

The Hilltops

New Beginnings United Methodist Church

978-597-2486

www.newbeginningsumcma.org

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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Chair: Jeff Rice 978-302-5150

SPRC: Open

Trustees Chair: Rick Oakley 978-821-0830

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Church Council:

Chair - Jeff Rice; **Committee Members:** Margie Wilson, Lynn Grimes and Chris Silver

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

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

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



The title Lord clangs off the American ear, and caroms off the zeitgeist of the day. To bow the knee is anathema to the western ethic of individualism and diversity. I am glad of many of the fruits of the enlightenment. I am glad that we no longer are quite so easy with racism and sexism and imperialism. However, the enlightenment project that was in its childhood in Wesley #39's day has come to dotage in our own. In the same bin as the good fruits of the Enlightenment are also the poison apples of materialism, nihilism, and psychic despair. If we are stop the postmodern senility of the present day, we had best turn back to the lordship of something other than the self. Whether it feels comfortable or not, the statement Jesus Christ is Lord is the only form of address that will do. The title Lord is the only word that conveys properly the place humanity occupies in relationship to Jesus. Until we are comfortable with that word, the title Christ cannot be actuated in our lives. The anointed one is sent into our lives, He knocks, but He cannot work in our house until we open the door, and we cannot open the door until we acknowledge his relationship to us. He is our friend and our guide and our servant and our redeemer. He is many things, but the first thing he must and ever be is the Lord of our life. He must be the one who we look to for everything. He must be the one in whom our thoughts dwell

and on whom we wait, rely and give over to. The sad truth is that the enlightenment sold us a bill of goods. In freeing us from the tyranny of aristocratic political forms and the manacles of social convention, it did not free the will, it only bound it more tightly to the self and despair. We all worship something: the ego, goods, others; all of us have a lord of something, but all these somethings are lords leading to the Slough of Despond. Only the lordship of Jesus leads to freedom. As he so eloquently put it: To gain your life you must lose it. It is only in submitting to the Lordship of Christ that true freedom begins.

Rev. Chris Jones



Jack & Lucille Sampson, Aug 17th



Lynn White, Aug 4th
 Alicia Heymann, Aug 5th
 Lindsay Connors, Aug 6th
 Elizabeth Hayward, Aug 9th
 Adam Giardinella, Aug 19th
 Jeff Rice, Aug 24th
 Alice Chase, Aug 26th
 Rick Oakley, Aug 29th
 John Siart, Aug 29th
 Shirley Hult, Aug 31st



Why didn't any of the kingdoms surrounding Judah attempt to make war against King Jehoshaphat? (2 Chronicles 17:10)

- A. His army was strong
- B. They feared the Lord
- C. He had great wealth
- D. His army was too large

(July answer: After Jesus fed 5000+ people with 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread, how many baskets were left over? 12 baskets)



Debbie Alger; Lily Andreasen; Joan Arsenault (shoulder replacement); Kathryn Bruen (Louise's sister, stroke); Judy Bureau; Patrick and Collette Burns; Betty Conley; Ralph Cusano (cancer); David Dearborn; Mary Ann DiStefano (The Poehler's dear friend, ovarian cancer); Gail Durno; Philip Durno (cancer); Keith Edmonds (cancer & heart problems); Emma Ermel; Marcus Ermel; Delaney Fallon; Bill and Gail Felton (homebound); Janee Freeman; Sandy Freeman; Donna Gallagher (brain injury); Andrew Garbino; Shirley Gibson & family; Steven (Ann Goebel's brother, cancer); Merle Grant; Sally Greig (Krissy's friend); Jimmy Harnish (cancer); Kathy Harris; Lucky & Penny Howie; Michele Kelley; Jean Krikorian; Dondi LaRue; Tommy Maciorowski; Chloe Miner; Herman Miner (cancer); Dick & Judie Moore; Bob & Terry Newton; Lance Osborne; Debby Parker; Wallace Powers (cancer); Sally Provencher (cancer); Terry Quinn; Bradley Raymond (seizures); Leslie Rice; Gloria Roddy (multiple myeloma); Marcia Scofield; Peter Sheldon; Rita Signoretti (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.

FACET (Fund for Advancement and Community Enhancement in Townsend)

An Initial meeting of FACET took place in July. Representatives of the Catholic, Congregational, and Methodist churches met to begin our work. The FACET board will consist of clergy and lay people from the churches. Our lay representative is Jeff Rice. FACET is intended as a group organized by the area churches to help Townsend "dream" of what we can do to serve its citizens better.

The intention of FACET is to support initiatives that serve the needs of our community in ways that are not already being addressed. Over the next months we will be discerning and searching for ways to be better servants of our community. Thanks to Mark Brockmeier and folk at the Congregational church for getting us started.



Thank you to pastor Chris Jones, for hosting and cooking our July 11th Barbecue Supper! Special thanks to Linda Jones, Rick Oakley and others who helped make this event happen. Our **August Community Supper** is being changed to an **ICE CREAM SUNDAE NIGHT**. We'll serve ice cream sundaes on **Wednesday, August 8th, from 4 - 6 pm** at no charge. On Wednesday, September 12th, we will begin our regular monthly dinners once again, with a pasta menu. This will be the start of our third year of serving free dinners. Thank you everyone, who help support and enable us to give to our community.

SPIRIT FOOD FOR THOUGHT

May the Blessings of this day radiate through your smile, be helpful through your hands, and shine through your heart.



JULY 12th "EVENING CONCERT"

After a 2 year absence, our church returned to hosting a Thursday night band concert on the beautiful Townsend Common. The weather couldn't have been any better, encouraging a good attendance. It was a perfect summer evening with great music emanating from the old gazebo. The barbecue grill filled the air with the aroma of hot dogs and hamburgers. The Bounce House was busy with happy children, and the baked goods table offered delicious treats. It looked like one of Sam Thorpe's paintings, "Evening Concert", which was painted from one of the town's earlier summer concerts. Thank you, Rick Oakley, for chairing this band concert, and to everyone else who helped. Special thanks to Betty Mae Tenney, who encouraged and invited us to host this concert again. We are looking forward to next summer and participating in this great community event.

Mother Peckett

When I was in Vermont I learned about Mother Peckett and was really intrigued by her story. Margaret Appleton Peckett worked in the household of John Wesley. She and her husband became believers in Methodism during that time and John Wesley took a personal interest in their study. They came to America landing in North Haverhill, New Hampshire and settled there until the winter of 1779-1780 then traveled to the wilderness of Bradford, Vermont to settle there.

There were no churches in the area when they arrived according to Bradford, VT, historian Silas McKeen, so the Pecketts "opened their home for religious services for any Christians, ministers, or people that love the Savior, irregardless of their denomination."

"Her home became a small seminary where she trained a group of young men as pioneer Methodist preachers."

"Few women in early America were able to have such a profound impact on the establishment of new churches and the encouragement of the ministry as Mother Margaret Appleton Peckett of Bradford. In early America, women were usually described only by their relationship with the men in their lives. The most recognition that women could hope for outside their home was "the dignity of anonymity." Within the family setting, their work was literally never done. Their worldly goods along with their bodies were the property of their father or husband. They raised the children they birthed, made meals from food they grew and washed the clothes they handmade. They supported their men Folds and did double duty when they were away. Their title of honor was goodwives. Today we would call them super moms, ordinary women doing extraordinary things."

Next month I will write about the Pastors Mother Peckett trained to ride the East to preach the Methodist theology.

Brenda Bennett

[All commentary enclosed in " " were taken from an article written by Silas McKeen, Curator and past President of the Bradford Historical Society.]



When I asked Jean to write an article describing the office she holds in the Church Council (Worship Ministry) she was at a loss as to how to describe it. After discussing it for a while, we came up with the idea of writing the descriptions as a Want Ad for finding people that would be interested in filling the worship needs of the church.

She did a great job capturing the needs of the church in the following "Ad". We hope it will provide you with a clearer picture of the background work that has to be done every week and seasonally to provide you with the vital and exciting services you enjoy each week!

Also, if you just happen to see something you feel a calling to do, speak to Jean.

WANTED:

- Someone who loves our beautiful church
- to decorate the altar and change the liturgical colors
- provide comfort for parishioners - provide kleenex and other comfort items
- plan decorations for holidays
- likes to choose music to match the message and season
- assure that candles and seasonal decorations are available

Apply within (literally)...Pray first

Brenda Bennett & Jean Whitman

God's Work Through Church Members

Each month we will be writing an article on one of our church members. As a merged church, these articles may help us get to know each

other a little more. We're hoping it will be inspiring, informative and interesting to everyone. It will also be a "Thank You" for all they have done through the years. This month we would like to recognize and give thanks to Louise Thorpe. Louise began attending this church in the late 1960's. She, along with her son Michael, joined the church in 1973. Louise was married to Sam Thorpe, a well-known artist who painted beautiful pictures of Townsend, scenes of New England, and coastal seascapes. Louise is also an artist in her own right. She is a talented seamstress, who made and sold children's clothing for many years in her shop, "The Little Gnome's Closet." An avid quilter, she crafted many beautiful quilts. She has always had a great sense of color and design, which was helpful in planning the Spring Craft Fair the church held for over twenty years. Crafters would come and rent space on the common to display and sell their items. Louise would set up the crafters to their appointed spaces, and help with any problems that arose. This was no easy task, as sometimes there could be as many as 40 people to deal with. We no longer have this fair because it's hard to find someone to put in the time and effort that it takes. Louise also was a member of the Methodist Woman's Society of Christian Service that used to be part of our church mission outreach. This outreach did visitations to shut-ins, had potluck dinners, put on Christmas parties, and cooked for those in need. She was involved with youth events in the 60's and early 70's, by volunteering at the teen room in the Town Hall, where they held youth fellowship, dances, and plays, (which were performed at the Harbor Church.) Louise has served on the Pastor Parrish Committee, Trustees, Membership Committee, Woman's Bible Study, Choir, and Holiday Craft Committee. She has donated many Sam Thorpe prints to Silent Auctions at the church, and bakes her "famous" no egg chocolate cake regularly for our Community Suppers! Thank you Louise, for your dedicated service, commitment and love for your church, and church family. Louise, recently, has had the honor of seeing her son, Mike, become Pastor Michael Thorpe of The

United Methodist Church in Wolcott, Vermont. This church has the distinction of having the first African American minister to ever serve in Vermont.

TEO Items Needed

TEO Still could use paper products. Deposit items in the red box on your left as you enter the church, and George Freeman will deliver them to TEO. If you are able to help through volunteer work or donation, TEO is located at [82 Bayberry Hill Road](#) in West Townsend, MA 01474 Phone # 978-597-2209 and email teo2@comcast.net.



Louise Thorpe welcomed her 14th great grandchild on July 15th (also Sam's birthday!!) Welcome to Miss Lucy Jane, and congratulations to the happy family!



*Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.*

~ John Wesley ~



AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 12:30pm Women's Bible Study at Elaine Aho's	2	3	4
5 9:00am Bible Study Breakfast; 10:30am Worship	6 10am-12pm Wesley Group	7	8 4-6:00pm Ice Cream Sundae Social	9	10	11
12 9:00am Bible Study Breakfast; 10:30am Worship	13 10am-12pm Wesley Group	14	15 12:30pm Women's Bible Study at Elaine Aho's	16	17	18
19 9:00am Bible Study Breakfast; 10:30am Worship	20 10am-12pm Wesley Group	21	22 12:30pm Women's Bible Study at Elaine Aho's	23	24	25
26 9:00am Bible Study Breakfast; 10:30am Worship	27 10am-12pm Wesley Group	28	29 12:30pm Women's Bible Study at Elaine Aho's	30	31	



Worship Time: 10:30am
(casual service downstairs)

Check out our Website at www.newbeginningsumcma.org