

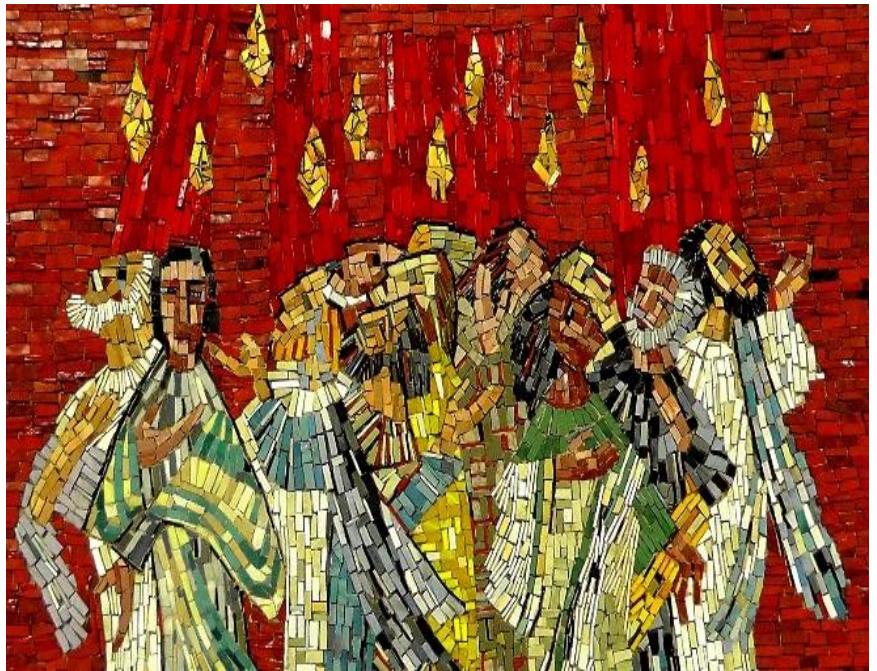
The Scroll

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!



May 2023

Acts 2:1-4 (NIV)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly, a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

One of my favorite times of the church year is Pentecost. I know it's weird, and that's okay. I love Easter and Christmas, Advent, and Lent, but Pentecost, that's the day for me!

The Pentecost festival in our Bible takes place in Jerusalem on the feast day of Shavuot, fifty days after Passover in the Jewish calendar. The story we read and hear in Acts begins with Luke's retelling of the ascension of Jesus found in Acts 1 and Luke 24. The large gathering of Jesus' followers in Jerusalem and the choice of Judas' replacements gives the needed details to begin the Pentecost action of all the Acts of the Apostles. Luke's telling of the story describes it

as the completion of what John the Baptist began. Baptism with water would now become baptism with the Holy Spirit.

Typically, we think of Pentecost as the "birth of the church." Perhaps there is truth to that thought, yet, I like to first think of Pentecost as the empowerment of the believers to witness to everyone, witness to the literal ends of the earth, as was promised in Acts 1:8. Peter speaks to thousands of gathered people about Jesus' death and resurrection. Peter has finally felt the Holy Spirit and stands unafraid (anymore) to share what is "burning" in him. Those thousands gathered who heard Peter became Christ believers and, thereafter, formed the base of all the earliest churches by sharing God's love and their story everywhere. This fact is why we say Pentecost is the birth of the church, as these people continued to gather to retell their own experiences of the risen Christ.

Those that experienced the Holy Spirit that day were in the midst of what is described as a violent, rushing wind, and the people gathered had "flaming tongues of fire" on their heads.

They then had the ability to speak fluently in other languages. The Holy Spirit was not quiet back then in empowering those Pentecost people to act and share about God's love and grace for the world. The Holy Spirit did not come as a gentle dove alighting on the hearer's shoulders. The Holy Spirit came as a violent and rushing wind, fierce to shock the hearers into action. These acts literally "blow" the church into being (Acts 2:41-47).



I love this idea of free sharing of communication that, regardless of what language you speak or where you come from, the Spirit residing in you can break all human barriers and open us up to receiving and sharing God's love.

The Pentecost folks are described as literally (and figuratively) "on fire" with God's love, and are then moved to spread that love to everyone everywhere they go!

It's important to keep in mind that all those outsiders who had gathered for the feast in Jerusalem were all immigrants, some were even slaves. These people were from all over the Mediterranean basin, speaking dozens of languages and having unique customs of their regions. Luke is also very clear that what happened to the people was not limited to men or young people! So, these people, with all their differences, found themselves in the midst of a violent windstorm. Together, they experienced an anchor of love to not only get them through that time of what felt like chaos but to take them into the future, forever changed for the better and bonded (anchored) in a common love.

That's what I hope for us in this church. Not that we experience something to shake us up, but that we know that whatever it is that we have been through in our individual lives and community, through love we can go into the future bonded/anchored in God's love. We come from

all sorts of different places and backgrounds, and some of us speak different languages or a different generational or cultural lingo. Regardless of these differences, I hope that we can, like the Pentecost people, know that with God's steadfast presence (a given!), we can change the world together, just like those who gathered on the day of Pentecost.

Perhaps for us today, we need to be reminded that the love that exists in us isn't some smoldering and dying ember because there is some snow on many of our proverbial roofs. I hope that each hears that God's love is still vigorously burning inside! As Pentecost people of today, we have no less passion for sharing (witnessing) the Gospel Good News than those that first experienced the winds and tongues of fire. As we approach Pentecost this month, may we anticipate a rekindled understanding of the Spirit's fire that lives in each of us.



OUTREACH UPDATE

The Outreach Committee held its second quarter meeting on March 28th. We reviewed our list of fourteen charitable organizations which includes two specified lines for Crisis Requests and Individual and Family Needs. This quarter's donations went to BROCC, Pittsford Food Shelf, and The New Story Center. The Lenten Offerings very generous once again. Our church membership is delighted to be able to send a check to the Bridge to Rutland Organization for \$3,240! This organization aids asylum seekers in all areas of resettlement. It is a daunting process to become established in a new country mentally, physically, financially, and emotionally. The funds given will help them move through the process of integration. The members of the Union Church of Proctor feel very fortunate to be able to lend a hand to others, and in so doing we also help ourselves. Our next scheduled meeting is on June 14th in the Parish House at 1:00 p.m.

NOTES FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE



I was so happy to say that spring is here. But looking at the current temperatures in the area, I'm not sure, but at least the snow has finally disappeared and hopefully won't be back for several months.

The Dismas House dinner and meal prep will be at 5:30 pm Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

I have heard talk and even saw a sign or two up, advertising The Loyalty Day Parade on the First Sunday in May. Which according to the calendar will be May 7. I do love parades with marching bands, fire trucks, etc.

The next Church Council meeting will be held on May 21 after coffee hour.

God Bless you all and stay healthy.



May Birthdays

5 Emily St. Peter	21 Cathy Canty
8 Chris Keyser	Anne Proctor
10 Ariana Malutich	Dan Varney
14 Renzo Palmerini	23 Robert Webster
18 Bob Argentero	27 Pam Ojala
20 Dillon Metcalfe	28 Lon Schneider

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.

VEGAN CHOCOLATE CAKE RECIPE – BY REQUEST!



According to Mark Bittman, in *How to Bake Anything*:

"Developed during the Depression due to a shortage of dairy products, the cake is now a godsend for vegans and anyone who loves a good shortcut."

2 cups of flour
1/3 cup cocoa powder
1 1/2 cups sugar (I usually do a bit less)
2 teaspoons baking soda
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1 tablespoon distilled white vinegar
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Heat oven to 350 degrees F.

Whisk together dry ingredients.

Make 3 small wells in the flour mixture: pour oil into the first, vinegar into the second, and vanilla into the third. Pour 1 1/2 cups of cold water over everything and whisk to combine. Pour into an ungreased 8-inch square pan.

Bake until a toothpick comes out clean, about 50 minutes. Let the cake cool before frosting. (I just used powdered sugar sprinkled through a sieve as the 'frosting')

Enjoy!

(shared by Lynn Pilcher)



May Greeters

- 7 Phyllis Sawtell
- 14 Meryl Lisananti
- 21 Kim Baccei
- 28 Kay Bergquist



May Liturgists

- 7 Lynn Pilcher
- 14 Janet Yager
- 21 Kim Metcalfe
- 28 Jean Noren



DEACONS MEETING

The Deacons will meet on Sunday, May 7th, following worship and fellowship time.

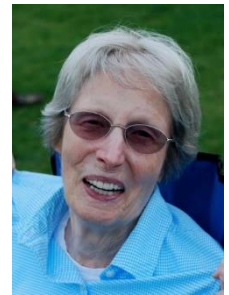
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The Church Council will meet on Sunday, May 21st following the Fellowship Time.



YOU ARE INVITED

You are invited to Rev. Sara Rossigg's installation at Brandon Congregational Church on Sunday, May 21st at 2 pm. Rev. Jenei has been asked to give the charge to Sara and the congregation. Everyone is welcome.



PRISCILLA FAY

A graveside service for Priscilla Libby Fay will be held on May 27th at 11 am at the Southside Cemetery in Proctor. Friends are welcome to attend.

Priscilla is survived by: her husband Marshall; her children: Jennifer Fay Auge (David), Skip Fay (Mary Anderson), Ellen Fay, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Priscilla was preceded in death by her parents Edward and Gladys.

Priscilla and her husband Marshall were long-time friends and supporters of Union Church.



May



- 3 Dinner Prep. And Meal Sharing at the Rutland Dismas House, 5:15 p.m.
- 7 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
Deacons Meeting following worship & fellowship time
- 14 *Mother's Day*
Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- 21 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
Church Council meeting, following worship & fellowship time
Sara Rossigg Installation, 2:00 p.m., Brandon Congregational Church
- 20 Articles & info due for October Scroll
- 27 Graveside Service for Priscilla Fay, 11 a.m., Southside Cemetery, Proctor
- 28 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

Union Church of Proctor
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