

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN GREATER THINGS

What is an individual when they are walking alone? They might be thinking, day dreaming or imagining as they wander. When walking solo, one might contemplate, reflect and or decide the next step in their journey. The ability to reflect. We humans are a unique in this way and an elemental part of creation. No other species is so deeply made. Other beings don't need figure out what bills to pay next, channel to watch or what time they should get up in the morning. The Zebra has few political opinions or sports favorites. These problems and there manifestations are unique to our lot and that is the wonder of human creation. The book of Genesis would designate us as "the likeness of God", created in His image. Whoa! So that walk alone, in the midst of creation and with the creator is in fact a truly unique experience. What we may often take for granted is in fact, the pinnacle of God's design for His blessed world. As it says in Psalm 8, "Who is Man that you are mindful of Him?"

Who are we? A great question for the individual, the family unit and those of us who gather in His name each Sunday morning. Whether alone or with another, we are called by the spirit to define ourselves and those around us in loving, compassionate and courageous endeavors. We are not just who we say we are (that is a worldly definition) but who we show ourselves to be. We are ultimately what others experience in us and what we experience in and with them. It is through such relationships (along with the one we have in the Lord through the Holy Spirit) that we test our words, discover our talents and grow deeper into the knowledge of our abilities, limitations and humanness. It is here that we learn the meaning of savior and all too frequently that of sin (our uncanny ability to hurt others from our lack of investment). It is here that we learn about forgiveness. It is here you may want to ask about "Great Things" as it says in the title?Now we can come to that.

Along time ago I learned that if you don't take the time to learn, you don't truly learn. Over the Summer with the Help of Brother Michael Martin and Brother Bill Cross, we embarked on a theme of learning about the Holy Spirit and what it is trying to teach and give to us for a successful life. We preached it in Saranac Lake and Bloomingdale. It was well received and many in the church appreciated the chance to grow in spiritual knowledge. We all profit when we learn or relearn what is important. For this reason we are continuing our emphasis on Christian education and spiritual awareness. Our individual commitments to Christ are, of course, personal but our walk together is cooperate, done together. Growing and learning are the essentials to life just as stagnation and idleness lead to death. We are created to be vibrant. (Don't be surprised if we have an Altar call some Sunday so those who have not dedicated their lives to the relationship offered by the Lord may do so.)

In October we will all see a change in our worship time and also, at times, our worship format. This is to allow us to grow in the spirit. We will have a Christian education hour each week to either join or sit in on should the spirit move you. This fall we will hold a class on dealing with Dementia and another on our needed role in combating Racism and its many evil manifestations. We will explore books of the Bible, argue over issues and grow in the messy process of learning what the Lord would have us do. We are wonderfully created and it does not matter if one is 6 or 96 we have the ability to love, live and learn. It is the promise of Christ that these spiritual gifts we gain now will be in and with us forever. Join us and perhaps bring a friend. Who knows, they and you might find what you are looking for. Peace in Christ!

Blessings Pastor Eric

WORDS OF WISDOM

Prayer is a journey into the great relationship we have with God. What are the right times to pray? What is the right way to pray? No matter what we say or when, God is always there. Praying to God is a wonderful privilege.

What are you thanking God for today? God often gets blamed when something goes wrong, but he seldom gets credit for all the things that go right. No one knows how many times God has protected us from harm. But when there is a tragedy, we ask "Where was God?" Consider all the wonderful things God does silently on your behalf each day. God keeps giving us reasons to praise Him.

Read Luke 10:30-37, the story Jesus told about the good Samaritan. Faith is seen in our actions. May we be ready and willing to help someone at any time.

Four habits worth having: First, the habit of prayer Second, the habit of study Third, the habit of giving and, last, the habit of fellowship.

We are "the light of the world." It is the small everyday deeds of ordinary people that keep the darkness at bay. There is one force that the darkness cannot conquer - the force of loving acts of kindness done in Jesus name, those who turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, forgive and love their enemies. So look for the opportunity to perform acts of kindness today to bring the light of Christ to others and light up your world.

The word "mercy" means "steadfast love." It refers to God's faithfulness. "Wait on the LOrd from day to day, strength he provides in His own way; there's no need to worry, no need to fear, He is our God who is always near." (FORTNA) Remembering God's provision for yesterday gives hope and strength for today. Don't worry about tomorrow either - God is already there.

On God's family, every person has a job to do; there are no spectators. We weep and laugh together, we bear each others burdens, We pray for and encourage each other. We challenge and help each other to turn from sin. We need each other to get to where God wants us to go.

CHARGE CONFERENCE COMING Saturday, October 6 at 4 at the church.

This is an annual event, held this year with our new District Superintendent. The primary responsibilities shall be to review and evaluate the total mission and ministry of the church, receive reports, and adopt objectives and goals recommended by the church council that are in keeping with the objectives of The United Methodist Church. It is also the time for us to elect three trustees as the class 2021. By New York State law, this must be done by a written ballot. Candidates for the class of 2021 are: John Ellithorpe, Steven Land and **Betsy Pond**.

DID YOU NOTICE The lovely new wooden railing at the front entrance? It was made and installed by Rick Potts, a master carpenter and member of the Lutheran congregation.

SARANAC LAKE ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY

October is pasta and sauces month. Please add your donation to the red shopping cart at the back of the sanctuary.

CHURCH COUNCIL - IMPORTANT MOTIONS

1. All budget requests are due by the Church Council meeting on November 28. We should have the budget in place by January 1.
2. Discussion regarding service times Do we go with Christian Education or a Praise Service? The decision was to work on Christian Education this year. At this point in time, it looks as though we don't have any children in Sunday school; Pastor Eric listed several families with children that we could do something with. If we advertise and use word of mouth, we could recruit children.

MOVE (Kelting/Woodward) to **APPROVE** the following schedule:

Methodist Service 9:30 – 10:30

Christian education 10:45 – 11:30

Lutheran Service: 11:45 – 12:30 **CARRIED unanimously**

This will start October 14th.

3. Finance Notes:

We received \$20,000 to provide a roof for the Handicapped Ramp.

Salaries are \$5,535 less than last year.

Our fuel expense so far is \$3,426 greater than last year reflecting cold weather and increased cost Per gallon.

ECUMENICAL COUNCIL NOTES

Samaritan House:

Welcomed its 100th resident since we opened a year or so ago, and we expect to be full for the upcoming winter.

Debbie McCarthy has been conducting a Life Skills program for the residents, including a cooking class, which she and the residents share.

We've had some volunteers for painting from the veterans' group and are looking for more.

The Go Fish Thrift Store at High Peaks Church is offering vouchers for Samaritan House residents.

Grace Pantry:

We have 30 volunteers at this point, which is great, since demand remains high, with around 40 households participating each week.

Salvation Army:

We gave out 18 vouchers in August to assist with paying items like past due rent and utility bills, and we also bought school clothing for six kids.

We raised over \$12,000 last winter through the Red Kettle campaign. This year's campaign is starting to gear up. We begin around Thanksgiving and will have at least three locations, as well as counter-top donation boxes in at least three locations.

We had 50 volunteers last year and would love to have more. Cathy Moore of the Adirondack Daily Enterprise is coordinating the Red Kettle Campaign for this year. To volunteer, give Cathy a call at (518) 891-2600 or email her at

cmoore@adirondackdailyenterprise.com.

The Council's **annual Progressive Dinner** will be held on Saturday, October 13. We begin at the First Presbyterian at 5:00. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!!

The **Annual CROP Walk** to raise money for the hungry is also on October 13th. Half the money raised stays here in Saranac Lake to focus on those in our area who are in need of food. We could use some volunteers to help organize it!

Ecumenical Gospel Choir Workshop - Sponsored by the Peace and Justice Group on October 27 and being led by the SUNY Plattsburgh Gospel Choir and its director, Dexter Criss. Registration opens at 9:30 a.m. at the Methodist Church and includes a potluck lunch and dinner. An evening concert is planned for the end of the day. Sounds great!

REMEMBER WITH A CARD

Rose Nadon: Neighborhood House, PO Box 46, Keene Valley, NY 12943
Genevieve Clarkson: Champlain Valley Senior Community, 10 Gilliland Lane, Willsboro, NY 12996

Margaret Turnbull: 3873 Burnup Road Black River, NY 13612

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."

LECTIONARY for OCTOBER

October 7

20th Sunday after Pentecost
 Job 1:1; 2:1-10
 Psalm 26
 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
 Mark 10:2-16
 World Communion Sunday

October 14

21th Sunday after Pentecost
 Job 23:1-9; 16-17
 Psalm 22:1-15
 Hebrews 4:12-16
 Mark 10:17-31
 Children's Sabbath

October 21

22th Sunday after Pentecost
 Job 38:1-7
 Psalm 104:1-9; 24; 35c
 Hebrews 5:1-10
 Mark 10:35-45
 Laity Sunday

October 28

23rd Sunday after Pentecost
 Job 42:1-6; 10-17
 Psalm 34:1-8
 Hebrews 7:23-28
 Mark 10:46-52

WEEKLY EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2018

*Sun. Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28	11:45 am	Lutheran Service	Sanctuary
*Sun. Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28	7:00 pm	Zumba	Fellowship Hall
*Mon. Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	6:30 pm	Zumba	Fellowship Hal
*Tue. Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	6:30 pm	Zumba	Fellowship Hall
*Wed. Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	11:30 am	Devotions	DeChantel Apts.
*Wed. Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	5:00 – 6:00 pm	Community Supper	Fellowship Hall
*Wed. Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	8:00 pm	AA	Heidi Rich Room
*Thur. Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25	11:00 am	ADK JuBELLation Ringers practice	
*Thur. Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25	12:00 pm	Choir practice	
*Thur. Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25	6:00 pm	Zumba	Fellowship Hall
*Fri. Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26	9:00 am – noon	Pastor Eric will be in his office	

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2018

Mon. Oct. 1	5:00 pm	Ecumenical Council meeting	Lounge
Thur. Oct. 4	6:45 pm	Trustees	Teller's Room
Sat. Oct. 6	4:00 pm	Charge Conference	
Mon. Oct. 8	COLUMBUS DAY	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
Thur. Oct. 11	6:30 pm	United Methodist Women	
Sat. Oct. 13	5:00 pm	Ecumenical Council Progressive Dinner	
Sun. Oct. 14			
Wed. Oct. 17	6:45 pm	Church Council	Teller's Room
Thur. Oct. 18		Lutheran meeting	
Sat. Oct. 20	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast/ TORCH program	
Sat. Oct. 27		Plattsburgh State Gospel Choir	
Sun. Oct. 28	12:30 pm	CrossWinds Studio Program	

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Peter Donnelly
3 Elaine Amberman
7 Cindy Smith
10 Pat Brown
12 Ryan Morgan
Maria T. White
14 George Gregory
18 Helen May
20 Sharon Farmer
22 Jean Kern
23 Kent Robinson
24 Tom Hall
Forest Deitz
26 Tessa Dell
Sean Madden
Heather Smith
27 Ethan James
28 Luann Farmer
Liz Finlayson
Kimberly Finnegan
Rose Nadon
29 Katelyn Madden
Tammy Wilson
30 Jennifer Leavitt
31 Lisa Wilson

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

11 Bob & Deborah Donaldson
13 Elwin & Charlotte Hall
15 Jim & Carol Griebsch
20 Steve & Martina Lane
28 John & Claudia
Wamsganz

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Aimee Donaldson
5 Erin Farmer
6 Nancy James
7 Megan Bouton Bromley
8 Whitney Morgan
9 Blake Gregory
11 Karen King
12 Tommy Finnegan
13 Connor McMinn
14 Mitch Smith
15 Bill Amberman
Samuel Smith
19 Grant Besio
21 Deborah Donaldson
22 Matthew Finlayson
Eleanor Hunt
Nori Hunt
Eric Wilson
23 Rachel Rose Kelting
24 Joab Besio
28 Carol Griebsch
29 **Rachel Roberts**

NOV. ANNIVERSARIES

24 Glenn & Betsy Pond

**First United Methodist
Church**

Worship Service 9:45 a.m.

Coffee Hour 10:45 a.m.

**Sunday School resumes in
September on the first and
third Sundays.**

SUNDAY WORSHIP

ALL ARE WELCOME

*First United Methodist Church
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