

The Hilltops

Monthly Newsletter | November 2018

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

Editors - Brenda Bennett & Lynne Connors



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: Open
Stewardship: Open
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

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 - Open; 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

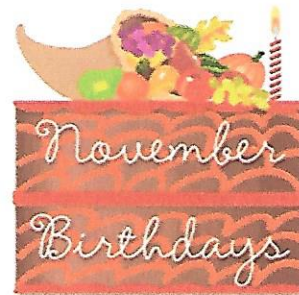


God sent the Angel Gabriel to what town in Galilee, to announce to the Virgin Mary that she would give birth to a son and she was to call him Jesus?

(October: Who was the first person to come upon the injured man in the Parable of the Good Samaritan? Answer: First person was a priest. Second person was a Levite, then a Samaritan. Luke 10: 25-37.)

"We must find the time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our life."

John F. Kennedy



Susan Gerken, Nov 4th
Tiffany Provencher, Nov 11th
Al Higgins, Nov 11th
Paula Giardinella, Nov 20th
Jean Whitman, Nov 22nd
K.C. Lavery, Nov 30th
Nina Symonds, Nov 30th

"I come from a family where gravy is considered a beverage."

Erma Bombeck



Debbie Alger; Lily Andreasen; 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); 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; Sally Greig (Krissy's friend); 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; Kelly 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 Wayne (cancer); Rev. Joan-Anne Westfall; Emma Whitman; Sheila Wick; Nevaeh Wilder (cancer); Edward (Marge Wilson's brother, cancer); Robert Withee; Bonnie Wozniak; the victims of natural disasters all over the world; all those unemployed.

October Yard Sale Successful

Many thanks to everyone who donated items and volunteered their time for the indoor yard sale held at the Pepperell Church. We had a great turnout, but still have many items available, so there will be another indoor yard sale coming soon. If you have items that didn't get to the sale in time, you'll be able to donate them for the next sale. A new date will be announced soon.



The October Ham & Bean supper was a great success with many folks in the community attending. Thank you everyone who helped make this dinner a success! Our next supper will be, as always, the second Wednesday of the month. On November 14th, 4 - 6 p.m., we'll be serving a roast beef dinner, with baked potatoes, vegetables, salad, and rolls. Desserts will be served with coffee or tea. A sign-up will be posted for food donations...we couldn't do this without you! Thank You!

"Be present in all things and thankful for all things."

Maya Angelou

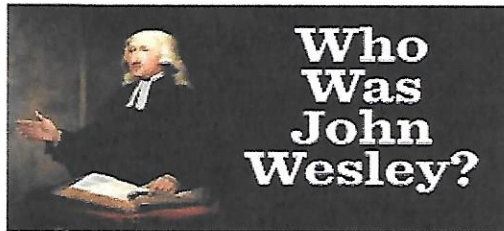


Our annual Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, December 2nd at 2:30pm. **Please have all reports in to Krissy by November 15th.**



Saturday, November 17th from 9 am- 3 pm. It's that time again, to hold our annual Holiday Fair! Lunch will be served all day with delicious Hobo Stew, hot dogs, corn chowder, and more! There will be Bell Tower Tours, Silent Auction, Cookie Walk with wonderful home baked cookies,

pastries, fudge & breads at the Bake Table, Handmade Crafts Table, and Santa's Attic. Set up is Friday November 16th at 9 am and 4-6 pm for those who work. There will be a sign up in the front of the church. Suggestions and new ideas are always welcomed!



John Wesley wrote one of the all-time bestselling medical texts! Wesley was convinced that God is concerned about our earthly life as well as our heavenly one. To that end, he wrote a medical text for the everyday person titled *Primitive Physics*. The book detailed the current knowledge about home remedies and went through 32 editions making it one of the most widely read books in England. Many of Wesley's cures and tips on healthy living remain widely accepted. While some of his advice was wishful thinking, the most important part of his philosophy was his insistence on continual observation to support hypotheses.

(Condensed from an article written by Jeremy Steele)

John Wesley was raised in a family of poets, but his brothers Samuel Jr. and Charles were gifted more in creating original verse. John devoted more time in editing and publishing, although he did write as well. Charles Wesley wrote over 6000 hymns! It is calculated that he wrote an average of 10 lines of verse every day for 50 years. He completed an extant poem every other day. John and Charles Wesley published 56 collections of hymns in 53 years. Here are just a few of the hymns Charles Wesley wrote: In 1739, "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing," "Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown," originally published as "Wrestling Jacob." "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending," "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise," "Love Devine All Loves Excelling," "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," and "Hark the Herald

Angels Sing." Check out these beautifully sung hymns on YouTube. Performed by large choral groups and choirs, they are amazing! Also, check "Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown," sung by Maddy Prior and The Carnival Band, for an interesting version. Beautiful!

Lynne Connors

DAILY DEVOTIONS by Brenda Bennett

As I was doing my daily devotions this morning, it dawned on me that someone might find it interesting what books I use for this communion time with God. I use two books: *"My Utmost for His Highest"* by Oswald Chambers and *"Jesus Calling"* by Sarah Young. I will give my overview of *"My Utmost for His Highest"* this month and *"Jesus Calling"* for next month.

I was given *"My Utmost for His Highest"* by a friend. It has a copyright date of 1935 so the language is very formal which you would think would put you off given our times. I find the language makes me more careful in my reading so I won't miss anything...of course I do which is why I read this book every two years!

My experience with this devotional is that it is well worth the effort to read it slowly and to digest it in an even slower manner. Each time I read it, I get something different from it. You are always at a different place in your life given that it is a year later the next time you read it.

To give you a taste of the presentation of the readings, I am quoting the entry for November 25th:

"THE SECRET OF SPIRITUAL COHERENCE"

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." Gal. vi. 14.

When a man is first born again, he becomes incoherent, there is an amount of unrelated emotion about him, unrelated phases of external things. In the apostle Paul there was a strong steady coherence underneath, consequently he could let his external life change as it liked and it did not distress him because he was rooted and grounded in God. Most of us are not spiritually coherent because we are more concerned about being coherent externally. Paul lived in the basement; the coherent critics live in the upper

story of the external statement of things, and the two do not begin to touch each other. Paul's consistency was down in the fundamentals. The great basis of his coherence was the agony of God in the Redemption of the world, viz., the Cross of Jesus Christ.

Re-state to yourself what you believe, then do away with as much of it as possible, and get back to the bedrock of the Cross of Christ. In external history the Cross is an infinitesimal thing; from the Bible point of view it is of more importance than all the empires of the world. If we get away from brooding on the tragedy of God upon the Cross in our preaching, it produces nothing. It does not convey the energy of God to man; it may be interesting but it has no power. But preach the Cross, and the energy of God is let loose. "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." "We preach Christ crucified."

If you try this devotional, let me know what you think. Give it a shot!!



TEO Donations Still Needed

George Freeman says we still need paper goods for TEO, along with any canned goods, boxed food items (including cereals, rice, pasta, etc.). This is a terrific way to reach out to those in need. Donation box for TEO is to your left as you enter the church.

Pass On a Thanksgiving Blessing

This would be a good blessing for anytime of the year, but especially nice for Thanksgiving. Invite a widow, single person, or someone who is lonely, to share in your family Thanksgiving meal. Give a grocery store gift card to a single parent or a struggling family. Fill up a college student's gas tank. Take a piece of pie to someone in a nursing home. There are many

possibilities for giving a Thanksgiving Blessing. Take the time to stop and look for those who might need one, and be blessed in return.

Mary Fairchild from ThoughtCo.

DID YOU KNOW?

Seven other nations also celebrate an official Thanksgiving Day. Those nations are Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Korea, Liberia, and Switzerland.

"It's not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our Thanksgiving."

W.T. Purkiser

How stars are made

During a recent date night, my wife and I saw the movie *A Star is Born* with Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga. The movie depicts the journey of Ally, a young singer who finds fame beginning with a chance meeting of Jackson Maine, a successful country musician. A romantic relationship quickly blossoms, but the weight of his alcoholism leads Jackson's career and their marriage down a dark path. Leslie and I enjoyed it partially because the director didn't tell the whole story, instead he left small spaces that allowed the audience to fill in the backstory. I find that the best books, movies, and songs have this common thread of audience participation woven into their stories and lyrics. The singer-songwriter John Mellencamp said it best in discussing his art,

"Keep it vague so people can include themselves into what you are saying, or what you're singing, or what you're painting. Don't be so specific that it becomes exclusive to you."

This resonates with me as I think of how we interact with each other and our community. As we continue to reach out to the community, interact with visitors, and participate in fellowship we must provide enough space to allow the other person to take part in the moment. In addition to giving the other person an opportunity to contribute their gifts to an activity, conversation, or project, the space helps feed our own curiosity to develop an authentic interest in the individual.

As I watched the movie *A Star is Born*, I thought about the risks that Ally took to become a pop star, and the support she received so she could take a risk. She received emotional support from a loving father and positive encouragement from her friends. When opportunity knocked at her door the encouragement had given her the strength to lean in, grab it, and move her life forward.

Community Outreach

Our community dinners are an example how we are serving both the families we break bread with, and the volunteers who organize, cook, and serve the delicious meals. Our mission statement is

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

We are fulfilling our mission! The meals we serve nourish our neighbors' bodies, and more importantly the moments created in sharing a dinner together feed their spirit. We create a space for meaningful fellowship. A place where a woman who endures discrimination in her workplace feels welcome and her voice heard. We create a space for community reflection. A place where a cook admires the strength and perseverance of a neighbor's quiet yet powerful work ethic. We create a space to breathe. A place where a mother can enjoy a meal with her young family in-between taxiing her boys from one extra-curricular activity to the next.

Have we created a space for you?

We are blessed to have a committed team of volunteers who have created a dependable process to serve 100 or so community members each month. Like tending a vegetable garden that has been well maintained, our community dinners will continuously need to be watered and weeded, but the hard work of rototilling the soil is done.

As we look to expand our community service and tend to God's greater garden, there may be hard soil to be plowed or who knows, we may be fortunate enough to find fertile soil. Wherever we may locate needy children, let us be sure to plant our vegetables with enough room for them to flourish. Let's make sure we are not excluding the very ones we seek to serve or the people we need to accomplish our mission. Together let's look to support individuals in ways that enable them to take life-altering risks; - investigate their faith, reach out to loved ones, seek help, try new careers, uncover hidden talents, or the strength to be vulnerable. As you walk through your week, ask yourself, ask a friend, or ask a colleague

"How can I serve my neighbor so he or she can take more chances to succeed?"

Remember, when we serve our neighbor, we shine a spotlight on love, and allow others to turn away from darkness and fear. Once a person feels heard, loved, and supported, the next opportunity does not feel as overwhelming. A safety net has been erected and tested, or a roadblock has been taken down, giving your neighbor the confidence to attempt something outside his or her comfort zone. Imagine what things would you try if you were free from the fear of failing? Would you make different decisions? If so, let us find ways to pay it forward!

"If you can't get someone off your mind, pray for them. You may be the only one that cares enough to do so."

NOVEMBER



2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 9am Casual Service; 10am Coffee & Fellowship; 10:30am Trad. Service; 11:30am Council Meeting	5 10am-12pm Wesley Group at Pepperell Church	6	7 2:30pm Women's Bible Study at Elaine Aho's	8	9	10
11 9:00am Casual Service 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship; 10:30am Traditional Service	12 10am-12pm Wesley Group at Pepperell Church	13	14 4:00-6:00pm Community Supper	15 Newsletter Articles Due and Charge Conference Reports Due to Krissy	16 Holiday Fair setup 9:00am and 4-6:00pm	17 9:00am-3:00pm Holiday Fair
18 9am Casual Service; 10am Coffee & Fellowship; 10:30am Trad. Service; 11:30am Council Meeting	19 10am-12pm Wesley Group at Pepperell Church	20	21 12:30pm Women's Bible Study at Elaine Aho's	22	23	24
25 9am Casual Service; 10am Coffee & Fellowship; 10:30am Trad. Service; 11:30am Positive Pot Luck	26 10am-12pm Wesley Group at Pepperell Church	27	28 12:30pm Women's Bible Study at Elaine Aho's	29	30	



Worship Times:

9:00am Casual Service
10:30am Traditional

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

