



Spiritual Harvest

December 2020

Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors

Trumansburg UMC

Location:

Corner of Main and South Streets
PO Box 628,
Trumansburg, NY 14886
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387-6474
Email: Alma78@ottcmail.com

The Good Word, A Devotional
Message Ministry:
(607) 387-8202

Pastor Robert "Rob" Dean

Adult Sunday School
9:00 AM on Zoom

Sunday Worship Services
10:15 AM on Zoom



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Pastor's Message

Emmanuel is a powerful word for a strange season! As I prepare this newsletter article, our church has recently returned to online worship out of an abundance of caution. Reading through the news shows a nation and a people that are preparing for difficult days after an already strange season.

In the midst of this, Christ takes on the name "Emmanuel." Emmanuel translates from Biblical Hebrew to "God with us." In a season where the world can seem far off, God comes near. When we share the story of how God came close in Bethlehem, we recall how Jesus' story has warmed hearts throughout history. Christ did not come for the people of Bethlehem or Nazareth alone. Jesus did not draw near to shepherds or wisemen alone. People have found comfort in a child born for all of us for centuries even though they themselves never saw the star over Bethlehem.

How can this Christmas be a season of hope when we cannot sing the same songs in the same way? How can this season be a season of light when everything is strange? In John 20:29, Jesus speaks to Thomas who has just stated his belief in Christ's resurrection after seeing Christ in the flesh. In the New Revised Standard Version Christ says: "'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'"

Friends, we are in a season where we are called to believe. God truly is Emmanuel. Our traditions may be different this year, our songs sung from a distance, and the stories told in new ways. Things may be different, but God is still with us. Blessed are we, the Children of God, who have not seen and yet still believe. We truly live by faith, hope, and love—these three remain with us, both now and always.

Keep the faith and have a Merry Christmas!

Pastor Rob Dean

COLOR VERSION OF *Spiritual Harvest* IS AVAILABLE AT
WWW.TRUMANSBURGUMC.ORG

Things we can do this season to make a difference...

Suggestions from Pastor Rob

God is with us! The word Emmanuel is as much a call to actions as it is a theological statement. In his letter to the church in Ephesus, Paul encouraged the church to embrace their place in the world as he wrote "...we are what [God] has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." (Ephesians 2:10, NRSV)

The season ahead appears to be another season of isolation for many people in this world. In the midst of such a challenging time, we are still called to a life of good works! If we were farmers, we might see our calling as a calling to cast seeds of hope into the world. If we were bakers, we might see our role as one of spreading yeast into the world's flour. If we were members of the highway department, we might spread salt to allow God's love to travel freely into isolated hearts.

How? Here are some simple suggestions:

Write a Christmas card to a Nursing Home Resident or Shelter Recipient:

Cayuga Ridge Nursing Home:

Resident
c/o Rec Department
1229 Trumansburg Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

St. John's Friendship Center (Formerly Ithaca Rescue Mission)

A Neighbor at St. John's
c/o St. John's Friendship Center
618 W State Street
Ithaca, NY 14850



Thank people for caring for the community during this difficult season:

Trumansburg Fire Department
74 West Main Street
Trumansburg, NY 14886

Trumansburg Ambulance
74 West Main Street
Trumansburg, NY 14886

Trumansburg Police Department
5 Elm Street
Trumansburg, NY 14886

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Special dates

- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 6, 2020*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 13, 2020*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 20, 2020*
- First day of winter, *December 21, 2020*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2020*
- Christmas Day, *December 25, 2020*
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, *December 31, 2020*

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Create a care package of needed items for a local ministry:

St. John's Friendship Center

Needs: Towels, Bars of soap, Shampoo, Deodorant, Razors, Tooth Brushes, Socks
(Donations can be made between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday at 618 W State Street, Ithaca, NY. For donations outside of those hours, please contact the shelter directly at 607-354-8990.)

Trumansburg Food Pantry

Needs: Shampoos, Lotions, Deodorants (Drop off at the church or call church office to make arrangements)



Feeling down? Need a lift? Need to hear a friendly voice? Call the Good Word, (607) 387-8202

A note from the Trustees....

Submitted by Dick Peterson, Chair

After canceling meetings during the COVID lockdown, the Trustees are getting back to work. We recently had a fall work bee to spruce up the property around the church. A good group of workers turned out on Saturday, October 31st and accomplished a lot of work trimming, mowing, leaf collecting, weed-eating and mulching. Thank you to everyone who joined the bee on a day when they surely had work to do at home. You all are a blessing to our church.



Generally, the church has survived over the past several months, but we hate to go through a year without some major issue popping up. A few weeks ago we had a powerful rainstorm. Heavy rains lashed the church from multiple directions. The storm was over quickly, but a lot of rain came down. The cleaning folks from Jay's Cleaning were doing a deep clean in the church to prepare for our safe re-opening on November 1st. Jean Jay called me to say a significant quantity of water came into the basement hallway at the base of the stairway leading up to the parking lot. They mopped up the water, and it stopped coming in. However, we knew we had a problem. Bill Grove contacted Midstate Basement Authority, because we knew we had water seeping in through the deep foundation after certain types of rainfall. The short answer is that we have to do something about the issue. Midstate Basement Authority is a local firm with a solid reputation. We asked for a proposal, and the work will involve digging out the foundation around the stairway and along the church wall between the two exterior entrance stairs. The cost estimate is about \$10,000 - \$11,000, which does not include resurfacing the wall of the basement stairwell and replacing excavated blacktop that has to be removed as access to the foundation is established. The Trustees will discuss this at our November 18th meeting. The repairs can wait until Spring, since we don't want to get into excavation during winter weather. We will fill you in as we determine how we will proceed. We will get through this as we always do. I could insert a Forrest Gump quote, but I will spare you.

A new refrigerator had to be purchased for the parsonage. I want to thank Cal Organ and his son for helping with the in and out move of refrigerators. As always seems to happen, the old unit door had to be removed to fit through a doorway. The delivery folks couldn't help with that. Thanks, Cal.

Another thank you goes to Bill Grove for replacing the mechanical innards of the toilet in the small church bathroom. Never a fun job, Bill did it with a smile.

Another thank you goes out to Kelly Brower and Spencer for spending many hours finishing up the audio improvements for Zoom services. A lot of time and effort went into that, and the results are excellent.

Take care, everyone!

Attention Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringers!

Trumansburg Shur-Save
November 27 - December 24
7 AM – 9 PM

- ★ Nearly 100% of the collection remains in Trumansburg.
- ★ Funds used to cover the cost of Food Pantry turkeys & ham.
- ★ Please call and sign up today!



Bell Ringer Coordinator, Judy Robertson
607-387-6488

All are welcome to ring! ■ Masks will be required.

Connecting Christmas Eve...

Submitted by Pastor Rob

This Christmas we are going to be celebrating worship online. While it will certainly be sad to not gather in the sanctuary, we have a unique opportunity this Christmas! We can gather as one community gathered in love across the miles! God willing and the ZOOM gremlins don't rise, we can gather together from across the nation (and globe!) with our families to worship God and share the sacred celebration together!



Joyfully, we will gather Christmas Eve to sing songs of longing and gladness. We will be sharing special music, hearing the Christmas story, and reflecting on God's love together! We hope that you will join us and invite your friends and family to join us over the internet! We will gather for worship on Christmas Eve (December 24th) at 7:00 PM Eastern Standard Time with gathering music before the service. We will have time for people to wish each other well after the service.

Please come and join us from across the miles! We hope to see you on Christmas Eve! Invite a friend or family member to share the joy of the season with us!

Editor's Note: The link for our Zoom service can be found on our website (the front page) at www.trumansburgumc.org.

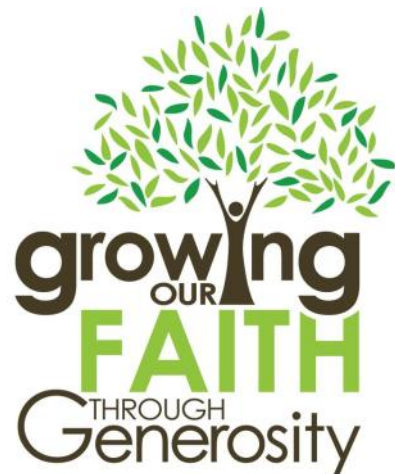
Finance Update...

Submitted by Eileen Collins and Judi Eastburn

As our year draws to its close, the Finance Committee would like to thank everyone who gave so generously to the church. Whether it was from your checkbook, time, or service, it has and is enabling the work started over two centuries ago to proceed. We have lived through some challenging events in the past several years, and it is not over yet. We remain stable financially and socially connected in our service to the Lord because you have given in faith to His service.

Your financial statement, which summarizes the monetary contribution you made from January 1, 2020 to November 15, 2020 is being mailed to you this week. Keep an eye out for it. Please look it over carefully to see if it agrees with your records. Let us know if there are any discrepancies. Also, please submit any other donations which you would like to appear on your statement for 2020 before December 31, 2020. That will give us time to enter the data and print out your final copy in the most expeditious manner.

Please consider thoughtfully what you will be able to give for the year 2021 over the coming weeks. The stewardship letter along with a self-addressed/stamped envelope and pledge cards should be in the mail near the time you receive this newsletter. This goes out to local and some not-so-local members who may be away for the winter, etc. If you do not receive a pledge card but would like to give, please notify Judi Eastburn (jae2@cornell.edu) and I will be happy to send one along to you or you can let me know and I can fill out a card for you. As most of you probably know, we project our next year's budget and it is helpful to know what money we may count on, knowing that you can always change it if your circumstances change. You are very important to the process of our predicting our 2021 budget. Any questions you may have about the pledging process, feel free to contact Judi. I want to publicly thank Eileen who had wanted to step down as finance secretary back in April and has kept at it because we have not had an administrative person to take it over, and since I am her backup, I am trying to take some of the burden off of her by being the contact for some of these things.



2020 has certainly been a challenge in more than one way and you all have been such a blessing. We can not know what events will affect the future, but we can be confident in God's steadfast love and plan for us. We strive to continue to be the church that He can be proud to call His own.

Please note that for the time being, we need to keep sending in our pledges/contributions by mail to TUMC, Box 628, 80 E. Main St., Trumansburg, NY 14886.

There is still time to contribute to our Safe-at-Home Fundraiser. There was a full article explaining this in our November issue but basically in a nutshell, it was decided by our church council that for the safety of our congregation, we would not have fundraisers this year, which then left our budget short several thousand dollars.

[illegible]

Pies (\$10.00 per pie)

Bazaar Luncheon: \$7.00 (small) or \$8.00 (full)

Cost of ingredients if you made something for the Bake Sale

Cost of creating bazaar items to share

New Year's Day Dinner (\$10.00 per dinner)

Cost of ingredients donated toward the dinner

Please include **"FUNDRAISER DONATION"** on the memo line of your check, which will make our bookkeeping easier. Checks should be made payable to TUMC and mailed to TUMC, PO Box 628, Trumansburg, NY 14886; or placed in the Financial Secretary's mailbox at church, by **Saturday, December 5**, or at least by the end of December for tax purposes.

Editor's Note: We are doing very well so far (over \$3,000! and climbing) and a final report will be given in the January issue. You all are **so very generous** and we thank you!

Not a whole lot for me to report except that this sure has been a **VERY** challenging year, to say the least, for all of us! We have seen many changes in our lives, we wear masks when we go out, we sometimes can't recognize old friends because of the mask, many of us cannot see our children or our grandchildren, some of us are pretty alone, some have lost loved ones, some may be dining alone this Thanksgiving (I've heard there is a real run on small turkeys, they can't be found already), and we wonder what Christmas is going to look like, most likely some of us still won't see our family so let's encourage our families to get on zoom for Christmas eve. I know I plan to try and talk to both of my children and their children to worship with their home church that night. I personally am planning to decorate to the hilt this year just because I really, really need it, and I'll be playing Christmas music non-stop after Thanksgiving! I need something positive!

I have to say, that for Thanksgiving, I am thankful for Rev. Natalie and Pastor Rob, they have both been such a blessing to me. I have so enjoyed working with each of them and even though this was a weird year, I have so enjoyed being your lay leader, that has been a very bright spot in my 2020!

Let me wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and may 2021 be a **MUCH** better year!

Judi

Trumansburg United Methodist Church
80 E. Main St.
P.O. Box 628
Trumansburg, NY 14886

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For the safety of our congregation and staff we are back to worshipping on zoom only until further notice. Adult Sunday School at 9; Worship at 10:15. To join Zoom worship, go to [Trumansburgumc.org](https://trumansburgumc.org) and click the link on the front page; or if you are viewing this on-line, click [Here](#).



Be Safe
Stay Healthy
Wear Your Mask



"How beautiful
are the feet of those who
preach the good news!"

ROMANS 10:15, ESV

