

First United Methodist Church

December, 2017

From the Pastor's Pen



Dear Friends,

As I write this Advent/Christmas message I am conscious of the call of the Prophets to prepare our hearts and lives, and wait for the coming of the Christ Child. While at the same time responding to the pull of the busyness of the holiday season with decorating, concerts, caroling, social events, purchasing and wrapping gifts, addressing Christmas cards and getting everything mailed and shipped in time to be received before Christmas.

Even though I am slowly improving I still have almost no stamina or reserve, so when I push myself too hard I get buried under a snowbank of pain and fatigue, that requires stillness and rest in order to dig myself out. This has been a gift from God.

Yes, I really did say a gift from God. These limits on my life have led me to reflect, and evaluate my priorities and my 'WHY.' Knowing 'WHY' we do what we do helps us to know 'WHAT' is truly important to us, and the important things should be our priorities. I have rediscovered that relationships are so much more important than being busy doing too many things, especially my relationship with God, spending time in the Scriptures, devotions, and prayer. And time well spent being in relationship with my children, family, friends, and community.

My prayer for all of you this Advent/Christmas is that you connect to the 'WHY' of the season, Emmanuel-God born with us-as Jesus Christ, and let the 'WHY' guide how you invest your time and resources!



Merry Christmas!!
Peace, Love, and Blessings,
Pastor Scott Tyler



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Now That's A Bright Idea



The one down light in the Sanctuary that has been out for some time was finally replaced this month. We were unable to replace the one fan as the lift we rented did not go high enough. We are looking into alternate ways of getting up there. (Prayer might help)

We have had to have the heating system here at the church looked at as we did not seem to be getting heat in the Sanctuary, but everything checked out. I'll re-program everything so the heat comes on sooner. The heat in the Parsonage went out last Saturday. Coop was there and there seems to be an air leak in the oil line. He got it working and will do farther repairs next week.

Other than that we are just looking forward to new projects for the coming year.

If you see something that needs attention or have an idea for a project, let Donnie, Pastor Scott, or me know and we'll do our best to get 'er done.

Bill Westervelt
Chair of Trustees



Adult Fellowship

There will not be an Adult Fellowship Potluck Dinner in December.
We will meet in January for a night of games.

Advent Envelopes are available!

Your thoughtfulness at this time of year is greatly appreciated!

December, 2017

Book Club

December 4, in the
UMW Lounge at 5:30

In the absence of an official Book Club update, I'll share a few favorites, one for all ages, one more for non-children.

If you have not yet read *Angela And the Baby Jesus* by Frank McCourt, you are in for a treat. It is a very small book, and fine for kids.

Christmas Tree: A Story of the Rockefeller Center Tree by Julie Salamon is also quite charming, especially if you have a tree you love.



Merry Christmas!
Let's make 2017 a year
of Singing and Ringing!



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Family Corner

Happy Birthday

Melanie Marshal December 6
 Shaundra
 Bartlett Lerman December 14
 Zyleen Tyler December 14
 Ed Moore December 15
 Marc Potter December 15
 Kimberly Powers December 18
 Amanda Powers December 22
Dorothy Henry December 25
 Beverly Jones December 25
 Mary Gonyo December 30



Christmas Eve Services
 Morning 8:30 & 10:30
 Candlelight Service
 7:00pm

Happy Anniversary

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

Blue Christmas Service
December 21 at 2:00
in the Sanctuary
All are welcome.

Join us for a time to share
 the company of others who
 understand that this season
 can be difficult.

Let there be Peace on Earth.



Coffee Hour

I thank those that have stepped up to cover the Sunday Coffee Hours. I will continue use to do the two Sundays a month, but need coverage for the others. If no one steps forward, there will not be Coffee Hour.

-Ann



Caroling!

Meet at FUMC at
 noon on
 December 17.

We will sing in the
 Nursing Home and
 maybe Lord Howe
 Estates?

St. Mary's Youth Group
 may join in!



Shaundra Bartlett Lerman
 will do a reading and signing of
It's the Spirit of Christmas,
Peaches!
 at the Black Watch Memorial
 Library in Ticonderoga at 1
 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9.



Welcome Zyleen!

New Member Classes:

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

From the Stewardship & Finance Committees

The Stewardship and Finance Committees would like to thank all of you who have returned your Pledge cards. We are in the process of finalizing the budget of 2018. We are asking those who have not yet returned your Pledge card to prayerfully consider it. Together we can do great things this year in the Ticonderoga area!

If you have misplaced your Pledge card, you may cut out the one on this page and return it to the church.

Thank you!


First United Methodist Church

___ Yes. I would like to make a pledge of \$ _____
Per year, month or week for 2018.
(circle a time-frame, please)

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

Name _____

Address _____

Thank you for returning this card!

--The Finance Committee

United Methodist Women Annual Luncheon

December 16th at noon in the Hot Biscuit Diner

Reservations will be made by Carole & Grace, so contact them by December 10th.

Following lunch, the UMW will gather at FUMC to prepare the Christmas sunshine baskets. We have at least 12 parishioners who will receive a basket. If you know of anyone, please contact Carole or Grace.

We will gratefully accept any donations of money or supplies for the baskets.

We can use:

small jellies, wrapped candies,
juice boxes, fresh fruit,

small containers of jello, applesauce, etc.,
individually wrapped cookies.

Cash donations to buy any extras needed are most welcome.

Thank you for any help you can provide.



See all you ladies there!

Church Fair Update!

Thank you church family for your support and participation in the Church Fair. It would not have been possible without your involvement – donations, purchases and your spirit. Together we created a community sharing experience, so needed in our culture these days.

The financial report shows \$4,426 profit for the fair.

Thank you all,

Lynn Sawyer & Jane Bassett

Thrift Shop News

The Thrift Shop elves have been hard at work getting the shop ready for Christmas. We have 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 Jane Bassett & Lynn Sawyer, to be included with the Fair profits.

We once again partnered with TACC (Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce) to promote Small Business Saturday on November 26th and had a great turnout.

We have an abundance of 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.

Your support and our dedicated volunteers are the reasons the Thrift Shop continues to be successful. We continue to receive many compliments on our shop and merchandise. If you haven't been in lately, now is the perfect time to do so.

Thrift Shop Committee Members:

Ellen Ellor, Committee Chairperson
 Jeanne Thatcher, Treasurer
 Joyce Barry, Assistant Treasurer
 Jeanne B. Thatcher, Trustees Representative
 Margot Anello, Joyce Barry,
 Wanita Blanchard, Stephanie Frazier,
 Beth Hanley, Betty Messier, Leona Simpson,
 Pam Thorne, Jeannine Wright
 and Rev. Scott Tyler

The Thrift Shop will be open
Friday, December 8
Noon to 5 pm
 for an additional holiday shopping opportunity. We will offer refreshments, so stop in and check us out!

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

Thrift Shop Volunteers

Wednesday (9-2pm)		Saturday (9-2pm)	
		2	Pam & Jeanne
6	Jeannine & Marsha	9	Margot & Wanita
13	Betty R. & Carolyn	16	Jeanne & MaryLou
20	Margot , Wanita, & Pam	23	You?
27	Ann & ?	30	Lee, June, Gloria

The Ticonderoga Food Pantry

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

Hours of operation:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 11am-Noon.

Please be aware that filling a basket takes time, so don't arrive at the last minute. Anyone seeking a food basket should bring a utility bill as proof of residency.

If you want to make a donation of food, pet food, or toiletries, there is a shopping cart in the church entryway.

If you want to make a financial donation, you may do so care of the Food Pantry mailbox in the FUMC office.

Keep in mind, dollars go further when used for food at the Regional Food Bank than in a grocery store.



Champlain Valley Chorale

Concert

December 3
3pm in Sanctuary

Followed by



Holiday Magic

in the Fellowship Hall.

Join us for refreshments and a chance to enjoy some holiday displays.

Free Community Dinner

December 10

4:30-6:00pm

Christmas Special

Cranberry glazed pork loin,
green beans almandine, carrots,
mashed potatoes,
rolls and dessert

All are welcome!

Donations are not required, but are always welcome.

This is a volunteer effort. Your participation is welcome.



Altar Flowers






If you are going to donate Altar Flowers, please arrange to have them at the church by the Saturday before the Sunday before Christmas.
(December 23)

Florist flowers, store flowers, your own flowers or plants are welcome.

Bulletin messages due by December 20.



Flowers left in the Sanctuary after Christmas Eve may be reused or shared. Thank you!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">December</h1>					1	2
					7:30 Men's & Women's Prayer Breakfasts in Silver Bay	9-2 Thrift Shop
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:30 Worship, Communion 10:30 Worship, Communion, Coffee 3:00 CVC Concert & Magic	5:30 Book Club		9-2 Thrift Shop 7:30 Recovery, Int.	7:30 Chancel Choir	Noon-5pm Special Thrift Shop Shopping	9-2 Thrift Shop
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:30 Worship, Communion 10:30 Worship, Coffee 4:30-6pm Free Community Dinner	1:00 Finance 6:30 Trustees		9-2 Thrift Shop 7:30 Recovery, Int.	7:30 Chancel Choir		9-2 Thrift Shop Noon- UMW lunch at Hot Biscuit and Basket prep at FUMC.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30 Worship, Communion 10:30 Worship, Coffee Caroling! Meet at FUMC at noon.	1:00 Ad Council	Have you gotten your Altar Flower message to the office?	9-2 Thrift Shop 7:30 Recovery, Int.	 2:00 Blue Christmas Service 7:30 Chancel Choir	School's Out Today!!!	9-2 Thrift Shop Altar Flowers Due for Christmas!
24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
8:30 Worship, Communion 10:30 Worship, Coffee 7:00 Candlelight Service			9-2 Thrift Shop 7:30 Recovery, Int.	7:30 Chancel Choir		9-2 Thrift Shop
31 New Year's Eve	 					
8:30 Worship, Communion 10:30 Worship, Sunday School, Family Coffee						



First United Methodist Church

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Sunday Volunteers



Lay Reader's Schedule		
Dec	8:30	10:30
3	Denise Huestis	Joyce Barry
10	Carole Potter	Betty Rettig
17	Donnie Norton	Bob Bartlett
24	Penny Mason	Ann Westervelt
	Bill Westervelt	
31	Jeanne Thatcher	Penny Mason

December	Acolytes	Coffee	Flowers
3	Xann Tyler Zyleen Tyler		
10	Roger Sawyer Taylor Bolton	Ann	
17	Victoria Sawyer Yarr Tyler	Kristian Gibbs	
24 morning	Roger Sawyer Victoria Sawyer		Congregation
Candlelight	Xann Tyler Zyleen Tyler		Take flowers home.
31	Yarr Tyler Taylor Bolton	Family Coffee	