

The Hilltops

Monthly Newsletter | May 2020

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



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 978-877-9757
Church Secretary – Krissy Miner
Financial Secretary - Jean Whitman
Church Treasurer - Lynne Connors

Church Council:

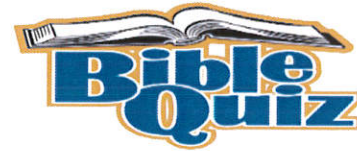
Chair: Jeff Rice 978-300-5150
Trustees Chair: Rick Oakley 978-821-0830
Lay Leader: Shirley Hult 978-433-6622
SPRC Chair: Christine Silver
Stewardship: Open
Worship Ministry:
Jean Whitman 978-597-2511
Community Outreach Ministry:
Open
Spiritual Formation Ministry:
Brenda Bennett 802-318-7563
Youth Ministry: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

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



The giant, Goliath the Philistine, got knocked down by which prophet of God?

(April Question: How many times did Peter deny that he knew Jesus? Answer: 3.)



Dot Hackett, May 1
Kelly Hayward, May 9
Sue Siart, May 14
Sarah Alger, May 17
Pat Freeman, May 19
Brenda Bennett, May 20
Dondi LaRue, May 25
Bill Hanson, May 30
Charlene Wilson, May 31



Debbie Alger; Lily Andreasen; Joan Arsenault (Lynne's friend); Kathryn Bruen (Louise's sister, stroke); 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; Susan Fallon & family; 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); the family of Kathy Harris; Lucky & Penny Howie; Michele Kelley; Jean Krikorian; Dondi LaRue; Tommy Maciorowski; Chloe Miner; Dick & Judie Moore; Bob Newton; Lucinda Nichol (Judy's daughter); 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; all those affected by the Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic.

Coronavirus Covid-19 Update!

Governor Charlie Baker spoke today, May 18th about the phases for Massachusetts to reopen non-essential business. **Churches were given the green light to open as of today as long as they follow certain guidelines, which include:**

Limit occupancy to 40% of the building maximum as documented with the town occupancy permit.

Everyone wears a face covering, except where a medical/disability prevents it (parents of children ages 2-5 determine if child wears mask).

Maintain 6' social distance; only family members can sit together. Block off rows of

fixed seating and place markers showing 6' space.

Online signup for services is encouraged to monitor and limit the number of attendees.

Open windows and doors to promote ventilation.

The full text of the advisory can be found here:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-standards-and-checklist-places-of-worship>

(I will be in touch with Chris in regards to implementing these guidelines – Krissy)

Much thanks to Pastor Jones for finding ways to continue worship while we have been apart, with recorded messages, Zoom meetings, and drive-thru Palm Sunday service. ***"The Church is not empty, we have been deployed."***



Church Grounds Clean Up!

A big THANK YOU goes out to Barbara Bourdon, Ken Gerken, and Marcia Scofield for their work on cleaning up the church grounds! They also received help from local landscaper and new to town resident Kyle Courtemanche, who stopped to help and brought his leaf blower to assist. Many hands makes light work! Thank you all!

Submitted by Brenda Bennett

God is in the Small Stuff By: Bruce & Stan
Chapter Thirteen

Discipline Yourself (No One Else Will)

Humans are funny beings. It used to be that many of us wanted whatever it was to be bigger, better, or faster. Then we discovered that *outward* material things don't make us happy. So over the last few years we've turned *inward*. We've decided that it's what's inside that counts. Consequently, many of us have embarked on an inward journey, seeking to simplify our lifestyles while increasing our joy. At least that's the goal, because that's what the simplicity gurus are telling us in books like *Simple Abundance* and *Living the Simple Life*.

The idea of simplifying your life is a good one, and we'll talk more about that in Chapter 16. The problem is that we are attacking the goal with the same unbridled zest we used to collect all that stuff in the first place. Like a crazy pendulum, we swing from one extreme to the other with gusto, somehow feeling empty at both places, So how do you find the satisfaction you've been looking for? The key is balance, consistency, and perseverance, all of which come from one thing and one thing only: discipline.

Here's our dilemma. We want it all, and we want it now, whether it's an abundance of possessions or an abundance of simplicity. But nothing worthwhile comes quickly, and nothing worthwhile comes without discipline. Over life's long haul, discipline works in every dimension of your life: financial, physical, mental, and spiritual. If you've ever tried to get rich quick, tried to lose weight by taking a pill, tried to get knowledge by cramming at the last minute, or attempted to get close to God by asking for a miracle, you know what we're talking about.

It's easy to get caught in the trap of quick results when you focus on the results rather than the journey. The truth is, the joy is in the journey, in the daily discipline of growing in the details of you mind, body and spirit. The only way to bring abundance to your life—the kind of abundance that gives you joy—is to bring discipline into your life.

...In The Small Stuff

- Discipline begins with small things done daily.
- The secret behind most success stories? Discipline
- Every morning you choose your attitude for the day
- The first step on the path to commitment is making up your mind.
- You can plan to succeed or you can plan to fail. The choice is yours.
- Motivation increases when we assume large responsibilities with a short deadline.
- Develop a cause for your life. Whatever it is, dedicate yourself to it daily.
- Don't be good at making excuses.
- Discipline is at the heart of discipleship.
- Before driving into anything, step back and view the big picture.
- Acquire good habits, abandon bad habits.
- Move from involvement to commitment.
- Use your free time productively.
- Your dreams won't come true if you allow them to languish.
- Your dreams won't come true if you're sleeping.
- If you want to achieve excellence, begin with discipline
- Worthwhile activities may be tough in the short-term but rewarding in the long-term.
- People will be more impressed by what you finish than by what you start.
- Motivation can fade. Habits prevail.



2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NO SERVICE OR GROUPS UNTIL MAY 18TH	Calendar only for reference				1	2
3 11:30am Church Council (virtual)	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Newsletter Articles Due	16
17 11:30am Church Council (virtual)	18 Governor Baker allows for churches to reopen with restrictions	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



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

