

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Heart: The Greatest Biblical Theme: Love

Love is the greatest theme that dominates all of the biblical stories and teachings of the Scripture. To be sure, the Bible is about God in relation to His people. This relationship of God with His people is defined by God's very nature – love. The Apostle John in his epistle to the Church declares that “God is love.” In other words, John suggests that God is the embodiment of what love is. This love of God has been expressed in many ways. But, the greatest expressing of God's love came by way of Jesus Christ through word and deed. Jesus reflected the true nature of the Father as he so well explained to Phillip and the other disciples during the Passover feast. It was love that compelled Jesus to accept his fate on the cross because it was the Father's will for him to do so for the world. “No greater love can be expressed than for a person to lay down his life for his friends,” Jesus exclaimed. Love is poised to make sacrifices for the beloved. This is how we know that we are loved by God, or by anyone else. Love is willing to suspend self-serving for the moment in order to give of itself to bring wholeness and wellbeing to another. This is precisely what we see in Jesus' story about the Good Samaritan. I have decided to take the liberty to insert this story line of Jesus in this article so it may help reinforce what this article intends to bring across about this godly kind of love. Here is how Jesus responded to one of the experts of the Mosaic Law who by pretense wanted to know the depth of Jesus' knowledge:

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with your entire mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live?” But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii (money) and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’” “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.” Luke 10:25-37

We are capable of loving. But, there are some conditions that require all we can muster from our being to succeed in sharing our love. For example, dying on the cross was the ultimate love test of our Lord, especially because he was without wrong toward God or any person. Though he was aware of the betrayal, and having been abandoned and denied by his disciples, and the conspiracy that the religious leaders had formed against him; yet, on the cross he forgave them all. This act of Jesus tells us that love is simply an act of grace. It is a choice of free-giving. It does not seek to be compensated or desire retribution for wrong treatment. We may never be able to love at the level that God loves us. But, we do and are expected to grow in love. We may spend the rest of our lives learning how to love. Thank God for His love and grace that He has shown and imparted to us, to aid us in our effort to share our love.



EASTER SUNDAY SPECIALS

There will be a sunrise service in Riverside Park at 7:00 am. The 8:30 Praise Service will not be held. The traditional 10:00 am service will take place in the Sanctuary.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee met on March 9, 2015 with the following people present: Pastor Wilbert Gamble, Kathy Cross, Ruth Damp, Nancy Roberts, Deborah Donaldson.

Pastor Wilbert opened the meeting with prayer.

The Lenten table display in Fellowship Hall has been received with much praise! Special thanks to Mary Kent for making the table covers, to Alan and Nancy Roberts for the "potted branches" and crosses, to Mary Kent and Bill Cross for making our "Prayer Stones", to Deborah Donaldson for the "rocks" and sand and Mary Kent for the potted Palm. The theme of the table changes weekly. It will be in place through Good Friday.

Easter is coming up. Claudia will order Palms and put slips in the bulletin for purchasing Easter lilies.

There will be a Maundy Thursday Worship Service with Communion April 2nd. The evening service will begin at 6pm with a pot luck dinner. You are asked to please bring a dish to pass and your own place setting. Beverages will be provided.

Please join us on Good Friday, April 3rd, for a Worship Service beginning at 7pm.

Pastor Wilbert will preside at the Sunrise Easter Worship Service at Riverside Park on Sunday April 5th at 7am. Everyone is invited. Bring a friend! Because of this Sunrise Service, there will be no 8:30am Service. We will celebrate Communion at the Easter Sunday, April 5th, 10am Worship Service.

It was discussed after the meeting that Worship Committee will host a Reception honoring Michael Martin on Sunday, March 22nd after the 10am Worship Service.

Next meeting for the Worship Committee will be Monday April 13, at 7pm at the church.

FROM THE STAFF/PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (S/PPRC)

The committee has been working on job descriptions for our staff. The Pastor's has been completed and circulated to the committee, those for the secretary and custodian are being reviewed and updated.

How to contact Pastor Wilbert? If you want to talk to him and want to be sure he's available, it would be best to call ahead and ask for an appointment. While he welcomes folks dropping by, with an appointment, you'll have his full attention. If you need to reach him after church office hours, his cell phone is 897-6078, his e-mail is: wgamble@s.paulsmiths.edu. Do not hesitate to call him if you need him.



DID YOU KNOW... Your church can be found on Facebook. Just go to First United Methodist Saranac Lake. (complete with capital letters and spaces.) When the page comes up, click on "like."

ADDED INCOME – ONLINE SHOPPING

The General Board of Administration and Finance of the UMC has given us a new way to bring some more income into our church. It's called umcmarket.org This program is for online shopping at a large number of stores. When you purchase through UMCmarket, which is quite easy, a percentage of your purchase price will be sent to umcmarket in our church's name. When the amount reaches \$100, a check will be sent to the church. Every little bit helps and if we work together, we can really make a difference. If you're ordering online, please set up an account, select Saranac Lake as your church and get the little cross and flame button on your computer - in the upper right hand corner. When you are ready to shop, click on that button first and then when their site opens, click on the store you are shopping from.

NOTE: If you are shopping at Amazon.com, be sure to read the special instructions just for that site to be sure your donation is recorded! So, just go to the site, follow the instructions to set up your account and happy shopping while helping the church at the same time. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Smith at 891-3915.

FUEL FUND

There is good news on this front. Our overall fuel cost through the end of February was down by 26% The bad news is that despite moving worship services to the Fellowship Hall, we used 405 more gallons of heating oil than in 2014. Part of this is due to the extreme cold weather we have had so far this year. We have been saved by a 40% decrease in the cost of heating oil!! Contributions to the Fuel Fund have helped to reduce the strain on the budget even further. To contribute to the fuel fund, envelopes are made available in the pews or just write Fuel Fund on your check in the memo line and place it in the offering place. Prayerfully consider how you can help and whatever the amount, do it with love and remember, "God Loves a Cheerful Giver!"

COMING !

Have you come to church and noticed folks you don't recognize? Do you see people you haven't seen in a while and can't put a name with the face? Would you like to be able to find contact information for someone in the church? Well, help is on the way!

We will be working with Lifetouch Studios to produce a new pictorial Directory. And, of course, you will be able to purchase photos as you wish. This is a free service to the church and there is no pressure or obligation to buy.

DETAILS: The photographers will be here June 17 & 18 from 2 – 9 pm. More information will be forthcoming.

CHURCH COUNCIL

- The regular monthly meeting was held on March 16, 2015.
- Cindy Smith presented a written proposal for Outreach, Evangelism and Communication; she also conducted a protestant service at Uihlein recently.
- Wendy Foley reported that she will be conducting a Junior High class and would like to use the elevator room for this. Georgia McMinn is the only regular younger age student. Wendy is in the process of washing all the toys in the Nursery Room and beginning to air out the room.
- Mitchel Smith reported our pledge income is down from last year at this time; use donations remain good; no ministry shares have been paid to date; fuel expense is the only thing out of the ordinary; memorial donations for Lucille Wilson have been received.
- Marilyn Gillespie reported that the legal work to complete the merger with Bloomingdale still has to be completed. The council voted to approve a change in the use donations for the Fellowship Hall as follows:
For 1-5 people - \$5, for 6-14 people - \$20 and for 15-30 people - \$1.50 per person.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The March meeting was held on April 12. Catherine Moore spoke on the needs of the Salvation Army., giving an idea of the extension work they do. The Red Kettle Campaign did not do as well this year as in previous years. The group also reviewed their mission planning. They will continue with backpacks for schools, blankets on Mother's Day, Tools of Hope on Father's Day, Operation Christmas Child and the tea parties at DeChantel. They are looking toward something new and will decide on the specifics in April.

We can help stop world hunger!

April is *Pass on the Gift* month at Heifer International. Our UMW has chosen to support this global fund-raising effort by matching any Heifer funds received here (up to \$300.) during the month of April. If you'd like to help provide food, education and care for hungry folks worldwide, UMW is providing envelopes for Heifer donations – just drop them in the offering plate or write "Heifer" on the subject line of your check made out to "UMW."

Heifer International is a non-profit, humanitarian organization whose mission is: providing livestock and training in environmentally sound agriculture to those with genuine need. Recipients also agree to *Pass on the Gift* of one or more of their animals' offspring and training others in need creating an ever-widening circle of hope.

To learn more go to www.heifer.org.

TRUSTEES HIGHLIGHTS

Work on the Tower Room and the entryway has begun. The drywall is up and the "mudding" has been done. Until the contractor has completed his work, we ask that members stay away from the area.

NOTES ON OUR VARIOUS FUNDS

These funds are all ongoing, and are in constant need of contributions.

As of February 28, 2015 the **ORGAN FUND** had a balance of \$6,468.00.

As of February 28, 2015, the **ROOF FUND** had a balance of \$34,939.73 owed to NBT Bank. We are paying \$1550.72 monthly toward that mortgage. Of late, several people have made contributions toward the principal on that loan. Doing this will reduce the overall amount owed.

PRAISE SERVICE IN NEED OF MUSICIAN

As noted in the Worship Committee report, Michael Martin has accepted a new job and has moved to Connecticut. He expects to come back periodically and wants to provide the music when he is in town. In the meantime, Bruce Barnard has located a laptop computer and has downloaded the CD's for our three hymn books onto it. This computer will be available for services. See Bruce or Marilyn to learn how to program it. It will be located in Pastor Wilbert's office and is only for use with church services!

We hope that using the computer will be temporary and that someone who plays a musical instrument will step forward and donate their services in selecting and accompanying the praise music.

A NEED BEING FULFILLED

After three years of faithful service as our custodian, Marlene Martin has decided to step down. Fortunately, two of our own, Alan and Nancy Roberts have agreed to give the task a try. We hope they will decide to accept the position.

LECTIONARY for APRIL

April 5

Easter Sunday
Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
I Corinthians 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

April 12

Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
I John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

April 19

Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
I John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

April 26

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
I John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18



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 Watters
 12 Diane Kelting
 14 Bob Donaldson, Sr.
 Howard R. Myatt, Jr.
 15 Megan White
 16 Joe Pickreign, III
 Jeannette Sheppard
 17 Eileen Leavitt
 Robert Smith
 18 Jacob Heverly
 25 Lucas Donaldson
 27 Arthur Besio
 30 Devon Bandru
 Trevor Fravor

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

1 Grant & Cindy Besio
 2 Joe & Shirley Pickreign
 55 Yrs. 2015

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 Georgia McMinn
 4 Kathy Cross
 5 Lenore Leavitt 95 in 2015
 6 Britany Clark
 7 Jessie Aubin
 Matthew Huyck
 8 Raymond Harris
 11 Kathy Hannon
 Marsha Morgan
 Brian Stinson
 13 Allison Gregory
 Ashley Kent
 Brett King
 15 Madelyn & Katelyn Gay
 Patty Hall Greenia
 17 Dave Martelle
 18 Emily & 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
 60 yrs. 2015
 27 John & Robin Gay

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

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
Thur.	Apr. 2	6:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service and Potluck supper	Fellowship Hall
Fri.	Apr. 3	7:00 pm	Good Friday service – readings and hymns	Fellowship Hall
Thur.	Apr. 9	6:30 pm	UMW meeting	Heidi Rich Room
Mon.	Apr. 13	7:00 pm	Worship Committee	Fellowship Hall
Thur.	Apr. 16	6:00 pm	Girl Scout Leader's meeting	Tellers Room
Sat.	Apr. 18	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
Mon.	Apr. 20	7:00 pm	Church Council	Tellers Room
The week of April 19-25			Rummage Sale and set up	Fellowship Hall
Mon.	Apr. 27	7:00 pm	Trustees	Teller's Room

WEEKLY EVENTS

*Sun.	Apr. 12, 26	5:00 – 6:00 pm	Zumba	Fellowship Hall
*Wed.	Apr. 1, 8, 15, 29	12 noon	Pastor Wilbert Noon Devotional	DeChantel Apts.
*Wed.	Apr. 1, 8, 15, 29	5-6 pm	Community Supper	Fellowship Hall
*Wed.	Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	7:00 pm	AA	Heidi Rich Room
*Thurs.	Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
*Fri.	Apr., 3, 10, 17, 24	7:00 pm	Bible Study	Lounge
*Sat.	Apr. 4, 11, 18	9:30 – 10:30	Zumba	Fellowship Hall
*Sat.	Apr. 4, 11, 18, 25	5:00 pm	Lutheran Services	Sanctuary

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63 Church Street
Saranac Lake, NY 12983



**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