

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 2022

Luke 2:8-12 (NIV)

I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

My Dear Friends,

I love seeing all the Christmas decorations that folks are already starting to put out. Some places begin to ready in the Christmas season just after Halloween and most others seem to wait until after Thanksgiving. It's wonderfully heartwarming to hear about special Christmas trimmings and favorite ornaments even holiday traditions as we become part of a new church and community.

Union Church is no exception to having long standing traditions and favorite Christmas decorations and I can't wait to be part of these long traditions and celebrations together!

For me and my family, we have a few special traditions for Christmas. One is that we always

open up new pajamas on Christmas Eve, no matter how late moms come in from Christmas Eve services! Another tradition is that we hide the Christmas pickle on the tree. Yes, a glass pickle.

Supposedly, this strange tradition became popular in the 1880's when Woolworth stores started selling glass fruit and vegetable shaped ornaments made in Germany. Another origin possibility of the Christmas pickle started from a German American Civil War soldier, originally from Bavaria, who became a prisoner of war and was starving in captivity. The story goes that the soldier begged a guard for something to eat and he was given a pickle out of pity. The pickle gave the soldier the mental and physical strength to live. After his release, the soldier always hung a pickle on the Christmas tree every year to remember the kindness and the sustenance he received that eventually returned him to his family.

There are several other possibilities for how this tradition began some of which are quite strange like that St. Nicholas apparently raised from the dead some young Spanish boys who were traveling home from their boarding school after

an evil innkeeper killed and then hid them in a pickle barrel. Thus, folks started hiding the pickle on the tree like the boys were, well, pickles. The finder of the special pickle is honored with a special reward from St. Nick. I have never met a German person that knows anything about the pickle story, so honestly, who knows for sure how the pickle became a Christmas decoration.

Regardless of its origins, our family has always had a pickle on the Christmas tree. When the children were little, it was a big treat for them to find the deep green blown glass pickle deep in the branches of the fir tree. The children would each hope that they were the first to find the pickle and get the special homemade gift and then, as they aged, they also couldn't wait for the day that they would be big enough to hide the special ornament themselves.

For us, tidings of great joy spring upon everyone in the family when "the pickle" is pulled from its special box to be hidden on our tree. It's the moment we are reminded that hope, peace, joy, and love come to us in the strangest and simplest ways.

I pray that your traditions and memories bring you tidings of great joy and be a sign to you that, in Jesus, hope, love, peace, and joy forever resounds for all creation!

Merry Christmas!
With love,
Pastor Jenei



DECK THE HALLS!

We'll be decorating the Sanctuary for the Christmas season on Saturday, December 3rd, at 8:30 a.m. The more the merrier. Please come and bring a friend!

A poster for the EnerJazz Community Christmas Concert. The background is light blue with a subtle pattern of white dots. At the top, the EnerJazz logo is in a stylized black font, with "BIG BAND" in smaller letters below it. Below the logo, the word "Community" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Underneath that, "Christmas Concert" is written in a larger, bold, black, sans-serif font. The date "Date: Sat. Dec 10, 2022" is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. Below the date, the time "Time: 7 pm" is written. The location "Place: Union Church of Proctor, 5 Church St., Proctor, VT" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the poster, there are two snowman illustrations flanking a central area. The snowmen are white with red hats and scarves, and are holding sticks. In the background, there are green evergreen trees. At the bottom left, it says "Free Will Offering to Benefit Heating Assistance Program at". At the bottom right, there is a logo for "BROC COMMUNITY ACTION" with a blue circular icon. Below the poster, the text "ENERJAZZ COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Union Church is excited to present a family friendly Community Christmas Concert on **December 10, 2022, 7:00 pm** in the church sanctuary, performed by the 18 member EnerJazz Big Band! The concert will feature Holiday instrumental and vocal favorites. Our own Glenn Giles, Paul Sutherland and Ellen Sutherland are long-time musicians in the band.

When Enerjazz needed to find a new rehearsal location this past year, we were happy to offer the Parish House auditorium with its wonderful acoustics. Now the band has offered to thank us with this concert.

While there is no admission fee, there will be a free-will offering to benefit the Heating Assistance Program of BROC Community Action. The Heating Assistance Program is for people who "fall outside the lines", (including many elderly) and don't meet the guidelines for Federal programs. BROC Heating Assistance provides help with their primary heat source (oil, wood, pellets, kerosene), which have all seen a rise in price this year.

So, mark your calendars; this will be a concert not to be missed! Everyone is Welcome!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

A Christmas Eve Service of lessons, carols, and candlelight will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Please come and enjoy incredible music and the retelling of the story of Christ's birth as we rejoice together in this special time of hope, peace, love, and joy.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP



Join us with your family and friends on Christmas morning for a brief worship service at 10:00 a.m. on ZOOM. There will be NO worship in the Sanctuary on that day.

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE



The UCP now has a Pastoral Relations Committee! The three members of the committee are Bob Curtis, Bonnie Blanchard, and Lynn Pilcher. Since this is a new committee for our church, we thought that the following description from the UCC publication *"A Sure Foundation: Resources for the Relationship Between Pastors and Congregations"* would be useful.

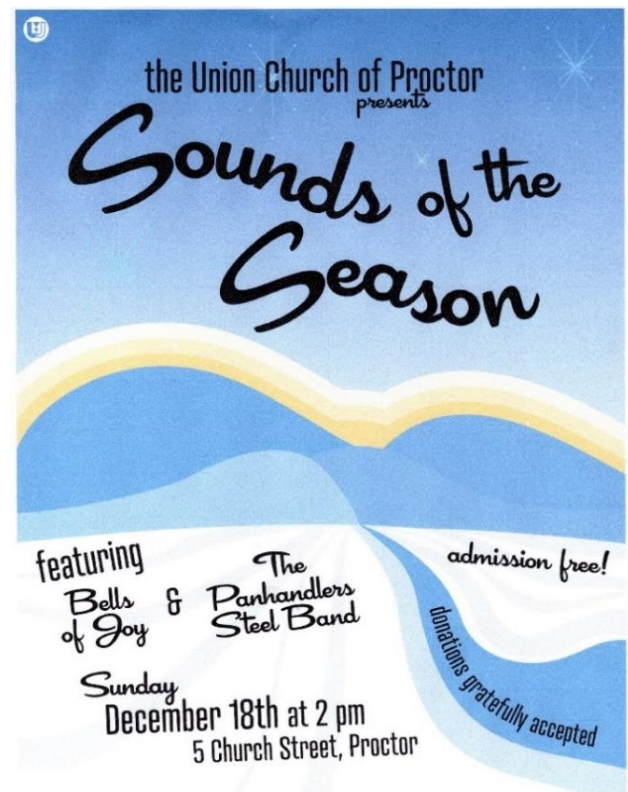
"The Pastoral Relations Committee is a standing committee in a congregation, with the purpose of supporting a healthy relationship between the pastor and congregants in order to enhance the

effectiveness of the church's ministry. The committee serves in two primary ways:

- as an advisory group to the pastor: sharing ideas, dreams, expectations, and concerns of the congregation with the pastor;
- as a support group for the pastor's leadership: interpreting roles, functions, boundaries, opportunities, and needs of the pastor to the congregation.

The goal of a Pastoral Relations Committee is to promote faithful, shared ministry between the pastor and the congregation. The committee works in a context of confidentiality, support, care, and honesty with the pastor, while promoting healthy communication in the congregation as a whole."

Quote taken from "A Sure Foundation: Resources for the Relationship Between Pastors and Congregations" produced by Ministerial Excellence, Support & Authorization (MESA) Ministry Team, 2018 United Church of Christ.



ANNUAL REPORTS 2022



Annual Reports **from all committees, boards,** etc., should be turned in to the church office **by January 7th, 2023**. 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 or bring it to the church office. Questions? Call Kris Finnigan 459-2244.

NOTES FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE



Snow has finally arrived but as least it wasn't as much as northwestern New York, and what we got hasn't stayed around here for very long at this time. That is only wishful thinking on my part, oh well.

The Dismas House dinner and meal prep will be at 5:30 pm Wednesday, December 7, 2022.

There will not be a Church Council Meeting in December. The next Council Meeting will be January 8, 2023 after Coffee Hour.

There will be an Enerjazz Concert on December 10, 2022 at 7 PM in the Sanctuary.

Starting at 2 PM on December 18, 2022 there will be a Panhandlers Concert followed by the Bells of Joy.

This year's Christmas Eve Service will be starting at 7 PM. There will be a Christmas Day Service **on ZOOM only** starting at 10 AM.

I can't believe that 2022 has gone by as fast as it has. I hope everyone has a blessed New Year and I'll be back in January.
God Bless you all and stay healthy.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE



I Corinthians 12:5-6 tells us "There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone, it is the same God at work"

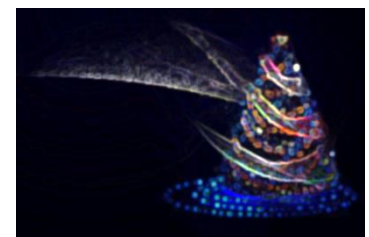
I Peter 4:10 – Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

The nominating committee has begun the process of filling the various positions needed to keep our church an active community serving those in need around the area. We ask that you think and pray about your part within the church to further our reach into the region. In terms of giving, time is also treasure. There are many ways to serve; one of them is to be on the church committees that plan the activities and work within our church.

There will be a sheet in the back of the sanctuary with all the positions available for the coming year listed. We ask that you consider placing your name on one of those lines. We hope that you will then have a position that you will actively participate in and enjoy the camaraderie of working with your fellow parishioners.

For questions about positions available or what they do, contact Meryl Lisananti or Karen Webster.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE CANCELLED



Dear Friends, In this busy time of the year, we are not able to hold our Blue Christmas Service due to scheduling conflicts. With longer planning time and collaboration together, we plan to have the Blue Christmas Service next year. Thank you for your understanding and patience in this change.

December

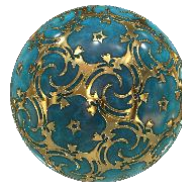


- 3 Deck the Halls, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
- 4 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- 7 Dinner Prep. And Meal Sharing at the Rutland Dismas House, 5:15 p.m.
- 10 **EnerJazz Concert, 7:00 p.m., UCP Sanctuary**
- 11 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- 14 TCC Christmas Concert, 10:00 a.m., Parish House Auditorium
- 18 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
Panhandlers & Bells of Joy Concert, 2:00 p.m., UCP Sanctuary
- 20 Articles & info due for January Scroll
- 24 **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary & Zoom**
- 25 Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., **ZOOM ONLY**



December Readers

- 4 Kim Metcalfe
- 11 Lynn Pilcher
- 18 Glenn Giles



December Greeters

- 4 Phyllis Sawtell
- 11 Meryl Lisananti
- 18 Karen Webster

CHURCH COUNCIL



The Council has decided to postpone our next meeting until Sunday, January 8th following the Fellowship Time. As the popular holiday song says, “*It’s the most wonderful (and, we might add, busy) time of year!*” We hope you’ll join us in worship during this beautiful Advent Season, come to the fabulous concerts in our Sanctuary, and enjoy celebrations with family and friends.

MEN'S COFFEE



Members & friends of Union Church- Join us for Men’s Coffee every Saturday from 7-8 a.m. in the Parish House.

Union Church of Proctor
5 Church St.
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	28 Shannon Watson
8 John Ojala	31 John Ojala
Mike Watson	Chris Thomas
11 Kathy Connors	
Richard Kelleway	
Melissa Tooley	