



THE TORCH

ROUND LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DEDICATED 1894
CELEBRATING OUR 118TH YEAR
NOVEMBER 2012

Pastoral Ponderings

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

A month or so ago Dan and I moved into the 21st century according to our son, John. Until then he thought we were stuck in the late 1990's. Just how did we move into the 21st century you ask? We acquired smartphones.

Since acquiring smartphones I find that I'm even more connected to others electronically than I ever thought possible. It is very tempting to stop whatever I'm doing and check the messages every time I hear a ring tone or see the flashing blue light. Of course, I know very few, if any, of my messages are of a "life-or-death" nature and many will just get deleted – you know all those that are trying to entice me to purchase something that I hardly need. Still, it is tempting to stop whatever I'm doing and find out who is sending me a message.

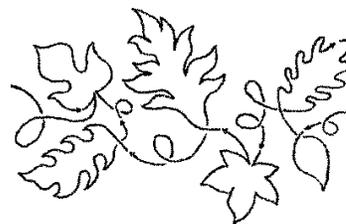
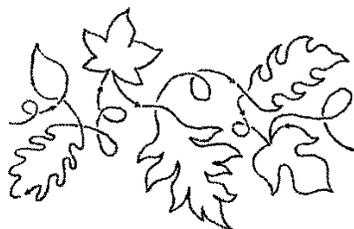
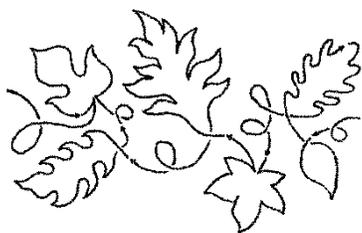
I started thinking about how well connected we are to one another by electronic means that our connection with God might seem to be obsolete. After all, when we communicate with God through prayer we don't have to read anything or type anything. We can't show off the latest abbreviations for words (FWIW, LOL, BTW, etc.) when communicating with God. And, our connection with God is free.

As long as our smartphones have a charge in the battery and are turned on we are connected to one another. As long as our hearts are open we are connected to God, no batteries required. There's not even an on/off switch. There is no right or wrong way to pray, no right or wrong words to use, so there is really no reason to be intimidated by prayer, as many folks are – of course there are many folks who are intimidated by electronic communication, too.

Here's a challenge. Each time you use your computer, smartphone or even a plain cellphone say a prayer. It doesn't have to be long, even something like "Lord God, guide me through the next hour" or "Thank you Creator for the beauty of the colorful trees" or whatever thought comes to mind as you press the "on" button.

May you have an enriching prayer life today and always.

With Christ's Peace – Rev. Jane



Scriptures in Worship

During November we move closer to the end of the Christian year. Our scriptures focus on what it means to live into the near, present yet coming Kingdom of God.

Sunday, November 4

Celebrating the Saints Among Us/Sacrament of Holy Communion Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24;

Revelation 21:1-6a; Mark 12:28-34

Sunday, November 11 Ruth 3:1-5; Psalm 42;

Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

Sunday, November 18 1 Samuel 1:4-20; Psalm 113;

Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

Sunday, November 25 *Reign of Christ Sunday*

2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

Meet Our New District Superintendent

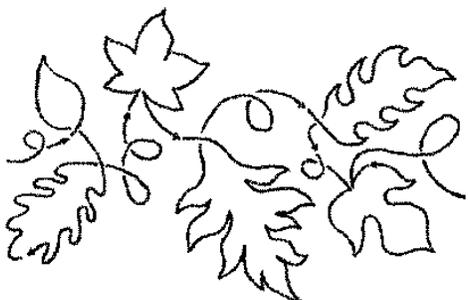
Rev. Richard Weihing began his duties and Albany District Superintendent on October 15th. He will be officially introduced and installed as a Conference Superintendent on Sunday, November 18th. The ceremony will be held at the McKownville UMC (Western Avenue, Albany – at the southern end of the Northway.)

All Saints Celebration

Sunday, November 4, 2012 is All Saints Sunday. We will remember those who have died in the faith during worship this day. We will be lighting a candle for each member of the congregation who has died in the last year. We will also remember anyone who has died in the past by forming a "Cloud of Witnesses" bouquet. Everyone is invited to bring one or more flowers to contribute to this bouquet with them to worship. You are welcome to remember as many people as you choose in this way.

Stone Soup

Stone Soup is a creative arts fellowship group where girls from 8-80 share their skill of knitting, crocheting, quilting, sewing, crafting, painting, cooking skills, wisdoms of life, and anything else of interest. If you like to come and chat, that's ok, too. We meet every Monday of from 1 pm-3 pm in the Tobin Room of our church. We all bring a little to the pot to make a fun time for all. We have ladies from our community attending so please come and meet our neighbors.



UMW

A Huge Thank you to all who participated and supported in any way in the Fall Bazaar! Our profit was \$1770.25. These monies will be divided between three missions-CAPTAINS Outreach Center, Volunteers in Mission, Local Food Pantry. This was a great community event.

UMW ladies attended the Fall UMW District meeting October 27 at the Foothills UMC in Gloversville. We enjoyed fellowship with other United Methodist Women of our district. The program "Faithful Servants Telling Our Stories" was very interesting and then we enjoyed a wonderful luncheon.

On November 6, we look forward to support the Trustees with their Turkey Dinner.

Our next meeting will be November 21 at 7. At 6:30 we will meet to discuss the October 2012 Fall Bazaar. We look forward to a representative from the food pantry to do our program with Carol Millington doing devotions. Nancy LaPine will be serving delicious refreshments, so please think about joining us.

Trustees

Trustees continue to keep busy with the completion of projects started earlier in the year. The trees have been removed from the parsonage. The tree company did a great job especially with the clean-up.

We have accepted a contract with Malta Asphalt to take care of snowplowing the church and parsonage parking areas.

The floor project is complete! Come and take a look at the new floor and doors. A huge thank you to the many people who made this project a reality. The transformation is amazing.

Trustees will be sponsoring the Election Day Dinner on Tuesday November 6th. There will be two sittings and take-out available. We will need people to help bake apple and pumpkin pies for this event. If you would like to help, please contact Jean Halme at jhalme@nycap.rr.com or 466-9417.

Saturday, November 17th has been chosen for our "Fall Cleanup". We will be starting at 9am. Please plan to come and join us.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday November 7 at 7pm.