



VUMC NEWS UPDATE – Fall 2020

Victor United Methodist Church
106 E. Main St., Victor NY 14564
585-924-2621 www.victorumc.org

From Our Pastor's Desk:

Grace and Peace, my sisters and brothers in Christ. What a wild journey it has been since our last newsletter. Yet, I am continually encouraged by the faithfulness of our faith community here in Victor. In times of great need, we continually bind together to help not only ourselves, but our community. The gifts we are able to offer through our clothes ministry and partnership with the Victor Farmington Food Pantry bless so many lives. Giving through the clothes ministry and the food pantry have increased, and we are also blessed to have seen an increase of our tithes and offerings. Through the diligent work of the finance team, and the many givers in our congregation, we have been able to remain faithful to our bills while even increasing our giving in Shared Ministries. The joy of not only being faithful givers in our local community, but also partaking in Shared Ministries around the world, is something I deeply celebrate. I know whatever comes, the Victor community will remain faithful to God's beloved people and I remain so immensely proud of that fact.

In addition to the faithful giving of our time and gifts, our church has journeyed into the unknown together. In these last eight months, we have had to learn together how to do ministry in our current reality. We have been engaged with our community through the joys (and sometimes frustrations!) of new technology. We have been challenged by learning new discipleship in times of social distancing among other challenges. Our church has also journeyed together with a new way to do the work of Charge Conference. We have been so very blessed by the many volunteers who worked so faithfully. Our Charge Conference will be fully completed on November 18th and you can look for a video and letter highlighting that work after the 18th. Despite all of these new mountains to climb, we have made it through. I again celebrate these victories by the grace of our Lord Jesus.

Looking forward, we have even more to rejoice over. This year we will be having three Christmas Eve services. We will be keeping our normal services of family service at 4:30 pm and a traditional service at 9 pm. In addition to these two services, we will be having an "abridged" pre-recorded Christmas Eve service on our YouTube page. We will also be doing our very best to live stream our other services to our Facebook page. Following the advice of the Upper New York Annual Conference with regard to social distancing, in preparing for our Christmas Eve services, we will be asking folks to register for the service they will be attending. During December you will be receiving a registration form to make the process as easy as possible. I know this is different and we may be unfamiliar with the task that is before us. Yet I am confident of the faithfulness of our community.

The season of Advent is nearly upon us. It is the season in which we remember that when God makes a promise with us, God keeps it. I know these last eight months have been a roller-coaster for many. God has promised to be ever near to you in the darkest moments in your life. We proclaim, loudly, the truth of this. God is alive, my friends! I am reminded in the first chapter of the Gospel of John that no darkness can comprehend the Light found in Jesus. We find truth in Jesus who has come, and will come again. This season, I invite you my sisters and brothers, to hold on to Jesus. Increase your relationship with Him. Remember the promise that God has not, nor will He ever, abandon you. Remember in Who, and Whose you are.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Benjamin Lalka



VUMC Church Council Update: Maggie Graham

The Church Council has moved to present an updated mission statement to the congregation for a vote:

The First United Methodist Church of Victor (FUMCoV) celebrates the truth that all persons are created in God's image and therefore all people are of sacred worth. We are a faith community that welcomes and values all people, regardless of their age, race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, family configuration, religious background, economic status, or developmental and physical abilities. We embrace the full inclusion of all people in the life and ministries of FUMCoV, as we worship, learn, and work together to grow disciples for Jesus Christ. It is our desire that the world will know and be transformed by His unconditional love.

If you would like to vote on this mission statement, please choose one of these three ways to do so:

- Go to <https://bit.ly/3IVFbE9> and fill out the online ballot, or
- Email the church office with your name and your vote (Yes, to approve the updated mission statement or No, to not approve the updated mission statement), or
- Call the church office at (585) 924-2621 and leave a message with your name and vote (Yes, to approve the updated mission statement or No, to not approve the updated mission statement).

Voting will be open from **November 3 – 17, 2020.**



Safe Sanctuaries Training Update

We are happy to announce that we have completed our "Safe Sanctuaries" training for VUMC. If you missed the online training seminar, but would still like to be trained, please email Dottie Augustine djaug7498@gmail.com at your earliest convenience.



VUMC Finance Update: Chris Dunfey

I hope everyone is having a wonderful fall and enjoying the autumn colors as we move closer to the holiday season. In this article, I would like to share with you an update on the financial life of our church.

As we move towards November and our Stewardship message, (more to come) we are ahead of last year giving. This is quite a pleasant surprise, as we were not sure six months ago, where we would be at this point of the year. A big "Thank You" for your sustained giving of your gifts and treasures! In addition to continued support for our mission and outreach including the Food Cupboard and the Clothes Closet, we have been able to pay down our past due expenses to the District and to increase our contributions to Shared Ministries (formerly apportionments).

I am glad to bring you good news, and ask that you continue to support our Methodist church for without your generous giving we would not be able to offer the wonderful Christian Education, Outreach and mission work that makes us special. Hopefully, 2021 will bring better times of fellowship in a safe, Covid-free world. God Bless...



Let us all continue our stewardship offerings

Even if you are not attending worship in person this Fall, you can mail them to: 106 E. Main St, Victor NY 14564. Thank you!



Annual Clothes Closet FREE Coat & Winter Wear Giveaway Event!

When: Saturday November 14th
Time: 10 AM – 2 PM

Where: Victor United Methodist Church

Come get warm winter coats, boots, and winter wear while they last! **Spread the word!**



Christian Education Update: Dottie Augustine

At this time, there is NO in-person Sunday school or youth group. Our "Back to Church Sunday" has been delayed until we see how our community and school react to being reopened. However, Ms. Heather and Ms. Leslie have begun sending emails on Fridays! Please take the time to read through them, listen to the songs, and do the activities when you are able to. There will be Sunday school zooms on Sundays at 3:30! The youth group zoom will be Sundays at 4:30. In the Sunday school Zoom, we will be discussing what was sent out from Ms. Heather and Ms. Leslie. The youth group zooms will be the continuation of the "Bankin' on the Bible" game! I sent an email reminder on Monday. If you need a reminder of the books of the Bible you are working on please let me know! Please join us! The links are below.

Sunday School 3:30 link:

<https://zoom.us/j/95265018974>

Youth Group Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/93654903181>



Family Promise Update: Alvie Kidd:

Our next Family Promise hosting week begins November 22nd. Since we will not be hosting families inside the church, the new procedure will be similar to what we did in May and August. On Monday, FPOC liaison Lauren Lamb will send a list of groceries and other necessities that the families need (families are now being housed in three apartments in Canandaigua). After we collect & procure the items donated, they will be taken to the Day Center in Canandaigua on Friday of that week. We will share that list with you all soon. Please consider donating to this worthy cause, via one of these easy ways:

ONLINE
Make a one-time donation or set up Monthly gifts on our PayPal page



Mail a Contribution to:
Family Promise Ontario Co.
185 N. Main Street
Canandaigua, NY



Amazon Smile
Shop and designate Family Promise of Ontario County for donations




Has the pandemic caused you to lose income or employment? Is your family without enough food or facing eviction or homelessness? Do you know someone who is facing these problems?

Family Promise of Ontario County's Stabilization and Prevention program can provide you with information and support. Call us at (585) 905-3988 to talk to our Case Manager, Jay Garrett-Larsen.



Outreach Update: Lisa Brotsch & Nancy Kidd:

Again, this year we will be supporting our community by participating in the Victor Farmington Food Cupboard's "Thanksgiving Basket Drive". Things are a bit different this year, so we will not be providing roasting pans. We were asked to provide instant mashed potatoes instead--BUT--thanks to overwhelming generosity, they now have plenty and are asking instead for turkey gravy packets. (If you already purchased potatoes, we will still accept them) Any donated potatoes or gravy packets may be placed in the designated tub in the lounge. If you would rather donate funds, mail a check to VUMC and we will do your shopping, or you can put a donation in the "GRAVY" basket in church on Sunday. Please add "gravy packets" to the memo line if you write a check. Please feel free to ask family and friends to participate in this worthy cause, as well. If you have any questions, ask Lisa or Nancy. The deadline to donate is **Friday, Nov 13TH**. Also-- we would like to thank everyone who participated in our UMCOR campaign. Your generosity was amazing! Our final tally was \$1,475.00, which will truly help many people in need! You rock!!!





Please keep the following individuals and their families in your thoughts and prayers:

- Pat Cologgi’s friend, for health concerns
- Kevin Williams’ friend, for health concerns
- Gordy Berndt’s daughter Kathy, who had surgery on 10/21
- Kathy & Rich Baehr’s friend Jeff, who underwent knee replacement surgery on 10/20
- All those battling COVID 19 & other diseases
- Our military men and women serving worldwide



Gratitude Corner:

- ✚ **The Gavin, Henry, & Mason Families**, who cleaned up our church yard & flower gardens! Thank you for your kindness!
- ✚ **To Rich Baehr, Jason Bacher, Tom Lichti**, and all their helpers for professionally painting our sanctuary window and door frames! They all look wonderful! Bravo!
- ✚ **To Karen, Patti, Bryan, Rosie, & Suzanne** for all your hard work serving the Community Clothes Closet during such a challenging year. God bless you all!
- ✚ **To Joe Wesley**, who expertly repaired our concrete steps! They look amazing! Thank you!!



‘At The Table’ Tuesdays with Pastor Ben

Join Pastor Ben (and/or special guests) for his brief, yet insightful, weekly video series, where he shares updates as to what is going on around us, challenges us with his thoughts, all the while giving us things to ponder! Please join him next Tuesday morning for more! LINK



Lectionary Bible Study Online

Our Lectionary Bible Study continues online every Wednesday morning. We welcome you to join us! Simply send a request to wlbrotsch@aol.com or umcvictory@gmail.com and an email invitation with a link to the bible study will be sent to you on Wednesday mornings. (see lectionary schedule on last page) Thank you!



www.victorumc.org

Check out all the information on our website! Sermons, devotions, events, & other information!



Also check out our Facebook page! Search “Victor First United Methodist Church”

Victor United Methodist Church Leadership:

Pastor	Benjamin Lalka
Admin/Finance Secretary	Wendy Hubert
Ad Council Chair	Marsha Mason
Trustee Chair	Randy Henry
Finance Chair	Chris Dunfey
Treasurer	Marsha Mason
P/SPRC Chair	Audrey Gavin
Parsonage Chair	Randy Henry
Christian Ed	Dottie Augustine
Lay Leader	Bryan Kemmerer
Lay Member to AC	Audrey Gavin
Safe Sanctuaries Rep	Dottie Augustine
Youth Group Leader	Dottie Augustine

Pastor: Benjamin Lalka
Pastor’s Email: pastorbenlalka@gmail.com
Pastor’s Office Phone: 585-924-2621
Administrative Secretary: Wendy Hubert
Office Hours: Mon – Thurs 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



Plan Now for Christmas Eve Worship

Although it is still only Fall, it is not too early to plan for our 2020 Christmas Eve worship services! This year, we will have 3 services to choose from—2 'in-person' worship services and 1 'online' service. Due to Covid-19 safety protocols, both of our indoor worship services will be limited to the first 30 individuals/family members to sign up. Watch for a sign-up announcement, sometime in November!



A warm welcome to Alyssa Lalka, our new custodian for the Victor United Methodist Church! May God bless her with safety and success in all that she does in her new position! Good luck, Alyssa!



Staff Christmas Gifts

We will be collecting again this year cash gifts for the Church staff (Pastor Ben, Wendy - Administrative Asst, Alyssa - Janitor, Dottie - Youth and Sunday School Director, Marsha - Church Treasurer, Leslie - Sunday School Teacher, and Heather - Pre-School Teacher). Cash or check gifts can be given to Bryan Kemmerer, Audrey Gavin in person, or mailed to Audrey Gavin. Please make checks payable to Audrey Gavin (Please do not make checks payable to the church). Audrey's mailing address: 7284 Highview Trail, Victor, NY 14564. Gifts are due on or before Sunday, December 20th, so that we have time to give out the gifts by Christmas! Thank you for your support of our outstanding Church Staff!



When away from home, I wear a mask
And, just in case, you want to ask
I carefully wash my hands with soap -
This is one more way to cope.
I stay at home most of the time
thinking of words that comfort and rhyme.
I'd like more often to be with others
if I could safely have my druthers.
But now I wisely and appropriately stay
a socially distant eight feet away.
I try to be friendly, gentle and kind
to keep encouraging, hopeful thoughts in my mind.
Bravely rising from my comfortable recliner
I turn on TV - looking for something finer.
Switching channels to find today's news -
I hear heartbreaking stories, divisive views
I see sickness, viruses, violence and hate -
I start to turn off - but then I wait -
what is happening in our nation - ?
(The best land in all creation)
God has blessed us right from the start
He helped Columbus and Pilgrims do their part.
But like lost, wayward sheep gone astray
we often leave His path - the Lord's way.
We need to humbly return to the fold
Listen again to His story long ago told -
when truths in our Bible we carefully read
we find His promise to answer our every need.
Our coins still proclaim - "In God We Trust" -
Believe it, live it, do it, we must.
Will you promise to begin this very day
to humbly and often Pray for the U.S.A.?



Written by Mary Phillips ~ July 2020



November Lectionary Calendar

Wednesday, October 28th

Nov 1 – Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 3:7-17 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 23:1-12

Wednesday, November 4th

Nov 8 – Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25, Psalm 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13

Wednesday, November 11th

Nov 15 – Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30

Wednesday, November 18th

Nov 22 – Reign of Christ/Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 100

Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46

Wednesday, November 25th

Nov 29-First Sunday of Advent, Year B

Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37



December Lectionary Calendar

Wednesday, December 2nd

Dec 6 – Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8

Wednesday, December 9th

Dec 13 –Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

Wednesday, December 16th

Dec 20 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:47-55

Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday, December 23rd

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20

Wednesday, December 23rd

Dec 27 – First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 148

Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40