



Vol. 11 Issue 1 • January-February 2020

P.O. Box 270 | Tunbridge, VT 05077

(802) 889-9828

thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com

www.tunbridgechurch.org

Facebook: The Tunbridge Church

Pastor's Corner

The Rev. Dr. Jennifer S. Cook

Dear Friends and Family in Christ,

It is a new day, a new month and a new year. Everything is fresh, the calendars await the first appointments and plans. It is the same with our church calendar. Although there is some carry over from 2019, the new calendar will soon be filled with opportunities to serve and enhance your spiritual life.

We are created for new beginnings. For fresh starts January is a perfect time to let go of the past that binds you and move forward in faith and with confidence.

Every generation has probably said that we need God now more than ever. The world's problems are greater than any other time in history. It seems that every region of the world is in turmoil and nobody has any lasting solutions to the problems. There is conflict in our world, nation, community, homes, and in our hearts. But, not all is lost. There is hope.

That hope is our faith and trust in Jesus whose spirit will change us from within. When the love of God and abiding peace are realized and experienced, the world doesn't seem so hopeless and out of balance. We will be able to view the gloom of the world through a new lens and breathe new possibilities into it.

To develop an intimate relationship with God, it is necessary to spend time with God. This can be done by practicing spiritual disciplines. The challenge for this new beginning is to decide on a spiritual discipline and practice it daily.

Some people say that prayer and meditation (spiritual practices) are wasting time with God. So be it. Spend time alone in the quiet of a room and meet God maybe for the first time. It is a wonderful way to begin or end a day. It doesn't take any special equipment or talents...just you, as you are, today, right now. Make the commitment. Write it on the calendar each day if you must!

I wish for you a blessed New Year and may you realize God's abiding presence.

It is a joy to be your pastor and I'll see you in church!

Jenny

Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen

Happy new year and best wishes for a year of health, happiness and peace. As the years change we can look back at the last several weeks with satisfaction. While shoppers and businesses were pressed because there was one less week between Thanksgiving and Christmas, we at The Tunbridge Church took it in stride.

Thanksgiving bags for seniors, done. Church decorating, done. Community caroling, done. Gifts and meals for Food Shelf families, done. Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols, done — plus caroling by cell phone, led by the Rev. Jenny Cook who also conducted our second annual Service of Light on the solstice.

Were we to mime the children's rhyme "Here is the church. Here is the steeple. Open the doors and see all the people," the open hands would show us, The Tunbridge Church people, who give our time, talents and financial support for our community.

We cooked and baked, gave funds and gifts, sang at homes and church, hung ornaments and broke bread, visited seniors and remembered the less fortunate, listened to the Christmas story and held up our candles in the dark.

At the end of the year we said goodbye to Hoyt Bingham who was our administrative assistant for almost four years. She will be expanding her massage and acupuncture practice. And we welcome Geoff Hansen as the office administrator. Geoff has maintained our website for years and now will do the weekly bulletins and bookkeeping.

And we want to thank Euclid Farnham for his many years of service as the Community Food Shelf Treasurer. Mary Fisk is taking over that job. Donations may be made at any time through the church (please designate the food shelf) or mailed to Mary at PO Box 12, Tunbridge VT 05077.

This year the Outreach Committee will use the funds left from a \$700 Chelsea Health Center Wellness Grant aimed at expanding our senior services. Last winter's home-delivered turkey and rice soup lunch was a big hit, so the committee is planning another such meal.

Our Community Food Shelf received a \$10,000 grant from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' community outreach group, which it shared with the Chelsea Food Shelf. The funds provided commodity foods and meat which were delivered by truck from Washington, D.C., in April, June, August and October.

Sue Barnaby recently learned that the grant will be repeated this year. We appreciate the church's recognition of our food shelf's service for local families.

The Outreach Committee looks forward to hosting its annual Super Senior Luncheons on the last Saturday of April, June, August and October. The lunches are popular with our friends and neighbors who are over age 80, not

only for the good meal, but also for the chance to socialize.

The lunches are held at the Town Hall where there is parking and room for people to visit. If anyone knows someone over 80 who is may not be on the guest list, please contact Nancy Chapman or Judy Tucker.

Kudos to all of the Outreach Committee members who are behind the scenes and out front of many of the church's successful programs: Lisa Amodeo, Sue Barnaby, Nancy Chapman, Elaine Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Dawna Neron, Jacque Norris, Margaret Rogers and Judy Tucker.

All are invited to the Feb. 2 potluck dinner and church Annual Meeting at the Town Hall after the worship service. Treasurer and committee reports will be given. Members will vote on the budget and elect Parish Council members.

January/February Calendar

Special Events

- Jan. 11: Care for Caregivers, 10:30
- Jan. 26: UCC Annual Meeting in the church after worship
- Feb. 2: The Tunbridge Church potluck dinner & Annual Meeting after worship

Regular Events

- Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
- Community Food Shelf: Fridays, Parish House, 4-6 p.m.

News & Notes

UCC Meeting

The United Church of Christ component of The Tunbridge Church will hold its annual meeting on Jan. 26 immediately after worship. Please meet in the front of the sanctuary.

Care for the Caregivers

Caregivers are invited to a Care for the Caregivers morning on Saturday, Jan. 11, at the Parish House. From 10:30-12:30 Pastor Jenny will lead a time of respite for fellowship, fun and food.

There will be a time for sharing, determining areas where life can get out of balance and how to try to correct that, self-care, maybe some singing, dancing, yoga, and laughing.

RSVPs would be appreciated directly to Jenny or by phone at 401-263-5812

Pastor's Fund

Thank you to donors who made special offerings in December totaling \$237 for the Pastor's Fund. It is used at the pastor's discretion to help with emergency needs of local families.

Judie's Anniversary

Judie Lewis's 25th anniversary as church music director – organist, pianist, choir director – was celebrated on Nov. 10. Pastor Jenny spoke about singing and the ways in which it benefits minds and bodies. Two of Judie's favorite hymns were sung during the service which was followed by fellowship with a big decorated cake.

Christmas Decorating

Hanging of the Greens was part of the Dec. 1 worship service. Congregants hung ornaments on the beautiful tree given by Dominick and Lisa Amodeo who set it up and hung the lights.

A large green wreath was hung on the sanctuary wall and smaller wreaths went on the church doors.

A tabletop manger scene was set up. Candlesticks, candles and greens were arranged on windowsills. Elaine Howe took care of the candles and preparing the Advent wreath and vestibule candelabra plus the two large candelabra for Christmas Eve.

The front of the pulpit blazed with red poinsettias. Rob Howe gave plants in memory of his mother, Barbara, and brother-in-law, Dennis Rogers. Linda Lazaroff and her sister, Carolyn Boothroyd gave a plant in memory of their parents, Charlie and Grace Boothroyd; and Jerilyn Zaroogian gave two poinsettias.

When the sanctuary decorating was finished Moravian Love Feast Buns that

Jenny made and coffee were offered by Janet Zug, wearing the traditional dress of a server.

Nancy and Randy Chapman set up the crèche on the Parish House lawn, complete with hay and a lighted Moravian star. Four new figures in the manger scene were purchased with funds from Arlene Stockwell's bequest.

Christmas Caroling

Fourteen carolers went on the road after the Dec. 15 worship service. Soup made by Outreach Committee members Nancy Chapman, Dawna Neron and Margaret Rogers and cocoa and cookies were served before and after caroling.

Delivering Christmas cheer and poinsettia plants were Jenny Cook, Eve Ermer, Elaine Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Marybeth Lang, Joyce Miller, Shelia and Gordon Mitchinson, Dawna Neron, Margaret and Bob Rogers, Sue Rogers, Kathi Terami and Ben Wolfe.

Christmas Eve

One hundred and six adults and children attended the Christmas Eve service. Readers, singers and musicians, under the leadership of Pastor Jenny and Music Director Judie Lewis, were: Isabella Amodeo, Connie Button, Brian Cook, Eve Ermer, Priscilla Farnham, Margot Frost, Elaine Howe, Rob Howe, Judie Lewis, Rose Terami, Ben Wolfe and Janet Zug.

Elaine Howe read John Denver's "Alfie the Christmas Tree" to the children who had moved to the front and then chose gifts from under the tree.

Helping to greet and hand out small beeswax candles, take the offering and light the candles were Gordon, Luke and Sue Barnaby, Elsie Farnham, Amy and Eleanor Frost, Elaine Howe, Kay Jorgensen and Judy Tucker. As people left the church each received a little gift bag with a candy cane and lip balm.

Food Shelf Christmas

Sue Barnaby directed the annual Community Food Shelf and Outreach

Committee distribution of Christmas dinners and gifts for local families.

Twenty-four of them got everything needed for a turkey dinner and breakfast. The Clever Clovers 4-H Club provided decorated cookies.

Many donated gift items were displayed at the Parish House for families to choose from when they picked up their bags.

Thanksgiving Bags

Thirty bags filled with treats for 45 people and a box for residents at Riverbend Residential Care Home in Chelsea were delivered.

Many people contributed to the Thanksgiving bags with donations of funds, baked goods and time spent picking up supplies, writing cards, packing the bags, and delivering them.

Volunteers included Sue Barnaby, Shirley Boles, Nancy and Randy Chapman, Jenny Cook, Elsie Farnham, Mary Fisk, Joanne and Ralph Herrick, Carley Howe, Elaine Howe, Pat and Alan Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Marybeth Lang, Jacque Norris, Anne Peters, Sue Rogers and Judy Tucker.

Thank You

We appreciate the choir members who provided beautiful music for the Advent services: Bunchie Angell, Connie Button, Eve Ermer, Nan Frost, Marybeth Lang, Sharon Mee, Dawna Neron, Sue Rogers and Janet Zug.

Outside musicians who played at each December service were: Beth Telford and George White; Barbara Smith and Nancy Taube; the Shugarmakers: Connie Button, Cory Unger, Norm Lebreque and David Indenbaum; and Nancy Taube and Elaine Von Stok.

Thanks to Potash Hill Road neighbor Lenora Kimball who donated the Parish House door wreaths. In addition to tending the Parish House front garden and helping weed the church garden, last summer she worked her magic on the planter by the church steps. It

bloomed with beautiful flowers into the fall when Lenora replaced them with pumpkins and mums and then with greens for winter.

Funeral Fellowship

Walter Taylor

Fellowship was provided at the Town Hall after the committal service for Walter S. "Skip" Taylor who died Nov. 7 at age 71. He and his wife Andrea (Ware) lived in Tunbridge before moving to South Royalton in 1999. He was a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard and a tool and die maker. Survivors include his wife, daughter and granddaughter.

Dennis Rogers

Dennis Ralph Rogers died at age 72 in Wildwood, Fla., on Nov. 7. He and his wife Nancy (Howe) were married in the South Tunbridge Methodist Church just short of 52 years earlier and were members of The Tunbridge Church.

Dennis was a U.S. Army Vietnam War veteran. In 1979 his family moved to Wildwood where he was a banking executive. Survivors include Nancy, their son and wife, Andrew and Sarah Rogers, daughter Hannah and husband Wesley McClain, and six grandchildren.

The church provided funeral fellowship at the Town Hall after the Nov. 27 memorial service and burial at the Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Recipes

During the Advent/Christmas season Moravian Love Feast Buns were served with Moravian coffee after the sanctuary was decorated. Carolers enjoyed baked treats. Requests were made for two of Jenny Cook's recipes.

Moravian Love Feast Buns

yield about 30

Ingredients:

1 C of hot mashed potatoes,
unseasoned, no milk or butter
1/2 C scalded whole milk
1C sugar

1/2 C butter, room temperature
2 eggs, beaten
1 1/2 pounds of flour (weigh)
1/4 tsp nutmeg
2 packages of yeast (not quick)
1/2 C warm potato water
2T orange rind
2T lemon rind
2T orange juice
1T lemon juice

Directions:

Peel and cut up potatoes, place in pan and cover with water. Boil until potatoes are fork tender. Drain, reserving 1/2 C of the water. Let it cool to lukewarm and add yeast, stir and let it develop for a few minutes.

Cream butter and sugar. Add potatoes and mix well. Add lukewarm scalded milk and then eggs. Mix well. Add seasonings, juices and rind. Add yeast and mix. Add flour to form a soft dough.

Knead on a well-floured surface. Form into a ball and place into a greased bowl. Cover with a cloth and let rise in a warm place until double in size. Punch down and let rise again for 10 minutes.

Form into small balls, 2-3 oz, and place on a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Slash tops with a lame or sharp knife to release air. Gently cover and let rise until double in size.

Bake at 350 degrees F. until golden, 15-20 min.

Moravian Style Coffee

3 quarts of hot, unflavored coffee mixed with 1C whole milk and 1C sugar. Serve with Love Feast Buns.

Honey Cinnamon Bars

Mix together:

1 C sugar
3/4 C oil
1/4 C honey
1 large egg

Sift together:

3 C flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp cinnamon

1/4 - 1/2 tsp nutmeg
1/8 tsp salt

Glaze:

1 C confectioners' sugar
2 T mayonnaise or nonfat plain yogurt
1 tsp vanilla
1 - 2 T water, if needed

Mix together the contents of the two bowls. Add 1 C chopped toasted walnuts (see below) and mix in. Spread in a greased 15 x 10-inch pan. Bake 10 - 12 minutes or until golden in a 350F preheated oven. Frost with glaze. Cool completely. Stand till set. Cut. Refrigerate.

Toasted nuts:

Bake in a shallow pan in a 350F oven 5 - 10 minutes or cook in a skillet over low heat until light brown. Stir occasionally.

Birthdays

January

01 – Krem Zaroogian
05 – Judie Lewis
07 – Cameron Putney
10 – Quinton Putney
15 – Dawna Neron
 Ken Danforth
16 – Wright Frost
17 – Maggie Serviss
24 – Abby Gross
28 – Carley Howe
 Lorraine Withington
30 – Margaret Rogers

February

02 – Marybeth Lang
04 – Judy Tucker
14 – Bunchie Angell

Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen, President
Rob Howe, Vice President
Dawna Neron, Secretary
Maureen Moriarty, Treasurer
Sue Barnaby
Nancy Chapman
Judy Tucker