



Vol. 13 Issue 1 • February 2022
P.O. Box 270 | Tunbridge, VT 05077
802-693-0098
thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com
www.tunbridgechurch.org
Facebook: The Tunbridge Church

Pastor's Corner

Ben Wolfe

Thank you all for inviting me to join you and sharing your warm hearts this chilly January. I have enjoyed seeing, hearing and worshiping with you for the last few Sundays at your Evensong services. There is lots of uncertainty in the world around us, and we don't know when we'll be able to meet all together in person.

Just as we struggle with fear, hope, and doubt in our own lives, the gospel of Luke offers words that speak to our times. While 1st century Palestine is very different than our own, the people are experiencing very similar feelings.

As we walk through the gospel, listen with open ears, and keep your eyes sharp for things we really can recognize in our own lives. Many of our worries show up in severe relief. We experience fear of war, threats to stability in our world, and the dread of loneliness and being forgotten or unloved.

In this book, we enter a world where the Jewish people have been told that God is going to be a light to the other nations, even as they are occupied by the Romans who seem to understand or care little for the Jewish people. Some have even joined the Romans to consolidate power for themselves at the expense of the ordinary people.

War from faraway and violence from domestic terrorists were ever on the minds of the average 1st century Jew. And many, many people feel "invisible," ignored and rejected by the by the powerful and by one another on account

of their age, gender, social status, occupation, or afflictions.

The one thing the Jewish people clung to is the promise from a myriad of prophets of old that God promised to send someone to make things right, a suffering servant who God will anoint to serve the people and become the King of the entire world.

Just as they did in their time, it is easy for us to imagine such a ruler according to our own desires. Alternatively, it is also easy to give up hope in God and imagine that we can only rely on ourselves.

Yet God **is** present with us. At the same time God's plans are much bigger and better than we have in mind, so they look much, much different than we could imagine.

As we worship and meet and study together, let us be ready to see how Jesus offers the answers to our deepest needs, and how he draws and teaches followers (the Church) to help him bring the healing to the world that we so deeply hope for.

Jesus starts with our hearts and in the lives we touch in the community around us. I am excited to be on this journey with you as we learn to follow him!

Afghan Refugee Support

The Tunbridge Church recently sent a check for \$1,100 to support the Vermont branch of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI Vermont) which is settling people from Afghanistan in Vermont. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this mission effort.

Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen

Belated happy new year, everyone. I am writing between snow storms and after many frigid days. We can hope that weather and the decline of Covid will improve as spring approaches.

The church had a memorable end to 2021. We held traditional in-person masked services and events including a community carol sing in the church, poinsettia deliveries to seniors, caroling by cell phone after worship, a Service of Light on the solstice, and a Christmas Eve candlelight service.

The Dec. 19 worship service included the Liturgy of Departure and our gift to the Rev. Jenny Cook of a Simon Pierce glass evergreen tree in honor of her retirement. Three days later Jenny fell at home, breaking her shoulder, bruising ribs and hurting her knee — and missing Christmas Eve.

The Parish Council began meeting in November to talk about how to continue with church services without a minister at a time when the Omicron variant was spreading so rapidly.

Elaine Howe and Nancy Howe offered to lead indoor services the first two weeks in January, but we needed a plan for continuing services and adapting to health concerns.

We were pleased to arrange for Ben Wolfe to serve as guest pastor through the end of March, leading a weekly Evensong Worship Service, the church's first venture into online services.

Ben taught Sunday School and served on our Parish Council. He is a pastor in training through the American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire and the Sunday morning interim pastor for the Royalton Church.

We look forward to “seeing” you on Sundays.

Evensong Services

Sundays, 4 p.m.

Guest Pastor Benjamin Wolfe leads us in weekly live and interactive Evensong services on Zoom **and by phone**.

Link to the service from the church's website at tunbridgechurch.org or dial (646) 876-9923 to join by phone – meeting ID: 985 3218 9697, passcode: 974076

Join early or stay connected after the service for fellowship time. The service itself is posted on YouTube and accessible any time at the “Index to Services” link on the church website.

When accessing by phone, your Caller ID phone number is displayed. If you would rather not show it press *67 before dialing in.

Please mute yourself when not speaking. If on Zoom, raise your hand to be recognized. To mute or unmute yourself on the phone, press *6.

Moving Forward

Nancy Rogers, facilitator

Moving Forward is a group that started meeting last summer for all of those widows in and around our community. We meet each month in the Parish House, on the third Thursday at noon.

Each person brings a dish to share, so our menus vary depending on what we feel like fixing. In December we had a delicious cookie swap with chili and stew, January was lasagna and carrot stew.

Our intent or purpose is to provide strength, fellowship and encouragement to those in the same situation as us, as we are **moving forward** in our lives.

Please come join us if you are a widow, be it recently or in years past.

Call or text me with any questions.

News, Notes & Thanks

Senior Meal Delivery

In lieu of an October sit-down lunch at the Town Hall, the Outreach Committee prepared and delivered beef stew with rolls, apple crisp and Halloween candy.

Nancy Chapman, Mary Fisk, Elaine Howe, Nancy Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Dawna Neron, Jean Parker, Margaret Rogers, Nancy Rogers, Sue Rogers and Judy Tucker were the volunteers who prepared and/or delivered the food.

Thanksgiving Bags

Bags were delivered to more than 60 people (including couples). We appreciate everyone whose donations helped pay for the fruit, cheese, crackers and other purchases and the many bakers who made muffins and cookies.

Elaine Howe organized, shopped and scheduled, making for a smooth operation as she and five volunteers packaged foods and filled the bags which included a Thanksgiving greeting and a nametag. Elsie Farnham came over from Randolph Center to address Thanksgiving cards for distant church friends, something she has done for many years.

Thanks to the volunteers who prepared and/or delivered bags: Shirley Boles, Betty Brown, Nancy and Randy Chapman, Elsie Farnham, Mary Fisk, Ellen Hosford, Alan and Pat Howe, Elaine Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Donna Nelson, Dawna Neron, Margaret Rogers and Judy Tucker.

Storm Snack Packs

Storm Snack packs were a new venture for the Community Food Shelf assisted by the Outreach Committee. Senior recipients received bags with packaged snacks such as soup, cereal, juice, protein bars and fruit. Judy Tucker

took them with her VeggieVanGo Vermont Food Bank deliveries. The committees expect to do at least one more snacks delivery.

Tunbridge Community Food Shelf

Mariah Cilley has stepped down from coordinating the Community Food Shelf, a job she took after Sue Barnaby's death last April. During Mariah's time a management committee was formed, summer produce was offered in the creche, volunteers were recruited, and a lawn banner was put up.

Volunteers for the Friday 4-6 p.m. food shelf time are Chuck Howe, Elaine Howe, Nancy Howe, Marybeth Lang and Margaret Rogers. Mary Fisk continues as the treasurer.

Advent & Christmas

Advent began with the Nov. 28 worship service. Abby Rogers and her grandmother, Nancy Rogers, lit the first Advent candle. The sanctuary window sills, Christmas tree and doors were decorated in stages after related Bible passages were read. Pastor Jenny prepared a Moravian lovefeast with traditional sweet buns and sweetened coffee for the end of the service.

Kelly and Roger Sammel donated a tree from their property, formerly Carley Howe's home, for the church garden, continuing a tradition that began the year before when the church building was closed because of Covid. Thanks to them and Rob Howe who put up the tree.

Given snow on the ground and cold temperatures, the outside tree decorating was postponed. Elaine Howe and Kay Jorgensen later started the decorating which others contributed to and Vinnie White finished by stringing lights with a ladder.

Birthdays

February

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

March

04 – Sharon Mee
07 – David Wolfe
 Eve Ermer
09 – David Smith
18 – Jacque Norris
21 – Shelia Mitchinson
30 – Lisa Amodeo

April

07 – Elaine Howe
08 – Nan Frost
09 – Judy Hilts
13 – Don Hilts
20 – Rob Howe
 Kay Jorgensen
21 – Linda Lazaroff
25 – Vivian Smith
26 – Shirley Boles

Nancy Chapman and Nancy Howe arranged the creche figures and hung the lighted star. Nancy Howe hung greens on the front doors of the South Tunbridge and North Tunbridge churches. Kay Jorgensen provided wreaths for the church and Parish House. Nancy Chapman and Nancy Rogers chose the sanctuary tree.

Jerilyn Zaroogian and Peter Guy put garlands on the deck railing and placed the Advent candle display that they made last year. They then replaced it with a new display with lights that stayed on around the clock despite sleet and snow. Advent banners were added the deck railing each week.

The sanctuary poinsettia plants were given by Nan Frost in memory of Alec; Linda Lazaroff and Carolyn Boothroyd in memory of their parents, Charlie and Grace Boothroyd; and Kay Jorgensen, in memory of Pete and her mother, Polly.

The first Community Carol Sing was held Dec. 6. Elaine Howe and Marybeth Lang led the singing with Nan Frost providing piano accompaniment. Margot Frost, Rob Howe and Rose Terami were recruited for the solo roles in "We Three Kings." Nancy Rogers set out a large array of cookies, candies, sprinkles and old-fashioned candies.

More than 50 people attended the Christmas Eve service. Their offerings were given to the church's fund for the Afghan resettlement in Vermont.

Many people participated in the service: Rob Howe led the service and Liz White narrated. Nan Frost was the pianist. Margot Frost, Rob and Vinnie White sang solos. Elaine Howe and Don Hilts were readers. Amy and Eleanor Frost handed out programs and candles and passed candlelight to each pew for the candlelight closing of the service.

Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen, President
Judy Tucker, Vice President
Nancy Rogers, Secretary
Nancy Chapman
Amy Frost

Annual Meeting

The February Annual Meeting will be scheduled and warned for a later date.

Offerings

Donations to the church may be mailed to PO Box 270, Tunbridge VT 05077 or made by credit card at the website.