

# 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!



## December 2020

*“Wake up, wake up! Pull on your boots, Zion! Dress up in your Sunday best, Jerusalem, holy city! Those who want no part of God have been culled out. They won’t be coming along. Brush off the dust and get to your feet, captive Jerusalem! Throw off your chains, captive daughter of Zion!” Isaiah 52:1-2 (MSG)*

WOW, if there was ever a time to ‘pull on our boots’, ‘brush off the dust and get to our feet’ and ‘throw off our chains’, it is NOW! This last year has been a nightmare and so sad on our hearts, it is without description. If we hadn’t lived it, we would not believe it if someone told it as a story.

For Christians, Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. But a time for waiting and prepping for what...more isolation, more bad news, more disparaging remarks from politicians?

Perhaps. But in this time, I am reminded of the story of the Wizard of OZ. The tinman, the scarecrow and the lion are all searching for something to make their lives whole (like us through this pandemic), and they think that this

search they set out on will help them find what they are looking for: courage (the lion), a heart (the tinman) and a brain (the scarecrow). Ultimately, they find out that they already had all those things; they were lying dormant inside of them and they only had to turn them on.

Same with us! We have within ourselves the ability and the chutzpah (good Jewish word meaning ‘a quality of audacity’) to overcome this dastardly virus and isolation and move on with our lives.

How can we have the ‘audacity’ to do this? We know a guy! He’ll be here at the end of December and will show us how to live! What a gift! It seems with all the troubles that will be brought down on ‘our guy’, he still keeps his eye on the prize...to show us how to live and to bring us salvation...salvation, not just when we die, but now...the will to live, to carry on, and to be the light unto the world – just as he was.

There are vaccines in our future, but let that not stop us from being vigilant by wearing our masks and keeping our social distance. Life

right now can be tenuous, but there still is life and we are still a part of it.

Blessings to you and your family. If someone you know has passed away this year, may their memories live deeply in your heart and may the good Lord give you a shoulder to cry on! Know that you are a beautiful child of God and that God is with you always.

Peace be unto to you and Merry Christmas to you and yours.

~Rev. John Sanborn

“For outlandish creatures like us, on our way to a heart, a brain, and courage, Bethlehem is not the end of our journey but only the beginning - not home but the place through which we must pass if ever we are to reach home at last.”

—Frederick Buechner, The Magnificent Defeat



## CHRISTMAS EVE “AT” UNION CHURCH

The Christmas Eve service will be available **only on Zoom this year** and will begin at 7:30 pm. We welcome you to access it on line or by telephone.

☆If you are new to the Zoom procedure you should:

1. Call the church phone line, 802-459-3624, any time before noon of 12/23/20. Leave a message including your name and email address to receive the Zoom code.

OR

2. Send an email request for the Zoom code to [unionchurchproctor@gmail.com](mailto:unionchurchproctor@gmail.com), any time before noon of 12/23/20.

☆If you're already on our Zoom list, there is no need to contact the church.

See you “in church”!

## STEWARDSHIP 2021



The church is in the middle of our Stewardship Campaign for 2021. The finance committee will start to develop a budget in December for next year. We hope you will each prayerfully consider how you can help with your time, talents and money to make the Union Church better than ever. Have a Merry Christmas!

## NOTES FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE



Our thoughts and prayers are with Jean Baccei and her family. She continues to feel better and we hope she will be back with her loved ones soon.

My little mouse ears heard that Faith Sagi will join us for our zoom service this Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>! I hope it's true!

I am sorry that there is so little news to report this month. I can only wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and hope everyone remains healthy.

God Bless you all.

## ANNUAL REPORTS 2020

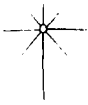


Annual Reports **from all committees, boards, etc.**, should be turned in to the church office **by January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. Please keep in mind that this is a historical record of the events, decisions, challenges, changes, etc. of your group that will be a helpful reference in years to come for us and those that come after us. You may email your report (preferred) to [kris.finni@gmail.com](mailto:kris.finni@gmail.com) or bring it to the church office. Questions? Call Kris Finnigan 459-2244.



# December

- 6 Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Zoom
- 13 Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Zoom
- 20 Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Zoom
- 20 Articles & info due for January 2021 Scroll
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:30 p.m., Zoom only
- 25 Merry Christmas
- 27 Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Zoom



On a Proctor porch

## WE'VE GOT MAIL!



Congratulations  
Penny & Jeffrey!

## December Readers



- 6 Janet Yager
- 13 Lon Schneider
- 20 Lynn Pilcher
- 27 Jean Noren

Union Church of Proctor  
5 Church Street  
Proctor, VT 05765

Non-Profit Organization  
Postage Paid at Proctor  
VT 05765 Permit #7

Address Service Requested



*December  
Birthdays*

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Susan Osgood   | 18 Ellen Sutherland |
| 3 Carol Trudelle | 19 Ed Larson        |
| Sarah Varney     | Eddie Wilkin        |
| 4 Rachel Moody   | 21 Alma Nelson      |
| 5 Troy Keyser    | 27 Zachary Bates    |
| 8 John Ojala     | 28 Shannon Watson   |
| Mike Watson      | 30 Rachel Patch     |
| 11 Kathy Connors | 31 John Ojala       |
| Richard Kelleway | Chris Thomas        |
| Melissa Tooley   |                     |