

The Hilltops

Monthly Newsletter | July 2019

Published by New Beginnings United Methodist Church
serving Pepperell, Townsend, and the surrounding communities.

Editor – Krissy Miner, Lynne Connors, & Brenda Bennett



New Beginnings

United Methodist Church

We are followers of Jesus, who tend God's garden, serving the mind, body and spirit of all God's children.

Pastor - Christopher Jones
Church Secretary – Krissy Miner
Financial Secretary - Jean Whitman
Church Treasurer - Lynne Connors

Church Council:

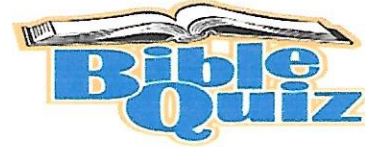
Chair: Jeff Rice 978-300-5150
Trustees Chair: Rick Oakley 978-821-0830
Lay Leader: Shirley Hult 978-433-6622
SPRC Chair: Christine Silver
Stewardship: Open
Worship Ministry:
Jean Whitman 978-597-2511
Community Outreach Ministry:
Open
Spiritual Formation Ministry:
Brenda Bennett 802-318-7563
Youth Ministry:
Linda Jones 978-877-1923

Membership Committee: Lynne Connors, Linda Jones, Brenda Bennett, Louise Thorpe, Rick Oakley and Shirley Hult

Nominating Committee: Chris Silver, Rick Oakley, Brenda Bennett, Lynn Grimes

SPRC: Chair – Christine Silver; Committee Members: Margie Wilson, Lynn Grimes, Susan Siart, Barbara Bourdon

Trustees: Chair- Rick Oakley; Treasurer - Marcia Scofield; Secretary - Krissy Miner; Committee Members: Al Higgins, Al Harris, Shirley Hult



Paul was shipwrecked on what island?

(June question: What does the word *Gospel* mean?
Answer is *Good News*.)



Krissy & Ken Miner, Jul 20



Betty Conley, Jul 5
Shirley Coit, Jul 11
Gary Provencher Jr., Jul 12
Wendy Freeman, Jul 20
Marcia Scofield, Jul 30

God is more likely to speak to you with a gentle whisper than with a loud voice.

Hello Summer



Debbie Alger; Lily Andreasen; Kathryn Bruen (Louise's sister, stroke); Judy Bureau; Patrick and Collette Burns; Betty Conley; Ralph Cusano (cancer); Mary Ann DiStefano (The Poehler's dear friend, ovarian cancer); Gale Durno; Philip Durno (cancer); Keith Edmonds (cancer & heart problems); Emma Ermel; Marcus Ermel; Delaney Fallon; Bill and Gail Felton (homebound); Sandy Freeman; Donna Gallagher (brain injury); Andrew Garbino; Shirley Gibson & family; Steven (Ann Goebel's brother, cancer); Merle Grant; Jimmy Harnish (cancer); Kathy Harris; Lucky & Penny Howie; Michele Kelley; Jean Krikorian; Dondi LaRue; Tommy Maciorowski; Joan McCorquodale; Chloe Miner; Herman Miner; Dick & Judie Moore; Bob & Terry Newton; Lance Osborne; Debby Parker; Prayers for the O'Brien & Parker families; Wallace Powers (cancer); Terry Quinn; Leslie Rice; Gloria Roddy (multiple myeloma); Peter Sheldon; Rita Signorette (Krissy's mom); Richard Simmons; Al St. Croix (cancer); Louise Thorpe; Patty Thorpe (MS and graves disease); Jimmy Tompkinson; Christine & Roy Walker; Don Waye (cancer); Rev. Joan-Anne Westfall; Emma Whitman; Sheila Wick; Nevaeh Wilder (cancer); Edward (Margie Wilson's brother, cancer); Robert Withee; Bonnie Wozniak; the victims of natural disasters all over the world; all those unemployed.



Starting in July, there will be one worship service on Sundays at 10:30am. In July we will

gather upstairs for service, and in August we will meet downstairs.

**Happy
4th of July**



Declaring Independence, Then & Now

On Thursday, July 4th the Townsend Historical Society is presenting "Declaring Independence" at our historic church! (Our church was built in 1770-1771.) Come hear echoes of the past in this riveting performance by costumed performers as they struggle with the concept of freedom from the same building where it was argued 244 years ago.

The program is presented in partnership with Freedom's Way National Heritage Area. It begins at 6:00pm with ringing of the church bell and ends at 7:00pm with ringing of the bell! After the performance, there will be a Band Concert on the common with food court and music. For more information you may call the Townsend Historical Society, Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm at 978- 597-2106.



Church Band Concert - July 11th

We'll be hosting the Band Concert on Thursday, July 11th. We'll have a full Food Court, Baked Goods Table, and games for the children. Please bake your favorite cookies, brownies, breads (they need to be bagged ready for sale). We can use more help in all areas. Please call the church office 978-597-2486 or sign up at the church. Set up will be 5:30pm and we clean up

beginning at 9pm. The Band Concert is another great Fun-draiser for us!

Nancy Conlon forwards to me some daily inspiration emails she receives. The following was a 3 part series titled 'Stuff' that I hope you'll appreciate as much as I did - Krissy

Stuff – Part 1

Bad language aside, George Carlin, comedian and philosopher, had some good insights. I listened to his riff on "Stuff" recently.

It wasn't the first time I'd heard it, but it was heard through Lenten ears. George notices that I keep my stuff in my house. In fact, the main purpose of buying my house is to keep and display my stuff.

My stuff is valuable to me, so I lock it up so other people won't take my stuff. My stuff makes me comfortable, so I go to work each day so that I can buy more stuff. Sometimes we need to buy a bigger house so we can buy even more stuff.

There is more to his sermon, but you get the idea.

Stuff – Part 2

. . . At some point, many of us begin the process of downsizing and removing stuff from our homes. Sometimes this means reversing the process and buying a smaller house – which forces us to give away our stuff.

Some will sell their stuff on Craigslist or such, and some stuff is worthy of being donated to charity. Sometimes our kids want our stuff, other times they respectfully decline our precious items – sadly, a most common occurrence.

Often when someone needs to go to an assisted living facility it is the last stage of downsizing

our stuff. Only a few of those most sentimental items – family pictures, religious items, and items that represent our life and accomplishments – will make the trip with us.

Most of us began our adult life with little "stuff".

Now, de-cluttering is a hot topic in our culture. Can you hear Jesus' words about having two coats? Do we own our stuff or does our stuff own us?

I read recently of a pastor who annually took all the books he had bought in the past year and put them in a box. After a year, if he hadn't used any one of them, he gave the whole lot away.

Stuff - Part 3

Jesus said it is hard to be rich in stuff and attain eternal life; to be able to follow him no matter where he leads us. Jesus knew about our stuff, about the folly of building bigger barns to store more of our stuff.

He knew the weight, on our minds and upon our spirit, of acquiring and caring for our stuff. He showed us that our sin is the way that our stuff, our valuable and treasured possessions, captures our interest and takes root in our hearts.

This sin blocks Christ from living richly in our hearts, and places him in a cluttered corner . . . our efforts fail to recognize the spiritual warfare that comes with acquiring, caring for, and indeed loving our stuff . . .

And if we seek more stuff, we do so at our peril.

Source: Gary Melville Director of Development
NE UM Foundation.



2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 12:30pm Women's Bible Study at Elaine Aho's	4 6:00pm Declaring Independence, followed by band concert & food court on the common	5	6
7 10:00am Choir practice 11:30am Church Council	8 10am-12pm Wesley Group	9	10 12:30pm Women's Bible Study at Elaine Aho's	11 Band Concert Setup starts at 5:00pm, cleanup starts at 9:00pm	12	13
14 10:00am Choir practice	15 10am-12pm Wesley Group	16 Newsletter Articles Due	17 12:30pm Women's Bible Study at Elaine Aho's	18	19	20
21 10:00am Choir practice 11:30am Church Council	22 10am-12pm Wesley Group	23	24 12:30pm Women's Bible Study at Elaine Aho's	25	26	27
28 10:00am Choir practice 11:30am Positive Pot Luck	29 10am-12pm Wesley Group	30	31 12:30pm Women's Bible Study at Elaine Aho's			



Worship Times:

10:30am Traditional Service upstairs
in July, Casual Service downstairs in
August

Meetings and Social Events:

11:30am Church Council (1st and 3rd Sunday)
11:30am Positive Pot Luck (Last Sunday)

To learn more, visit

www.newbeginningsumcma.org

