

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Saranac Lake, NY 12983

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FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

Important Reminder: February 1, 2015 will be a Communion Breakfast. On that day, there will only be one service, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

From the Pastor's Heart: Repent and Believe in the Good News

Mark 1:14-20

What is Repentance? When used of human beings, it ordinarily indicates a complete change of mind, a forsaking of one's past existence, and an acceptance of a whole new approach to life.

This proclamation to Repent and Believe in the Good News of Jesus Christ is about embracing a new way of living; Embracing a new life, and a whole new way of being. It is a language of hope that inspires, and emboldens.

It is expected that repentance will be a continuous exercise of letting go of those things that impede our relationship with God and our neighbors, in which we might comprise love for expediency.

Both the book of Jonah, and Gospel Mark parallel on this matter of repentance. God, out of his great love, calls for repentance. Why? In the case of the Ninevites, Jonah was assigned by God to forecast a warning that destruction of their population was imminent if they continued on their course of corruption. If they were to continue to do the ruthless kinds of things that they were practicing, it would ultimately lead to their demise. In God's presence, those things were deemed wrong doing, and so, they were warned of the impending consequence. By their own admission, they were on the verge of being wiped out by some catastrophe.

God, out of love, sent Jonah to Nineveh to give them hope that they might have a chance to change their ways, to turn their lives around, and to correct their erroneous behaviors. There is a scripture which states that God sets before us the consequences of life and death. God tells us to choose life that we may live. The act of repentance is then, the result of turning to that life which God offers by way of Jesus Christ. Choosing to accept and believe in the good news of God, offers us a life that is rich with the goodness of God's grace.

The bible teaches us that we sometimes tend to practice things that work to our own detriment, and that these are the very things that destroy us. Therefore, Jesus calls for repentance because he knows that the ways of the human race, apart from God, are futile. From our perspective, a life apart from God may appear to be promising, but it is in fact, a dead end.

Jesus sees the plight of the human condition, with its vices and inclinations, and he sets out to unfold the message of God's kingdom. The news that he brings to his people, as well as to us today, is not only in words, but also in power. Lives are changed. People are restored. Multiple lives are touched in the most astounding ways. People are made whole, and are set free; and people can see that it is indeed, the good news of God. Repentance is based on our willingness to turn to God, and to follow his lead.

When we think about the Ninevites, we see that their problems arose from their own actions, and it looked as though God was going to punish them for it, but it isn't always God who punishes, we often punish ourselves. We become trapped by our own doing, and when we violate such principles as love, it leads to a

breakdown in our communities, our nation, and our world; and all stems from our personal lives. Therefore, as the Lord says, repent and believe in the good news, because God always stands ready to receive us with grace. Amen.



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

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 and a large number of stores including Sears, Land's End, Staples, Best Buy, The Disney Store and many, many more. When you purchase through UMCmarket, which is quite easy, a percentage which depending on what that store has set, 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.

So, with the holiday shopping season looming, 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, please 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

We're coming upon the winter heating season once again and even with moving downstairs and the help from the Lutherans, we fall short of reaching our goal. Our fuel costs have increased over \$1,000 compared to this time last year. In order to help keep us on track, we are asking our church family to contribute to a Fuel Fund.

To do so, envelopes will be 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. We haven't done one in a while and there have been several changes so it's time to do it again. Lifetouch is the company that bought Olan Mills and they have done directories for several churches as well as for our Upper New York Annual Conference. 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.

So, watch for details after the New Year begins and help us get to know one another better!

CHURCH COUNCIL The January meeting of the Church Council took place on January 19. Cindy Smith reported that she plans to conduct a visitation program for interested members of the congregation. Mitchel Smith reported that giving in 2014 was \$11,200 over the previous year. Festival offerings increased by \$1,100, the fuel appeal is \$1,900 over 2014 and building use donations are up by \$1,700 (mainly due to Zumba). Chairperson Barb Halla reported that Operation Christmas Child was successful. The Clinton/Essex/Franklin County group sent out 8,600 boxes! Pastor Wilbert reported the the current Bible study series is winding down and that there will be a new series starting during Lent.

There is a 2015 planning calendar posted on the bulletin board in the Teller's Room. Please check it before planning an event. If the date and time are 'clear' please add your activity. Please use the dry-erase markers provided.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN COLLEGE STUDENTS

We are trying to update our information on college students in our congregation. Please contact the church office if there is a college student in your family.

NOTE: Sunday services will be in the Fellowship Hall through the end of March.

WINTER SNOW REMOVAL

As always, the sidewalks need to be shoveled so that our worshippers do not track too much snow into the sanctuary. If you can help, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary. The time slots are for a week at a time. The responsibilities are listed at the top of the sheet. PLEASE help us out. Thank you.

NOTES ON OUR VARIOUS FUNDS

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

As of December 31, 2014, the **ORGAN FUND** had a balance of \$6,343.00.

As of December 31, 2014, the **ROOF FUND** had a balance of \$42,792.24 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.

THANK YOU

Vic and Donna Burman have donated a paper folding machine to the church. This will make several of our regular tasks easier.

TOWER ROOM

The restoration work has begun. During this time, we ask that our members NOT check on what is happening as we don't want the dust and dirt tracked around the building.

TRUSTEES HIGHLIGHTS

At the January meeting, the group agreed that the current officers should continue. We decided to install a lock on the inside of the door to the ladies room and to remove the partitions that are there. Tom Hall is working on unclogging the sink. A space heater has been purchased for the Pastor's Office so that it won't be necessary to set the thermostat to manual to provide heat there. We reviewed an estimate for painting the Fellowship Hall and determined that there is a lot of other work that needs to be done first; we need to work on the electrical lines and find a way to enclose the steam pipes. The walls in the Fellowship Hall have not been washed since before the new floor was installed. Organizing a wall washing project seemed like a good Eagle Scout project so we will be contacting local Scout leaders to see if they know of a scout needing a project. We discussed having a roast beef dinner, coupled with a concert. The income from the dinner would support the Community Supper.

LECTIONARY for FEBRUARY

February 1

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

February 8

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 15

Last Sunday after Epiphany
2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 22

First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Cathy LeBlanc
- 2 Megan Kilroy
Dan Lee
- 3 Andrew LeBlanc
Joshua LeBlanc
- 4 Morgan Kilroy
Dylan Mader
- 5 Tom Hesseltine
- 7 Brianna Meyer
Anita Wilson
- 8 Jill Barnard
Brandon Finnegan
Brenda Reeve
- 10 Reggie D'Ambrisi
Walter Tanzini
- 11 Shirley Seney
- 12 Adam Hesseltine
- 13 Rusty Knobel
- 16 Michael Farmer
- 17 Bill Kelting
- 20 Clancy Hanley
- 21 Cory Pickreign
Brandy Swentusky
- 22 Charlotte Hall
Marlene Hare
- 23 Dorothy Colby
Stephanie DeNicolo
Brandi Moody
- 24 Taylor Murphy
- 27 Erin Banta
- 28 John Wamsganz

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Alan & Nancy Roberts
- 16 Jeff & Sally Murray

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Hailey Dell
Jon Leavitt
- 3 Logan Ploof
Angie James
- 4 Brandon Clark
- 5 Linda Charette
Eugene Wood
- 6 Margaret Turnbull
- 7 Bruce Barnard
Clemos Tanzini
- 8 Minnie Beguin
Evie Hunt
Dillon Wilson
- 10 Aiden Hesseltine
- 11 Mathew Martin
- 13 Soo Hanley
- 15 John Santy
- 17 Keri Walp
- 18 Barb Halla
- 18 Jim Griebusch
- 21 Marlene Martin
- 22 Christine Leavitt
- 23 Nicole Sells
- 25 Joe Pickreign, Jr.
- 26 Rachel Hannon
- 29 Kerry King
Bill Rich
Eva Stinson
- 30 Paula D'Ambrisi
Samuel Stringer
- 31 Marshall Moore

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

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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
Sun.	Feb. 1	10 am	Communion Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
Mon.	Feb. 16	7:00 pm	Church Council	Tellers Room
Wed.	Feb. 18		Ash Wednesday	
Sat.	Feb. 21	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
Mon.	Feb. 23	7:00 pm	Trustees	Teller's Room
<u>WEEKLY EVENTS</u>				
*Sun.	Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22	3 – 4 pm	Zumba	Fellowship Hall
*Mon.	Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23	5:00 – 6:00 pm	Zumba	Fellowship Hall
*Wed.	Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25	12 noon	Pastor Wilbert Noon Devotional	DeChantel Apts.
*Wed.	Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25	5-6 pm	Community Supper	Fellowship Hall
*Wed.	Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25	7:00 pm	AA	Heidi Rich Room
*Thurs.	Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
*Fri.	Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27	7:00 pm	Bible Study	Lounge
*Sat.	Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28	9:30 – 10:30	Zumba	Fellowship Hall
*Sat..	Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28	5:00 pm	Lutheran Services	Fellowship Hall .

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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