

# ***The Hilltops***

New Beginnings United  
Methodist Church

978-597-2486

[www.newbeginningsumcma.org](http://www.newbeginningsumcma.org)



**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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Editor - Brenda Bennett  
Co-Editor - Lynne Connors

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

## **Church Council:**

### **Chair**

Jeff Rice 978-300-5150

### **SPRC**

Open

### **Trustees Chair**

Rick Oakley 978-821-0830

### **Lay Leader**

Shirley Hult 978-433-6622

### **Worship Ministry**

Jean Whitman 978-597-2511

### **Community Outreach Ministry**

Jeff Rice 978- 300-5150

### **Spiritual Formation Ministry**

Brenda Bennett 802-318-7563

### **Youth Ministry**

Linda Jones 978-877-1923

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

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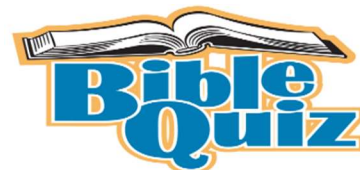
Ken & Krissy Miner, July 20<sup>th</sup>

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Betty Conley, July 5<sup>th</sup>  
Shirley Coit, July 11<sup>th</sup>  
Gary Provencher Jr., July 12<sup>th</sup>  
Sherry Westfall, July 12<sup>th</sup>  
Wendy Freeman, July 20<sup>th</sup>  
Marcia Scofield, July 30<sup>th</sup>

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After Jesus fed 5000+ people with 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread, how many baskets were left over?



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); Phyllis Dale (broken leg); David Dearborn; 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); Janee Freeman; Sandy Freeman; Donna Gallagher (brain injury); Andrew Garbino; Shirley Gibson & family; Steven (Ann Goebel's brother, cancer); Merle Grant; Chrissy Green (Lynn Grymes friend, immune deficiency); 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, Anita Otis; Debbie Parker; Wallace Powers (cancer); Sally Provencher (cancer); Terry Quinn; Bradley Raymond (seizures); Leslie Rice; Gloria Roddy (multiple myeloma); 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.

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### What is Church?

The nature and mission of the church is to be an agent of transformative change, first in the individual, then in the congregation, and then in the world. The church is both public and private. The workings of church occur within the soul and outside into the wider community. Jesus began the church with one person. In Matthew 16 after Peter openly declares that Jesus is the son of the living God, Jesus calls the church into being. The word he uses, ekklesia, has as its root a verb whose sense can be to call out or call together. We are therefore called to gather into community by Christ and we are called to go forth into community. It is significant that Jesus speaks the church into being after the one (Peter) declares who Christ is. Jesus starts a community with one person. We are the body of Christ because we step forward and choose to be.

While the church has a private function, where the individual is touched by the various forms of worship: song, prayer, sermon, liturgy, symbol, and sacrament, these functions almost always take place in a public setting. The individual may also be moved by acts of service that church supports or sponsors, whether as participant or receiver, but here too, the individual almost always engages in these acts with others. Therefore, while the action of church moves the individual, that action is operative in community.

One of the primary functions of church is activity. The church that is not active is like Lazarus, dead, possessing of potential but without the Spirit to animate it. In 1 Corinthians, Paul calls the church the body of Christ. A healthy body is active, it moves in the world, it interacts with its fellows, it learns and grows and changes and contributes. The phrase body of Christ implies that Christ is the animating force that moves and drives the body. Just as the Holy Spirit enables the

individual to come to Christ, it is the Holy Spirit that does or does not descend into church and allow Christ to move the body.

When I began to think seriously about answering the call to ordained ministry, I immediately ran across the term "missional" which seemed to mean active engagement in the world right outside our doors. It means spreading the gospel Good News. It means looking at my town, my state, my nation, as a mission field. It means to go out. It means: "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors." It means taking risks. I take such a message seriously, and I believe it is rooted in more than a contemporary church renewal movement. I believe the mission of the church is rooted deeply in scripture both Old and New.

In the first two chapters of Genesis, creation is described twice. This is no accident. Chapter one is a majestic and cosmic account of divine creative intent. The second chapter is pastoral and bucolic. In the first chapter God states three times that he creates humanity "in His image." In the second chapter He places humanity in the garden with the express purpose of stewardship. This is our primary command: to "tend the garden." When we do so, we are acting in the image of God. When we fail to do so we are reenacting the Fall. When we are creative, we act in the image of God. When we are destructive, we are acting out of fear, the consequence of the Fall. The church's first function is to creatively tend the garden.

In the last of the Gospels, the final words of Jesus are "Follow me!" In the earliest gospel, Jesus tells us to repent (turn) and believe. As Wesley so clearly articulated, it is impossible to do anything good without surrender to Jesus through the working of the Spirit. The task of the church is to help people come to know Jesus, and to be the vessel through which the Spirit can more easily work. In order to make this possible, the church cannot be stagnate, it cannot expect that people will come to it, it must go forth into the community and be a place where people come to find sanctuary and challenge. It must be a place where love in all its forms; acceptance, discipline, nurture and example all mesh. Church has been described

as a hospital for the soul. We are all patients and we are all called to be ministers. The purpose of church is to help us grow in love.

Blessing be on you all,

*Chris Jones*



Thanks to everyone who contributed their time and food items to our June Pulled Pork Supper! We had a great attendance and as always, a fun time serving our community! See you **Wednesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 pm** when Pastor Chris hosts this next supper! On the menu will be grilled hamburgers, hot dogs and some sides to go along with everything. A sign-up will be available soon for food donations and helpers.

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### *Potluck Appetizers*

Our community suppers are fun, work and fulfilling. At the end of the day we all breathe a sigh of relief and look forward to the next one.

Last month I was busy dishing out desserts, making sure everyone had a scoop of ice cream or an extra cookie and a "Thank you for coming".

My daughter and granddaughter showed up and I was glad to sit down for a minute and eat with them. We found a table, a group had just left and only one man remained seated. We dug in to our delicious meal and after a few minutes my daughter, Susan, asked me, "Do you know that man?" I admitted I did not know him. She looked at me and said, "Don't you think you should?" Well, WOW, Ugh, Stammer...I looked over at this man, alone, head down and touched his arm and asked if I could get him some dessert? Big Smile, "No thank you, I already had pie. You all have the best

desserts, I especially like the strawberry rhubarb pie you had last month. My family comes from Nova Scotia and we had a tradition when anyone moved we made sure they had a rhubarb root to plant in their new location, etc., etc." Needless to say, I promised him we would definitely have strawberry rhubarb pie at our June supper.

I will look for him at our next supper and I will greet him as a friend, because you see, *I now know him!*

I have a question for all of us:

***Do you know the people that come to our suppers? If not, why not? Don't you think you should?***

*Shirley Hult*



New Beginnings UMC will host the lawn party at the **July 12th band concert**. We are going to keep it simple with hamburgers, cheese burgers, hot dogs, assorted chips, soda and coffee. We are also planning a bake table. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. We are requesting cash donations for the meat and rolls. Rick Oakley will purchase these items the day of. We are also asking for donations of Market Basket brand soda, in 12oz cans. These items will be on the sign up list. Setup starts at 5pm. We will need to move tables, chairs, grills, and coolers. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated. If anyone has any questions, give me a call 978-821-0830.

*Rick Oakley*



### ***Displaying Our Flag***

I was driving through Townsend Center recently, and looked up at our beautiful church sitting on top of the hill, with its tall, white steeple reaching up into a brilliant blue sky. A perfect picture I thought, until I looked over to the flag pole with our country's flag waving in the breeze. Usually a nice sight to see, but not this day. The flag was torn, actually shredded, into what looked like strips. It was time to replace a worn out flag. Flags wear out quickly on this hill. It's elevated enough to catch any breeze and when the winds blow, the air whips the raised flag, sometimes violently. The flags flown here are displayed year round, day and night, in all kinds of New England weather. So flag replacement is needed often.

I have a flag that was given to me at my aunt's military funeral, and wondered if it would be appropriate (or not), to donate it to fly over the church grounds. My aunt, a retired Army nurse, served in England, France and Germany during WWII. She was a devoted nurse and patriot. She grew up in Townsend, and loved coming back "home" to spend time with family and friends during her Army life and retirement. It would be an honor to fly her flag here, I thought, which would overlook part of Townsend Center, a place she loved. I needed to find out what you can and can't do with a "military funeral flag". The internet gave me some information, saying there was nothing written to indicate you couldn't fly this type of flag, and a veteran's website said there was nothing wrong about displaying it as long as it was flown in honor of the deceased veteran.

I decided to talk to Russ Moore-QM, of the VFW in West Townsend, who would have

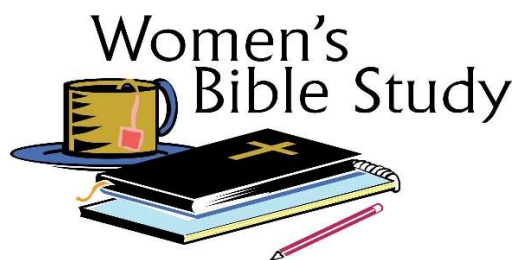


the answers to the questions I had. He also said that as long as it was displayed in honor of the veteran, it would be okay, and we both agreed it would indeed be done to honor the veteran. Russ also told me they receive flags from the community, which are no longer in good condition to display, and that they have a special ceremony at the VFW to dispose of them properly. I believe it's done on Veteran's Day. So one day my aunt's flag will fly over the church grounds overlooking Townsend Center. It will be in honor of her service and it will have meaning to her family.

If there is anyone interested in donating a flag such as the one I have, let me know. It will be displayed with honor and respect for the veteran it was given to.

*Lynne Connors*

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I've been having Bible Study in my home for over 21 years. It has become a Bible Study/Support Group for Women. We meet at 12:30 on Wednesdays because nights are hard for most of us to go out driving. We do not meet on the 2nd Wednesday because most are busy with preparing the Community Potluck.

We welcome new faces, as our numbers are dwindling. Come and join us. Call for directions 978-597-6660.

*Elaine Aho*

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### ***God's Work Through Church Members***

Over the next year, we'd like to do a monthly article on some of our church members. We're hoping it will be inspiring, informative and

interesting to everyone. It will also be a Thank You! This month, we would like to recognize and give thanks to Pat Freeman, who has been a member of this church for over 50 years. Pat has generously given her time in many ways, with a strong commitment to helping others. In the 1960's, Pat, who was a kindergarten teacher, helped organize and ran a kindergarten at the church for 5 years and eventually a nursery school for 5 more years after that. The highest number of children who attended was 45. Classes were held 10 weeks in the spring, and 10 weeks in the fall. Because of the cost of heating the church, no winter classes were held. Monday and Wednesday 1 class was held on each day, and Tuesday and Thursday 2 classes were held each day. This was truly a gift to the community, as Pat and one aid who worked along with her, received no salary until the last couple years of the school's existence. Pat was also a member of the Woman's Society of Christian Service here at the church, which does not exist now. This group of women did luncheons for soldiers and also put on short programs for them. They also visited shut-ins and put together shoe boxes filled with fruit and food items they delivered and often sang hymns and other songs for them. Pat has also served on many church committees including Sunday School Superintendent, Trustees, prepared luncheons for 'after' funeral services, organized dinners to be delivered to members in need, and is also a choir member! If you attend one of our potluck lunches, you might be lucky enough to have some of her delicious strawberry salad! Pat said recently, "The Lord is good, He teaches us." Thank you Pat for your smile and friendship and all you have done, and continue to do.

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### ***TEO Items Needed***

George Freeman says the TEO could use some paper products. Items like paper towels, toilet tissue, napkins, and Kleenex. Deposit items in the red box on your left as you enter the church, and George will deliver them to TEO. Thank You George!

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## ***Wesley Class - Spiritual Formation***

I have been leading a Wesley Class on Mondays at 10 AM. The Wesley Class was the foundation of John Wesley's movement in England. It is meant to focus the member's attention on the places where God is moving in their lives. When I started in my first class 15 years ago, I spent the ride to the class breaking my brains to think of where I might have seen God. In less than a month, my ride to the class was spent in determining what time I saw God at work in my life that I wanted to talk about!! He is always there doing things with and for you but we seldom take the time to recognize him.

When settlers first starting to come to America, a woman who was a housekeeper at John Wesley's home came with her husband and their children. Mother Peckett as she became known here studied under John Wesley and when she came here they moved to the Bradford, Vermont area. It was sparsely settled and Mother Peckett and her husband started having Wesley Classes as their log home because there were no Pastors or churches available. They also trained others to have classes and they continued once churches were constructed.

I have the class at the church and would love to open this thought process to any who would like to attend. I know that many of you work and wouldn't be able to come on a morning. Please know that I would be happy to set up an evening class, just get in touch with me.

If you can't come to class, you can pose the questions to yourself:

- Where did you see God in the past week and what did it mean to you?
- What did you do for your church?

- What did you do for your neighbor? Remember, your neighbor is the whole world!

*Brenda Bennett*

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## ***New Fire Alarm System***

The Town of Townsend Fire Alarm System is converting from a hard wired system to a wireless system. This is a requirement that is occurring throughout the state. The Trustees have been working on this for a while and now our new system has been installed. In the process, all smoke sensors, strobe lights, and alarms throughout the church were tested and are working well. We have not received the final bill yet, but the original estimate for the new equipment is approximately \$3,500.00 and a monthly monitoring fee of \$55.00.

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## ***Jesus Loves Me***

According to Godtube, *Jesus Loves Me* is one of the most popular Christian hymns around the world. The hymn was first written by Anna B. Warner in 1860 as a poem.

Anna's sister Susan requested a poem for a dying child and Anna wrote the wonderful words of *Jesus Loves Me* to bring comfort and peace.

*Jesus Loves Me* is one of the first hymns missionaries teach to new converts. The music was written by William Bradbury in 1862.

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