

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

63 Church Street

Saranac Lake, NY 12983

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JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Heart: Restoration: Renew/Refresh/ and Starting A-new

The building that we currently occupy as our place of worship was built in 1927. Plans were given to erect this building which now stands prominently where Church Street and Saint Bernard Street intersect. It has been standing here for well over eighty years. As solidly as it appears, both within and without, over the years, it has required measures to repair and to refurbish parts that have been worn down by time and use; part of the continuing aging process. Restoration and maintenance of old buildings is necessary in order to continue their usefulness. By comparison the 23rd Psalm makes this reality clear about us as well. We too, as people, need restoration and renewal. Renovation of old ways is necessary in order to live a new life. The Apostle Paul uses the expression the "old man" and the "new man" as illustrations in his writings to describe the ongoing transformation from a life driven by habits of dysfunction and ill-health to one of balance and wellbeing. The old man represents a life that is separated from God, driven by self-centered human ambition without regard for others. The "new man" represents the new birth, being born of God and of His inclination to love. The old man is found to be faulty in character and has an inclination to practice wrong doing in thought, word, and deed. We all may have this struggle between the old and new way of life, but transformation is possible. Romans 12:1-2 says, "...do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove that which is the perfect will of God."

How shall we begin this process of restoration? As we reflect on the close of year 2014, we might feel a sense of relief of having made it through the year, in spite of the bumps along the way however severe. With the New Year we may set our vision to do some renovation on our personal lives to recover from the turbulence of the past year. Quite often at the start of a New Year many people set their goals and dreams to do wonderful things to enhance the quality of life; but, the question again is how shall we begin? A good rule for those of us who have settled on the Christian faith is to start with God. "Trust" is most valuable when it comes to our relationship with Him. Have faith in God. If there is anyone who understands the true quality of life it is God.

God desires to assist us in our endeavors to have a life that is rich and meaningful; it brings honor upon Him, others, and ourselves. It is a challenge to set lofty dreams that requires perseverance and sacrifice. Some restoration projects require considerable planning, time, and persistence. To include others as a support keeps us on track with making significant changes in our lives. This is the genius of the fellowship when it truly understands its power. Our calling as a fellowship, as people of God, is about restoration. One great aspect of how the fellowship can help restore people is to help them understand the importance of letting go of the habits of the past – things that have caused us to be broken. Letting things go heals and restores. Biblically, the ministry of the Church is called the Ministry of Reconciliation which means to restore and to renew that which was broken between us and God. When the Church as the body of Christ fully comes to realize the immensity of its power given to it by God to be a change agent in the world, then she will truly come to know that, "with God nothing is impossible." Things that were previously broken can be mended.

It is good to know that renewal is always possible with God, and that He has ordained the Church to exercise His will on earth to bring about that renewal. This renewal, or restoration plan of God, was fully endorsed when Jesus started his ministry. His very first message was based on his purpose for coming as foretold by Isaiah the prophet. Jesus read the Scripture to his people from Isaiah regarding himself: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the

captives and oppressed, and recovery of sight to the blind; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” In essence, the Lord has come to restore us. 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.”

COMMUNITY SUPPER NEWS

The Wednesday night supper is in need of **plastic containers with lids** to put takeout meals in. All size's are needed. If you have any to donate would you bring them to church on Sunday or drop them off any morning at the church kitchen. Please attach the lids to the containers as it makes it easier not to have to match them up. Thank you for your help.

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!

ECUMENICAL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FOR DECEMBER

Visit the Ecumenical Council website to make contributions or for information: <http://slecumenical.weebly.com>

UPDATE ON VIRGINIA BRINK As mentioned in the bulletin, Virginia fell and injured her hip. She is currently in assisted living. Her address is: Crescent Point, 417 Main Street, Apartment 315,, Niantic, Conn. 06357. Her phone number is 860-691-0353.

CHURCH COUNCIL 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 The Christmas party was it usual rousing success.

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.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee meet on Dec 1, 2014 with the following members at the meeting: Pastor Wilbert Gamble, Mary Kent, Nancy Roberts, Betsy Pond, Carol Griebisch, Deborah Donaldson.

Our new Chairperson of the committee. Kathy Cross. presided over her first meeting.

Pastor Wilbert offered a prayer to start the meeting.

We discussed our move downstairs starting worship services on January 4. Kathy was to call Jim Halla and check about his re-waxing the floor. Need to move desk to be used as alter. Move small cross and 2 candles downstairs. Trustees will be taking care of the enclosure where the organ will go downstairs. It was suggested taking the cubes from choir room, downstairs to keep choir robes in.

Pastor Wilbert will be away from December 25 to January 10.

It was suggested that we put the name tags away for now. If anyone has something they want on the back table in the sanctuary, it is suggested you take it.

It was suggested that the time of worship service's be changed, but we do need a vote from the congregation. 10am to 9:30am and move up 8:30am service.

The Worship committee will sponsor a Pot Luck lunch right after the January 18 worship service. Bring a dish to pass and your own place setting.

Advance notice: On Sunday February 1 the Worship committee will sponsor a Communion Breakfast which will be held downstairs during the 10am worship service. There will be no early service that day. The Worship committee will provide the food for this one. The next Worship committee meeting will be Monday January 12 at 7:30pm at the church.

POT LUCK LUNCH

The Worship committee will sponsor a Pot Luck lunch that will take place right after the 10am worship service on January 18. You are asked to please bring a dish to pass. It would be appreciated

if you would bring your own place setting. There will be tea, coffee and milk provided. Come and join your church members, family members and friends in a most delicious meal. See you all on January 18.

KOFFEE HOUR THANK YOU FROM DEBORAH DONALDSON

I would like to thank everyone who was so wonderful to help with the coffee hour this past year.

To start with, A BIG EXTRA SPECIAL THANK YOU goes out to Barbara Darrah, whom ever Sunday would start the coffee pot, so we always had that wonderful, good hot coffee right on time. Thank you

to the following people for helping: Clarrice Shore, Ruth Damp, Roz Deitz, Charlotte Hall, Joan Sleinkofer, Diane & Emmalee Kelting, Jennifer Tuggey, Marilyn Gillespie, Ruth Woodward, Virginia Santy, Nancy Roberts, Eileen Leavitt, Sookie Hanley, Ross & Karen Dailey. Again I say thank you so much to everyone who helped with coffee hour. Your help was greatly appreciated.

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

First United Methodist Church of Saranac Lake, NY
Nominations & Leadership Development Committee Report for 2015

Local Lay Leader Bill Kelting
Lay Member to Annual Conference Bill Kelting
Lay Member Reserve Marilyn Gillespie
Church Council Chair Barbara Halla Members at Large Ruth Woodward, Janean McElyea, Bill Cross
Church Council Secretary Marilyn Gillespie
Worship Committee Chair Kathryn Cross, Ruth Damp, Carol Griebusch
Trustees Class of 2015 Class of 2016 Class of 2017
Grant Besio Elwin Hall Marilyn Gillespie
Betsy Pond James Halla Marlene Martin
John Wamsganz Anita Meserole James Pierson
Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee
Class of 2015 Class of 2016 Class of 2017
Ruth Damp Michael Foley Travis McElyea
Cathy Hannon Linda Pierson Marilyn Gillespie
Cathy LeBlanc Cindy Smith, Chair
Nominations & Leadership Development Committee
Class of 2015 Class of 2016 Class of 2017
Michael Foley Yvona Fast Michelle Davis
Marilyn Gillespie Nancy Roberts Jennifer Tuggey
Charlotte Hall Cindy Smith
Membership Secretary Claudia Wamsganz
Historians Cindy Smith & Louise Harris
Librarian Joan Sleinkofer
Finance Committee/Stewardship Chair Mitchel Smith Financial Secretary
Treasurer Bruce Barnard Auditors Darrell Davies
Finance Committee members at large Linda Charette James Pierson
Parsonage Committee Chair Charlotte Hall
Children & Youth Team Wendy Foley
Evangelism, Outreach and Mission: Cindy Smith, Chair Jennifer Tuggey, Joan Sleinkofer, Nancy Roberts, Wilbert Gamble, Virginia Santy, Bill Kelting, Michael Foley

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 November 30, 2014, the **ORGAN FUND** had a balance of \$6,313.00.

As of November 30, the **ROOF FUND** had a balance of \$44,186.93 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.

LECTIONARY for JANUARY

January 4

Epiphany Sunday
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

January 11

First Sunday after Epiphany
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 18

Second Sunday after Epiphany
I Samuel 3:1-10
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
I Corinthians 6:1-20
John 1:43-51

January 25

Third Sunday after Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
I Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20

**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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Mark Farmer
4 Savannah Simmons
6 Ryan Dailey
Thomas Farrington
11 Sherri Finlayson
Autumn Fravor
Wilbert Gamble
McKayla Hall
12 Lee Freeburg
14 Megan Simmons
15 Adrienne Donaldson
20 Matt Banta
21 Shannon Myatt
25 Sandy Bandru
26 Todd Farrington
Kierstin Pickreign
29 Emma Mae Besio
Virginia Brink
Patti Finlayson

**JANUARY
ANNIVERSARIES**

11 Norris & Jessie Aubin
12 Bill & Diane Kelting
18 Troy & Luann Farmer
28 Robert & Sue Knobel

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

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
Mon.	Jan. 12	7:30 pm	Worship Committee	Teller's Room
Sat.	Jan. 17	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
Sun.	Jan. 18	11:00 am	Pot Luck lunch	Fellowship Hall
Mon.	Jan. 19	7:00 pm	Church Council	Teller's Room
Mon.	Jan. 26	7:00 pm	Trustees	Teller's Room
<u>WEEKLY EVENTS</u>				
*Sun.	Jan. . 4, 11, 18, 25	3 – 4 pm	Zumba	Fellowship Hall
*Mon.	Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26	5:00 – 6:00 pm	Zumba	Fellowship Hall
*Wed.	Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28	12 noon	Pastor Wilbert Noon Devotional	DeChantel Apts.
*Wed.	Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28	5-6 pm	Community Supper	Fellowship Hall
*Wed.	Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28	7:00 pm	AA	Heidi Rich Room
*Thurs.	Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
*Fri.	Jan. 16, 23, 30	7:00 pm	Bible Study	Lounge
*Sat.	Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	9:30 – 10:30	Zumba	Fellowship Hall
*Sat..	Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	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