

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!



January 2023

FROM THE PASTOR

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”
Isaiah 43:18-19

“Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.” Habakkuk 1:5

These two passages are my focus as we begin our new year. As I struggled to make the needed time in prayer and meditation through this season of hustle and bustle, the prophet’s voice was ringing in my ears. I offer this prayer for us through the remainder of December and January. I look forward to the start of the new year with you all and all the possibilities it brings.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Jenei

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Dear God,
Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and depend on your presence filling us every single day.

I pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. I ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. I ask that you will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut. I ask that you would help us to release our grip on the things to which you’ve said “no,” “not yet,” or “wait.” I ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you’ve put within our hearts.

I ask for us to know that your wisdom, your strength and power are constantly present within

us. I pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honored by our lives, and others would be drawn to you.

I pray that you keep us far from the snares and traps of temptations and when it happens to help us turn around and be brave to do that new thing. I pray that you would whisper in our ears when we need to run, and whisper in our hearts when we need to stand our ground.

I pray for your protection over our families, friends, and journeys. I ask for your hand to cover us and keep us distanced from the evil intent of the enemy that calls us to be of this world and not of your world. I pray that you would be a barrier to surround us as we seek to know your already abundant blessings and presence and for us to know that we are safe in your hands. I pray that you would give us discernment and insight beyond our years, to understand your will, hear your voice, and follow Christ's teachings in boldness and vigor.

I ask that you would keep our footsteps firm, on solid ground, helping us to be consistent and faithful. Give us supernatural endurance to stay the course on this new path, not swerving to the right or to the left, or being too easily distracted by other things that would seek to call us away from a close walk with you.

Forgive us for the times we have worked so hard to be self-sufficient, forgetting our need for you, living independent of your spirit. Forgive us for letting fear and worry control our minds, and for allowing pride and selfishness wreak havoc over our lives. Forgive us for not following Christ's teachings and for living distant from your presence.

I confess our need for you...fresh...new...again and ask that you make all things new, in our hearts, in our minds, in our lives, for this coming year. I pray for your refreshing over us.

Keep your words of truth planted firm within us, help us to keep focused on what is pure and right

and brings new life. Give us the mindfulness to be steadfast in love and presence as ambassadors for Christ's teachings. And when the enemy reminds us where we have been, hissing lies and attacks our way, let us trust that your voice speaks louder and stronger, as you remind us that we are safe with you and your purposes and plans will not fail. We ask that you will remain our defense and rear guard, helping us to see our way clear, removing the obstacles, and covering the pitfalls.

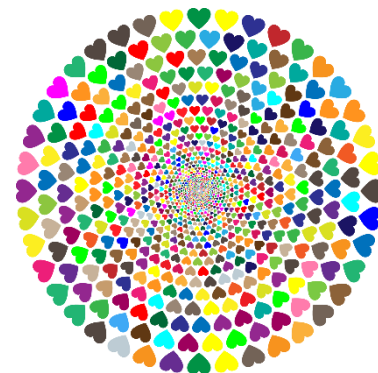
God of Grace, you provide for our needs, so help us remember that promise. I pray that your blessings cover us and that we see all creation around us as the blessings you provide. I pray that when we feel challenged by others or see folks on the margin so easily dismissed that we remember that you don't make no junk. Help us to be known as great givers and doers of justice, love, and compassion. Help us to be generous and to look to the needs of others and not be consumed by only our own.

May we be lovers of truth, may the fruits of your spirit be evident in our lives - your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Shine your light in us, through us, and over us. May we make a difference in this world, for all to know your great love and reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing.

To you be glory and honor, in this New Year, and forever.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.



ANNUAL REPORTS 2022



Annual Reports from **all committees, boards, etc.**, should be turned in to the church office by **January 7th, 2023**. Please keep in mind that this is a historical record of the events, decisions, challenges, changes, etc. of your group that will be a helpful reference in years to come for us and those that come after us. You may email your report (preferred) to kris.finni@gmail.com or bring it to the church office. Questions? Call Kris Finnigan 459-2244.

January Readers



- 1 Jeff Bergquist and
Jean Noren
- 8 Lynn Pilcher
- 15 Kim Metcalfe
- 22 Glenn Giles
- 29 Janet Yager



January Greeters

- 1 Kay Bergquist
- 8 Meryl Lisananti
- 15 Nancy Thompson
- 22 Muriel Sedergren
- 29 Elsie Valach

ANNUAL MEETING 2023



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

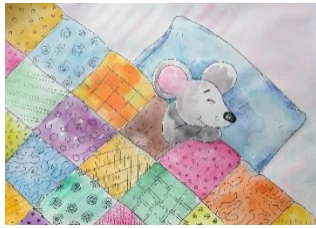
All Members and Friends are urged to attend the Morning Worship, the Coffee Hour and to participate in the discussions of the Annual Meeting. Non-members will have equal opportunity to speak at the Meeting, and are encouraged to do so, but only Church Members may vote.

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.

NOTES FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE



Boy has the snow arrived for sure. I am still hoping (or should I say wishing) that it won't be around for long. Oh well.

The Dismas House dinner and meal prep will be at 5:30 pm Wednesday, January 4, 2023.

Please don't forget that all Committee Reports need to be sent to the office by January 7, 2023.

Just another reminder that there will be a Church Council Meeting on January 8, 2023 after Coffee Hour.

Our January Communion Sunday will be January 8, 2023.

The Sanctuary has been filled with music this Advent season. The 18-member big band EnerJazz performed on Saturday, December 10, including our own Glenn Giles, Ellen and Paul Sutherland. It was great! On December 18, there was another concert called the "Sounds of the Season" featuring the Bells of Joy and The Panhandlers Steel Band, with Jen Cohen. It was incredible and if you get a chance to hear them sometime, I hope you can attend. as they were wonderful.

Paster Jenei will be on vacation starting after Christmas until the first of the new year. If a pastoral emergency arises, please contact one of our deacons.

Our condolences to the family of Priscilla Fay, who passed away on November 4, 2022. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Marshall and family.

I can't believe that 2022 has gone by as fast as it has. I hope everyone has a blessed New Year and I'll be back in January.

God Bless you all and stay healthy.



January Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|----------------|
| 1 | Connie Partridge | 18 | Donna Chapin |
| | Judith Scott | 21 | Mackenzie Lacy |
| 2 | Karen Webster | 22 | Kathy Milillo |
| 3 | Gloria Giles | 24 | Lenore Gates |
| 4 | Andrew Sutherland | | Caitlin Canty |
| 6 | Carol Bam | 28 | Drew Pilcher |
| 9 | Ray Parker | 31 | Jean Noren |
| 15 | Jean Esler | | |



SOME THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

- "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." —Theodore Roosevelt.
- "It's never too late to be what you might've been." —George Eliot.

January



- 1 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Hymn Sing Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- 4 Dinner Prep. And Meal Sharing at the Rutland Dismas House, 5:15 p.m.
- 7 Annual Reports due in church office
- 8 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Communion Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
Church Council Meeting, 11:15 a.m., Parish House
- 15 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 February Scroll
- 22 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- 29 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

February

- 5 **Annual Meeting** of Union Church of Proctor,
following Morning Worship & Coffee Hour, approx. 11:30 a.m.

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

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