

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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MAY 2014 NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Heart

I give thanks to God for having allowed me the privilege to serve Him for the past six months at the First United Methodist Church of Saranac Lake. I was inducted as pastor November 1, 2014, but prior to the call to pastor this church, I was received as a member of this family under the pastoral leadership of Reverend Michael Richards. The fellowship received me with open arms and from the very beginning, I could sense something of a kindred-spirit here. The people of this fellowship do have warm hearts and have kept me encouraged; I hope that my encouragement in return has been as rich. I can hardly believe that six months have passed. I started during the high liturgical season on the Christian calendar, and already our Annual Conference here. This will be my first Annual Conference as a member of the United Methodist Church, and I will be attending as a voting member of the Conference.

As I anticipate this new annual cycle, I prayerfully seek to know how God wishes me to serve this congregation, and how this fellowship is to serve our community. As a Church, we are called to service, and therefore, we must be equipped to serve. When the Scripture speaks about equipping the Church it refers to the spiritual dynamic in which the church operates. During this past Lenten season I attempted to shed some light on various spiritual practices that are vital to our spiritual development. They help equip us to serve. We have talked about study, prayer, confession, meditation, fasting, and service. We must continue to engage these topics in our discussions and practice, as they will refine our effectiveness in serving others, and they will create an even stronger bond of fellowship. The most efficient way to explore these spiritual practices in-depth is in a bible study setting, where we can raise questions and engage in dialogue. Furthermore, we can find the encouragement to take this spiritual growth out of the abstract and integrate it into our daily lives, further preparing us to serve.

One area of service I believe we are led to cultivate in our ministry is reaching out into our local community, beginning with those who have been members of this church for a number of years, and are now considered shut-ins. They are no longer able to participate in the activities of the Church, yet we cannot forget them. We have an opportunity to exercise love toward them by offering services that we are able to provide. In our ministry we have started a Bible study at the DeChantel, we provide Sunday service recordings, serve communion, and deliver community meals, but as we think about the other needs of our shut-ins let us all consider what more we can do to enhance their lives. I do believe that it will be a rewarding and a healing experience as we reach out to our shut-ins.

Also, in relation to service, I am convinced that nothing escapes God's notice. People sometimes tend to take this as a negative, as if God is looking for every mistake we make, and can't wait to pounce on us. I believe that it is the other way around. God is looking for every opportunity, and for every reason to bless us, and to bless all that we do

in his name. Every small jester that we make to care for other people God takes note of this. Lastly, it is good to know that we are not alone in our ministry, and in our own power and strength. We have the strength of God to enable us to serve and to be a blessing to our fellowship and our community.

Again, I wish to thank you for allowing me to serve you for these past months as we look toward the future. May God's peace be unto you all.

Love and grace,

Wilbert

LOVE Offering

This year, as we prepare for the Fifth Session of the Upper New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, we will be taking a special LOVE Offering on Sunday, May 25. Every church in the Conference is asked to help support ministries and missions here in our area, nationally and globally through this offering. This year, the offering will support various missions and ministries in our Conference through grants awarded by the Reaching Our Neighbors Ministry Oversight Team. In the past, these ministries were supported, in part, by districts in the predecessor conferences; that funding is no longer available. This offering will help restore our support of these valuable missions. Nationally, we will support feeding hungry people through *Stop Hunger Now*, which will be bringing their mobile food-prepping and processing operation to Annual Conference to help us package 75,000 meals while we are gathered together. And globally, through this offering we will help fund a scholarship to Africa University in Zimbabwe.

A Few Words from Some of Our Committees -

Children and Youth

They have just started a program entitled God's People Celebrate (by Gospel Light); currently they have about 3 years of material. Last Sunday will be June 29th with a break for July and August.

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee – Last meeting was April 30th. No report.

Worship Committee – Reporting on Mother's Day. Ruth Woodward was our guest speaker and what a lovely sharing on a couple of bible readings regarding mothers and some poems about family respecting and appreciating mothers and so on. Altar flowers provided by Kay Pedroni Neveau and John Pedroni Jr., In Memory of their mother, Augusta (Gussie) Pedroni. Connor and Georgia McMinn lite the altar candles before service and after the children's message, Connor led the congregation in the Our Father. Each of the ladies at church received a carnation. Diane Kelting provided refreshments for Coffee and Fellowship time. It was truly a service of sharing self and ideas. Thank you to each of these people for enhancing our Mother's Day service. God bless all mothers on this special day and EVERY day.

United Methodist Women – will be sponsoring Blanket Sunday in May and Tools in June. The next Tea will be in October and we're looking at doing a fall tea and a spring tea.

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.

The results of the charge conference and the vote were unanimous to move forward with a merger.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Love and Best Wishes from your church family

Alan and Nancy Roberts announced the Roberts Family will be celebrating the graduation of their daughter, Racheal Roberts, from SUNY Potsdam on May 18. They are proud of her accomplishments on this occasion in her life's journey.

Hillary Pond, Daughter of Dr. Michael and Natalie Pond and granddaughter of Glenn and Betsy Pond, will graduate from Cornell University Summa Cum Laude on May 25 with a degree in finance. She will begin work at Goldman and Sachs in Manhattan in July.

Nikki Pond, daughter of Duane and Susan and granddaughter of Glenn and Betsy Pond's, graduated mid-year from Linfield College with a degree in Sports Medicine. She will receive her degree on June 1.

Emmalee Kelting, daughter of Bill and Diane, will be graduating from Albany State in December with a Masters in Special Ed. in Literacy.

MAY 2014 LECTIONARY

May 4 3rd Sun. of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:1-17
Luke 24:13-35

May 11 4th Sun. of Easter

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

May 18 5th Sun. of Easter

Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-4

May 25 6th Sun. of Easter

Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

THE WAR SONNETS: V THE SOULDIER

By Rupert Brooke

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Georgia McMinn
- 4 Kathy Cross
- 5 Lenore Leavitt 94 in 2014
- 6 Britany Clark
- 7 Jessie Aubin, Matthew Huyck
- 8 Raymond Harris
- 11 Kathy Hannon, Brian Stinson
Marsha Morgan
- 13 Allison Gregory, Ashley Kent
Brett King
- 15 Madelyn & Katelyn Gay
Patty Hall Greenia
- 17 Dave Martelle
- 18 Emily Gay, Andrew Gay
- 20 Hillary Pond
Michelle Simmons
- 22 Dustin Lawrence
- 24 Justina Deitz
- 25 Karen Dailey
- 26 Elwin Hall, Madelyn Mader
Michael Martin
Claudia Wamsganz
- 27 Erin Hesseltine
- 29 Greg Bowler

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

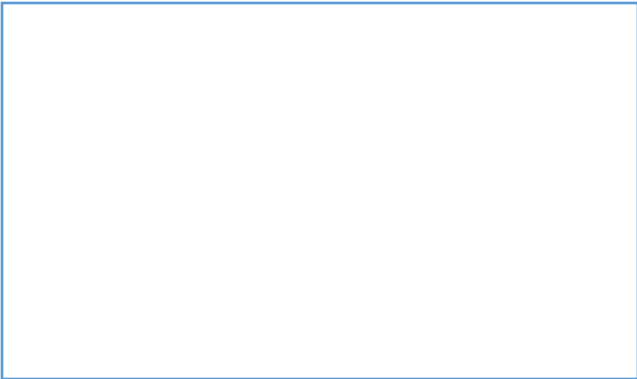
- 21 Bucky & Shirley Seney
59 yrs. 2014
- 27 John & Robin Gay

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jennifer Tuggey
- 2 John Gay
- 3 Michelle Davis, Jim Halla
Benjamin LeBlanc
- 6 Brianna Bandru
- 10 Kara Besio, Teradon Collins
Kitty Peightal,
Harley Jean Wilson
- 15 Derek Amberman, Cheri Fisher
Michael Campbell
- 16 Steve Smith
- 18 Jared Bandru, Brandon Dupree
Bruce McDowell, Ross Dailey
- 19 Joan Sleinkofer
- 20 Darrell Davies
- 22 Brandon Stamper, Austin James
- 23 Marisa Farmer, Kristyn Meyer
- 24 Linda Banta, Lee Bouton
- 28 Sheree A. Aubin
- 29 Donny Gay
- 30 Shirley Pickreign

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Rusty & Wanda Knobel 44yrs
- 13 Art & Eileen Leavitt
- 15 Mike & Jen Tuggey
- 19 Ted & Sandy Bandru
- 26 John & Lee Bouton
- 28 Joe & Cheri Fisher



**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
Mon.	May 5	6:00 – 7:00 pm	GS Troop 4214	Fellowship Hall
Mon.	May 5	7:00 pm	Worship Committee Meeting	Tellers Room
Tues.	May 6 & 20	6:00 – 7:30 pm	GS Troop 4117	Heidi Rich Room
Thurs.	May 8	6:30 pm	UMW Meet all women welcome	Lounge
Thurs.	May 15	6:00 – 7:00 pm	GS Leaders Committee Meeting	Tellers Room
Sat.	May 17	8:00am	Men's Breakfast - all men welcome	Fellowship Hall
Mon.	Apr. 21	7:00 pm	Church Council	Tellers Room
Tue.	May 20	*Newsletter Article Deadline – We would enjoy hearing from “YOU!” Please send your articles to the office.. Thanks you.		
Mon.	May 26	7:00 pm	Trustees Committee	Tellers Room
Thurs. – Sat.	May 29-31		Annual Upper New York Conference in Syracuse	

WEEKLY EVENTS

*Sun.	May 4, 18, 25	3 – 4 pm	Zumba	Fellowship Hall
*Mon.	May 5, 12, 19	5:00 – 6:00 pm	Zumba	Fellowship Hall
*Tues.	May 6, 13, 20, 27	6:00 – 7:30 pm	GS Troop 4026 or 4275	Elevator Room
*Wed.	May 7, 13, 21	12 noon	Pastor Wilbert Noon Devotional	DeChantel Apts.
*Wed.	May 7, 14, 21, 28	5:00 – 6:00 pm	Community Supper	Fellowship Hall
*Wed.	May 7, 14, 21, 28	7:00 pm	AA	Heidi Rich Room
*Thurs.	May 8, 15, 22, 29	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room