



First United Methodist Church

February, 2026

Pastor's Pen



Whoever has been praying for a cold and snowy winter, please stop!

February is bane of every Methodist pastor because it is the season of Church Statistical reports that become more complex and digitized every year. So if you see me mumbling to myself it's likely about statistics— one of my most frustrating classes in college!

Time is going by so fast! The season of Lent is upon us with Ash Wednesday on the 18th, the service to receive ashes and dedicate ourselves to turning back to God is 7PM. Our Lenten Bible Study, *An Unlikely Lent* by Rachel Billups, will begin at 1:00PM on the 18th and run through 6 weeks. We have books available in the office, and more can be ordered as needed.

I am so appreciative of you and all the ministries helping others that we do together, it is remarkable and makes a huge positive impact on the community!

I have gone from being an empty nester to now having all three of my young adult children living back in the parsonage with me. Xann is working on an online computer science degree, Zyleen is enjoying being a town librarian, and Yarr is back from Texas looking for jobs in the Burlington area. Zoey, our family dog, is thriving on all the extra attention and activity.

I have found the continuing education I've been doing with my cohort of 12 clergy to be a healing and empowering experience, that is giving me a renewed sense of call to ministry.

I've included a small acrylic painting I quickly did during my last visit to my father after Christmas. It is of Dad doing what he loved most, sailing on his boat, the *Escape* (see page 3).

May we all embrace God's love, keep warm, and anticipate Spring!

Peace, Love, and Blessings
Pastor Scott Tyler

1	Pastor's Pen
2	That's A Bright Idea From the Sexton's Broom
3	Birthdays & Anniversaries Special Days Bible Study Call for Coffee! Flowers Lay Readers' Schedule
4	Thrift Shop News Book Club News Champlain Valley Chorale
5	Free Community Dinner Ticonderoga Food Pantry Garden News Tea is coming!
6	Calendar

1045 Wicker Street
Ticonderoga, NY 12883
Church Phone: 518 585-7995
Email: timethodist@gmail.com
Website: www.tifumc.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tifumc>
Editor:
Bridget M.M. Simpson, MBA

Now That's A Bright Idea

As I write this, 10" of snow is expected this Sunday afternoon into Monday. Pat Armstrong has been doing a great job of clearing the driveway out. Sidewalks on the other hand have been a problem. One of the two belts on the church's snowblower wore out. Of course, no one in town had one. After getting one, (and two spare) online, it's back working. Thanks to Bridget for manning the shovel while we waited for delivery, as Donnie and I are still the walking wounded.

I have called several contractors and have not heard back from any. If you know anyone who might be interested in replacing the windows and walls downstairs, have them PLEASE contact me or the office. We would like to get this project started this spring.

We had a heating hiccup, and the Sanctuary was not above 63° for the past two weeks. Mountain Petroleum was called and arrived here before I could get a message to Donnie. One of the two boilers was offline due to a connector that had failed. We should be back to our normal 68-69° in the Sanctuary this Sunday.

A small project will be attended to this spring. Both outside faucets are leaking. Considering they're over 60 years old I'd leak too. We'll have them both replaced.

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

From the Sexton's Broom

February is here!

Let's hope the groundhog doesn't see his shadow on the 2nd! I am ready for spring!

February is a busy month here at TFUMC. We start our Lenten journey on Wednesday February 18th with Ash Wednesday. Lenten Readings will be in the folder on the Narthex bulletin board on the 15th of February, if you are so inclined.

Snow, ice, and salt are a never ending clean up battle! In spring it will be mud and sand, but I am ready. Our new rug in the Fellowship Hall entryway seems to have cut down on the tracking in and the slipping as you come in the door.

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



Donnie.

Sexton extraordinaire.

New Member Classes:

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

Family Corner

Happy Birthday

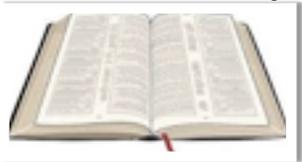
Claire Best	February 2
Sandra Sprague	February 2
Carole Potter	February 14
Nancy Carter	February 18
Joyce Cooper	February 21
Rodger Snelson	February 24
Denise Huestis	February 27

Happy Anniversary

Fred & Joan Viault February 20



Bible Study



Lenten Bible Study:
An Unlikely Lent

Starting February 18.

Wednesdays at 1:00

in the Lounge and on Facebook.

Please sign up to present Fellowship Coffee, the 3rd Sunday of any month. Thank you!

Sunday Volunteers

February	Flowers	Readers
1	Westervelts	Bill Westervelt
8	Sue Fahey	Sue Fahey
15	Ash Wednesday	Jeanne Thatcher
18	No flowers in Lent	Donnie Norton
22		Ann Westervelt



Dad doing what he loved most, sailing on his boat, the *Escape*
-By Pastor Scott

Thrift Shop News

Winter is here for sure, with some very cold temperatures and lots of snow!

Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day are coming. In addition to clothing and housewares, the Thrift Shop offers decorations and knick-knacks for these fun holidays. Many Valentine's Day items have already found new homes with customers.

Now is the perfect time to pick up another scarf or sweater, because we know that winter is not over yet. Our volunteers have begun getting ready for Spring; putting items aside that will go out on the shelves and racks very soon.

In the meantime, many winters items are on sale. We also have many books and puzzles to help you wile away the long winter days. Why not stop in soon?

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

Book Club

February 2, 5:00 pm

At Leona Simpson's house.

The Vaster Wilds

by Lauren Groff

Thrift Shop Volunteers

Saturday (9-2pm)

7	Susan, Margot, Pam, Jeannine
14	Jeanne, Margot, Sandy S., Joan C.
21	Wanita, Margot, Pam
28	June, Roxanne, Betty M.

Champlain Valley Chorale Resumes on February 3rd

Fellowship Hall

Tuesdays, 7-9 P.M.,

Spring concert in our church

Sunday, May 17th, at 3pm.

Concert theme will be the
celebration, in music, of the 250th
anniversary of the United States
of America.

Also this concert marks
the 50th anniversary
of the Chorale.

New singers welcome.

For more information, contact
president Gil Engler at
518-585-6161.

The Ticonderoga Food Pantry

Hours of operation:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 11am-Noon.

In 2025, generous donations were made by Stewart's, TrailNorth, Sylvamo, Students Shopping Trip and Stuff the Bus.

Many individuals gave generously to allow the purchase of 44,340 pounds of food from the Regional Food Bank NorthEast New York.

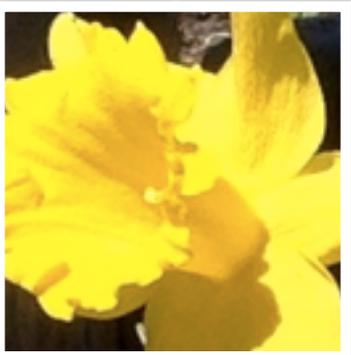
Walmart donated 45,343 pounds of food last year.

An average of 236 households were helped per month in 2025. That is down a bit from 2024, but still significantly up from 2023.

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

Gardening at the First United Methodist Church

Coming soon!!!



Free Community Dinner

February 8

4:30-6:00pm

Turkey Tetrazzini

Sides & Desserts

Bring a friend!

Dine in or Take out

If you have a food allergy,
please notify us



Tea is coming!!

April 26

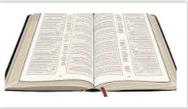
Celebrate the beginning of Spring!

Thrift Shop fashions

and jewelry for sale,

pastries & cakes for sale,

and a Door Prize!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Worship, Communion	2 5:00 Book Club at Leona's house	3 7:00 Champlain Valley Chorale resumes!	4	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	10 7:00 Champlain Valley Chorale	11	12	13 Sexton Appreciation Day	14 9-2 Thrift Shop
15 9:00 Worship, Communion Fellowship Coffee	16 Sexton Appreciation Day	17 7:00 Champlain Valley Chorale	18 Ash Wednesday  1:00 Bible Study 7:00 Service with Ashes	19	20	21 9-2 Thrift Shop
22 9:00 Worship, Communion	23	24 7:00 Champlain Valley Chorale	25  1:00 Bible Study	26	27	28 9-2 Thrift Shop

February