



# THE TORCH

ROUND LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
DEDICATED 1894  
CELEBRATING OUR 119<sup>TH</sup> YEAR  
APRIL 2013

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## Celebrate God's New

*Do not cling to events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago. Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already – you can see it now!* - Isaiah 43:18-19 (TEV)

Then the One who sits on the throne said, "And now I make all things new!" - Revelation 21:5 (TEV)

My Webster's dictionary tells me that "new" is something that never existed before. It may also be something that was only recently experienced or observed as well as something strange, foreign or unfamiliar. New can also be something that takes the place of something else. Then there is "new" as beginning again or making another start.

Think about "new." What images do you see? What feelings do you experience? New can be wonderful, marvelous, and great when we want something different from what we experience. New can also be frightening, scary, when the new is unwanted or unexpected. No matter how we perceive something new to us, it can always be an adventure to experience and grow into.

This time of year we anticipate the cycle of new. Yes, even in a year with a record warm winter, we look forward to the signs of spring and eagerly await its arrival. We eagerly await the first sightings of robins or the blossoms of the early spring bulbs. We celebrate when we see the new fawns and bird chicks. But what happens when the new demands that we make changes to how we do things, how we think or even what we believe? This "new" is not as well accepted by any of us for we are human beings after all.

Scripture tells us over and over, from the beginning to the end, that God is doing something new. That something new is always to bring God's people back into relationship with the one who gives life. From the cross, Jesus cried out: "It is finished. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." What was finished was the "old" ways of relating to God. On the third day, the women and then the disciples would find the tomb empty. They would begin to experience God's new relationship.

As we continue to celebrate Easter let us live into the possibilities of a new relationship with God made possible by the resurrection of Jesus, the Christ. The message of the cross and empty tomb, the crucifixion and resurrection, is: No matter how far we as human beings have strayed from God and God's ways, no matter what the sin, God has prepared a way for us to have a new relationship with the one who gives life to those who believe.

For believers and unbelievers, for doubters and non-doubters alike, nothing has been the same since the Resurrection. Let us join those who first discovered the truth of the empty tomb in the Easter acclamation: "Jesus Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!" Let us celebrate the possibilities of the NEW!

With Christ' Peace and Joy - Rev. Jane

## Scriptures in Worship

Easter continues to be celebrated throughout April. We'll be hearing some of the stories of Jesus' appearances to the disciples after the resurrection. We will also be challenged with living in the post-resurrection reality and what it means for us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**April 7, 2013:** Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

**April 14, 2013:** Hymn Sing

**April 21, 2013:** Acts 9:1-6, 7-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

**April 28, 2013:** Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

## Hymn Sing Planned

Worshippers had the opportunity to vote for their favorite hymns during worship in March. Those who submitted ballots listed a total of 56 different hymns. Of these 56 hymns, nine received 3 or more votes. There was a tie for first place with two hymns receiving 10 votes each. Join us for worship on **Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>** to find out what hymns were the top favorites of the Round Lake UMC congregation. Besides singing each of the top nine hymns there will be scripture and commentary related to these hymns.

## Annual Conference invited to engage in conversation

During the March leg of his 2013 District Days tour, Bishop Mark J. Webb posed a series of questions to clergy and laity in order to help us reach a common understanding of some terms we use to describe our mission and the way we work. Now everyone is invited join the conversation by offering their answers to these questions. You are free to answer just one, all of them, or any combination in between.

- What does transformational leadership look like?
- How do we, together, create an environment that equips, encourages and increases transformational leadership?
- What is a disciple?
- What is a vital congregation?
- How do we, together, create an environment that allows us to live the realities of being disciples and building vital congregations?

Go to this website to provide your answers and read more about how your answers will be used.

<http://www.unyumc.org/news/detail/1585>



*In Memoriam*  
*Karen C. Bryant*

*June 24, 1951 – March 14, 2013*

## Interactive online course covers United Methodist basics

Are you a lifelong United Methodist or new to the denomination? United Methodism 101 is an online course, conducted from April 17 to May 29, 2013, for anyone who wants to know more about the history, structure, beliefs and ministries of the Church. Cost is \$9.99 and registration is due by April 11, 2013. <http://shop.umc.org/product/productinfo/united-methodism-101-online-course-april-2013/1738?cid=189>



## Trustees

Last month the Trustees had a work day and finished installing new kick plates in the kitchen. We also put a much needed vent in the closet door in the Fellowship Hall. A few other minor repairs were made to doors that were not closing properly.

We have also begun plans for landscaping the north side of the church. Because this is a shady area we are looking at perennials that would be tolerant in those conditions. If you have extra hostas, astilbe, ferns or lilies, please keep us in mind as this project gets under way. We will let you know more details as the weather improves.

The inside of the church sanctuary has been cleaned in anticipation of Easter and spring. Once the weather warms up, we will also be cleaning up any winter damage to the outside.

Our meetings continue to be held on the first Wednesday of each month. Anyone is welcome to attend.

## UMW

In March we began our meeting with a program presented by Amy Foster Wise from the Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services. Amy was very informative of the programs and services available to men and women in Saratoga County. Posters are on our bulletin board.

We donated \$100 to support their services and are looking into donating in other ways to help this cause during this year.




Our next meeting at on April 15 at 7pm. Please consider joining us.

March  
S M T W T F S  
1 2  
3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
24 25 26 27 28 29 31  
31

# April 2013

May  
S M T W T F S  
1 2 3 4  
5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28 29 30 31



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Stone Soup 1pm	2 Bible Study 10:30am	3 Trustees meeting 7pm S/PPRC 7pm	4 Choir 7pm	5	6
7 Worship 9:30am	8 Stone Soup 1pm	9 Bible Study 10:30am Finance Committee meeting 7pm	10	11 Choir 7pm	12	13
14 Worship 9:30am	15 Stone Soup 1pm UMW meeting 7pm	16 Administrative Council meeting 7pm	17	18 Choir 7pm	19	20 Coffee House 7pm
21 Worship 9:30am	22 Stone Soup 1pm Earth Day	23 Bible Study 10:30am	24	25 Choir 7pm	26	27
28 Worship 9:30am	29 Stone Soup 1pm	30				

**Special Days in April**

**Birthdays**

- 4 Carol Fairbanks
- 11 Tim Gulle
- 12 Donna Alaskey
- 17 Deborah Dunbar
- 23 Tyler Colson
- 26 Charlene  
Christopher
- 27 Stephanie  
Milczarek
- 27 Isaac Sievers
- 29 Rachel Smith

**Anniversaries**

- 6 John and Norma  
Davey
- 20 Tim and Eileen  
Gulle



April 7  
14  
21  
28

**Ushers**  
Dave Meurs  
Eugene LaDue  
Terry Reynolds

**Readers**  
Jean Halme  
Steve Mitchell  
Tamara Russell  
Katie Madigan

**Counters**  
Bob Washburn/Jean Halme  
C.Christopher/Terry Reynolds  
Linda Milkins/Jean Halme  
Shelda Roerig/Walt Agnew

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