

# 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!

## June 2020

*Two people in white robes stood by them,  
and said, "People of Galilee,  
why do you stand looking up toward  
heaven?"*

—Acts 1.10-11

There are those times  
when you have lost what you loved,  
when you gaze up into the empty box of the  
sky  
and the emptiness comes down around you  
like a blanket, a bell,  
and your gaze can't pierce  
the thick silence inside the bell.

Even the deepest faith doesn't round off  
this world's sharp edges, its losses and  
traumas.

Holiness often lives in the blank of sorrow,  
the empty chair.



It's all right to stand there and gaze.  
Before the wind begins to shift,  
before the bright strangers speak.  
they know. They hand us a tissue.

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Steve Garnaas-Holmes  
[www.unfoldinglight.net](http://www.unfoldinglight.net)

These are certainly trying times. The longer we  
sit in isolation, our memories of what life was  
like before Covid – 19 seem to fade a bit. We  
might feel we have lost our sense of life as we  
knew it. And we are unsure of what we are  
moving into, even as this virus still moves  
around the world.

But I think there is something that will help us  
look into the future. Things are changing and  
they might actually not come back to what we  
knew. We might be moving toward a “new  
normal”. But while we sit and ponder what the  
new world will look like, I hope we understand  
that God is on our side. That through all of this

nastiness that is around us, both verbally and spiritually and physically, that the one constant we can depend upon is the mercy of God, the grace of God, and that, through the life of Jesus Christ, we will be given the strength and the courage to move on.

But we have to ask for it. And when we ask for it, we have to take the time to recognize it as it comes into our lives. We can have some preconceived notion as to what this courage and strength will look like, but we just have to pray that we can understand it and tap into it.

So that's what we have to do – pray, unceasingly. For each other, for ourselves, and for the world – because sometimes when we pray for each other and for ourselves, we have a sense of a very limited scope of people in distance. The world needs our prayers. The nation and our leaders need our prayers. Despite what you may think you have the capability of doing to help the world out, the one thing you can do is to pray – each day, each hour and let those prayers be your roadmap into the future.

Rev John Sanborn



## **COME ON AND ZOOM!**

“Come on and Zoom, Zoom, zooma-Zoom...” Those were some of the lyrics of a popular PBS children’s show back in the day. According to Wikipedia the cast (all children) “presented various activities such as games, plays, poems, recipes, jokes, songs, movies, science experiments, and informal chats on”...a variety of topics. Sounds a lot like what happens online on various platforms today, doesn’t it?

Union Church has been “Zooming,” too, although in a much different way. Starting in April and moving through May, we now have seven (as of this writing) online worship services under our belts.

Attendees have continued to join the 10:00 AM service from a variety of locales, either by phone or through their online devices. With the exception of the Anthem (we look forward to the time when we can hear your wonderful voices in person again, Choir!), the elements of the service are much the same. We were even blessed with a special guest soloist one Sunday when Paul Sutherland played a couple of trombone pieces for us. And the technology has evolved over time, too, as we’ve learned more about what works best for folks.

During this pandemic, it has become increasingly clear just how much we all look forward to “meeting” this way on Sunday mornings, how important it is to each of us to gather as a church community, to “see” one another and to worship together. Case in point – due to a tech glitch beyond our control on a recent Sunday morning, we suddenly couldn’t see (and some of us couldn’t hear) one another. It was immediately clear how disappointed we all were! We so missed that important human connection of checking in with familiar faces and seeing smiles we’ve missed.

Being the dedicated folks that they are, Rev. John and Eddie Wilkin persevered, went on with the service (mostly with just audio) and now we’re right back on track for smooth viewing of upcoming “Zoom” services.

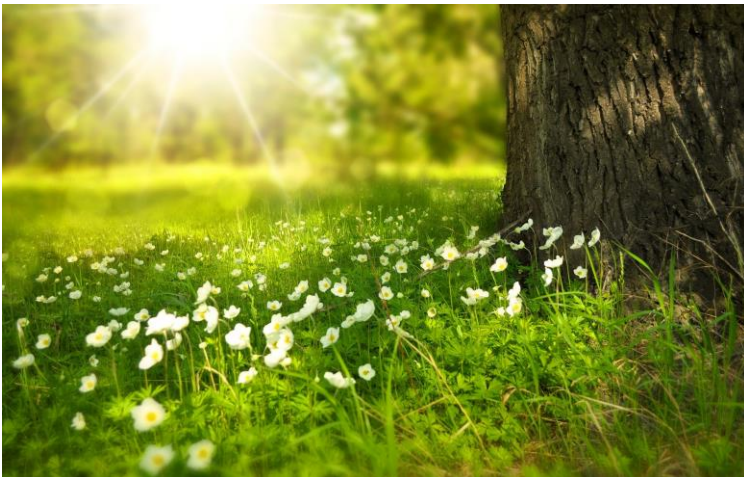
If you or someone you know would like to join us for a service, please send an email request to the church at: [unionchurchproctor@gmail.com](mailto:unionchurchproctor@gmail.com). There won’t be any science experiments like the TV “Zoom” (although Rev. John is full of surprises, so you never know!), but there will be prayers, music, a Message, time for sharing joys and concerns, and plenty of smiling faces!

# June



*At the time of publication, all church activities listed below, including gathering for Morning Worship Services, are pending the lifting of the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” guidelines. Check the church website or call the church office for updates. In the meantime, enjoy summer, be well, and we hope we can be together soon!*

- 7 Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m.
- 14 Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m.
- 21 Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m.
- 20 Articles & info due for July Scroll
- 28 Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m.



THE Lord God planted a garden  
In the first white days of the world,  
And He set there an angel warden  
In a garment of light enfurled.

So near to the peace of Heaven,  
That the hawk might nest with the wren,  
For there in the cool of the even  
God walked with the first of men.

And I dream that these garden closes  
With their shade and their sun-flecked sod  
And their lilies and bowers of roses,  
Were laid by the hand of God.

The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth, –  
One is nearer God's heart in a garden  
Than anywhere else on earth.

~Dorothy Frances Gurney (1858-1932)

Union Church of Proctor  
5 Church Street  
Proctor, VT 05765

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June  
Birthdays



- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Alison Layman        | 18 Aaron Curtis      |
| Treyton Kimball        | 19 Lyndon Chapin     |
| 2 Jean Baccei          | 20 Chet Brown        |
| Adam Gates             | Brian Finnigan       |
| Asa Metcalfe           | Camdon Kimball       |
| 3 Cindy McKearin       | 21 Debbie McCullough |
| 4 Kim Baccei ☺         | Desiree Moody        |
| Mary Rachel Keyser     | 22 Alex Volz         |
| Ian Pilcher            | 23 Liana Hall        |
| 5 Paul Sutherland      | 25 Paul Corliss      |
| 7 Eileen Guyette       | Shari Tomlinson      |
| 8 Jeff Allenby         | 26 Deb Sanborn       |
| 9 Ann Ruelke           | 28 Glenn Giles       |
| 11 Karen Williamson    | 29 Ada Loyzelle      |
| 12 Christie Coughenour | Jack Morgan          |
| Trenton Bourn          | Betty Schneider      |
| 16 Kay Bergquist       | Elliot St. Peter     |
|                        | 30 Margaret Daly     |