

# *The Scroll*

Newsletter of  
Union Church of Proctor

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lots more about the church there, too!



## *July/August 2020*

### **FROM THE DEACONS**

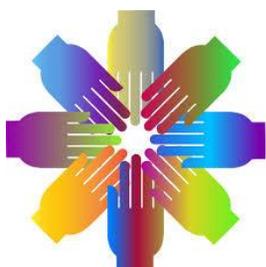
Four deacons and Pastor John met at the Parish House on June 11<sup>th</sup>, observing social distancing and wearing masks. The purpose of the meeting was to address the question of when to re-open the sanctuary for worship services. All present were concerned about the high health risk vulnerability of our congregation, but also acknowledged the desire to worship together as soon as possible, and if we did open, how could we responsibly make this happen. At this time there would be many restrictions that would impact the way we hold a worship service. It was apparent that the consensus of those present felt it was too soon to open, and that we should take more time to observe the risk of contracting the virus as well as the experience of other local churches that have chosen to open now. We are looking to September 6<sup>th</sup> as a possible re-start date.

We also talked about the ZOOM format of worship. We thank Pastor John and Eddie Wilkin, who have done imaginative work in providing meaningful worship services, Tom Peppard, who has led the hymn singing every week, and Barbara Lacy, who has sent out the ZOOM contact and links to the bulletin and hymns. The deacons recognize that the ZOOM format, while presenting some technical challenges, has given us a common place for worship and for seeing each other, and for the opportunity to visit as a group, however briefly. The deacons are hoping that anyone who is wishing to participate and is having technical issues will reach out and ask for help. ZOOM will never be a perfect alternative to worshipping in the sanctuary, but not perfect is okay if it ensures anyone's well-being.

At Pastor John's request, the deacons will be taking a greater role in the worship service, such as presenting the opening prayer of their choosing or giving an introduction to the scripture reading(s) of the day that may include sharing from their own spiritual journey. As you

know, deacons have been called to serve, are bound to confidentiality, to hear and share joys and concerns, and provide help and encouragement. We welcome the privilege of your time and thoughts as we all share God's work in our lives together.

See you in (zoom) church,  
Ellen Sutherland and Janet Yager, scribes  
Lynn Picher, Jean Noren, Kim Metcalfe and  
Glenn Giles



## COUNCIL NEWS

Who knew at the Church Annual Meeting back in snowy February that, due to a pandemic, it would be months before we'd convene again to discuss the business of the church? Wearing masks and with appropriate social distancing, the Council finally met on June 23<sup>rd</sup> not in the now 90-degree heat of the Parish House, but in the cooler sanctuary.

A budget report from Treasurer, Jeff Bergquist, revealed that we are in good shape. Thank you all for your continued support in this current health crisis.

The Deacons shared their discussion from the week before about reopening for worship services.

The Council discussed at length both the advantages and challenges of in-person gatherings. We are in support of the Deacons' decision to wait to reopen and thank them for their careful consideration of the question. In the meantime, we'll continue to offer Sunday morning worship through Zoom.

Protecting attendees' privacy prevents us from offering recordings of our Zoom worship services.

However, our discussion did bring to light some interesting ideas for enhancing both the feeling and the accessibility of the services:

- Rev. John will be physically in the pulpit for the Sunday morning Zoom services.
- Eddie Wilkin will be encouraged to offer additional recordings of him playing music in the Sanctuary.
- As they continue their calls, the Deacons will discuss with folks how we might help if they are unable to or are having difficulty accessing the online services.

Lastly, while the decision whether or not a church reopens cannot be one of "one size fits all," we will try to get feedback from other churches that are opening to see how it is working for them. In the meantime, please do keep in touch with one another and say a prayer for all of those affected by this disease around the globe.



## **BRAVISSIMO, DR. EDDIE WILKIN!**

We are so very pleased to congratulate our Music Director, Eddie Wilkin, on receiving his Doctorate in Education from the University of New England.

Eddie also holds a Master of Music in Choral & Orchestral Conducting from the University of Rhode Island and received both his Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Music Education from Castleton University.

In addition to his duties at Union Church, Eddie is involved in many aspects of music in the



region. He is the Director of Choral Activities at Fair Haven Union High School, the Artistic Director and Founder of the Slate Valley Singers, and he conducts the Rutland City Band. He has conducted several other area instrumental and choral groups, and is active in both VT and New England professional organizations.

Eddie's dissertation, "*An Analysis of Former High School Music Students' Perceptions of Their Motivation to Persist Through Yearly Adjudicated Music Festivals*", used case studies to look at what motivated high school music students who failed at adjudicated festival auditions to persevere to improve and ultimately audition again in subsequent years. One of his conclusions? "*When educators create systems to support students through autonomy, positive relations, and a focus on the process of learning, students develop intrinsic motivation and build a level of persistence.*" No doubt Eddie's students would tell you he is just such an educator.



At Union Church we value not only what Eddie has accomplished through music education and his continued studies, but also his unfailingly positive attitude, his willingness to pitch in (think: "What's a Zoom worship service and how do we do it?"), and, of course, the music he brings to life in our sanctuary and at our online services. Thank you, Eddie, and CONGRATULATIONS!

You can learn more about Eddie's work and watch videos of performances on his website: <https://www.edwardwilkin.com>.



## THE CHURCH MOUSE



The Mouse has some news to impart for a change, and boy am I happy. Most of it is good news and one bit of sad news. We offer our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Warren McCullough who passed away recently. He was a long-time member of Union Church and put in many years or tireless service to our buildings and grounds and the town of Proctor. He will be missed.

I understand that Lon Schneider recently celebrated his 50 years in the ministry on June 14, 2020. He was ordained (I hope this is the correct term) in California. He celebrated by giving the sermon for our church on the same date.

The Men will be holding their usual coffee hour every Saturday morning at 7:00 AM and then will hold the Men's Breakfast on the second Saturday of each month here in the Parish House.

The Children's Center is back in business on a limited basis. Love hearing those young voices.

Amy Larson has her front door on the cover of the current Rutland Magazine. Also in the magazine is an article about her beautiful flower gardens.

Congratulations to Eddie Wilkin on achieving his Doctorate in Education.

To those who may not be aware, Ada Loyzelle, is now living at 134 McConnell Rd, Brandon, VT 05733. She will be celebrating her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on June 29, 2020.

God Bless each and every one of you!

Much love from the Church Mouse!



## BAZAAR UPDATE

Due to continued concerns about the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, the Church Council has decided that we will not have a Bazaar this fall. At this time, the State of Vermont is continuing to operate under a state of emergency. Currently, closely packed indoor gatherings of this sort are neither wise nor permitted.

While we'll miss the long tradition of working together on the Bazaar and providing a fun event for the community, keeping our friends, neighbors and ourselves safe is paramount in these uncertain times.

## MEN'S COFFEE IS BACK!



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

## MEN'S BREAKFAST



Our Men's Breakfasts have resumed on the second Saturday of each month! Our July Breakfast will be on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> from 7-8 am in the Parish House. Our August Breakfast will be on August 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 am.

## July Birthdays

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Megan Dean        | 15 Sandra Webster     |
| Phyllis Lanz        | 16 David Lacy         |
| 2 Rachel Keyser     | 18 Shirley McCullough |
| Allison Richardson  | 19 John Sanborn       |
| Kayla Toher         | 21 Jacqueline Ojala   |
| 6 Jaron Mullan      | 22 Connie Cushman     |
| 7 Troy Ault         | Peter Kingsbury       |
| 9 Anthony Bernstein | 23 Lynne Kelly        |
| Russ Gates          | Jessica Watson        |
| Alan Walker         | 24 Abba Corliss       |
| 11 Doug Williamson  | 25 Kiefer Metcalfe    |
| Jeffrey Chase       | 28 Kevin Canty        |
| 12 Duane Hall       | Morgan Daly           |
| 13 Andrew Guyette   | 29 Debbie Mullan      |
| Zachary Thibault    | James Tomlinson       |
| 14 Muriel Sedergren | Maxine Tilden         |
| 15 Stacey Jimmo     | 31 Emelia Tooley      |



## August Birthdays

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Carol Curtis   | 14 Edward Moody    |
| Dick Esler       | 15 Nancy Young     |
| 2 Jenelle Mullan | 16 Darlene Clark   |
| Art Saceric      | 17 Bronson Patch   |
| 3 Sarah Bam      | 18 Taryn Cottrell  |
| James Gray       | Donna Howe         |
| 4 Brin Finnigan  | 21 Brad Thomas     |
| Chris Hanrahan   | 22 Brittany Chapin |
| Brian Sanderson  | Beth Thibault      |
| Karen St. Peter  | Alan Westin        |
| 6 Penny Rickert  | 23 Ken Bates       |
| Jason Sheldrick  | Nancy Kennedy      |
| 8 Tyler Ault     | Diane Parker       |
| Grace Smith      | 25 Aiden Smith     |
| 12 Braedon Fox   | 26 Tim Daly        |
| 13 Leah Kapitan  | 27 Rod Knipes      |
| Mike Morgan      | 28 Jesse Logan     |
| Ann Volz         | Tom Valach         |

# July



- 5 Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., ZOOM
- 11 Men's Breakfast, 7:00 a.m., Parish House
- 12 Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., ZOOM
- 19 Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., ZOOM
- 26 Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., ZOOM

# August



- 2 Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., ZOOM
- 8 Men's Breakfast, 7:00 a.m., Parish House
- 9 Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., ZOOM
- 16 Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., ZOOM
- 20 Articles & info due for September Scroll
- 23 Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., ZOOM
- 30 Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., ZOOM

Union Church of Proctor  
5 Church Street  
Proctor, VT 05765

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## IN THE GARDEN

Amy caring for the Union Church garden during a Spring Cleanup Day

Be sure to check out the Summer issue of “Rutland Magazine”! Amy and Ed Larson’s cheerful, flower be-decked front porch is featured on the front cover. Inside, with beautiful photos by Ed, “Amy’s City Garden,” describes the transformation of their property from a blank slate 30 years ago to the lovely, serene spot it is today. Look for a copy at various spots around the County or view the magazine online at:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/Paintbyenumbers945/rutland-magazine-summer-2020/full-view.html>.