

# 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!

## November 2022

### 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

*16 Rejoice always,*

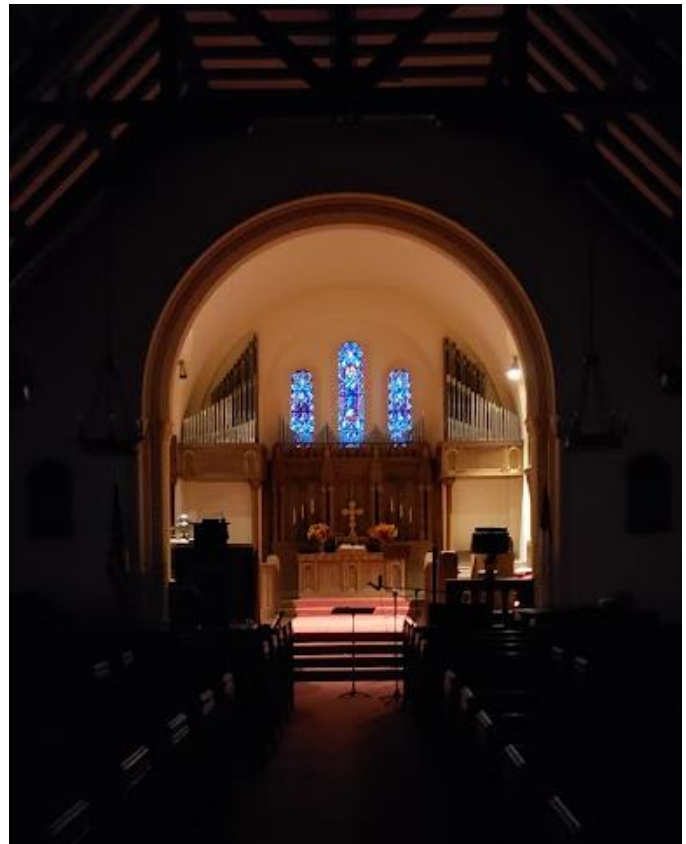
*17 pray without ceasing,*

*18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

My Dear New Friends,

As the end of the year approaches quickly, it seems the activities and events in our lives ramp up and that our hurriedness increases. It may seem strange to mention this thought of the end of the year at the start of November and yet, as I look at our church calendar, I see both the limited time left in 2022 and also the many dates of mission, ministry, fellowship, and worship scheduled at our church.

I hope in this season of hustle and bustle, we will each take time to reflect on what has filled our year. Most importantly, I hope each will take time to pray about the year's blessings and to offer thanks to God. When times are lean and we struggle to make ends meet spiritually and financially, it's very difficult to look around and vision God's generosity with us. It's so easy to see others' better fortune and question our own. When we look over the proverbial fence to next door, we



wonder why the grass on the other side of that fence is still green, when our side looks brown. Does the rain not fall on both sides equally?

I was reminded of a story, not long ago, about this sort of vision in our lives, meaning, when we look around and wonder why the other person's (life, wealth, health, things) seems better than our own.

The story goes like this -

One day Mr. Jones stepped into the kitchen after diligently watering his back yard. He seeded regularly, fertilized, and watered. He checked the soil and treated his back yard with care. The flowers, shrubs, and trees were healthy, but the grass just didn't grow. Next door however, the back green was lush and thick and perhaps even a bit too long at times. The grass next door seemed to just laugh at Mr. Jones' efforts to make his own lawn lovely.

Mr. Jones' eldest son popped into the kitchen as his dad was pouring a drink of water and struck up a conversation. "Dad, would you mind if me and some of my friends practiced in the back yard this weekend?" "Of course not, son, go ahead and do what you need to do." The conversation went

on between Mr. Jones and his son about the happenings at high school and who the young man was dating. Mr. Jones talked about his work and inviting some of his friends over too to have a cook out soon.

Mr. Jones' neighbor (with the green grass) stopped by to say hello and get advice on avoiding pesticides for the spider mites on his tea roses. During the conversation, Mr. Jones' neighbor revealed that he has terminal cancer and caring for his roses in the back yard was about the only thing he had energy to do. The neighbor also wanted to say thank you for taking care of his lawn, both back and front. He had never seen it so lovely and was unable to take care of it.

Mr. Jones was surprised and it turns out that Mr. Jones' son and daughter were cutting the neighbor's grass and taking care of it. The grass Mr. Jones had been so envious of was the result of his children's care. Then he started to think of how green his own grass was after all in his back yard, despite the overuse of the ground.

He began to consider how many wonderful blessings surrounded him like his health, his family, his friends, his neighbors, and his ability to grow things. Blessings, there were so many blessings. So many more than he could count. Then he thought about his neighbor. Was he blessed too? Yes, he was sick. Yes, he is dying. Yes, he thought, he is still blessed. My neighbor is blessed with friends and family. He is blessed with his passion for tea roses. He is blessed with neighbors who care for him.

He is blessed still even if there was nothing else, that God's love and grace is infinite.

Then Mr. Jones thought. Would I still feel blessed if I had so much less or nothing at all?

His answer: The rain falls equally on each side of the fence. So many other parts of life's happenings make each side look differently. Both sides are equally blessed and my part is to recognize the blessings.

Amen, Mr. Jones.

As we hustle and bustle and find ourselves gathered at a Thanksgiving table, I hope you will

take a moment to "count your blessings." I hope you will see that God's ever-loving presence and grace for all creation is the blessing. Let us change the world for the better by imitating God's generosity.

Blessings and peace,  
Pastor Jenei

## COME AND GIVE THANKS TOGETHER



The Union Church of Proctor, Brandon Congregational Church, Pittsford Congregational Church, and the United Church of West Rutland are working together to hold a community Thanksgiving Service on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this special worship service. Details on this upcoming service are forthcoming.

## PRAYER REQUESTS AND SPIRITUAL CARE



Emergencies and times of needed spiritual care arise in our lives and our family and friends' lives. If you or someone you know has an emergency or needs spiritual care, don't hesitate to contact Pastor Jenei. If you would like our church community to pray for you or others, please let Pastor Jenei know, and she will share your requested prayers with our faith community.

Pastor Jenei's Contact Information  
216-645-2745 text/voice/voicemail  
[ucprev@gmail.com](mailto:ucprev@gmail.com) email



## BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Blue? Yes, blue, as in, "I am feeling blue." Not everyone feels up and cheery, holly and jolly for the Christmas season. Some are far from home. Some suffer from illness, addiction, or estrangement. Some are struggling financially or in conflict with others. Some are hurt because of the great pain, need, and violence in our nation and world. Some have lost a loved one leaving them feeling alone amidst the celebration and joy. Some are living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark on the future. And many different human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities during this time of the year.

The reasons to attend a Blue Christmas Service are many. We hope to gather in the midst of this suffering to remember that God is good. God is strong. God is near, we are not alone, and we have every reason to hold on to hope that there is light in our darkness.

In our conversations on ways to attend to the broad spiritual needs of our faith and surrounding communities, our deacons recognized that many of the typical Christmas celebrations do not meet everyone's needs. To fill this gap, we invite everyone to a **Blue Christmas Service on December 7, 2022 (Wednesday night) at 7 pm** in the sanctuary. This exceptional holiday service is designed for those for whom the holidays might be difficult. If you have undergone a difficult loss, transition, or life change or feel that light and hope are fading, Union church cares about you and invites you to a special time of music and worship.

## THE CHURCH MOUSE



Not as much rain this week and definitely no thunder storms. This is one time that I have been happy not to live in any coastal areas (I am very happy not to live in an area that gets hurricanes).

The Dismas House dinner and meal prep will be at 5:30 pm Wednesday, November 2, 2022.

There will be a Church Council Meeting on November 20 following the Coffee Hour.

I am happy to see that Saturday Social evenings have started up again. The first one was held on October 15 at 7 PM and was a Game Night. There were a number of board games that were going on. Some people just sat and talked among themselves and there was even a Corn Hole contest going on one side of the room. Everyone seemed to be having a wonderful time. And of course there were the usual refreshments provided by those who came. As I sat in my little cubby hole I was wondering what is coming next.

We are passing along our condolences and sympathy to the friends and family of Kim and Jeff Metcalfe on the passing of Kim's mother in September.

Don't forget to set your clocks back on Saturday night, November 5<sup>th</sup> so you're on time for church!

God Bless you all and stay healthy.

## 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.

**2023  
STEWARDSHIP  
CAMPAIGN**



Dear Members and Friends of the Union Church of Proctor,

We are excited about the kick off to our fall stewardship campaign. We have much to be grateful for with Rev. Jenei Rossigg, our new settled Pastor, and Jen Cohen our accompanist, choir director and music director. These folks are inspirational and must be seen and heard in person to be fully appreciated. They are helping to enhance our church, our programs and outreach to the local community. With our commitment, money and time, we can all work together to help the church thrive.

In the next week or so, you will be getting a letter in the mail about the Stewardship process. Briefly, after you evaluate your personal situation, we hope you will decide to pledge a portion of your income each month. You will then mark down this amount on your pledge card. Then on three consecutive Sundays--Nov 6, 13 and 20<sup>th</sup> -- there will be a time in the service when you will be asked to bring your pledge card to the front of the church and place it in a special collection plate. You then return to your seats. After everyone has had a chance to bring their pledge cards forward for that day, the pledges will be blessed and the service will continue. If you can't attend in person, just mail your pledge into the church.

We hope you will respond favorably to this Stewardship effort.

Your Stewardship and Finance Committee  
Cindy Bell, Bonnie Blanchard, Kim Metcalfe,  
Bob Webster, Treasurer: Jeff Bergquist

**2023 PLEDGE CARD**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge: \_\_\_\_\_ each week, OR \_\_\_\_\_ each month, OR \_\_\_\_\_ each year



**November  
Greeters**

- 6 Phyllis Sawtell
- 13 Meryl Lisananti
- 20 Kay Bergquist
- 27 Elsie Valach

**November  
Readers**



- 6 Jean Noren
- 13 Glenn Giles
- 20 Janet Yager
- 27 Lynn Pilcher

**November  
Birthdays**



- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 4 Kylie Pilcher    | 18 Annika Heintz |
| 6 George Pilcher   | 19 Dylan Pilcher |
| 7 Kris Finnigan    | 20 Ray Ault      |
| 9 Vicky Lynn Brown | Sam Logan        |
| 11 Sarah Sheldrick | 22 Mark Chapin   |
| 17 Tom Doty        | Elsie Valach     |





# November

- 2 Dinner Prep. And Meal Sharing at the Rutland Dismas House, 5:30 p.m. drop off
- 5 Set your clocks back so you're on time for church!
- 6 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom  
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- 13 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom  
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- 20 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom  
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.  
Church Council Meeting, 11:15 a.m., Parish House
- 20 Articles & info due for December Scroll
- 22 **Community Thanksgiving Service**, 7 p.m.
- 27 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom  
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.



## Special Date in December

- 7 Blue Christmas Service, 7pm, Union Church of Proctor Sanctuary

Union Church of Proctor  
5 Church St.  
Proctor, VT 05765

Non-Profit Organization  
Postage Paid at Proctor  
VT 05765 Permit #7

Address Service Requested



*If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.  
~Mother Teresa*