

The Scroll

Newsletter of
Union Church of Proctor

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March 2017

BENEDICTION – A BLESSING



A Blessing

This blessing is from a book called, *Knitting into the Mystery, A Guide to a Shawl-Knitting Ministry* by Susan S. Izard and Susan S. Jorgensen

May the blessing of light be on you, light without and light within and light inside the darkness within.

May the blessed sunlight shine upon you and warm your heart till it glows, like a great peat fire, so that strangers may come and warm themselves; and that friends may come.

And may the light shine out of the eyes of you, like a candle set in the windows of a house,

bidding the wanderer to come in out of the storm.

And may the blessing of the rain be on you—the soft, sweet rain.

May it fall upon your spirit so that the seedlings of light in your shadow may spring up, and shed their sweetness on the air.

And may the blessing of the great rains be on you, that they beat upon your spirit and wash it fair and clean, and leave there many a shining pool, and sometimes a star.

And may the blessing for the earth be on you—the great round earth who carries all; the great round earth whose suffering has already become radiant.

May you ever have a kindly greeting for people you pass as you are going along the roads.

And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly, your kin and all creatures.
Go in Peace...Amen!

LENTEN OFFERING



During the Lenten Season, we have the opportunity to reflect upon our lives and renew our commitment to God and to others. This season reminds us of the wondrous love God has for us, the extraordinary sacrifice made for us, and the hope in each new day. While we can never repay this expression of love, we are called to do what we can for others and in this way share God's abiding love.

The Outreach Committee has historically offered the congregation a special offering during Lent to support programs dedicated to caring for others. We invite you to join us in this special collection beginning the first Sunday of Lent and continuing through Easter Sunday. Return your offering in the envelope enclosed with your Lenten mailing or use one of the envelopes available in the pews.

The Union Church of Proctor continues to reach out beyond our walls to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ in our community and throughout the world. This year, the ministries the Outreach Committee is supporting through this special collection are the Proctor Community Concerns Council and Church World Service. Thank you in advance for giving what you can during this Lenten Season to support these ministries.

Sincerely, The Outreach Committee of Union Church of Proctor

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.

MEN'S BREAKFAST



We hold a Men's Breakfast on the second Saturday of each month. Our March Breakfast will be on Saturday, March 11th from 7-8 am in the Parish House dining room.

THE CHURCH MOUSE



As I sit here writing for the March Scroll, I have just heard the weather report for the rest of this week which is supposed to have temperatures in the 40s and 50s. I hope that this means that spring is not too far behind.

The annual meeting and pot luck on the 5th of February were fairly well attended. I was able to get my usual tastes of the luncheon when no one was looking. This church has a number of wonderful cooks (as I've said before) and it certainly bears repeating.

The regular meetings will be the Men's Breakfast on March 11, the Ladies Lunch on March 14 and the Church Council meeting on March 19.

Over the past few weeks we have lost two of our long-time church members. We are extending prayers and sympathy to Donna and Rod Knipes and the Smith family on the passing of Claire Smith. We are also extending prayers and sympathy to Jean Noren and her family on the passing of Allan Noren. They will be most sorely missed by their family and friends.

God Bless everyone until next month. See you in church!

March Greeters

5 Phyllis Sawtell
12 Elsie Valach
19 Karen & Bob Webster
26 Nancy Thompson

AUTOMATIC PLEDGE PAYMENTS



Several members and friends of the Union Church have been using the easyTithe system to make their payments to the church., both regularly and periodically.

A recent increase in cost raises the issue of continuing to use this process. We will plan to stop using this system at the end of April.

We would like to suggest using a direct payment from your checking account, a system being used by a number of charitable institutions. There is no cost to you or the church. You pick the date that is most comfortable with your cash management program.

Should this approach appeal to you, please contact Kris Finnigan (kris.finni@gmail.com) and she will mail you the numbers that will allow the process to be set up.

Thanks for all your on-going support of the Union Church of Proctor.

Your Finance Committee

SCORE!!!

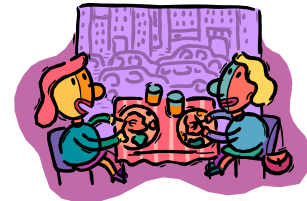
Our "Souper Bowl of Caring" 5th Sunday Service Project yielded 166 food items for the Pittsford-Proctor Food Shelf and \$303.92 for the Open Door Mission.



Thanks to everyone for your contributions and for your help sorting the boxes and cans.

We were one of (so far) 4,945 "Souper Bowl" groups nationwide who collected a total of \$7,539,323 in cash and food items, 100% of which was donated to local charities. What a great example of, "If we each do a little, together we can do a lot."

LADIES LUNCH



Our March Ladies' Lunch will take place at the Rutland Country Club at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 14th. Come and join us!

PRISON VISIT



The March Prison visit will be on Wednesday, March 15th. Anyone wishing to join us is welcome or if someone would like to make something, it would be appreciated. See Sue Osgood or Carol Trudelle for more information.

WE'VE GOT MAIL!



*To Barbara and Union Church members:
Thank you so much for your very generous donation of items for the Food Shelf. You are doing so much to help our local folks who need some help!*

Sincerely, Kristina Cady for the Food Shelf

On behalf of the Veterans and the disenfranchised we serve we thank you for your donation to our facility. Your donation makes a difference to those in need. Our belief here is a hand up, not a hand out. We do this with the dignity of the client as a priority as homelessness can happen to anyone.

Sharon Russell & Tammy Duclos for Rutland City Rescue Mission



OPEN DOOR MISSION

On Saturday night (2/11/17), 6 volunteers from our Church, went to the Open Door Mission to serve dinner at 6:00PM. We have signed on to continue do so, on the 4th Saturday of every month. What a great opportunity for our Church to serve the less fortunate. In the words of Christ (as part of Matthew 25:40) Christ said: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the

least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me". After a little research, I was amazed with what the Open Door Mission is able to accomplish **WITHOUT** public funds, with help from many others in the community, like us. I'm sharing the information with you, as I thought you might find it of interest as well.

Here's some info for you:

OPEN DOOR MISSION

- 1) We receive NO public dollars
- 2) We are a 51 bed shelter. The largest in the State.
- 3) First Long-Term Veteran Shelter in the Country
- 4) 16,000 bed nights, last year, in our shelter
- 5) Our Soup kitchen served over 36,000 meals last year
- 6) We help clothe, not just the homeless, but also the working poor. We help hundreds of families at Christmas each year
- 7) We give our homeless veterans a warm bed, a full belly, and a shoulder to cry on, when needed. We help them transition back into a better quality life. 87% of our clientele are veterans

What supports us

- a) About 80% comes from our thrift store
- b) The other 20% comes from our once-a-year Golf Tournament, and our Annual appeal

Last year it cost us approx. \$500,000 to support all these things, as well as fuel, electric, etc.
DONE WITH NO PUBLIC FUNDS

We appreciate your donations to our store, as well as your shopping at the thrift store, it is the main reason we are able to help the people we do.

Thank You,
The Open Door Mission Staff



THE MYSTERY OF THE SNOWPEOPLE

One morning last December, the town of Proctor woke up to a great mystery. Sometime during the night little wooden snowmen appeared all over town. The snowmen and women had plaid scarves and decorations on their little wooden hats. They had cute, smiling faces and long wooden noses. Some had pipes and some were even having snowball fights with other snowpeople. There were snowmen everywhere!... at the school, at the Children's Center, on the Marble Bridge, in the Town Park, the Library and even some in the yards of houses. Everyone was talking about the snowmen and how and why they came to Proctor.

The snowpeople have come to make us smile and remind us that Proctor is a great place to live. They are a fun, positive message in a world where the importance of community is sometimes forgotten. We all have gifts. The makers of the snowmen have shared their creative gift with all of us in the hope that we will all work together to make Proctor a town we can be proud of.



...where we can raise our children to thrive and grow in an atmosphere of caring for each other and community... with fun stuff going on now

and then! Will the snowpeople come back next year? It's a mystery....

A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS



So here's a lovely little story....

One afternoon after a recent snowfall, a church member arrived at her church's Parish House and discovered the walkway, steps and part of the porch were covered in snow. With a few minutes until her meeting, she grabbed the shovel and worked her way from the door toward the steps. Midway through clearing the third step she heard a voice ask, "Would you like some help?" Mystified, she looked up to see a young man smiling up at her. "Well, that would be wonderful!" she said as she handed him the shovel. For the next few minutes, he shoveled and she swept and they had a great conversation. Two strangers bent to a common task.

It turns out he was a high school senior walking home from volunteering at the local elementary school. He's on the basketball team. He is also part of a Junior Firefighter program and hopes to continue in that field or in law enforcement after a stint in the National Guard. When he finished shoveling, she thanked him and he went on his way.

The best part of the story is that it happened at Union Church right here in Proctor just a couple of weeks ago. The young man's selfless act of kindness made the church member's day. It would have been so easy to just walk past and leave her to her work, but instead he offered a helping hand.

So, if you see Matt Okerman around town, please thank him for his help and for his random act of kindness.



March Birthdays

2 Erik Chapin	18 Liz Fothergill
Jean Lertola	19 Paul Pilcher
4 Donna Knipes	20 Melanie Mace
Amy Larson	21 Nancy Allenby
5 Nancy Thompson	Tanya Morgan
7 Barb Corliss	Seth Richardson
Peg Thomas	22 Leah Moody
9 Chris Heintz	23 Mike Kingsbury
10 Jeff Metcalfe	25 Jeff Bergquist
14 Collin Elliott	26 Cairle Ault
Jim Toher	Roy Pilcher
16 Karyn Colburn	27 Carol Westin
17 Debra Kingsbury	
Reilly Knipes	
Shelby Moody	

SILENCE: GATEWAY TO THE SOUL, AN AFTERNOON LENTEN RETREAT



The parishes of St. Dominic, St. Bridget and St. Stanislas present an introduction to sacred silence and its value in our contemporary lives. This is a video and discussion program which was presented late last year as a three-part series but will be presented this spring as an afternoon half-day retreat during Lent. Come see what sacred silence looks like in the lives of average people in modern society. Details are available in the brochures in the back of the church.

Event: Video/Discussion

St. Dominic's church Parish Hall, big screen

Saturday, March 25th – noon to 5:30, followed by evening mass

Easter Memorial Flowers

Once again we expect to have Easter lilies and other potted spring flowers enhancing the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. In order to have an accurate listing of Memorial Flowers, we ask that you please fill out the slip below and return it to the church **by Palm Sunday, April 9th**. You may email your memorial information to Kris at kris.finni@gmail.com or send it to Union Church of Proctor, 5 Church St., Proctor, VT 05765.

Please note that the information you provide below is **only for our memorial listing in the Easter Sunday bulletin. All flowers must be ordered and paid for by those wishing to give them.**

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Easter Flowers Memorial Listing

In Memory of:

Given by



March



- 1 Ash Wednesday
- 5 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- 11 Men's Breakfast, 7:00 a.m., Parish House
Set your clocks ahead for Daylight Savings so you're on time for church
- 12 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- 14 Ladies' Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Rutland Country Club
- 15 Prison Visit
- 19 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
Church Council meeting, following worship
- 20 Articles & info due for April Scroll
- 25 Open Door Mission- see Pastor John for more info
- 26 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

MARCH READERS

- 5 Debbie Sanborn
- 12 Paul Pilcher
- 19 Glenn Giles
- 26 Lynn Pilcher



CHURCH COUNCIL REMINDER

The Church Council will meet on Sunday, March 19th following the Coffee Hour. Committees, please have a representative there to report on any recent projects as well as what's up next for your group. Thanks!

Union Church of Proctor
5 Church Street
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