



# First United Methodist Church

## December, 2024



Advent is upon us, four weeks of preparation for Christmas, when we celebrate the coming/birth of Jesus Christ. One of the traditions that I love are the lights that shine in the darkness. The candlelight on the advent wreath that shines for Hope, Peace, Love, Joy, and the Good News of Jesus' birth. The lights on the trees, and the light that grows in each of our hearts that shines in the darkness of the world.

Another advent practice that fills me with joy is the music of preparation and celebration. The Champlain Valley Chorale and Strings are preparing a lovely concert of Christmas music on Friday the 13th 7:00 PM at Our Lady Catholic Church in Schroon Lake and Sunday the 15th 3:00 PM in our sanctuary. Ronnie Romano will be leading a Christmas concert/sing-a-long on Friday the 20th.

What are your favorite Christmas traditions that light up your heart and spirit? Are there special foods or scents that bring treasured advent memories to life for you?

I encourage you to engage with and participate in Christmas activities in the community and reconnect with friends and family this advent!

May the Love of God and the presence of Christ shine brightly in your heart and spirit!

Peace, Love, and Blessings,  
Pastor Scott Tyler

# Now That's A Bright Idea

December brings with it planning for next year. Our budget funds many things in the church that people take for granted. Lights, heat, cleaning, repairs etc. We strive to make the best use of what we have while looking at ways to improve your church.

At our November meeting, the Thrift Shop brought to our attention that the rugs in their sorting room need to be removed and another floor covering put in place due to mold. We suggested the tile that was used in the new entrance to Fellowship Hall might be the best option. The Thrift Shop will cover the cost of the new floor.

This brought up the matter of the outside walls. Some years ago, we had the Thrift Shop's main room walls and windows replaced. When this was done, it was discovered that most of the framing was rotten to the point of collapse. There are 13 more wall sections to replace and we are investigating a major project to replace all 13 next summer.

Parking lot lighting has not been forgotten. As time allows in this busy season, more investigation and installation will happen.

As always, Trustees meetings are open, and anyone interested is welcome to attend. If you have some ideas, we want to hear from you.

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

Bill Westervelt, Chair

1045 Wicker Street Ticonderoga, NY 12883

Church Phone: 518 585-7995

Email: [timethodist@gmail.com](mailto:timethodist@gmail.com)

Website: [www.tifumc.com](http://www.tifumc.com) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tifumc>

Editor: Bridget M.M. Simpson, MBA

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## New Member Classes:

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

# Happy Birthday

Deb Michela	December 3
Melanie Marshal	December 6
Sierra West	December 9
<b>Shaundra Bartlett Yaw</b>	<b>December 14</b>
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

## Community Dinner

December 8 4:30-6:00pm  
 Lasagna dinner, antipasto salad, garlic bread, sides, and desserts. To thank you for your support all year, this dinner is free to all and donations are not requested.

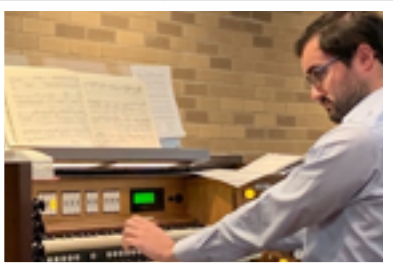
We celebrate you! Thank you!



## Music for the Season

Champlain Valley Chorale & Strings  
 Christmas Concerts  
 December 13th 7:00 at Our Lady Catholic Church in Schroon Lake  
 December 15th 3:00 in our Sanctuary.

Ronnie Romano's Christmas concert/sing-a-long December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 In the Sanctuary and on Facebook



## December Readers

1	Bill Westervelt
8	Ann Westervelt
15	Bob Bartlett
22	Sue Fahey
24	Donnie Norton
29	Sandra Trepanier

# 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 for sale. Sweaters and accessories are going out each week. Come in and look around; you might be surprised at what you find. We also have quite a few books and puzzles for sale. Now is the time to stock up for those long winter days ahead!

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 to do so.

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

## **Thrift Shop Committee Members:**

Margot Anello, Committee Chairperson

Jeanne Thatcher, Treasurer

Jeanne B. Thatcher, Trustees Representative

Margot Anello, Wanita Blanchard, Lynn Brigan, Marsha LaPointe, Betty Messier, Leona Simpson, Sandra Sprague,

Pam Thorne, Sandra Trepanier, Jeannine Wright  
and Rev. Scott Tyler

**The shop will be CLOSED**

**Jan 1-10, 2025**

**No donations at that time.**

**Thank you!**

## Thrift Shop Volunteers

Saturday (9-2pm)

7	Closed
14	
21	
28	

## Christmas Eve Flowers

Please have flowers to the Sanctuary or entryway by December 22 (Check the bulletin for any updates). Late flowers will be included, but perhaps not with the same flare of the official Flower People.

No lilies, please, so Pastor Scott may enjoy an Allergy Free Christmas.

Notes about flowers need to be to Bridget by December 22, for inclusion in the bulletin.





## The Ticonderoga Food Pantry

### Hours of operation:

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 11am-Noon.**

A shout out to our wonderful volunteers!

We have been quite busy at the pantry recently, last week we had 36 families, 18 on one day! [our all time record is 19 on one day!]

The volunteers have stayed over time to serve those that come in at noon (We really try to avoid that). We have received many useful donations, in food and funds, all are appreciated! We offered Butterball turkey breasts to all and many were accepted by our clients. No one seemed to miss the "whole bird" we did this for storage concerns and it seems to have worked very well.

**Our coat offerings supplied by the Thrift Shop was very successful!!!!**

**We would like to send a Happy Thanksgiving message to All. The outstanding support we received is sincerely appreciated.**



MaryLou Greenough and her Santas, and one of Betty Rettig's arrangements



Dollies ready to serve new families  
Thank you to Kathy Liddell and others for sharing photos. So many people made the Fair a wonderful success again this year.

## From the Sexton's Broom

*Advent is here!*

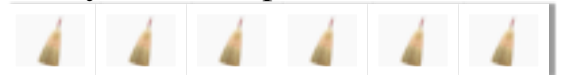
2024 is fast drawing to a close. MaryLou and her elves have transformed the Sanctuary to a beautiful Advent Wonderland! I generally stay out of the way and let them go!

It is a busy and wonderful time of year here at FUMC. Advent Bible Study starts on the Second of December. Pastor Scott and I decided to switch to Mondays for the study, as the fourth Wednesday in Advent falls on Christmas Day.

Bill and I will be busy elves ourselves this month. Probably by the time Bridget goes to press, we need to get the stakes in the ground for the plowing guys, get the snowblower out and ready (seems like we just put it away!), and other wintertime activities. Soon, we will be dealing with the dreaded "S" word! I have to get Fellowship Hall back together for the Community Dinner on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December.

I hope everyone has a joyful, and safe, holiday season. My next article will be in 2025!

As always, if you see something that needs my attention, please let me know.



Donnie.

Sexton & Lay Leader

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Worship, Communion	2 1:00 Advent Bible Study	3 Sexton Appreciation Day	4 5:30 Book Club?	5 10:00 Worship Meeting	6 8:00 Men's & Women's Prayer Breakfasts in Silver Bay	7 9-2 Thrift Shop
8 9:00 Worship, Communion 4:30-6pm Free Community Dinner	9 1:00 Advent Bible Study 6:30 Trustees	10	11	12 Sexton Appreciation Day	13	14 9-2 Thrift Shop
15 9:00 Worship, Communion 3:00 Chorale Concert in Sanctuary	16 1:00 Advent Bible Study 6:30 Ad Council	17	18	19	20 7:00 Ronnie's Christmas Sing Along! In the Sanctuary and on Facebook	21 9-2 Thrift Shop
22 9:00 Worship, Communion	23 1:00 Advent Bible Study	24 7:00 Candlelight service	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28 9-2 Thrift Shop
29 9:00 Worship, Communion	30 Sexton Appreciation Day	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	<h1>December</h1>			