

The Hilltops

Monthly Newsletter | January & February 2020

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.

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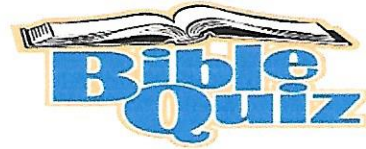
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SPRC Chair: Christine Silver
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Worship Ministry:
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Community Outreach Ministry:
 Open
Spiritual Formation Ministry:
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What type of insect did John the Baptist eat in the desert?

(December question: When the shepherds went looking for Jesus, what was the sign they were to look for?
Answer is A baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger, Luke 2:12)



Ralph Heymann, Jan 2
Lynn Jones, Jan 5
Kristine Symonds, Jan 7
Ken Miner, Jan 10
Benjamin Miner, Jan 11
Thelma Vance, Jan 11
Dick Vance, Jan 18
Kyli Schwartz, Feb 11
Elaine Aho, Feb 15
Gloria Upham, Feb 16
George Freeman, Feb 25
David Chapman, Feb 27



Bill & Lynn White, Jan 19



Debbie Alger; Lily Andreasen; Joan Arsenault (Lynne's friend); Kathryn Bruen (Louise's sister, stroke); Judy Bureau; Patrick and Collette Burns; June Carr (Louise's lifelong friend); Betty Conley; Charlene Corris (a steamboat friend of Shirley Coit); Ralph Cusano (cancer); Mary Ann DiStefano (The Poehler's dear friend, ovarian cancer); 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); Jimmy Harnish (cancer); Kathy Harris; Lucky & Penny Howie; Michele Kelley; Jean Krikorian; Dondi LaRue; Tommy Maciorowski; Joan McCorquodale; Chloe Miner; Dick & Judie Moore; Bob & Terry Newton; Lucinda Nichol; Linda Oakley; Lance Osborne; Debby Parker; Wallace Powers (cancer); Terry Quinn; Leslie Rice; Gloria Roddy (multiple myeloma); Peter Sheldon; 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.



CommUnity Supper

The January Community Supper was well attended despite cold winter temperatures. The

pulled pork dinner was a success, with many compliments for the chefs! We were honored to meet and receive help from Elaine Aho's brother, Rev. Damien Austin and his wife Melanie. Rev. Damien and Melanie are missionaries in the Ukraine, having served 7 years of a 10 year commitment in that country. Recently, they established a church there with Rev. Damien as Pastor. We thank them for serving at our supper, and for the work they are doing in the Ukraine. And a Thank You to all who helped with the dinner, and we are thankful for the community who come to share our dinners. **Our VALENTINE COMMUNITY SUPPER will be held on Wednesday, February 12th.** The menu will be Roast Turkey Dinner, with stuffing, gravy, potatoes, vegetable, and rolls. And, of course our delicious desserts! Liz Cataldo will be performing at the keyboard, so please join us for a delicious supper and enjoy the music!



As many of you know, Judy Bureau's daughter Lucinda, suffered a stroke a couple weeks ago, and had emergency surgery at UMass in Worcester. She is now in rehab at Whittier Rehabilitation Hospital in Westborough, MA. We would like her to know we are thinking of her and keeping her in our prayers. Please drop her a line of encouragement or card to : Lucinda Nichol, c/o Whittier Rehabilitation Hospital, Room 211, 150 Flanders Road, Westborough, MA 01581. Please keep Linda Oakley in your thoughts and prayers, also. Her address is 8 Maplewood Drive, Townsend, MA 01469. Thank You!



CHURCH COOKBOOK IN THE WORKS!

Susan Siart and Elaine Tittlemore are co-chairs of the Church Cookbook that is in the works! They would like to get recipes from everyone so they can begin to put this project together. It can include some favorite family recipes, your own recipes, or even a recipe from a friend or church member who has passed. Any ideas or help you might give in creating this cookbook are welcome. You can give the recipes to Susan or Elaine, or send it to New Beginnings UMC, P.O. Box 497, Townsend, MA 01469. You can reach Susan at susansiart@yahoo.com There will be a drop off box in place at the church for your convenience also. An update will be coming soon as to where that will be and of any meetings scheduled regarding this fundraiser.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020

Women, men, and children in more than 170 countries and regions will celebrate World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 6, 2020. This year, the women of the WDP Committee of Zimbabwe call us to worship considering the words "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk." With these words as backdrop, we are invited to learn about Zimbabwe's history and rich cultural diversity. The WDP 2020 program is based on Jesus' encounter with a person who, although positioned for healing, had not acted upon the opportunities given (John 5:2-9a). Jesus asked, "Do you want to be made well?" "Rise! Take your mat and walk," said Jesus. Our sisters from Zimbabwe are taking Jesus' encounter to be a call to act in love for peace and reconciliation. The action verbs in Jesus' command suggest that we should not be afraid

to act on the word of God. God is offering us the steps for personal and social transformation. **This year's World Day of Prayer service will be held here at our church, on Sunday, March 8th, at 10:30 a.m.,** followed by a luncheon, using recipes from Zimbabwe There will not be a 9:00 a.m.service that Sunday. If you would like to help with the service or the luncheon, contact Liz Cataldo @ 508-954-4746; or lizcataldo@msn.com. The offerings given at the service supports the work of World Day of Prayer USA and helps meet the needs of families in Zimbabwe and around the world who are victims of many forms of poverty, violence, and injustice.

*God Is In The Small Stuff By: Bruce & Stan
Submitted by Brenda Bennett*

Chapter Ten Church:

Appreciate God's Creation

The world in which we live is one of the greatest proofs for the existence of God. The very fact that the universe exists at all points to a Creator. Even the most cynical scientist does not believe that everything around us came from nothing. There had to be a beginning. And if there was a beginning, there had to be a someone to begin everything (Genesis 1:1).

But God didn't just create the world; He *designed* it. Whether you study the cosmos or the human body, you will find that the systems and cycles and rhythms of life operate with incredible precision. And like many others, including a large number of the world's top scientists, you will conclude that all of it came from an intelligent Designer, who is powerful, personal, and loving.

The apostle Paul put in this way:

*From the time the world was created,
people have seen the earth and sky and*

all that God made. They can clearly see his invisible qualities---his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God.

Romans 1:20 NLT

Yet in spite of the evidence around us, people have done a strange thing. They have chosen to focus on the creation rather than the Creator. Paul wrote that people worship “the things God made but not the Creator

himself” (Romans 1:25 NLT). That would be like seeing a beautiful painting and concluding that the artist had nothing to do with it, or that the artist really didn’t matter. We just don’t do that. We acknowledge and praise the artist while showing appreciation for the painting.

The same thing goes for God’s creation. We are to appreciate it, protect it, and even manage it while preserving it. But we should never worship creation. All praise should go to the Creator, God Almighty.

...In The Small Stuff

- Your view of the world and how it works is directly related to your view of origins.
- Your view of origins will determine your worldviews.
- When it comes to origins, there are only two alternatives: Either God created the heavens and the earth, or He didn’t.
- It is impossible for something to come from nothing.
- Don’t get hung up on *how long ago* God made the heavens and the earth.
- If you want to know yourself better, get to know our Creator better.

- Don’t get hung up on *how long* God made the world, He made science possible
- If you want to know yourself better,
- It is our responsibility to use and manage—not abuse and deplete—our natural resources.
- When you see a beautiful painting, praise the artist.
- When you hear a beautiful song, praise the composer
- When you experience beauty in nature, praise the Creator.
- Take time to appreciate God’s created world.
- Science is not the enemy of God, and religion is not the enemy of science. After all, when God made the world, He made science possible.
- You can learn a great deal about God by studying His creation.

Chapter Eleven

Church:

What Would Jesus Do?

WWJD? What do those four letters mean to you? You see them on wristbands and T-shirts; and you wonder, is that just another gimmick to sell wristbands and T-shirts? Or is there something to it?

WWJD? Stands for “What Would Jesus Do?” And it just may be the most powerful question you will ever answer. It’s a simple question, really, but the implications are profound and -- potentially life changing. “What Would Jesus Do?” if you can’t decide what to wear in the morning. But let’s say you’re faced with the choice between telling a lie or being truthful. When you compare your initial answer to how you think Jesus would respond, you’ll either know you’re doing the right thing, or you’ll have a guide for change. Jesus is the perfect example because Jesus lived a perfect life. He experienced all of the pressures, temptations,

and anxieties that we have, but He never did wrong.

This brings us to a deeper level of the WWJD? Question. Even though Jesus is a perfect moral example for us, it isn't enough. Because none of us is perfect. None of us can do what Jesus did *all* the time, in every detail of our lives. We need help. More than that, we need forgiveness when we sin, which is failing to live up to God's standard of perfection. But who will help us? In a word, Jesus. You see, even though Jesus did many things to show us how to live, He did something we could never do. He sacrificed His own life for our sins so that when we accept Jesus by faith, we satisfy God, who then gives us eternal life.

Doing what Jesus did in all situations will make you a better person here on earth. Accepting what Jesus did on the cross will secure your eternal future. Why not do both? The decision is yours.

...In the Small Stuff

- In every situation ask yourself, "what Would Jesus Do?" Then do it.
- If you're going to compare yourself to anyone, compare yourself to Jesus. It will put your life in perspective.
- The essence of Christ is victory over death.
- Live your life in such a way that when you die even the undertaker will be sad.
- Like Jesus, if you look for the best in people, you are likely to find value in every person.
- Always do your job as if your boss were looking over your shoulder.
- Better yet, do your job as if Jesus were standing beside you.
- Jesus kept His promises until in hurt. We should do the same.
- Accept and diligently carry out the commands of those in authority over you.
- Make it your constant goal to be obedient, not victorious.

- You are less likely to fall into temptation if you don't walk along the edge.
- Deal with jealousy the moment it enters your life. Otherwise fear will come knocking.
- It's easier to change your behavior in advance than to change your reputation afterward.
- What the world sees you are, they consider Christ to be.
- As a Christian, you are designed and equipped to change the world for the glory of Jesus.
- God is looking for coordinated Christians whose walk matches their talk.

Faith Thought, Submitted by Nancy Conlon

What we do is very little,
but it is like the boy with a few loaves and
fishes:
Christ took that little and increased it.
He will do the rest.
What we do is so little
we may seem to be constantly failing,
but so did Christ fail.
He met with apparent failure on the cross.
But unless the seed fall into the earth and die,
there is no harvest.
And why must we see the results?
Our work is to sow.
Another generation will be reaping the harvest.
(Dorothy Day)

Source: Dorothy Day: Selected Writings





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:30am Choir practice 11:30am Church Council	3 10am-12pm Wesley Group	4	5 12:30pm Women's Bible Study at Elaine Aho's	6	7	8
9 9:30am Choir practice	10 10am-12pm Wesley Group	11	12 4-6:00pm Free Community Supper	13	14	15 Newsletter Articles Due
16 9:30am Choir practice 11:30am Church Council	17 10am-12pm Wesley Group	18	19 12:30pm Women's Bible Study at Elaine Aho's	20	21	22
23 9:30am Choir practice 11:30am Positive Pot Luck	24 10am-12pm Wesley Group	25	26 12:30pm Women's Bible Study at Elaine Aho's	27	28	29



Worship Times:

9:00am Casual Service
10:30am Traditional Service

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

