



THE TORCH

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

Pastoral Ponderings

I have always appreciated a beautiful garden. A rose garden was something I wanted to be able to have in my own yard. It was a dream of a much younger, energetic woman. Now, I remember ... I remember the excitement I had when Dan and I purchased our first home. There was already an established rose bed. My dream had come true. Then, reality hit.

During the interval between knowing the home would be ours and the big event actually happening I began to read up on how to care for the rose garden so I would be able to have a place of beauty in our front yard. I wanted to be ready to care for the rose garden I was blessed to have.

During the first year I learned (when some of the rose bushes needed replacing) that there was a very specific way to plant rose bushes – not too deep, not too shallow, don't forget to have a cone in the center of the planting hole. I was also advised to use specific nutrients to encourage proper growth. Got the new bushes planted. Then, the older bushes needed to be pruned – there were specific ways that was to happen, also. I also learned that I needed to feed all of the rose bushes in specific ways. The whole garden needed continual care to keep the weeds out. And, during those weeks when we didn't receive enough rain, well, all the rose bushes needed to be watered, again in specific ways to prevent damage to the plants. Oh, and then there were the Japanese beetles that decided to attack the rose bushes.

This rose garden was becoming a lot of work. It was also proving to be a bit dangerous. I lost count of the number of times I stabbed myself on the thorns. Then, the rose blossoms began. It was beautiful. I realized then that the exacting work was worth it.

I've often thought about my rose garden experience and our lives as Christians. So often it feels like hard work to live as a Christian. There are struggles to live according to God's ways. The thorns of the world will still stab us, sometimes harder than any rose bush can. In the end, a Christian life, lived in God's grace, is worth it. That is the promise of God.

With Christ's Peace and Joy
Rev. Jane



Scriptures in Worship

During October we continue with scriptures that present challenging teachings, forcing us to ask what it means to do the hard work of Jesus Christ in the present day. They will help us to find the path to faithful action as we are forced to make difficult choices between the options we are offered in our every day, ordinary lives. We continue the journey of understanding just what it is we committed to when we were baptized and professed our faith.

October 7, 2012 *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 25; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12;
Mark 10:2-16.

October 14, 2012
Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22; Hebrews 4:12-16;
Mark 10:17-31.

October 21, 2012
Job 38:1-7; Psalm 104; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45.

October 24, 2012
Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52.

Mission Opportunity

Mark your calendar and spread the word! Beginning October 1st and throughout the entire month, there will be an important event called 10-Fold that will mobilize passionate people to stand up and be counted for causes they believe in. Each week will feature a different United Methodist ministry supported by the General Board of Global Ministries and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Through streaming video, Tweetups, and other media, you will learn about these amazing ministries that are changing people's lives.

The ministries/missions that will be featured are: Disaster Relief, Young People in Mission, Mission Initiatives, Missionaries and Fair Trade.

Each visitor to www.10-Fold.org will be asked to click on the "Be Counted" button. Each click will trigger a \$1.00 donation to the week's project made by one of 10-Fold's sponsors.

Don't miss this great opportunity to learn more about the ministries and missions of the United Methodist Church and the chance to make a difference.

Bishop Webb to Visit Albany District

Our incoming Bishop, Mark J. Webb, will visit the Albany District on Friday, October 5 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Shenendehowa UMC. Bishop Webb's mission for the tour is to hear what is going well in each district along with what issues need to be addressed; he is scheduling time for a listening. Let's join together to welcome Bishop Webb and to spend time in learning and fellowship together. ALL are welcome!!

New District Superintendent Appointed

Rev. Richard Weihing has been appointed the Albany District Superintendent effective October 15th. Rev. Weihing is currently serving with the Queensbury UMC and has served several other congregations within the former Troy Conference during his nineteen years of ministry.

In announcing the appointment, Bishop Webb said: "Rev. Weihing is a proven transformational leader who has a deep passion for the mission of the church and the future of The United Methodist Church and the Upper New York Annual Conference. His humble spirit and desire to equip clergy and lay leaders to do the work of making disciples will be a gift to the Albany District and the larger church."

Rev. Weihing, 44, is married to the Rev. Kim Reed, pastor of Galway United Methodist Church in the Adirondack District. They have two children, Evan, 10; and Amy, 7.

Trustees

It's hard to believe that fall is here and the fabulous summer is coming to a close.

Our floor project is close to completion with a new drainage system installed at the base of the stairs to take care of excess ground water. A new dehumidifier unit is also in place to keep the basement dry and mold free.

New doors have been purchased. We are in the process of finishing and hanging these, replacing the old water damaged doors. If anyone would like to help with this project, please feel free to contact one of the Trustees. Trustees are still taking bids for snowplowing. If you know of someone who might be interested, they can contact Dan Baker at dbaker07@nycap.rr.com or mail a quote to the church: attention Trustees.

Mark your calendars!! The Election Day Dinner will be held on Tuesday November 6th. More information with opportunities to help will be coming soon. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 3, 2012 at 7pm.

Fellowship Gathering

There will be a Pot Luck lunch on October 28th after the 9:30am church service followed by a presentation sponsored by the administration council on the financial condition of our church. We welcome your input. Please join us...it's time to get together to chat and enjoy the fruits of others. Please contact Joyce Meurs with any questions at 858-8466 of jmeurs1@msn.com



Finance Committee

Church finances Month to Date for August:

Income: \$6667
Expenses: \$8693
Net: -\$2026
Outstanding bills \$12,836 (ministry shares)

The finance committee is preparing for Stewardship. The topic will be Celebrating Our Gifts from GOD with Joyful Giving! What are your many gifts from GOD and how will you celebrate those gifts when contributing to the ongoing ministry of your church?

The next finance meeting will be Tuesday, October 2 at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

UMW

A Special Thank You to Kathie Chank, Community Outreach Director for CAPTAIN Youth and Family Services of Clifton Park, for the wonderful program she presented at our September meeting. Part of our proceeds from our bazaar will go to this great charity.

Our next meeting will be October 15. We'll start our meeting at 6:30pm with finalizing details for our bazaar then at 7pm we will have our business meeting. Kathy Washburn is in charge of our program which will be preparing for the bazaar. Jean Halme will be leading an inspirational devotional and Joyce Meurs will be proving delicious autumn refreshments. We're hoping you'll join us.

Stone Soup

Stone Soup, 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.

Expressions of Sympathy

To: Linda Milkins – death of her mother

Congratulations

Proud Uncle, Todd Sievers and Grandparents, Sylvia and Fred Sievers
Grandson, Luke Todd Sievers born September 17th.



Stone Soup, continued

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. Our fall meetings will begin October 1 Please think about sharing some time with us.

Annual Fall Bazaar

Date: October 20, 2012

Time: 9am - 3pm

Place: Round Lake United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

Purpose: Proceeds to be divided:

*CAPTAINS Outreach Center

*Volunteers in Mission

*Local Food Pantry

Lunch: 11am - 2pm

FUN, FOOD, FELLOWSHIP. All is just a few days away. The LUNCHEON menu is: Homemade soup, Sandwich (bread includes gluten free), chips, drink, dessert. There is still time to bring in DVDs, CDs, books, games and puzzles for the BOOK SALE. For the BAKE SALE there will be sweet breads, cakes, brownies cupcakes, fudge, cookies, and much more. The HOLIDAY SHOP will have fall, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas items. If you have any handmade or next-to-new items for these seasons there is still time to bring them in. The ORANGE BOX is waiting!

The CHINESE AUCTION will have many wonderful baskets, gift certificates and gift items to take a chance on. The drawing will be held at 2 pm. You do not have to be present to win.

All baked goods and items for the luncheon must be brought to the church kitchen on Friday, October 19th from 9am to 3pm.

All other items can be dropped off anytime up until Wednesday, October 17th by noon. Hope to see you on Saturday, Oct 20th!

Special Days in October Birthdays

9 John Halme
11 Audrey Bresse
11 Marilyn DeLorio
12 Donald "Duke" Bryant
12 Traci Brown
21 Barbara Gregorek
22 Phyllis Wildberger
25 Fred Sievers
28 Tim Brehmer
29 Katie Madigan

Anniversaries

5 Lisa and Doug Stata
7 Doug and Katie Madigan
15 Norm and Edna Walter

10 Things Everyone Can Do to Increase Church Membership

1. Commit to faithful worship attendance yourself.

Your presence is important to both your spiritual growth and the vitality of your church. Visitors who see a vibrant community with a "critical mass" of people will be more likely to return.

2. Follow up with people who are absent.

People like to know they are missed. Check in on friends, choir mates, or others who miss worship to make sure all is well. Phone calls and handwritten notes are nice, but even a quick Facebook post lets people know that their church friends care and their presence matters.

3. Never judge people who drift away from the church.

You can't determine the condition of someone's faith by their worship attendance. They may be attending elsewhere, they may find it difficult to return after the death of a loved one, or they may have to work on Sundays. Whatever the reason, guilt trips are not helpful. Continue to love them and offer pressure-free invitations to worship and other activities.

4. Personally invite others.

There's still nothing like a personal invitation to convince a friend, neighbor, or coworker to give your church a try. Special events like choir concerts, children's events, or service projects may be easier entryways to church than Sunday morning worship.

5. Keep your worship bulletin on hand.

Circle worship times or a specific calendar event, and pass it along to someone with a personal invitation to come. Offer to meet them for coffee beforehand so they won't have to arrive alone.

6. Keep your eyes peeled.

Even if your church has greeters and excellent signs pointing the way to the bathroom, be aware of people who look uneasy or lost and offer assistance. Watch for people in the parking lot who could use a hand, a parent wrangling three kids and a diaper bag, or someone without an umbrella on a rainy day.

7. Put others before yourself.

Welcoming new people into the church can often mean getting outside our comfort zones. Be open to new people and new ways of doing things. Choose to value a new person's introduction to Christ more than your own preferences.

8. Adopt a newcomer.

Beyond just greeting new people, invite them to sit with you. Help them understand anything confusing in the worship service. Invite them to lunch after church and introduce them to others as you would a friend. Follow up with them later in the week with your hopes that they will come again.

9. Catch visitors before they leave.

It is estimated that guests leave the church building within three minutes of the service ending. Greet visitors after worship before speaking to family and friends.

10. Pray for people without a church home.

Ask God to open your eyes to people in need of a loving Christian community and to open doors for you to invite them. God can use you to change someone's life.

From **Invitation is Everyone's Job** by Jessica Miller Kelly, **Ministry Matters**