

The Scroll

Newsletter of
Union Church of Proctor

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Check out the full color version of the
Scroll on line at the web address above...
lots more about the church there, too!



April 2022



He Is Risen
May you feel Christ's
love in your heart and
be filled with His peace and
joy
This Easter Day
And always



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Palm Sunday Worship: Sunday, April 10th, will be a special Sunday, as we will celebrate the triumphal entry of our Lord into Jerusalem. Don't miss it! 10:00 a.m. George Valley will lead our worship. **The Downtown Brass**, with our own Paul Sutherland, will add their joyful music to our gathering on this day.

Maundy Thursday –April 14th- Our joint Maundy Thursday service will be at Pittsford Congregational Church, including Pittsford Congregational, Brandon Congregational and

Union Church of Proctor. The service will be led by Michael Dwyer and George Valley and will begin at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Good Friday- April 15th- Come for a time of prayer, reflection and music in the UCP Sanctuary. Julie Demaree will join us and Jen Cohen and the choir will sing anthems and hymns from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Easter Morning Worship: Flowers, anthems, hymns, the story and the joy will blend to give God the glory for the Resurrection of the Son, at 10:00 a.m., Easter Sunday, April 17th. Come and rejoice in what God has done for all creation in the victory of Jesus Christ over death and darkness. Your flowers will surround us with the beauty and tenderness of this moment and violinist, Heather Munch, will perform.

Come and share the joy of Easter morning.



APRIL MUSIC

There is a lot to look forward to musically this month.

- The Downtown Brass, featuring Paul Sutherland, Greg Ellis, Dave McKenzie, & Rick Aubin, will be playing at our Palm Sunday service on April 10th.
- On Good Friday, the choir will lead us in a service of music, with opening prayer and benediction by Julie Demaree. This will be a time for reflection and prayer through music.
- Finally, violinist Heather Munch will join us for worship on Easter Sunday. Heather's beautiful playing will be a wonderful addition to our Easter morning service.



THE BRASS ARE BACK!

We are very pleased to announce that the Downtown Brass Company will be joining us for this year's Palm Sunday Service on April 10th. The members of the Brass are spread afar now, so this is a special treat for us. Come listen to their joyful sound!

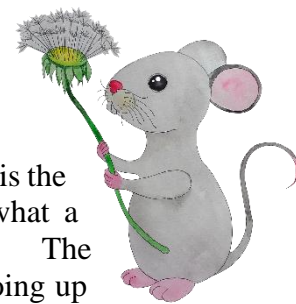


MASKS NOW OPTIONAL

Good news! As of this writing (March 20th) our new policy at church will be "masks optional" when inside the buildings. If you'd prefer to continue wearing a mask inside, that's fine, too. That said, COVID has certainly taught us to switch gears quickly in how we function in the world. With a new variant on the horizon, we may have to reverse course in the future and, once again, require masks. Our goal is always for each of us to feel safe while in worship or doing the work of the church. We'll keep you posted via the weekly emails and the bulletin should things change.

THE CHURCH MOUSE

Hurray!! Hurray!! Today is the first day of Spring and what a week it has been. The temperatures have been going up and up and I for one have been very happy. I am looking forward to many more days like this past week. The only thing I can do without are the thunderstorms like last night.



The Dismas House meal prep and supper will be on April 6th at 5:30 PM. It seems the people that live there are just like me and love having breakfast for supper.

We offer our sincere and heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Allan and Karen St. Peter and their family and friends on the passing of Allan's mother on March 4, 2022 in St. Johnsbury. There will be a graveside service in St. Johnsbury on May 14 followed by a reception at the United Community Church, UCC.

There will be a Church Council Meeting following services on Sunday, April 3.

I really felt lonely today because services were only via ZOOM due to a broken main at the church. It has been found and fixed and everything is up and working.

Please note that Roy Pilcher celebrated his 93rd birthday on March 26 and we wish him many more. Other good news is that all of our travelers have returned from their various trips and are safe at home. It will be very nice to have everyone here in time for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Please keep yourselves safe and healthy. May God Bless you all.





OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee, representing the members of the Union Church of Proctor, are off to a good start in 2022.

The checks that were sent out for the first quarter totaled \$3000. The Pittsford Food Shelf, serving Pittsford, Proctor, Florence and Chittenden, received \$1500 over three months. VNA and Hospice of the Southwest Region received \$500 as did BROCC. The final check for this quarter, in the amount of \$500, went to the Ukrainian refugees through the International Rescue Committee. The Outreach Committee has a working budget this year of \$12,486. Thank you to all our members! The U.C.P. is once again collecting food, personal care items and paper products to help fill the shelves at the Pittsford Food Shelf. The non-perishable items are collected each week at the Sunday Service. Please come and help fill a bag! Comments and suggestions for the committee are welcomed and may go through the church office.

THE WORK OF THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE IS UNDERWAY!



To date, in March we conducted a congregational survey and updated the church profile. The survey is important as it provides the committee information of the congregation's needs, concerns, and hopes as we seek a new minister.

The church profile gives prospective candidates for the position a picture of who we are, who we are seeking in a minister, and what's important to us as a congregation. Both are essential components of moving forward in the search process.

Next steps include approval of the church profile by the Church Council and then advertising the position. Jeff and Kay Bergquist have graciously stepped up to act as our co-chairs and as such will be receiving and corresponding with applicants and disseminating applications to the committee. Our committee will make reports to the Church Council and share with the congregation periodically as we make progress to keep you apprised of our work. Please keep the Pastoral Search Committee and our congregation in your prayers that we might be led by the Holy Spirit and be faithful witnesses to God's mission in this next chapter of UCP's history.

Of interest to the committee upon updating the church profile was to note that in the past 2-3 years we have seen significant changes within the town of Proctor, which may have bearing on the church's role in the community going forward. Just giving two examples, it was noted that Proctor, like many towns in Vermont, is experiencing an influx of families from all over the United States. Also noted, UCP is now the only congregation in Proctor which worships weekly. St. Paul Lutheran Church meets monthly and services at St. Dominic Catholic Church occur once every three months, with mass rotating between St. Dominic and the parishes of St. Bridget's and St. Stanislaus-Kostka in West Rutland. These and other insights provide an evolving and new understanding of who we are, who our neighbor is, and what the potential role for the church and new minister will be in this context.

Thank you for your responses to the congregational survey. We had 29 responses, which was excellent.

The summary of the congregational survey follows this article. If you have any questions or input for the Pastoral Search Committee, please feel free to be in touch with one of us and we will bring it to the group. Thank you for entrusting us with this important work!

-Bob Curtis, Bonnie Blanchard, Jeff Bergquist, Kay Bergquist, Kim Metcalfe, and Lynn Pilcher

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY FOR THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE



1. What is the most important role of the pastor?

- Leading Sunday Worship: 29
- Pastoral Care: 20
- Helping Members: 15
- Community Outreach: 10
- Managing Programs: 5
- Bible Study: 5
- Managing church buildings: 0
- Other:
- Shepherding, guiding, challenging the congregation in its daily Christian living from 11 a.m. Sunday afternoon through 9 a.m. Sunday morning.

2. What characteristics do you think are most important for a pastor to have?

- Approachable: 25
- Caring: 23
- Spiritual: 20
- Nonjudgmental: 19
- Stimulating: 10
- Humor: 2

3. How important is it to you to have our pastor living in/near Proctor?

- Yes, important to live in Proctor = 7
- Important to live near Proctor = 13
- Not important = 8

4. Which do you think is more important for the pastor?

- Set office hours = 1
- Availability by appt. = 4
- Combination of both = 24

5. How would you describe our church community?

- Small
- Aging
- Caring
- Willing to help others
- Supportive of one another

- Lacking in youth vitality
- Friendly
- Having a lot of pride in the church
- Active

What are the major challenges?

- No young people, numbers are dwindling
- Difficult time to stand up and represent Christ
- Small number of people to do the work of the church

What changes do you envision?

- Music as a draw to our church
- Programming outside of Sunday mornings
- Attracting new families and members
- Opening our church building as a community center
- Offering afterschool programming and youth activities

6. What current Outreach activities do you consider most important?

- Children's Center: 22
- Proctor Community Concerns: 21
- Dismas House Dinners: 19
- Community Garden: 12
- Mission Dinners: 11

7. What outreach activities would you like to see re-started?

- Fidget Quilts: 18
- Santa's Shoppers: 15
- Prison Ministry: 14
- Bazaar: 14
- Clothing Sales: 12
- Caroling at nursing homes: 11

What NEW outreach needs do you see that our congregation could fulfill?

Ideas?

- Recording Sunday Service and letting the public know that it can be viewed at any time.
- We also have beautiful spaces to offer for community meetings, concerts, lectures, music lessons, classes, etc.

- Partnering with other churches to do ministry on foot.
- More community use of buildings.
- Family / Intergenerational events—game night, contradance, show & tell
- Having a place where Seniors could meet regularly.
- On the weekly half days at the local elementary school, the parish house could be made available for supervised activity / homework time. It would mean hiring someone, but it may be a worthwhile investment in our town’s youth and opening our doors.
- Partnering with the Catholic and Lutheran Churches to re-start a youth group.

8. What preaching style/content do you prefer?

- Thought provoking: 23
- Relatable: 19
- Scripture Based: 15
- Stimulating: 15
- Conversational (not read): 5
- Other Spiritual Thoughts: 3

9. Who is the “face” of the congregation?

- Pastor: 2
- Members: 1
- Both Pastor and Members: 26

10. Who is responsible for reaching new members and increasing our active participation?

- All of us (unanimous response).

11. What might the Pastor do to reach new members or increase participation?

Ideas:

- Knock on doors
- Get word out as to who we are and what we have to offer
- Go with members on foot to meet people in the community to invite to service or programs.
- Interact with parents of kids at the children’s center.
- Attend public events.

12. What might a church member do to reach new members or increase participation?

Ideas:

- Ask new people to come join with us.
- Share with community / social media / organizations
- Post covid, join in!
- Go with pastor to meet people in the community and to invite them to services or programs.
- Book group that meets at the church.
- Everyone is craving connections — brainstorm ways to offer opportunities.
- Talk about what we’re doing. Invite them to church.
- We need to “advertise” so to speak. How else will people get to know us?
- Give input to council.
- Use social media platforms like Proctor Facebook page and Front Porch Forum to get the word out about Union Church.
- Seek input as to the needs of people in the community through a poll or survey.



April

Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Kelly Toher | 12 Bruce Baccei |
| 2 Wayne Flewelling | 17 Jeannie Cushman |
| 3 Aidan Hall | Janet Yager |
| 7 Bill Sheidow | 20 Kathy Cawley |
| Allan St. Peter | 23 Bonnie Blanchard |
| 8 Ali Flewelling | 24 Michael Moran |
| 11 Peter Curtis | 28 Linda Doty |
| Simon Curtis | |



April Greeters

- 3 Phyllis Sawtell
- 10 Meryl Lisananti
- 17 Nancy Thompson
- 24 Muriel Sedergren

April Liturgists



- 3 Glenn Giles
- 10 Janet Yager
- 17 Jean Noren
- 24 Kim Metcalfe

COFFEE HOUR ON HOLD



Much as we all like gathering to have a chat and enjoy some tasty snacks together after the worship service, we're going to wait a bit longer to reintroduce the Coffee Hour. Stay tuned!

Easter Memorial Flowers

Once again, we expect to have Easter lilies and other potted spring flowers enhancing the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. In order to have an accurate listing of Memorial Flowers, we ask that you please fill out the slip below and return it to the church **by Palm Sunday, April 10th**. You may email your memorial information to Kris at kris.finni@gmail.com or send it to Union Church of Proctor, 5 Church St., Proctor, VT 05765.

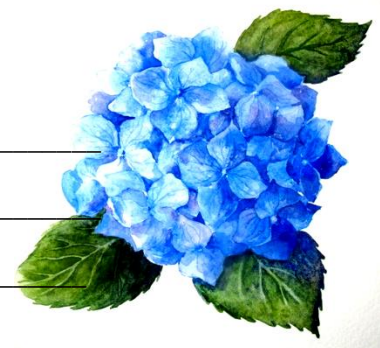
Please note that the information you provide below is **only for our memorial listing in the Easter Sunday bulletin**. *All flowers must be arranged through a florist or brought to the church by those wishing to give them.* The church will be open from 10-12 on the Saturday before Easter so you can bring them to the sanctuary.

aa

Easter Flowers Memorial Listing

In Memory of:

Given by



April



- 3 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Morning Worship, George Valley M.Div., 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom
Church Council meeting
- 6 Dinner Prep. And Meal Sharing at the Rutland Dismas House, 5:30 p.m. drop off
- 10 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Palm Sunday Morning Worship with The Downtown Brass!, George Valley, M.Div.,
10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom
- 14 Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m., Pittsford Congregational Church
Michael Dwyer and George Valley will lead the worship
- 15 Good Friday in the Sanctuary- Prayer, reflection and music, Julie Demaree & Jen Cohen, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Easter Morning Worship, Julie Demaree, M.Div., 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom
- 20 Articles & info due for May Scroll
- 24 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Morning Worship, Julie Demaree, M.Div., 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom

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5 Church Street
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May the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year bring peace and happiness to you and those you hold most dear.

And may Christ, Our Risen Savior, always be there by your side to bless you most abundantly and be your loving guide.

Lord we lift our hearts to you.

~unknown