



# First United Methodist Church

## December, 2016

### Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends as you enter the Sanctuary this Sunday you will experience a wonderful change of decor for the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the new Church year. These wonderful changes were brought about by MaryLou Greenough and her amazing crew of volunteers.

Advent can easily be obscured by the commercialization and busyness of Christmas, but it is vital for our spiritual growth and preparation for encountering God incarnate in the baby and adult Jesus. Recently I came face to face with my busyness and the resulting exhaustion at an intensive immersion week of learning Emotional Intelligence. Too much busyness is the sign of a life out of balance! I invite you to join me in the Advent practice of pruning busyness out of our lives by eliminating activities that do not feed the soul. Vintners teach that pruning is necessary for the vine to be more fruitful.

In the spirit of reducing stress and busyness it is necessary to be discriminating and weigh the pro's and con's of each activity in your life. I gently offer these activities as a way of connecting to community, mission, and joy this Advent. Safe Sanctuary training December 10, 9-11 Warrensburg UMC. The Champlain Valley Chorale Concert and Holiday Magic reception on Sunday the 11th at 3 PM. The Middle School Winter concert Tuesday 13th 6:30 PM, and the High School Winter Concert Tuesday 20th 7PM. On Saturday the 17th the United Methodist Women will be packing baskets for our shut-ins and we will be delivering them as we Christmas Carol at the Nursing Homes at noon on the 18th.

In recognition that many feel Blue in the midst of the Advent season we will be have a Blue Christmas service on Wednesday 21st at 2PM. December 21 commemorates *Longest Night of the Year*, offering longer, brighter days coming as we approach Christmas and the New Year. Share the Blue Christmas service as we gather together for hope and healing.

This year we have the blessing of having Christmas fall on a Sunday so we will have our traditional Christmas Eve service with candle light and communion at 7PM. Then on Christmas Day and New Year's Day we will have just one service at 10AM.

May you get into the spirit of Advent and strip away your busyness and encounter Emmanuel in new and life changing ways!

Peace, Love, and Blessings,  
Pastor Scott Tyler

December, 2016

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## Now That's A Bright Idea

December is a season of waiting. Your trustees are waiting for the end of the year (in addition to Christmas) to see what projects can be funded next year.

December is also a time of reflection. We've done quite a lot this year. Major repairs were done to the hot water and boiler system. New fans were installed in the sanctuary. Most of the upstairs got a new coat of paint. Our new Cross & Flame was mounted and lit with a LED spotlight that uses about the same power as a night light. The TV system was installed in the Sanctuary and a new TV and Blue Ray player were installed in the Sunday school room. Air Conditioning was added to the main room in the Thrift Shop. And let's not forget our new roof on the Sanctuary! At the parsonage, trees that were growing over the garage were removed. The front porch was painted and as soon as Pastor Scott has a day to shop, the parsonage will be getting a new dishwasher and garbage disposer.

As the new-year starts, your Trustees will have a vacancy with one member not standing for re-election. If you're interested in the Trustee's ministry and would like to serve, talk to Pastor Scott.

As always if you see something that needs fixing or have an idea for a new project, let Pastor Scott, Donnie, or myself know and we'll do our best to "get'er done!"

Bill Westervelt  
Chair, Trustees



## Adult Fellowship Potluck Dinner

December- No Meeting!

January 23

Program: Carole & Grace

Rolls: Carol B.

Dessert: Ann

February- No Meeting

March 27

Program: Game Night

Rolls: Ann

Dessert: Carol B.

April 24

Program: Pastor Scott speaks  
about Ginghamburg UMC  
(Subject to change of topic.)

Rolls: Ann

Dessert: Donnie

May 22

Program: Family Story Night

Rolls: Grace

Dessert: Sandy

June 26- Dining out!

Details to be determined

## *From the Stewardship Committee*

Thank you to all who have filled out and returned their 2017 Pledge cards. It is greatly appreciated.

New envelopes have arrived for 2017, and will be distributed soon. Contact the office if you need a box.

*Blessed Advent & Merry Christmas*

# Happy Birthday

Norma Sage	December 4
Melanie Marshall	December 6
Shaundra Bartlett	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

# Family Corner

## Caroling

Deliver some Christmas Joy along with the UMW baskets while caroling at the nursing home. Gather at FUMC at noon, after Fellowship Coffee on December 18



## Happy

## Anniversary

Jo & Richard Wray  
December 24

Mike and Pam Moser  
December 28



Advent is here!

## Wednesday Prayer Service

Noon to 12:30  
All are welcome.



The Tiny Tim Tree is up in the foyer-- Tags and gifts need to be returned by December 11. If you want to help, but don't want to shop, you may make a cash donation, and a kind elf will shop for you.

If you are shopping, keep in mind that each tag does not represent the only item being given to a child!



Christmas Eve Service  
December 24 at 7:00pm

Christmas Morning Service  
December 25 at 10:00am

## Blue Christmas Service

December 21 at 2:00pm

If you are not feeling as joyful as you would like to feel as Christmas approaches, join us for a time to share the company of others who understand.

Let there be Peace on Earth.



Book Club  
December 5, 5:30 in the  
UMW Lounge

**December**

*A Thousand Splendid Suns*  
by Khaled Hosseini

Let's figure out what to read  
for the New Year!



Thank you church family and friends for your hard work and support of the church fair. The profit is \$4,000 to date with a bit more to come in. Left over items were shared with Tiny Tim, the Thrift Shop, and some saved for next year.

Mary Lou has promised to conduct a one day fabric sale sometime in the summer. (She will read here that we're adding yarn and ribbon.)

Let's continue to share the joy and fellowship of that day throughout the year.

Jane Bassett and Lynn Sawyer  
Co-Chairs

**New Member Classes:**

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

United Methodist Women  
Annual Luncheon  
December 17<sup>th</sup> at noon  
in the Hot Biscuit Diner

Reservations will be made by Carole & Grace, so contact them by December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Following lunch, the UMW will gather at FUMC to prepare the Christmas baskets. We have at least 12 parishioners who will receive a basket.

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.

Thank you for any help you can offer.



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 17)  
Florist flowers, store flowers, your own flowers or plants are welcome.



Remember: An Altar Flower Chairman is needed! MaryLou is passing the torch, so think about how much you would like to help prepare the Altar for weekly services. Although people sign up, we need a backup person to handle Sundays without flower donations. Creativity is welcome! Contact Pastor Scott.

# Thrift Shop News

Also, the shop will be open on a special day and time to coincide with Shop and Dine night in town. We will be open on Friday, December 2nd from noon until 5 pm. There will be refreshments and a half price sale on anything Christmas.

The Thrift Shop elves have been hard at work getting the shop ready for Christmas. Stop in and check out our holiday spirit! 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 26<sup>th</sup> and had a great turnout.

We have an abundance of winter items for sale. Hats, scarves and gloves 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 are receiving many compliments on our shop and merchandise. If you haven't been in lately, now is the perfect time to check us out!

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

### Thrift Shop Committee Members:

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

# 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.

Donations are always appreciated- please use the shopping cart in the foyer. Monetary donations may be mailed to or left in the church office. Thank you!



Thrift Shop Volunteers			
Wednesday (9-2pm)		Saturday (9-2pm)	
		3	Jeanne & Margot
7	Jeannine & Steph	10	Pam & Ellen
14	Carolyn & Ann	17	Lee, June, & Gloria
21	Mary Lou &?	24	Closed!
28	Joyce B. &?	31	Closed!

**Special Friday! December 2, noon -5pm.**

**What Child Is This?**  
 by William C. Dix  
 Find the words below in the puzzle.



enthrone	hearts	loving	salvation	own	peasant
myrrh	gold	incense	Him	bring	Babe
laud	bring	haste	sing	guard	King
Christ	keeping	shepherds	sweet	anthems	angels
sleeping	lap	Mary	child		

**Free Community  
 Dinner**

December 4  
 4:30-6:00pm

*Roast Beef, Potatoes*

*Veggies, Desserts!*

*All are welcome!*

*Donations are not required,  
 but are always welcome.*

There is a sign up sheet on the main hall  
 bulletin board.



**Champlain Valley Chorale**

**Concert**

December 11  
 3pm in Sanctuary

Followed by







**Holiday Magic**

in the Fellowship Hall.

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December</h1> 				1  7:30 Chancel Choir	2  7:30 Prayer Breakfasts in Silver Bay	3  9-2 Thrift Shop
4 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  8:30 Worship, Communion 10:30 Worship, Communion, Coffee  4:30-6pm Free Community Dinner	5  5:30 Book Club	6  10:30 Range of Motion  7:00 Champlain Valley Chorale	7  9-2 Thrift Shop  6:30 Children's Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Bell Choir	8  7:30 Chancel Choir	9  	10  9-2 Thrift Shop
11 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  8:30 Worship, Communion 10:30 Worship, Communion, Coffee <b>CVC Concert &amp; Holiday Magic</b>	12  1:00 Finance 6:30 Trustees	13  10:30 Range of Motion	14  9-2 Thrift Shop	15  7:30 Chancel Choir	16  Altar Flowers for Christmas are due in the Sanctuary tomorrow!	17  9-2 Thrift Shop  Noon- UMW lunch at Hot Biscuit, then basket prep
18 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  8:30 Worship, Communion 10:30 Worship, Communion, Coffee <b>Caroling</b>	19  1:00 Ad Council	20  10:30 Range of Motion	21  9-2 Thrift Shop 2:00 <b>Blue Christmas service</b>  6:30 Children's Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Bell Choir	22  7:30 Chancel Choir	23  A great day to get January newsletter items to the office!!!	24 Christmas Eve  Thrift Shop Closed  7:00 Service for Christmas Eve
25 Christmas  10:00 Worship, Communion	26  	27  10:30 Range of Motion	28  9-2 Thrift Shop	29  7:30 Chancel Choir	30  	31  9-2 Thrift Shop  New Year's Eve
<b>Holiday Office Hours to be determined. Keep an eye on the bulletin!</b>						



# First United Methodist Church

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Want to read for lighting a candle?

The readings are posted on the Bulletin board- help yourself, and be ready to read!



## Sunday Volunteers

Lay Reader's Schedule		
December	8:30	10:30
4	Penny Mason	Donnie Norton
11	Louise Goodwin	Scott Manning
18	Bob Bartlett	Denise Huestis
24	Bill Westervelt	
25	Carole Potter	

December	Acolytes	Fellowship Coffee	Flowers	Ushers and Greeters
4	Victoria Sawyer Ruthie Fingland			
11	Yarr Tyler Linnea Fingland			
18	Roger Sawyer Alex Fingland	Followed by caroling in Nursing home	Everyone	
24	?		Everyone	
25	Xann Tyler Zyleen Tyler	No coffee hour.	Everyone- Take them home.	