**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

 63 Church Street Saranac Lake, NY 12983

 Email: firstumcsl@centralny.twcbc.com Website: http://firstumcsl.org Office Phone: (518) 891-3473

 Secretary: Claudia Wamsganz Editor: Deborah Donaldson

 Pastor: The Rev. Wilbert Gamble (518) 527-3941 Cell

Pastor: email: wgamble@spaulsmiths.edu

**MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER**

 From the Pastor’s Heart:

Lent Season

Welcome to the season of Lent! Lent season is when many Christians spend time in contemplative soul searching. The season of Lent has developed into a personal venture for individuals to realign their relationship with God aspiring to live a more consecrated spiritual life. Lent is a period of forty days or approximately six weeks leading up to Easter day. All Sundays within this time frame are omitted within the forty days of Lent, and Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season. Lent also shadows the start of Jesus’ ministry leading up to Holy Week which reflects the beginning of the end of Jesus’ ministry on earth before his betrayal and crucifixion, and ending on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. Throughout the whole season of lent acts of penitence has played a significant role in many denominations. Some churches use as a penitence exercise the practice of fasting. It was through Fasting that the idea of Lent was derived when Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness fasting and was tempted with various human inclinations, but was able to resist them. Many Christians continue to carry on the custom of fasting by abstaining from various luxuries. Additionally, deeds of charity toward the poor and other spiritual disciplines are brought into focus to enrich one’s spiritual endeavors and growth.

 Lent season is an opportune time to get reacquainted with the spiritual disciplines within the Christian faith. I would like to encourage all of our members to use this season to engage in contemplation and self-reflection pondering over various sayings and events of Jesus’ life. Challenge yourself to explore one of the spiritual disciplines of the Christian faith during this time.

 Here are some suggestions that may help you experience a meaningful Lent season. Select one out of the six spiritual disciplines that I have arranged to speak on during our worship services. The six spiritual disciplines includes; prayer, fasting, meditation, scripture study, service, and confession. There are other spiritual disciplines that are not mentioned here and they are just as enriching. Next, do a personal study using a Bible, Concordance, and a Bible Dictionary or a Religious Encyclopedia to learn as much as you can about the discipline that interests you. It is good to discuss your findings on the subject with your pastor or with someone who is familiar with the teachings and context of Scripture. When you have gathered enough information to feel confident in the validity of the subject arrange a set time during Lent to regularly practice your chosen spiritual discipline. Next, keep a journal of your activities and reflect upon any significant moments as you engage in your practice. It is always good when embarking upon any new endeavor to start simple and small like a seed. Allow yourself to grow into the practice if it is something that is not quite familiar to you. Ask God for insight and wisdom as you study and practice - have faith. As your pastor I extend an open door to anyone who wishes to discuss any of these spiritual disciplines. Exploring the spiritual disciplines could open new doors of understanding of the Christian faith and its power in your life. Happy Lent season!

Grace and love,

Pastor Wilbert

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CALLS AND EMAILS!

I am sorry for the mix up in the March Birthdays in the February issue of the Newsletter.

Who (over 21) really wants two birthdays in one year? I believe, all is corrected in this issue. If you see anything that needs changing or would like to make any additions, PLEASE don’t hesitate to contact me by email, phone or mail. All information may be found on the front cover.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Claudia Wamsganz

**FROM OUR TRUSTEE CHAIR – Marilyn Gillespie**

Those of you who have braved this winter’s cold weather may have noticed that two of the chandeliers in the Sanctuary were not lighting. You may also have noticed the scaffolding in the rear of the sanctuary that was being used to access the lights and determine the source of the problem. Elwin Hall and Jim Halla, both members of the Board of Trustees, spent some time working on the problem.

What was found? Over the years, we have had many leaks in the roof above the back doors into the sanctuary. The junction box for the wiring was in the same area and had also been exposed to the water. The wires had fused to the conduit and they had to cut open that ‘pipe’ to use the ‘old’ wires to pull ‘new’ wires into place. For the time being, the lights work. When the weather gets warmer, the repairs will be completed and the walls repaired.

This is just one more reason why we need to complete replacing the slate on the rest of the roof.

**CORNED BEEF and CABBAGE DINNER**

Our church is sponsoring a corned beef and cabbage dinner on March 15, 2014 to raise money to assist with the fuel bill. We are asking for volunteers to help make this project a success. The dinner will be from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM. There will be handouts at the back of the sanctuary of needed items and monetary donations are always appreciated. We need volunteers to work on the day of the dinner, please contact Marlene Martin 572-2075 or Barbara Halla 354-5147 with your availability.

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2014**

*RUMMAGE SALE DATES FOR 2014*

Monday through Wednesday for Set up--April 28, 29, 30

Thursday, Friday and Saturday for the Sale--May 1 & 2 from 9am to 7pm

  Saturday May 3 from 9am to noon.

*FALL SALE*

Monday through Wednesday for Set-up--September 22, 23, 24

Thursday, Friday and Saturday for the Sale--September 25 & 26 from 9am to 7pm

Saturday September 27 from 9am to noon

*UNITED METHODIST WOMEN YARD SALE FOR 2014*

Set-up will be Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

July 21, 22, 23, 24

Sale will be Friday July 25 from 9am to 4pm

Saturday July 26 from 9am to 3pm

PLEASE MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

**MARCH** **2014 LECTIONARY**

**March 2** **March 9** **March 16**  **March 23** **March 30**

Exodus 23:12-18 Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Genesis 12:1-4a Exodus 17:1-7 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 99 Psalm 32 Psalm 121 Psalm 95 Psalm 23

2 Peter 1:16-21 Romans 5:1219 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 Romans 5:1-11 Ephesians 5:8-14

Matthew 17:1-9 Matthew 4:1-11 John 3:1-17 John 4:5-42 John 9:1-41

**Food for the Mind and Soul** -

Daily reading of a short meditation with scripture keeps us focused on God throughout the week and is an extension of the Sunday worship service. Two meditation booklets are available at the front entrance of the church. They are “The Upper Room” and “Our Daily Bread.”

**First United Methodist Church**

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 8:30am Contemporary Service

Coffee and Fellowship 9:20 am

10:00 am Traditional Service

10:00 am **Sunday School**

*ALL ARE WELCOME*

***Easter Flowers***

*Please let us know if you intend to have flowers in Honor or in Memory of a Loved One. You may fill out the form below for our information and drop it in the offering plate or mail it or you can call the church office at 891-3473.*



*Number of plants at $9.00 each \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

 *Checks may be put in the offering plate or*

 *Mailed to: First United Methodist Church*

 *63 Church St.*

 *Saranac Lake, NY 12983*

*Your name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

 *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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**Payable to: FUMC Marked : Easter Flowers**

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| **MARCH BIRTHDAY** 2 Hailey Dell Jon Leavitt 3 Logan Ploof Angie James 4 Brandon Clark 5 Linda Charette Eugene Wood 6 Margaret Turnbull 99 yrs.  7 Bruce Barnard Clemos Tanzini 8 Minnie Beguin Evie Hunt Dillon Wilson 10 Aiden Hesseltine11 Mathew Martin13 Soo Hanley15 John Santy18 Barb Halla18 Jim Griebsch21 Marlene Martin22 Christine Leavitt23 Nicole Sells25 Joe Pickreign, Jr.26 Rachel Hannon29 Kerry King Eva Stinson30 Paula D’Ambrisi Samuel Stringer31 Marshall Moore MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**-0-** | **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**2 Mary Sue Dalton 3 Ruth Mader 5 Richard Lawrence Scott Leavitt Joe Fisher 6 Louise Harris 7 Austin Barry 9 Virginia Daniels Merry Watters12 Diane Kelting14 Bob Donaldson, Sr. Howard R. Myatt, Jr.15 Megan White16 Joe Pickreign, III Jeannette Sheppard17 Eileen Leavitt Robert Smith18 Jacob Heverly25 Lucas Donaldson27 Arthur Besio30 Devon Bandru Trevor FravorAPRIL ANNIVERSARIES1 Grant & Cindy Besio2 Joe & Shirley Pickreign 54 Yrs.  |

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**For Those Of You Who Are Receiving This By Mail**

PLEASE HELP US BY

GIVING US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

The best way would be to send an email to Claudia at:

firstumcsl@centralny.twcbc.com

**DAY DATE TIME EVENT PLACE\_**

\*Sat. Mar. 01 08, X 22,29 9:30 – 10:30 am Zumba - weekly Fellowship Hall

\*Sun. Mar. 02, 09,16,23,30 3;00 – 4:00 pm Zumba - weekly Fellowship Hall

\*Mon. Mar. 03, 10,17.24,31 5:00 – 6:00pm Zumba - weekly Fellowship Hall

Tues. Mar. 04 6:00 – 8:00 pm Troop 4026 & 4275 Elevator Room

Wed. Mar. 05 (Ash Wed.) 5:00-6:00 pm Community Supper Fellowship Hall

\*Thur. Mar, 06, 13,20,27 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

Tues. Mar. 11 6:00 – 8:00 pm GS Troop 4275 Elevator Room

Wed. Mar. 12 5:00-6:00 pm Community Supper Fellowship Hall

Thurs. Mar. 13 6:30 pm UMW Meet all women welcome Lounge

Sat. Mar. 15 8:00am Men’s Breakfast all men welcome Fellowship Hall

Sat. Mar. 15 4:00 – 7:00 pm Corned beef and Cabbage Dinner Fellowship Hall

Sun. Mar. 16 6:00 pm Charge Conference with District Superintendent Fellowship Hall

Mon. Mar. 17 7:00 pm Church Council Tellers Room

Tues. Mar. 18 6:00 – 7:30 pm Troop 4117 Heidi Rich Room

Tues. Mar. 18 6:00-8:00 pm GS Troop 4026 &,4275 Elevator Room

Wed. Mar. 19 5:00-6:00pm Community Supper Fellowship Hall

Thurs. Mar. 20 \*Newsletter Article Deadline – please get them in. Thank you.

Sun. Mar. 23 1:00 pm Peggy Lynn Recording

Mon. Mar. 24 7:00 pm Trustees Committee Tellers Room

Tues. Mar. 25 6:00-8:00 pm GS Troop 4026 & 4275 Elevator Room

 Wed. Mar. 27 5:00-6:00 pm Community Supper Fellowship Hall

Every Wednesday 7:00 pm AA Heidi Rich Room

**First United Methodist Church**

**of Saranac Lake**

Church and St. Bernard Streets

 **Rev. Wilbert Gamble, Pastor**

Church Office: (518) 891-3473 Parsonage: (518) 897-6078

63 Church Street 15 St. Bernard Street

Saranac Lake, NY 12983 Saranac Lake, NY 12983

**Proposed Merger of**

**The First United Methodist Church of Saranac Lake, N.Y. and the Bloomingdale United Methodist Church**

As many of you know, the Bloomingdale United Methodist Church has closed and some of the members of the church have begun to attend church services at the First United Methodist Church in Saranac Lake. Trustees of the Bloomingdale UMC decided not to abandon their church and give the assets and building back to the Conference. Instead they approached our church to find out if we would consider a merger of the two churches. The Trustees of the First UMC have discussed this issue at length and have determined that it is a good idea for the churches to merge. When the churches merge, the assets and liabilities of the Bloomingdale UMC, along with the assets and liabilities of the Saranac Lake First United Methodist Church, would become the responsibility of the new merged church.. The Bloomingdale UMC has many assets, including their building, savings and stock, and very few liabilities. If the churches merge, the new church would sell the Bloomingdale UMC building. The proceeds from the sale of the building in Bloomingdale would be used by the merged church for the furthering of our ministries and missions.

On Sunday March 16, 2014 at 6pm, both churches will have a charge conference with district superintendent Rev. William(Bill) Mudge presiding to discuss the proposed merger and vote on the matter. The charge conference’s will be held in the Fellowship Hall at the First United Methodist Church in Saranac Lake. Each church will vote independently. An information session will be held immediately preceding the charge conference at 5pm to answer any questions. If you have any questions before the meeting, please email Marilyn Gillespie at mgillespie82997@roadrunner.com.

We hope to see you at the charge conference for this very important meeting.