

Spiritual Harvest

January/February 2019

Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors

Trumansburg UMC Location:

Corner of Main and South Streets PO Box 628, Trumansburg, NY 14886 Email: tumc@ottcmail.com

> Editor: Judi Eastburn Email; jae2@cornell.edu

Church phone: (607) 387-9024 Parsonage phone: (607) 387-4227

Prayer Chain Requests: 387-6474 Email: Alma78@ottcmail.com

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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeff Losey Office hrs: Tues. &Thurs. Noon-3 PM

Sunday Worship Services 10:15 a.m. 9:00 am Adult Sunday School



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Pastor's Message...

A Special Session of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church has been called for February 23 - February 26 for the purpose of considering the language in The Book of Discipline regarding human sexuality.



The current Book of Discipline contains the following regarding homosexuality ¶ 304.3: The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.

¶ 341.6: Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.

¶ 161.C It defines marriage as a "covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between a man and a woman"

These paragraphs are to be considered by the General Conference. Three plans are being presented by the *Commission on a Way Forward*. A summary of the three plans follows this article (On page 3-4 pullout).

1)The "Traditionalist" plan strengthens the language and imposes mandatory punishments on anyone who violates these rules. Congregations and clergy who will not accept the strengthened language are urged to leave the United Methodist Church and join or form another denomination.

- 2) The "One Church" plan allows clergy and congregations to determine their own position on the issue of homosexuality. Presumably, the Bishop and Cabinet would appoint clergy to like-minded congregations.
- 3) "Connectional Conference" plan would do away with our current five geographical Jurisdictional Conferences and replace them with three theological Conferences. Clergy and congregations could choose to associate with the Conference that matches their theological understanding.

There is a fourth plan (there are actually a gazillion alternatives!) called "The Simple Plan" which simply removes the language in the Book of Discipline that addresses homosexuality.

This is going to be the most significant challenge the Methodist Church has faced since the issue of slavery split the denomination in the 1850's. Whatever plan is chosen, the denomination and many congregations will face difficult decisions.

Summaries of these four plans are available in the Fellowship Hall. I will be addressing this issue from the pulpit in the weeks ahead.

Pray for the General Conference and the United Methodist church as we seek to be faithful to God.

Rev. Jeff

Color Version of $Spiritual\ \mathcal{H}arvest$ is available at www.Trumansburgumc.org





Special dates

- African-American History Month
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2019
- Presidents Day, February 18, 2019
- Pot Luck at TUMC, February 24, 2019

Notes from the Editor:

As I write this, we are being hammered with a bit of snow, looks like we "may" not make it to church tomorrow morning, we shall have to wait and see.

Lots of really great information in this issue. I hope you will take the time to read it all, there is lots to take in. I have a few ideas for some upcoming articles, a couple which are already in the works for spring/summer so hope you will enjoy them.

Remember the UMW meets the second Friday of the month, the next meeting being February 8. Bring a sandwich and join us! Sylvia Mitchell has asked me to give a little talk on my Christmas trip and I may develop that into a little talk about the Southwest in general and/or how rich it is in church stories. Feel free to drop by that day at noon and be surprised by whatever I decide to talk about. We try to come up with informative talks that will interest many.

A little financial note, Eileen Collins is, of course, our financial secretary and does a terrific job. I have been backing her up for a while, as best I can and in that respect, I have taken over the Capital Campaign pledges. We both would like to remind you that it is important that you make sure you designate the Capital Campaign on your CC donations, otherwise we don't know if they are meant for the Stewardship or Capital drive. Also, if you use an envelope with cash, please put your name on it, if you want credit for it. We don't have magic wands, although they would be nice!

Anyway, stay warm, safe and happy until next time	d	i
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Overview of Proposals for General Conference Points included in this document are provided
70.0
Clergy
Annual Conferences

Overview continued from other side	One Church Plan	Connectional Conference Plan (CCs)	Iraditionalist Plan
Council of Bishops	□Council continues as one body providing spiritual leadership. □Assignments will reflect convictions of bishops and annual conferences. □Bishops will be protected if their consciences will not allow him or her to ordain LGBTQ persons.	□Funded by connectional conferences at comparable levels. □Oversight and accountability falls to bishops of each CC. □Each bishop, active and retired, chooses a CC. □New bishops would be elected at organizing conference in 2022.	□Active and retired bishops must certify they will adhere to Discipline. □Bishops who will not certify adherence no longer receive compensation of expenses as of 2021 and will be encouraged to leave for "autonomous, affiliated or concordat" church.
General Agencies	□Continue to operate as they do now. □Have to adjust to potential declines in funding, as sustainability issues are separate from the Commission on a Way Forward's task.	□ Jointly funded boards include Wespath, GCFA, UMCOR, Archives, parts of GBGM and the Publishing House. □ Task force would evaluate each general agency and propose new model for UMC by 2025. □ Program agencies would only serve CCs that desire participation. □ Justice ministries structures would be determined by CCs, with expected emphasis on sexism and racism.	□Continue to operate as they do now. □Each agency can contract with churches that leave the UMC.
Related Institutions	□Likely no changes. □Commission conversations with members of these organizations indicate this plan makes it more likely for most institutions to maintain their affiliation.	□ Properties owned by annual and jurisdictional conferences follow them to their new CC. □ Institutions can choose to relate to one or more CCs, as their bylaws allow.	□No changes unless they choose to do so within the bounds of their own bylaws.
Finance & Pensions	Two petitions are recommended for any of the three plans: Any church that leaves would have to pay their proportionate liability of unfunded pensions for their annual conference. Withdrawing clergy would be removed from benefit and annuity risk pools and have accrued benefits transferred to an individual investment account.	□Same 2 petitions as One Church Plan. □Legal fees to navigate legacy connections. □Wespath stays intact and extends to CCs. □Medical and pension liabilities remain the obligation of the annual conference. □Wespath will reassign pension liabilities for churches that opt to go to another CC. □Annual conferences manage budgets to care for boundary reconfiguration costs.	☐Same 2 petitions as the One Church Plan.
Episcopal Fund	□Salaries and benefits would be paid by each episcopal area in the United States. □Other expenses would be shared via apportionments. □No changes to Central Conference funding.	☐Salaries and benefits would be paid by each U.Sbased CC. ☐No changes to Central Conference funding.	□No changes to Central Conference funding.

Happy New Year..... Finance Committee Report....

Submitted by Eileen Collins on behalf of the Finance Committee

... and a Happy New Year it is. The finance committee is "thrilled" to report that the stewardship campaign has been one of the most successful in the past several years. Due to the generosity of 34 pledging units, we have an anticipated income of \$89,886 for the coming year. This represents over half of the anticipated budget for 2019.

With the anticipated interest income from the remaining balance of the Lester Burn's estate, the Verizon rent, continued support of our unpledged donators in our church family, and our fundraising projects, the finance committee may very well be able to present a balanced budget for the first time in four years. This is **truly** "happy" news.

None of this would be possible without the faithfulness and generosity of each and every one in our church family – from the child who contributes his penny on Sunday morning to the most generous pledging units in our congregation, the finance committee wants to thank you all. We can all be thankful and "happy" with our progress toward a more stable financial future.



Oh, and did I mention you are an AWESOME church?

Thanks really are not enough...

Submitted by Judi Eastburn

I cannot thank this church family enough for all that you put into making bazaar 2018 a success!

I cannot begin to name names, except to give a shout out to my right-hand person, Peg Benham, who keeps me grounded. So as always "to the quilters, the baked goods overseers, The jewelry table helpers, Grandma's corner helpers, those who led and those who worked at the



luncheon, the cashiers, the ones who helped price and arrange, the bakers, all who donated items to sell in any way, the wonderful setup help and those who stayed to help take down, our roving photographer, the husbands who helped carry stuff in and out, and last but definitely NOT least, the shoppers", my sincerest THANKS!!!

The bottom line was that we made **\$3129.45.** We are blessed with such a wonderful and giving congregation. I've said before, this is NOT all about the money, I had such wonderful comments from many saying ours is one of their favorite places to eat/shop at Christmas time. This is one way in which we reach out to the community as well as help our general budget.

Much love to you all.....





In Memory of Loretta Girard by Gerald & Eileen Collins

In Memory of our Parents by Peter & Kay Cooke

In Memory of Jim DeSombre & Kurt DeSombre by Bonnie DeSombre

In Memory of George E. VanValen and Ethel & George SR. VanValen by The Gatch Family

In Memory of Toots Gatch by The Gatch Family

In Memory of our Loved Ones by Bill & Carol Grove

In Memory of our Parents, Dorothy & Charles Jamison, Elsie & Madison Borden, and our Siblings - Jim, Larry, Ronnie, Shirley, Dorothy, Page & Del. By Mary & Al Jamison

In Honor of a caring and loving church family who sustained and nourished Al and me (and so many others) with visits, calls, cards, gifts of food, your willing help with Al, and last but not least, your prayers and encouragement. God Bless! - By Mary & Al Jamison

In Honor of Our Loved Ones by Marvin & Ellen Mitterer

In Memory of our Daughter Sally Jayne Moore by Thomas & Virginia Moore

In Memory of Ron & Mary Jo Myers by Dave, Kevin & Linda

In Memory of Myron & Anna Pomerantz, Walter & Lula Organ, Robert Organ & Ellen Klinkhardt by The Organ Family

In Memory of Lois Humphrey by Roger & Linda Rector

In Memory of Friends & Family by Sandi & Jerry Reynolds

In Memory of our Parents & Grandparents by Mark, Marie & Kevin Rich

In Memory of Robert B & Marion Schneider by Doris Robinson

In Memory of Loved Ones by Margaret Slocum

In Memory of Frank & Catherine Schumacher & Mildred Weisel by Pat & Rick Smith

In Memory of Bill and Sally Seward by Pat & Rick Smith

In Honor of Sally Sutcliffe by Scott, Jennie & Lee Sutcliffe

In Memory of our Parents by Jim & Rosemary Terry



Sunday Morning Pot Luck Lunches – 2019...

Submitted by Mary Jamison

After the flurry of all the holiday events, it's time to settle into our quieter annual winter pot luck lunches after worship – the dates for 2019 are: January 20th, February 24th and March 24th. This is a dish-to-share meal where you bring your own table service and a dish-to-share. Beverages will be provided.



We will need a few folks for each of the 3 Sundays to host and get the dining room, coffee/beverages, turn on ovens, and food set up for those dates. Around at least 4 folks for each Sunday is would be great, and usually there's lots of folks willing to help you with cleaning up. These meals are a fun thing, not too hard, a nice break from winter days, and more importantly a chance to fellowship and catch up with one another. Folks have already stepped in to volunteer to host these meals – see the following!

January 20th (Will be rescheduled, postponed due to weather) Mary Jamison and Chris K-P will be putting the Tetrazzini together the day before, and God willing, MJ will be there to help out on Sunday as well. Kathy Chapman and Gene Lovelace have volunteered, but we could use 1 or 2 more folks to help that day (and to set up the day before). THANKS KATHY AND GENE. Working on getting a sing-along for after the meal, to make a joyful noise to our Lord!

<u>February 24th</u> will be hosted by the Mission and Outreach group! They seem to have made this an annual event and do so much to keep in touch with the congregation's needs. **THANK YOU & BLESS YOU!**

<u>March 24th</u> Winter Pot Luck (HOSTS NEEDED). If you're willing, to host this date, please contact Mary Jamison at 387-6474 or <u>alma78@ottcmail.com</u>. Please also sign up on the 2019 Coffee Hour calendar which MJ has now set up. Thanks and God bless!!

Last minute editor's note: At this time the January 20 pot luck has been cancelled and the tetrazzini will be served on February 24.



The Annual New Year's Day dinner has come and gone...

By Chris Kimball-Peterson, Coordinator

The 2019 dinner started off great. I knew it was going to be a good year when we boxed 121 take-outs. This is the largest number of take-outs that we have ever had. Deliveries were handled by Jack Mitchell, who by the way, did double duty as one of our carvers and then donned his driver's hat along with his son Alex. Thanks, Jack and Alex. While he was away, the rest of the carvers, Jerry Reynolds, Lanny Joyce and Ken Welch finished cutting up the 12 donated turkeys.

This dinner takes many hands. Volunteers were able to ahead of time get dishes washed, dried and cranberry relish made. We had numerous people, including Sandi Reynolds, Dottie Manheim, Mary Louise Gallagher, Susan McCormick, Phyllis Kaplan, Peg Benham, Bonnie DeSombre, Trudy VanOstrand, Dick Peterson, Jeannette Foster, Paula Austic, Mary Alice Freeman, and I'm sure I left out others, but all of these people worked so well together that it only took us 1 and ½ hours to get all done and all pots needed for cooking were washed and ready to go for the next day's shift.

Monday was a bit hectic, with peelers ready and eager to peel over 110 lbs of potatoes. Trudy, Bonnie, Susan, Peg, Gerry Reynolds, Dick, Mary Louise, Mary Alice, Dottie, Sylvia Mitchell, Marie Rich, all pitched in to get things done quickly. We started at 8:30 am and 3 hours later everything was peeled, chopped, cut-up and made for the dinner!

This year I was able to get 3 young men from the Finger Lakes Residential Home along with 3 adults to work. Loretta Ramstad, who serves on the board, has been trying for a couple of years to get the facility to do more outreach in the community. Dee Cooper, Director of Outreach along with 2 adults and 3 boys helped out mainly in the dining room. They worked hard, removing dirty dishes and re-setting tables. After the dinner they swept and mopped the floors, and put tables and chairs away. They were a great help.

Charlie Dyke, along with Mark Rich were ready and eager to pour coffee and offer other beverages to our guests. We served 90 people that day. Bob Snedeker and Cheryl Hine were the servers. Eileen Collins did a great job in decorating the tables, which were set-up by Mary Louise and her husband, Mitch Swanhart, and Carl and Peg Benham.

Cashiers, Jan Fergus and Jim Zifchock were busy with all the take-outs and people waiting to be seated for dinner. Marie Rich, our hostess for over 15 years, did her job perfectly, making sure that people were seated as quickly as possible.

Ingredients came in quickly thanks to solicitors – Kay Cooke, Sandi, Lanny, Pat Love and Sylvia, Jan and Mary Jamison.

Once again, the kitchen help was outstanding. They included, Bonnie, Sandi, Jerry, Dottie, Mary Alice, Susan, Mary Louise, John Manheim, Dan, one of the CARS people who helped Dick tremendously, picking up heavy pots and more; also Sue Brower was the lead dishwasher along with Bev Johnson and her brother Randy who came last year and Rose Marrilett, also a repeater. I was able to get 3 wonderful young ladies from CARS who had loads of energy and did anything we tossed at them. And finally, thanks to Dick and, who worked in front of that stove for many hours and never complained. Dottie Manheim was right there as the faithful supervisor. I hope I didn't miss any names of those who helped, but if I did, please know I appreciate and love all of you. Thank you!

Bottom line is we made a total of \$2145! Thanks so much to everyone!

A note from the Trustees....

Submitted by Dick Peterson on behalf of the Trustees

The Trustees say goodbye to Ronda Ketcham, who has decided to move on to other services for God and Church. We thank her for her time and dedication, and will miss her astute observations as she helped us cut to the chase in our deliberations. We welcome Tina Welch, who has agreed to fill the position vacated by Ronda. We will appreciate her input. The Trustee members for the



coming year are: Bill Grove, Peg Benham, Cal Organ, Tina Welch, Eric Hallman, Steve Huber, Joe Sibley, Jim Zifchock and Dick Peterson. Mary Louise Gallagher is our Lay Leader representative, and, of course, Reverend Jeff is our pastoral guide. If you ever have questions about Trustee issues, don't hesitate to ask any of us.

We have concerns about our snow shoveling needs at the church. We will be looking into a service to do the work. Sadly, our congregation is aging and fewer people are able to clear the walks. Admittedly, it can be a huge task after a major storm. We have been lucky this winter, so far, but we need to prepare for snow.

We have been receiving estimates for our stained glass window repairs. So far, we have estimates from Serviente Glass Studios in Ithaca, Pike Stained Glass Studios in Rochester, and we expect an estimate from the Historical Preservation Foundation in Martville, NY by the end of January.

As always, we thank the congregation for their caring support of this wonderful church.

Editor's Note: Perfect Lawns Unlimited (Rob Robinson) in Mecklenburg already plow our parsonage driveway, and they have a snow shoveling crew. We have asked them to do our sidewalks for this winter to determine if this is a practical, cost effective way to meet our obligations to maintain safe sidewalks and exterior stairways.



Think Spring!

Capital Campaign Update and thank you...

Submitted by Judi Eastburn on behalf of the CC committee

On Sunday, January 13, we had our official celebration of our capital campaign which began this past summer with a feasibility study done by Ron Salyer and Heather Brown from the United Methodist Frontier Foundation.

At the beginning of the service on January 13, we held a special Church Conference for the purpose of officially accepting the bequest from Lester Burns. "Whereas a bequest from the estate of Lester Burns was received by the Trumansburg United Methodist Church on Jan 11, 2019, be it resolved that the Trumansburg Church gratefully accepts the bequest in the amount of \$507,206.75. Be it further resolved that the bequest be disbursed for the ministry of the Trumansburg United Methodist Church in the following manner: \$125,000 to be used as matching funds for the Capital Campaign. The remainder to be invested with disbursement to be determined later." **Passed unanimously.** RJ

It was announced to date we have \$167,970 which added to the matching funds agreed upon by church council from the Lester Burn's estate (125,000) brings us to \$292,970. Only short \$7,030 of our needed \$300,000 for the brickwork and stained glass windows! (With more anticipated.)

What an amazing job this congregation has done in supporting this important project! The Campaign Committee would like to give you a standing ovation! Those on the Capital Campaign Committee have worked extremely hard to make sure you have had all the information possible on the campaign. A lot of research was done, a lot of paperwork was distributed, special coffee hours were set up, cake was ordered, thank you cards are being sent out, and we will continue to work toward the final goal for our beautiful building.



CC Committee, L to R: Ron Salyer, Carol Grove, Jim Terry, Charlie Dyke, Bill Grove, Pastor Jeff, Judi Eastburn, Ellen Mitterer and Heather Brown. Missing from this photo is Scott Sutcliffe.

Cont'd on page 11

I, and I think I speak for the entire committee, would like to give a big shout out to Heather Brown and Ron Salyer from the United Methodist Frontier Foundation. Their input has been invaluable. Yes, we paid them, but they were so well worth it! They kept us on our toes at all times and guided us through this difficult process. I don't think any of us realized in the beginning just how much we had to learn!

You will still be getting updates from our committee from time to time as this whole process unfolds and, of course, we are still looking for a few more pledges to reach our goal. So if God is nudging you in that direction, there are pledge envelopes available in our sanctuary and I, or Carol Grove, will be happy to mail one out to you if you have not received one or lost track of it.

The love of our church continues to shine through on this campaign both from near and far away!



We always serve with a smile! Thanks Trudy!



Celebration Sunday Cake





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



Please check the calendar for February on our web site or check with your committee chair for meeting dates/times

Altar Guild Rep Feb: Sylvia Mitchell Alt. Karen Dean

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

ROMANS 10:15, ESV