

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 2024

Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Dear Friends,

No matter how many times I read this passage, I always think of a lighthouse. And, when I think of lighthouses, I think of my former father-in-law. He was a wonderful man! He also had quite an obsession with lighthouses.

One time, he planned a several-month-long trip to visit every lighthouse on the East Coast. Some years later he expanded that adventure to include famous lighthouses all over the U.S. His passion for lighthouses started with the many beautiful and famous lighthouses found in North Carolina. At some time or another, every family member

(and friends!) went with him to see some or all of the North Carolina lighthouses.

During a lighthouse visit, he would recall the history of that lighthouse and explain why some of them are striped or colorful (or just white). He could even tell you about the lighting mechanism and how that light source had changed over the many years of its function. The history and mechanics may sound a little boring, but I assure you, it was more than fascinating!

More than anything, what struck me about his lighthouse fascination was actually what the lighthouses provided. The coast of North Carolina is riddled with shipwrecks accumulated over many centuries, and even currently. If the lighthouses did not function properly and the lighthouse keeper didn't remain diligently active, most of those passing ships were doomed.

The lighthouses provided a marker to let the ships know where the water became shallow. In the

more modern times, the lighthouse keepers primarily talked with the ships to remind them where to steer clear of dangers and help the captains navigate through sometimes maze-like sections of the ocean where the ocean scape often changes as one approaches the shoreline. The light and the keepers of the light made sure that each ship had the tools to safely navigate what were often difficult and dangerous waters.

As I have told you before, I did not grow up in a church-going home. There was belief, but not much participation other than attending church on the special Christian holidays. I wasn't brought up with the idea that religion offered much of anything helpful other than the idea that God was real. What I learned from my father-in-law was that as we journey through life we need some light and direction to help us continue our journey. The light literally illuminates the way, and that same light provides some clarity about which direction to continue. He reiterated that we need to know there is a steadfast commitment to our well-being as we go through life. Without him saying it, these beliefs sound like how a lighthouse works. And likewise, these concepts also sound like how God's love works.

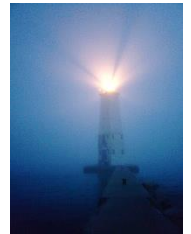
Another thing my father-in-law taught me was that our faith and how we live it out functions the same way as a lighthouse. The light of Christ is about experiencing the love, compassion, and grace that God offers us without cost and forever abundant. When he would talk about the detail of how that light was reflected in the mirrors he would also talk about the great love and skill of those who made the parts of the lighthouse. These experts did their work because they felt so passionately about saving lives, especially as they thought about their kin on those sailing ships, needing them to make sure the path was illuminated.

It was easy and straightforward for my father-in-law to help me equate the loving light of Christ as a bright beacon to help others. Each year, he would give me a little lighthouse or something lighthouse-related, and when he did, he would always sing to me - This Little Light of Mine. It became almost a joke between us that every time

a lighthouse came into our sight we would sing or hum that song.

Now, long after his passing, when I see a lighthouse I think about This Little Light of Mine and how important it is to shine. In other words, to shine love, shine care, shine compassion, and shine grace. It's not about showing off or being the center of attention. The light goes out from its point of origin. The light going out is what makes the spaces, our journeys, navigable to travel. Christ's light of love illuminates the way, offering viable possibilities when we may fear our ship is going down!

My father-in-law was a bright light in my life. Especially, at a time when I felt like the world was a pretty dark place. His shining light illuminated a passage for me to have hope, and believe that love and compassion were real experiences. He, in particular, was the person with whom I attended church each Sunday. We went together, just me and Bob. He was the first person to openly pray with me. He was with me when I experienced God's call in my life (at church) to become a minister. He used to say to me, that it was important for each of us to be able to shine and reflect the infinite love and grace that God has for us.



He was the lighthouse keeper of a wonderful light for me and so many other people!

May God's guiding light always light your way!

Blessings,
Pastor Jenei



November Greeters

3	Kim Baccei
10	Meryl Lisananti
17	Carol Curtis
24	Elsie Valach

“I SPY” FALL GARDEN

For years now, the “Jack Conant Community Garden” alongside of our back parking lot has been not only a productive source of great nutrition, but also a quiet space of enjoyment for gardeners and passersby alike. Check out the early October photo above and see how many flowers and veggies you can spot still producing right into the Fall. Of course, there may also be some root veggies waiting their turn for harvesting later on!



FESTIVE SWEATER CONTEST

Put on your most festive sweater and have your picture taken and vote each week. The most votes win a gift certificate at Kamuda’s! There were so many beautiful sweaters last year that we could hold another “ugly” sweater holiday contest, so this year we are holding a festive sweater contest. Please do not go out and purchase a sweater. Consider making something, decorating an existing sweater, or wearing your favorite Christmas sweater! Let joy and the spirit of Christmas be your guide! Each person gets one vote each week. The most votes win the prize. We will start taking pictures on Nov. 24th! Contest through December 15th.



WELCOME MARCI!

Please welcome Marci Wheeler to our church family as the new Music Director of Union Church of Proctor! Come and enjoy her beautiful music.

MORE SPECIAL MUSIC

What a delight to have Anna O’Brien join us for a service last month. With her mom, Marci Wheeler, as her accompanist, Anna sang “Amazing Grace” in her clear, lovely voice. We hope Anna will return to sing for us again very soon.



MEN’S BREAKFAST

We hold a Men's Breakfast on the first Saturday of each month. Our November Breakfast will be on Saturday, November 2 from 7-8 am in the Parish House. You are welcome.



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.





IT'S HAPPENING AT THE PROCTOR FREE LIBRARY!

Library Program
Monday November 11th at 11:00 am
Downstairs in the Evelyn Peterson Community Room

TURTLES TO TOADS: HERPS OF THE NORTH

The reptiles and amphibians of Vermont are some of our least understood and most fascinating animals. Museum staff will present an interactive slideshow, introduce us to live animals and touchable artifacts.



NOVEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

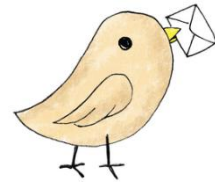
The Church Council will meet in the Higbee Library on Sunday, November 24th immediately following the Coffee Hour.



MORE SUNFLOWERS FOR UKRAINE

It's been fun to see all of the sunflowers that have sprung up from the "Vermont Plants Sunflowers for Ukraine" seed packets we had available at church. So many cheery colors against the beauty of our Vermont summer skies. Now, as we move into the chillier months (brrr...!), here's one last sunflower bouquet to enjoy. (Photo by Paula O-B.)

WE'VE GOT MAIL!



Dear Union Church of Proctor,

Herewith your... Receipt to the amount of R8556.96 pertaining to the donation received from yourself.

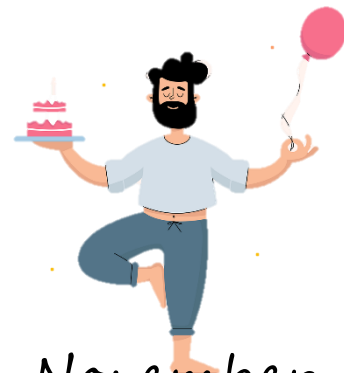
Such is acknowledged with much gratitude for your confidence in and your continued support of the work of the Fund.

*Thank you so very much,
Keenan Roberts,
African Scholars Fund*

November Liturgists



3	Paul Pilcher
10	Glenn Giles
17	Janet Yager
24	Jean Noren



November Birthdays

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



November

STEWARDSHIP SEASON OF GENEROSITY – October 27, November 3, 10 & 17

- 3 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
All Saints Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom
A time to remember our loved ones who have passed on
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- 5 Rutland Interfaith Clergy Gathering, UCP Parish House, noon-2
- 6 Dinner Prep. And Meal Sharing at the Rutland Dismas House, 5:15 p.m.
- 10 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- 17 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 December Scroll
- 24 Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom
Festive Sweater Contest begins!
Coffee & Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
Church Council Meeting, 11:15 a.m., Parish House
- TBA** There will be an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service in November... date and details to be announced
- 28 Happy Thanksgiving



ADVENT BEGINS DECEMBER 1

Union Church of Proctor
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Proctor, VT 05765

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