

# 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!



## February 2023

**Matthew 6:1-21 (New Revised Standard Version)**

**Concerning Almsgiving** “Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup> “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup> But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

**Concerning Prayer** <sup>5</sup> “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>7</sup> “When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. <sup>9</sup> “Pray,

then, in this way: Our Father in heaven, may your name be revered as holy. <sup>10</sup> May your kingdom come. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. <sup>14</sup> “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, <sup>15</sup> but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

**Concerning Fasting** <sup>16</sup> “And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

**Concerning Treasures** <sup>19</sup> “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



Dear Friends,

Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, begins the Church's observance of the Lenten season. At some point

throughout that day or a nearby date, many of us will experience the symbolic gesture of receiving the imposition of ashes on our bodies. In so doing, we will acknowledge our human frailty, our finiteness, and even, dare I say it, our sinfulness. The words we will most likely hear as we receive ashes are, "You are dust, and to dust, you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). These are words intended to confront our grandiosity and put us in touch with the human condition we all share.

While it is tempting to reduce Ash Wednesday to a church service or even just the receiving of ashes before scurrying back to whatever comes next, the Gospel reading of Matthew 6 for Ash Wednesday raises essential questions that can help us shape and sustain a Lenten practice that is truly life-changing.

In reading this biblical passage of Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6 to start the Lenten season, we might ask ourselves:

**How will I give?** (verses 2-3)

Too often, Lent is a time for "giving things up." Perhaps we can better balance our lives by "giving to" those in need. Rather than seeing things are being "given up" only to restart them again after Lent. Let us "give up" things that create distractions away from compassionate support so that we are more able to help others.

**How will I pray?** (verses 5-13)

As we "give up" some of our usual distractions, it leaves us more space for prayer. Is there a particular prayer practice (like fixed-hour prayer, silent prayer, or intercessory prayer) that God is inviting us to create in our lives?

**Whom do I need to forgive, and from whom do I need to seek forgiveness?** (verses 14-15)

Forgiveness creates a conduit for God's grace to flow into our lives with others.

**How will I fast?** (verses 16-18)

What distracts me from alert attention to my relationship with God? What do I need to abstain from to be more aware of my "hunger" for God?

**What earthly treasures am I attached to, and how can I let go?** (verses 19-21)

Is there any specific earthly treasure I am attached to, like time, money, energy, or success, that I am being called to steward (hear manage) differently or let go of entirely, at least for this season?

I learned that it takes about two weeks (14 days) of consecutively doing something to form a habit. Slightly more than double that time and we have a 90% chance of creating a lifelong habit. During this Lenten season, let us immerse ourselves in ways to strengthen our relationship with God and thus form a habit of recognizing God's presence in our lives.

May we experience a sense of anticipation of how God will meet us in these new or widening spaces we are opening in our lives to experience God's presence.

Lenten prayers surrounding you,  
Pastor Jenei



**QUILTER'S MEETING**

As you know, the UCP Quilters have a number of possible projects to work on. Let's hope for a nice day on Wednesday, February 15, so we can gather in the parish house at 10:00 to work on fidget quilts or comfort quilts. Or maybe another runner for the communion table. Please let me know if you are able to attend.

Kay

**CHURCH COUNCIL**



The Church Council will have a brief organizational meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting on February 5th. The purpose of the meeting will be to appoint specified officers (e.g. Treasurer) as prescribed in the church bylaws.



## ANNUAL MEETING

All Members and Friends of Union Church of Proctor, Vermont, be Warned that on Sunday, February 5, 2023, the Annual Business Meeting of Union Church of Proctor will be held in the Sanctuary at 5 Church Street, Proctor.

*Morning Worship Service for All Ages begins at 10:00 a.m., followed by our regular Coffee "Hour." The Annual Meeting will follow the Coffee Hour, at approximately 11:30 a.m. There will be no Luncheon.*

The Purpose of the Meeting will be:

- to hear and accept the Reports of the Committees, Boards and Officers of the Church
- to hear and vote on the Church's Operating Budget for 2023
- to consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting

All Members and Friends are urged to attend the Morning Worship, the Coffee Hour and to participate in the discussions of the Annual Meeting. Non-members will have equal opportunity to speak at the Meeting, and are encouraged to do so, but only Church Members may vote.

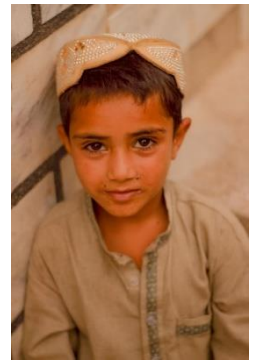
## MEN'S COFFEE



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

## A SPECIAL REQUEST!

The season of Lent begins on February 22nd. The Outreach Committee members will be sending out letters soon requesting a donation for this purpose. Our committee met after the church service on January 18th to select an organization to receive this specific offering. We selected the Bridge to Rutland (B2R).



This organization is..." a group of Rutland County residents working to bring asylum-seekers to Vermont and to support them once they're here." Asylum is a protection granted to someone who has recently arrived in the U.S. or has been living here who is unable, for safety reasons, to return to their home country. Unlike refugees, "who are invited and resettled by the U.S. State Department," these people are fleeing violence and persecution.

Please be checking your mailboxes for your Lenten Offering request. Your donation will offer needed items and hope to many, and in so doing, we all will be helping each other.

Peace  
The Outreach Committee

## Welcome February Greeters

5 Phyllis Sawtell  
12 Meryl Lisananti  
19 Kim Baccei  
26 Karen Webster

## NOTES FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE



As I sit here doing the Mouse Report I see that it is snowing again. But at least it was gone for a couple of days, even though it has been on the chilly side. Unfortunately I hear that there are a couple of storms coming up right in back of the one we have now. . Oh well.

The Dismas House dinner and meal prep will be at 5:30 pm Wednesday, February 1, 2023.

Due to the Annual Church Meeting on February 5, there won't be a regular Church Council Meeting in February, the next Council Meeting will be March 5, 2023 after Coffee Hour.

I see that the Quilters will be back for a meeting in the Parish House on February 15 at 10:00 AM. I love to watch the ladies as they stitch away on their projects.

I love that when they took the Christmas decorations down in January that they left the Christmas tree stand up; it's been just like having my own house. I can explore it when no one is around as I can see in the dark.

Just a reminder that Lent starts on February 22.

God Bless you all and stay healthy.

## A LITTLE PROCTOR HISTORY

### PROCTOR SKATING RINK CELEBRATING 90 YEARS 1926 - 2016

In 1925 Mortimer R. Proctor gifts equipment for Proctor Village to have its first municipal skating rink to be operated by the Proctor Post of the American Legion. Warner's field has been chosen

as the site for the new rink. A warming room has been erected, heated by a wood stove, and lighted by electricity. Mr. Proctor developed the land, furnished the lights and side boards, and the warming house. He intends to turn it over to the legion to carry on the project. There is a good deal of interest in skating in Proctor but heretofore residents of the village have used Beaver Pond on the outskirts of town as a skating resort. (Herald, November 6, 1925)

In 1926 the skating rink opened under the auspices of the American Legion. There was a five cent charge for adults and children could skate for free. A refreshment stand was available in the warming room, along with lockers, for leaving coats and skates. A hockey team was to be formed and it is hoped to have an exhibition game between two Vermont Colleges. (Herald December 16, 1926)

In 1927 an Ice Carnival was held at the skating rink; about 500 people attended. The snowshoeing and skiing events scheduled were cancelled due to insufficient snow. The evening entertainment started with an unfurling of flags, cannon salute, and music by the Proctor Band. Activities included fancy skating, 100 & 880 yard dash, 100 yard hobble race, potato race, and a costume contest for individuals and couples. The evening ended with a large bonfire. (Herald, February 15, 1927)



In 2016 the Parks and Recreation Committee would like to acknowledge Mortimer Proctor's vision and support in making the Proctor Skating Rink a gathering place for friends and families for the past 90 years! We would also like to thank the Town of Proctor and its citizens for their on-going commitment and support in making the Proctor Skating Rink a great place to skate for years to come.

(article on the Town of Proctor website from 2016)



# February



- 1 Dinner Prep. And Meal Sharing at the  
Rutland Dismas House, 5:15 p.m.
- 5 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom  
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.  
**ANNUAL MEETING**, 11:15 a.m.  
Brief Church Council Meeting  
following Annual Meeting
- 12 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom  
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- 14 
- 15 Quilter's Meeting, 10 a.m., Parish House
- 19 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom  
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- 20 Articles & info due for March Scroll
-  22 Ash Wednesday – Lent begins
- 26 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom  
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

## February Readers



5 Lynn Pilcher  
12 Jean Noren  
19 Janet Yager  
26 Glenn Giles

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

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

Address Service Requested



*February  
Birthdays*

5 Chris Chapin  
7 Lynn Pilcher  
9 Ken Thompson  
12 Sarah Hall  
14 Jake Lacy  
17 Cindy Bell  
20 Roger Partridge

21 Ed Cawley  
John Cowans  
22 Gary Chapin  
Amanda Parker  
24 Kendra Moody  
26 Kim Metcalfe  
27 Joan Argentero  
Glenna Cowans