your committee, family, or self sign up for this wonderful Ministry.



Sunday Volunteers		
January	Flowers	Readers
7		Bill Westervelt
14		Louise Goodwin
21		Jeanne Thatcher
28		Sandra Trepanier

No January Community Dinner
 Many members of the core group are unable to participate this month. More people are needed to be ready to take a leadership role with dinners in coming months and years. There is guidance and there are people ready to help.
 February 4 Breakfast for Dinner

Communion Servers and Cup Collectors needed
 Please sign up in the Narthex.

Thrift Shop News

December was a busy time at the shop. Sales were very good, and customers were pleased with the many Christmas items they found. Volunteers have packed away the holiday items and are putting out new things for the New Year.

As we look back over the past year, we feel a great sense of satisfaction. The shop is thriving, and continues to support the Church, Clergy Association, the Ticonderoga Backpack Program, the Homeless Fund and the Food Pantry with monthly contributions. In addition, our customers continue to praise our shop, its contents, and our dedicated volunteers.

The Thrift Shop Committee thanks you for your continued support, and wishes you many blessings in the coming year.

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)

6	Judy, Ann, Sandra T.
13	Pam Jeannine, Margot
20	Roxanne, Joan, Sandy S.
27	June, MaryLou, Jeanne

January, 2024



Human Relations Day Special Sunday

January 14

What is this Special Sunday about? Every January, on the Sunday before the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, United Methodists come together to help bridge the gap between church and community. Human Relations Day is one way United Methodists participate in Dr. King's vision of "the beloved community."

Your gift will assist the mission of the following United Methodist programs:

- * Community Developers Program: 57% (General Board of Global Ministries)
- * United Methodist Voluntary Services Program: 33% (General Board of Global Ministries)
- * Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program: 10% (General Board of Church and Society)

Thank you for your ongoing support of our church's mission projects and programs.

"Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other." — Romans 12:10, CEB

-- Nancy A. Carter

New Member Classes:

Please contact Pastor Scott Tyler at 585-7995 if you are interested in joining the church as a new member.

The Ticonderoga Food Pantry

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

**Hours of operation:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday:
11am-Noon.**

Would you believe that for 2023, the Ticonderoga Food Pantry was visited, sometimes every month, by almost 250 households, representing 700 people? This is 13% of the population of Ticonderoga and Putnam!! This means that one in eight people in our community got food directly from the food pantry. Around 240 of those helped are children. That is significant.

Around \$40,000 dollars in people's donations were needed to make it all happen- in addition to donated produce and groceries!! Thank you!!

Our 32 volunteers enjoyed our many, many hours making it all possible. We picked up food, we checked, sorted, arranged, packed, talked with our customers, delivered to Lord Howe and Moses Circle, and had a good time in the process.

We look forward to continuing to fill this vital function for our town in 2024!!!

From the office

2023 was a year of growth and change.

My teen, who has legally changed their name to Emory Ryan Simpson, is a Junior in high school, and started learning to drive my stick-shift car right here in the FUMC parking lot. In May, 2011, when I started working here, M used the small typing desk by my big desk, and grew up doing homework here, helping Donnie dust, and even being a Second Grader downstairs after the fire at St. Mary's. Time flies, eh?

With M now living in Maryland, I deeply appreciate the ability to flex my hours when I make the drives to share our time together. After Thanksgiving, I was able to attend a school Dance Showcase, and see my teen animated and happy on stage with dance classmates. I am very thankful.

Nearly two years after the onset of my tendonitis, I am pain free, and regained most of my range of motion. Now, to rebuild endurance, carefully, so I can again swim to any shore that calls me. Anyone wishing to paddle along is welcome to enjoy the beauty of Creation at a slow pace.

I continue to learn how deeply woven Joyce Barry was into the fiber of FUMC. After my road trip in the first days of 2024, I will be working on Tax Statements for all who have given to the support of this amazing faith family. If you do **not** wish to have a statement as part of YOUR tax prep paperwork, just let me know.

I think of Grace Trombley weekly, when I order the music for Sunday services. I enjoyed being in the office when she practiced, and amuse myself that I in any way carry on for her.

Joyce and Grace certainly set fine examples of remaining vital at all ages. I need to get busy!

Happy New Year,

Bridget

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 10:00 Worship Meeting	5 8:00 Men's & Women's Prayer Breakfasts in Silver Bay	6 9-2 Thrift Shop
Bridget out of the office						
7 Epiphany 9:00 Worship, Communion NO Free Community Dinner	8 9:30 Taking down the Greens 6:30 Trustees	9	10	11	12	13 9-2 Thrift Shop
14 9:00 Worship, Communion	15 6:30 Ad Council	16	17	18 Bridget out of the office	19	20 9-2 Thrift Shop
21 9:00 Worship, Communion Fellowship Coffee after service	22	23 Bridget out of the office	24	25	26	27 9-2 Thrift Shop
28 9:00 Worship, Communion	29	30	31	<h1>January</h1>		