

# The Hilltops

Monthly Newsletter | October 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

In this special issue of the UMCatalyst, we have compiled information about how United Methodists in New England can help the residents of the Merrimack Valley who have been affected by the gas explosions and fires of Sept. 13, 2018.

New England Conference leadership is in conversation around the needs of the affected communities and is exploring the most effective ways to respond to those needs during what may be a long recovery phase.

We wanted to share this preliminary information, and we will keep you informed about the ways that you can support those affected by this disaster – including information from the clergy and others who are on the ground helping right now through a number of efforts. Watch the website at [www.neumc.org/gasexplosion](http://www.neumc.org/gasexplosion), the e-news and our social media channels.

### **From Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar:**

"Beloved in Christ, I greet you all in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am writing to encourage our churches to receive a special offering this Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018, to assist those impacted by the fires and gas explosions in the Merrimack Valley. Prema and I know firsthand the difficulties faced by those who have had to evacuate their homes, and we have a tremendous network of support. At the local shelter, the shock and distress showed on people's faces. I prayerfully ask that you consider giving generously to help those who have been displaced – many of whom have few or no resources. Please join me in continuing to hold all of those directly affected by this devastation, those facing Hurricane Florence, and crises around the world in your prayers. Listed below you will find some of the many ways you can help. Thank you."

**UMCOR grant:** We have been assured that the New England Conference will receive a solidarity grant from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to help those who have been displaced. The funds will be disbursed through the Director of Connectional Ministries and Conference Disaster Response offices. Details about this are forthcoming.

### **To help through UMCOR you can:**

- Donate to [UMCOR Disaster Response](#), U.S. Advance #901670 (the U.S. Advance



will also aid those facing Hurricane Florence and other U.S. disasters).

- Create recovery materials

Here are the guidelines for creating kits:

[Hygiene kits](#), [School kits](#), [Cleaning kits](#)

Find a list of drop-off

sites: <http://www.neumc.org/umcorreliefsupplydropofflocations>

- Learn more about how to help by reading [Top four worst, and best, ways to help after a disaster](#)

**To address needs in the Merrimack Valley, here are some ways that you can support those affected:**

[From The Boston Globe: Ways to help Merrimack Valley residents](#)

[From The North Andover Eagle-Tribune: In midst of disaster, many offer help](#)

**From the Town of Andover:** The town has received numerous generous offers of support, aid and supplies. Andover has established a single point of contact for all offers of support and donations.

Email [AndoverCommunitySupport@andoverma.us](mailto:AndoverCommunitySupport@andoverma.us) regarding any donations or offers of support.

**To learn more about the situation as it unfolds, here are community websites offering updates:**

[www.cityoflawrence.com](http://www.cityoflawrence.com)

[www.northandoverma.gov](http://www.northandoverma.gov)

<https://andoverma.gov/>



Who was the first person to come upon the injured man in the Parable of the Good Samaritan?

(September: What was the first bird that Noah let go from the Ark? Answer: A Raven)

*2 Corinthians 9:7-8*

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."*



Karen & Peter Poehler, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>  
Barbara & Steve Bourdon, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>  
Terry & Bob Newton, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>  
Nancy Krikorian, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Heather Grymes, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>  
Rian Ammendolia, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>  
Ellie Jones, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>  
David Dearborn, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Krissy Miner, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>  
Linda Jones, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>



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); 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.

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Copies of the September Treasurer's Financial Report of General Checking is available in the office for those who would like one.

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We had a really good turnout for our September Community Supper! We served a delicious Shepard's Pie dinner, serving approximately 100 people, including take-outs. Our next Community Dinner will be on October 10<sup>th</sup>, from 4-6 p.m. The menu is Ham & beans with coleslaw, scalloped potatoes, rolls, cider and terrific desserts! Many thanks to everyone who helped! Extra help is always welcomed!

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### ***Indoor Yard Sale at the Pepperell Church***

An indoor yard sale will be held at the Pepperell Church Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9am-2pm. Setup will be on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, from 3:30-6pm. You can drop off items at this time.

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### ***Special Sundays and Offerings***

The United Methodist Church designates a number of Sundays throughout the year as opportunities for recognizing and supporting particular ministries referred to as Special Sundays, and most include a special offering used to fund the work of these programs. Coming up in the next couple months are two of these Special Sundays. "World Communion Sunday" occurs on the first Sunday of October. Donations received for this cause, would help provide scholarships for United States racial and ethnic minority students and international students, on both undergraduate and graduate levels. "United Methodist Student Day" occurs on the last Sunday in November. Donations received for this cause, go towards furnishing scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist related and other accredited colleges and universities. Envelopes will be available for donations. Information received and reprinted from the New England Conference.

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### ***Did You Know?***

John Wesley coined the term, "agree to disagree". Over the years, John Wesley had serious theological differences with another popular pastor named George Whitefield. Though they both argued passionately, Wesley reflected on these differences in a memorial Sermon for Whitefield saying "There are many doctrines of a less essential nature. In these, we may think and let think, we may 'agree to disagree'. But meantime let us hold fast the essentials." This appears to be the first recorded use of the term. It was a hallmark of Wesley's way of holding to his convictions while remaining in connection with those with whom he disagreed. From United Methodist Communications, by Jeremy Steele.

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# Praise God FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

## *Hymn History*

What is the Doxology? It is a short hymn of praises to God in various forms of Christian Worship and often added to the end of hymns or a section of the service. Each week, around the world, thousands of Christians raise their voices in worship. Praise God from whom all Blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Few know the story behind these words, first published in 1709, and fewer still, the life of the composer - Anglican Bishop Thomas Ken (1637-1711). Thomas Ken, orphaned in childhood, was raised by his sister Ann and her husband Izaak. In 1651, Ken became Scholar of Winchester College and in 1661 received his B.A. at New College, Oxford. As an adult, Ken held various church and academic positions. Ken spent most of his life inter-twined with Winchester, both College and Cathedral. There the small statured prelate, through preaching music, sought to uplift the spiritual lives of his students. In 1671, Ken published "A Manual of Prayers for the Use of the Scholars of Winchester College." These prayers were written for morning and evening worship. The Doxology we sing today was the closing stanza of each of these three hymns: ("Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun", "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night", and "My God, I Now from Sleep Awake".) Information compiled from article written by James D. Smith III.

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This month we would like to honor and thank Al Harris for his help and membership with the Lawrence United Methodist Church, and also the New Beginnings United Methodist Church. Al is one of those exceptional caregivers of his church and church family. He started attending the Pepperell Church in 1939, and became a member in 1947. The Harris family home is the former home of the Lawrence family, who rebuilt the Pepperell Church in the early 1940's. Al's grandmother used to be the organist at the church, and his mother was the Superintendent of the Sunday School. In the 1960's, Al served in the U.S. Army, stationed in Panama, and married his wife Kathy. They have 4 children, 6 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. Al's contributions are many. He has served on the Board of Trustees, Administration Council, helped with Youth Fellowship, caretaker of the grounds, bell ringer, and worked on many suppers and fairs. He is always giving a hand to those who need assistance, and a smile. Al has a wealth of information regarding the history and happenings of the Pepperell Church ...like when the old parsonage was torn down and when the church steeple was lowered with cranes and used to rebuild the steeple. He mentions events held at the church and organizations who used the church over the years, like the Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Al-Anon, AA, Square Dancing, Pot Luck Suppers and Fairs. There are undoubtedly more things to thank Al for, things that can go unnoticed, but things that are done. Thank you Al, Kathy, and your family for the gifts you have given over the years, and continue to give.

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# OCTOBER

2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 12:30pm Women's Bible Study at Elaine Aho's	4	5	6
7 9am Casual Service; 10am Coffee & Fellowship; 10:30am Trad. Service; 11:30am Council Meeting	8 10am-12pm Wesley Group at Pepperell Church	9	10 4:00-6:00pm Community Supper	11	12 3:30-6:00pm Yard Sale drop off & set up Pepperell Church	13 9am-2pm Yard Sale at Pepperell Church
14 9:00am Casual Service 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship; 10:30am Traditional Service	15 10am-12pm Wesley Group at Pepperell Church	16 Newsletter Articles Due	17 2:30pm Women's Bible Study at Elaine Aho's	18	19	20
21 9am Casual Service; 10am Coffee & Fellowship; 10:30am Trad. Service; 11:30am Council Meeting	22 10am-12pm Wesley Group at Pepperell Church	23	24 12:30pm Women's Bible Study at Elaine Aho's	25	26	27
28 9am Casual Service; 10am Coffee & Fellowship; 10:30am Trad. Service; 11:30am Positive Pot Luck	29 10am-12pm Wesley Group at Pepperell Church	30	31 12:30pm Women's Bible Study at Elaine Aho's			



**Worship Times:**  
9:00am Casual Service  
10:30am Traditional

**Meetings and Social Events:**  
11:30am Church Council (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)  
11:30am Positive Pot Luck (Last Sunday)

To learn more, visit

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

