

# The Scroll

Newsletter of  
Union Church of Proctor

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Scroll on line at the web address above...  
lots more about the church there, too!

## January 2022

*Blessings to you on this new year!*

It has been a crazy two years. People talk about 'normal' and the 'new normal' and how things have changed...some for the worse and some for the better. I know, it is hard to find the 'for the better' changes, but they are there.

A few of our family members and friends have died over the last two years and sometimes it is hard to find a space to just mourn their loss – or our loss. We keep running from the virus, but we cannot run to someone close because of the potential impact. And so, we dive deep into a funk and struggle.

But we still have each other. The light into which we were born – the light of God within our very souls – continues to beckon us forward, to live, to sing of a new day dawning. And, each day, that is what will happen...a NEW day...to do with as we please.

So, we can sit around and feel sorry for ourselves or we can rise, celebrate life, and live it to its fullest. Call a friend you have not talked to in a while; write a letter (yes, I said WRITE) to your



grandchild, a friend, or a family member. Read a book, write a book or a poem (yes, I said WRITE, again.) Yes, your spindly, old legs take time to move, but move we must.

As you know, I am retiring. I have travelled, taught school (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades, high school, college), was a tax account (26 years), military (26 ½ years) and a Pastor for 14 years. It's time! And all through those years I have met the most wonderful people and I was blessed to even be part of their lives.

Thank you at the UCP for putting up with me; I know we laughed and worshipped together and cried at times. I will never forget you. Thank you & God speed!

“What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from.” T.S. Eliot

Rev. John Sanborn



## GOOD-BYE PASTOR JOHN

Our beloved pastor, John Sanborn is retiring from the ministry on



January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022. He has served our church for 5 years and touched everyone in our church, and many people in our community and beyond. **PLEASE JOIN US on Sunday, January 9th**, for John's last worship service at Union Church at 10 a.m. **AND/OR** the reception to follow at 11ish, as we bid John and Debbie farewell. All are welcome.

## WHERE ARE WE IN OUR SEARCH FOR A NEW PASTOR?



We are underway! Going through this thoughtful process will take time. As a congregation, we want to be sure we make a good match that will work well for us and for the pastor we call. Thankfully, we have plenty of resources that can help guide us through.

The congregation will be updated from time to time in The Scroll and in the Sunday worship service bulletins. First update – the Council has begun to form a Search Committee whose first task will likely be to update our Church Profile. They will need your input for this and for other tasks along the way and will welcome your support as they give each step thoughtful consideration.

In the meantime, our worship services will continue as usual. The Deacons have already lined up Pulpit Supply pastors for a smooth transition after Rev. John's retirement on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Please pray for the members of the Search Committee and for Union Church as we begin this important journey together.  
The Church Council

## GUEST PREACHER FOR JANUARY

We welcome Julie Demaree from Brandon who will be our guest preacher for the last 3 Sundays in January. She graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2019 and has a Master of Divinity degree and a Masters in Christian Ed. and Formation. She is originally from Nebraska and raised her family in Texas.

## DISMAS HOUSE DINNER



*On the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, the Union Church was doing dinner for Dismas House. I was a little late with my salad. As I drove in three young people came out to help me. The driveway was icy and I wasn't able to turn around as the lot was filled with cars. One of the young men offered to back my car out to Park St. He helped me in and out of the car and was very polite. I've always had great experiences at Dismas. The residents are always polite. I cannot wait until we can socialize with them again.*

*Nancy Thompson*

## DISMAS HOUSE DINNERS: A NEW YEAR, A NEW APPROACH!



Our small but faithful "army" of Dismas Dinner cooks put our heads together recently and came up with a few ideas about what might be getting in the way of folks raising their hands and volunteering to make a "dish for Dismas."  
(continued on the next page)

Have you ever thought:

- 1) I don't understand why we make meals for the residents there?
- 2) I'm not comfortable with the idea of sharing a meal with a group of strangers?
- 3) I don't know what they like so I don't know what to make?

Let's take them one by one.

Why is easy! Here's a quote from the Dismas of Vermont website:

*Life at Dismas House follows the natural rhythms of family life. During the day, Dismas residents go to work and/or to school. In the evening, everyone shares the evening meal. Afterward they might attend 12 step meetings, study, help with chores, prepare for the next day, reconnect with their families, relax, or socialize. **The evening meal is the centerpiece of the day where community building takes place. One of the chief ingredients is the presence of our volunteer cooks.** As they come month after month, they become an important part of the Dismas community. If the residential community and staff can be likened to the nuclear family, the volunteer cooks are the extended family: cousins, aunts, uncles, etc.*

Sharing the meal is not a requirement of making a dish! In fact, during COVID we've just been dropping the dishes off on the Dismas House back porch. But what the Union Church "regulars" will tell you is that sharing the meal together is the best part of our outreach there and it's what we miss the most. As in any new situation, you might feel awkward at first; but soon, like when most friends and families gather for a meal, there's a sharing of plans and experiences, stories are told, and laughter rings out. Before you know it, the meal is over (those guys don't mess around when it comes to eating!), the residents have cleared the dishes and are in the kitchen putting away the food and cleaning up. Some stay around the table just to chat with us some more, and all express their gratitude for what we've brought.



Lastly, who doesn't love a home-cooked meal? Truly, *any* dish you might want to contribute to the monthly meal is welcomed by the guys at Dismas House. As long as we provide variety in what we bring, there will always be something appealing. The staff informs us ahead of time about how many residents they have and if there are any allergies.

That said, we thought we'd try and address the, "I don't know what to make," question by presenting a menu each month. The "what" will have already been worked out. That just leaves the "who"... and we hope it's YOU!

### Dismas House Dinner Menu for Wed., January 5:

- Shepherd's Pie
- Rolls, Biscuits or Bread (Store-bought is fine)
- Jellied or tossed salad
- Cookies

Drop off is by 5:30 pm at 103 Park Ave., Rutland.

Please contact Barbara by January 3<sup>rd</sup> if you'd like to provide one of these dishes. Could be the best New Year's resolution you've ever made, and quite possibly one of the best gifts you've ever given yourself!

(P.S. Save your grocery receipt, submit it to Kris Finnigan, and the church will reimburse you. Easy-peasy!)

### **NEW MASKING POLICY**



In light of a growing concern about the rise in COVID cases in our area and the threat of the Omicron variant, we are instituting a new masking policy. We ask that whenever you are in the church buildings for any reason, and regardless of your vaccination status, please wear a mask.

This policy will continue until further notice. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work together to keep one another safe during the COVID crisis.



## ANNUAL MEETING



All Members and Friends of Union Church of Proctor, Vermont, be Warned that on \*Sunday, February 6, 2022, the Annual Business Meeting of Union Church of Proctor will be held in the Auditorium of the Parish House, adjacent to the Church Building, at 5 Church Street, Proctor.

*Morning Worship Service for All Ages begins at 10:00 a.m., followed by our regular Coffee "Hour." There will be no Luncheon.*

*The Annual Meeting will follow the Coffee Hour, at approximately 11:30 a.m. Due to continuing COVID concerns in our area, masks will be required. In addition, all attending are asked to take the time to read the reports in the 2021 Annual Yearbook ahead of time to minimize our time together.*

The Purpose of the Meeting will be:

- to hear and accept the Reports of the Committees, Boards and Officers of the Church
- to hear and vote on the Church's Operating Budget for 2022
- to consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting

All Members and Friends are urged to attend the Morning Worship, the Coffee Hour and to participate in the discussions of the Annual Meeting. Non-members will have equal opportunity to speak at the Meeting, and are encouraged to do so, but only Church Members may vote.

\*Please note: Should COVID concerns increase in the week prior to February 6<sup>th</sup>, we will move both the February 6<sup>th</sup> Worship Service and the Annual Meeting to Zoom only. The times will remain the same as stated above.



## THE CHURCH MOUSE

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL!!



I love the way snow looks when it is fresh, but enough is enough. I just don't like cold weather. I've spent the last week making my hidey hole as warm as I can get it and I think I've finally stopped all the drafts.

The Dismas House Prep and Supper will be on January 5, 2022 at 5:30 PM.

We offer our Condolences and Sympathies to the family and friends of Barbara Bourne on the passing of her husband, Rev. Gordon Bourne, on December 1, 2021. I remember them well when they attended services here at Union Church of Proctor and when he filled in when needed.

The next Church Council Meeting will be on Sunday, January 16, 2022 after services in the Parish House.

Don't forget that January 9, 2022, will be the last service that John Sanborn will be preaching with us. We all hope that he enjoys his upcoming retirement.

Also please watch for further information regarding the upcoming Annual Meeting on February 6, 2022.

God Bless everyone as I send you my wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

## ANNUAL REPORTS 2021



Annual Reports **from all committees, boards, etc.**, should be turned in to the church office **by January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022**. 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.

# January



- 2 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom  
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- 5 Dinner Prep. And Meal Sharing at the Rutland Dismas House, 5:30 p.m. drop off
- 9 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Pastor John's Last Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom  
Special Coffee & Fellowship For John & Debbie, 11:00 a.m.
- 16 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Morning Worship- Julie Demaree preaching, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom  
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.  
Church Council Meeting
- 20 Articles & info due for February Scroll
- 23 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Morning Worship- Julie Demaree preaching, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom  
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- 30 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Morning Worship- Julie Demaree preaching, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom  
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

February 6 - UCP Annual Meeting

## January Liturgists



- 2 Janet Yager and Lynn Pilcher
- 9 Glenn Giles and Kim Metcalfe
- 16 Jean Noren
- 23 Jeff Bergquist
- 30 Jean Butler

*Thank you, John! For everything!*

Union Church of Proctor  
5 Church Street  
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## *January Greeters*

2 Phyllis Sawtell  
9 Meryl Lisananti & Kay Bergquist  
16 Nancy Thompson  
23 Elsie Valach  
30 Sue Osgood & Carol Trudelle



## *January Birthdays*

1	Connie Partridge	18	Donna Chapin
	Judith Scott	21	Mackenzie Lacy
2	Karen Webster		Audrey Tilden
3	Gloria Giles	22	Kathy Milillo
4	Andrew Sutherland	24	Lenore Gates
6	Carol Bam		Caitlin Canty
9	Ray Parker	28	Drew Pilcher
15	Jean Esler	31	Jean Noren