



Spiritual Harvest

November/December 2021

Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors

Trumansburg UMC

Location:

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Pastor Robert "Rob" Dean

Adult Sunday School
9:00 AM in person and on Zoom

Sunday Worship Services
10:15 AM in person and on
Zoom



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Pastor's Message

Dear friends,

The holidays are upon us! As I write these words, the calendar shows a date far from Christmas, but each sunset brings us one night closer to Christmas Eve! This season is a wonderful time ideally full of anticipation, gratitude, cheer, and joy!

As the second holiday season after the initial spread of COVID-19 draws near, the times still feel strange. As I write this article just before Halloween, the CDC is still recommending masks and outdoor celebrations for our little ones on the 31st of October and for families to both mask and vaccinate before gathering together for Thanksgiving. Things are still strange this holiday season.

As Christians we believe that God is still present in our world despite the way things look and feel different. God is present in our church as we gather together to worship as a community, whether we are gathered in our homes or in the sanctuary. God embraces us with the loving arms of our church Family, whether we see that through a warm smile before worship or through a private message from a neighbor over Zoom. God is present, whether that is through companionship over a cup of coffee in the Fellowship Hall or through a seemingly random phone call from a friend.

As the holidays draw near, I hope that each part of our community remembers God's love for them and that their community cares for them. As the season draws near, there will be opportunity for a **Hybrid Christmas Eve worship at 7:00 PM on Christmas Eve**. Together, over the miles we shall fill the silent night with the beautiful music of Christmas. Additionally, on the Sunday before the Winter Solstice, we are hoping to hold a **Hybrid Blue Christmas Service at 7:00 PM on December 19th**. A Blue Christmas Service is a service where there is room for grief and hope during what may be a difficult time during an ordinary year. During times like these, we hope that both of these services will help our community to thrive this holiday season.

In the meantime, may God bless you all this holiday season. May your turkey be moist, may your candy canes be sweet, and may your Advent be filled with enough faith, hope, and love to overcome even the darkest of nights.

Pastor Rob Dean

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

General Conference Update

Submitted by Pastor Rob Dean

The United Methodist Church as a global body has once again postponed the General Conference (GC) originally scheduled for May of 2020 to August 29th - September 6, 2022. The General Conference is the only body that speaks on behalf of the United Methodist Church. We are raising this GC up for your thoughts and prayers now for several reasons.

First, should the GC meet in 2022, the GC will be considering several potential pieces of legislation about a potential schism within the United Methodist Church. One plan, "A Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation" has such support from a number of major leaders within several caucuses of the church (the Council of Bishops, "Progressives," Traditionalists," etc.) that many people believe it will pass through the General Conference. This Protocol was created through a mediation process that included representatives and voices from nearly every corner of church life. We want you to be aware that this legislation exists and may affect our church globally.

Second, as a result of the existence of this Protocol, the Conference is surveying both Pastors and Lay Leaders about their intentions should this Protocol pass through General Conference for the purpose of planning. Neither our Lay Leader Judi Eastburn nor any other part of our church is entering into a binding agreement through filling out this survey. On my end, I plan to answer that I do not know what I will do until I see the result of the General Conference. To put it colloquially, I have every intention of looking before I leap. I encourage everyone, including our Lay Leader, to look before they leap in such matters!

There are a few worries this Protocol may raise, so let me attempt to put those to rest:

- 1) The Protocol understands that each church has a "trust clause" on both the physical property and the financial resources. The trust clause is a Methodist clause dating back to John Wesley which states that all property reverts to the ownership of the greater church if a local church ceases to function as a Methodist ministry. If we were to cease being a United Methodist Church tomorrow without good reason, our church property could be transferred into the ownership of the United Methodist Church as a result of the agreements willingly entered into by this church when it became a United Methodist congregation.
- 2) **The Protocol would suspend the trust clause for churches leaving the United Methodist Church to join with one of the new denominations forming after the Protocol is approved. In other words, if our church cannot abide by the resulting United Methodist Church or the decision of the Annual Conference to align with one of the new denominations, then we are welcome to join with one of the other denominations splintering from the United Methodist Church while retaining our property,** although the trust clause may end up transferring to the new denomination.
- 3) The amount of time in the initial Protocol for a church to make such a decision was set for over a year and a half from the original proposed date. **The makers of the Protocol did not want churches to feel forced into quick decisions** and we will likely have what feels like too much time to discuss and pray over our options.

Just the facts: 1) Nothing has been approved yet; 2) Nobody is attempting to take the church or church funds away; 3) We will have time to pray and come to a decision when and if a decision must be made.

If you wish to find out more information on the Protocol, there is an FAQ that remains current on the United Methodist Church's Website. This FAQ is linked on our church's website and the FAQ can be found directly here: <https://bit.ly/3B8ITBC>.



Special Dates...

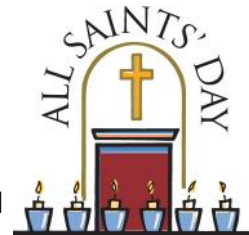
- All Saints' Day, November 1, 2021
- Daylight-Saving Time ends, November 7, 2021
- Veterans Day, November 11, 2021
- Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2021
- First Sunday of Advent, November 28, 2021
- Second Sunday of Advent, December 5, 2021
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 12, 2021
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19, 2021
- First day of winter, December 21, 2021
- Christmas Eve, December 24, 2021
- Christmas Day, December 25, 2021
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2021

All Saints' Day

Sunday, November 7, 2021

Submitted by Carol Grove for Altar Guild

On All Saints Day, we remember those in our local church congregation over the past year who have gone before us in the faith. A candle is lit and a bell is rung as each person's name is called out, followed by a prayer offered for each soul.



Special thank you notes to funeral reception volunteers....

Dear Mary Jamison and the ladies of the TUMC,

The Burris family wishes to thank you for the refreshments you served after Cliff Burris's Memorial Service. The cookies (homemade) were delicious, and it could not have been fun baking cookies in the hot, humid weather. We also wish to thank the lady, sorry, I don't remember your name, who spoke during the service. My sisters and I really appreciated your words. Sincerely, Val & Steve Luce, Shelley, Karen and Vicki.

From the Boyes family,

Thank you very much for the luncheon that you served at the time of Dick's passing. Everyone that I have talked to thought it was wonderful. Thank you again. Love, Shirley, and family.

Hello from the choir loft...

Submitted by Jack and Francine

We are asking if anyone wishes to sing some choir pieces during advent and Christmas. We will also start making announcements from the loft at church services. If you know anyone who isn't necessarily a church member who wishes to sing at Christmastime, they are more than welcome to join us. We will see if we have the interest and the numbers for a choir, and will go from there.



Beyond the vocal choir, we also have a marvelous opportunity to play some bells. Email Francine or Jack, or stop at the choir loft after church and let us know if you are interested.

Come one - Come all, let's get back to making some special music perhaps in solo's or small groups.

A Box of Sox...

Submitted by Mary Jamison for Mission & Outreach

We keep hearing and reading that one of the most requested items those who are homeless ask for, are socks. Mission and Outreach will be asking for donations of **NEW** socks of any kind for the Second Wind Cottage residents – **men only**. Our goal is for perhaps 100 pairs of men's socks for those residents, so they can take whatever they need (several pairs) as winter approaches. We hoped to fill a BOX OF SOX and you've really stepped up and done so!!



The box will be on the table outside of the Administrative Assistant's office at the church where you can leave them, or you can contact, or take them to Ronda Ketcham, Mary Louise Gallagher, or Mary Jamison. If you can donate as many new pairs of men's socks as you can, it would be so appreciated.

We're so very happy to report that as of Oct. 21, 2021, you have generously donated 81 pairs of wonderful, warm socks. We still have until Nov. 12th to donate the balance, and we feel sure that we'll go over our goal of 100 pairs of socks. Hallelujah!! Although Jesus wore sandals in an area that didn't need socks to keep His feet warm, I'm sure He'd approve of our help for those men in need. These socks will bless them, as will the love of God that will get sent with them. Thank you and God bless your generosity and caring once again.



Submitted by Sue Brower...

We are so blessed to have each other in this big, warm, caring, church family! Life hands out lots of hard things, but somehow this congregation always manages to support each other in a most compassionate way.

I just want to thank everyone who offered ongoing prayers as my brother Bob faced a terminal diagnosis, as I and my family supported him through his illness, and then helped him to have a peaceful departure. The understanding of the Church Council as my plans frequently changed, and the stack of cards I came home to upon my return from Florida was overwhelming and healing. I often say, "THESE PEOPLE! They are amazing and wonderful." I am so lucky to have you all in my life.

Being a non-Tburger (we live on South Hill in Ithaca), most of what I know about each of your lives comes from the "joys and concerns" portion of our service. This is what I miss most about our current hybrid service and the Covid necessity of not "passing the mike." It helps me to remember those of you who have asked for prayers when I know a bit of the story, be it happy, scary or sad.

I would like to share a prayer concern for two young men that "belong" to two women I work with.

Johnny is the son of a nurse friend who previously worked at the medical center. He is in his 20s and has an extremely rare tissue cancer (less than 100 in the world) that is nearly always fatal. He has since moved from the Pacific Northwest to Florida where his family is located. He has had some experimental treatments and is stable at the moment, but he has been told that it will progress. Just devastating.

Steven is the son of one of our staff. Her son is in his early thirties and was diagnosed with a particularly nasty type of brain tumor just about the same time my brother became ill. His prognosis is also pretty overwhelming, and his chemo is one of the most difficult to endure. He also lives in Florida, so his mom and dad (both hospital workers) are traveling back and forth as often as they can to be with him. He has a very strong faith and a ton of support from his church family. He is very touched to know our church is praying for him. I have shared some of our message boards with him, especially the one that said, " 'What if' equals fear. 'Even if' equals faith." **Update:** Scan a few days ago shows NO SIGN of that tumor left after treatment! Hallelujah! Now to keep it from returning... **keep on praying.** They will be having a VERY Happy Thanksgiving family gathering. :)



I hope you will hold these two families in your prayers as they face the unthinkable. Both of these guys are about my own two sons' ages.

A note from the Trustees.....

Submitted by Dick Peterson, Chair

Fall is here and the Trustees are preparing for winter. Contracts have been approved for snow removal at the church and the parsonage. We are thankful for the excellent lawn mowing service at the church provided by Jack and Alex Mitchell. It is a wonderful free will service they provide. We are also very appreciative of the care of Mary's Garden by Paula Austic and Pat Love. The garden is a beautiful welcome for all who enter the back door of the church.

Our Fall chicken barbecue and pie sale was a great success. We cleared just over \$1,400, which is the best barbecue/pie sale profit we have achieved in some time. Thank you to all who worked that day and for all the pie bakers who provided the delicious, sweet accompaniments to the chicken.

We had a mini sink hole in the church parking lot right at the entrance. It started small but was getting progressively worse. We had a concern that a sewage line had burst below the spot, and we had to take action. Joe Houseworth and his son excavated the sink hole and found it was due to a large stump that had been covered many years ago. It had deteriorated and created a growing void that caused the sink hole to develop. We are happy that no underground water or sewer lines were involved. Thank you to the Houseworth's for their immediate response to our problem.

For several years we have been evaluating the need to refurbish our wonderful organ. Some of you may recall that the organ had fallen into disrepair in the late 1950s and could not be used for 5 years until repairs were made. We can't allow that to happen again. Our Garrett House organ is currently maintained by Parsons Pipe Organ Builders, Canandaigua, NY. They have evaluated the repair and refurbishing needs of our organ and proposed 4 major repairs that need to be done:

1. Flute pipe repairs
2. Tremolo rebuilding
3. Reservoir releathering (swell and great)
4. Complete cleaning

It's a big job that will be done over time as it fits into their schedule. We may be without the organ for short periods of time, but the effort will be well worth it. We hope to have a community organ concert when all repairs are done as a celebration. The Trustees recommended going ahead with this project and Council approved it. The funds are in place to do this work. Betty McKnight is smiling in Heaven. She loved that organ.

The Trustees wish you all a wonderful Fall and a joyous Holiday time.



Simplify Your December Fundraiser

* Safe * Generous * Friendly *

Well, it's certainly no surprise to anyone that our "maybe up to a year of COVID" has stretched into yet another holiday season where many of our usual TUMC traditions will be impacted. Sadly, we feel that the live Christmas bazaar and luncheon, as well as the New Year's Day dinner, should be postponed for one more year. Of concern, while we are thrilled to have been able to have our popular chicken BBQs and homemade pie sales this summer and fall, the loss of revenue from the Christmas Bazaar and New Year's Day Dinner (approximately \$5,000) will certainly hurt our budget at the end of the year.



Last year we held an alternate event called the "Safe-at-Home Fundraiser," which was extremely successful. This year, we are again asking that everyone consider what they would normally contribute to the success of the Christmas Bazaar and/or the New Year's Day Dinner. Did you create or bake items to be sold? Did you purchase ingredients for the bazaar luncheon or New Year's Day Dinner? Did you work in the kitchen cooking, serving, or washing dishes? Did you help with advertising, greeting, set-up, pricing, or clean-up at the events? Consider the "cost" of each of these contributions – think about your time and materials, ingredients, and supplies – and please prayerfully consider making a financial donation to the church in a like amount.

***We miss our fun times, but maybe dreams CAN come true!
What did you enjoy most about our past events?***



- * Was it one of Ellen's lemon meringue pies?
- * Were you thrilled with some beautifully quilted placemats?
- * What about that cleverly, quilted jar opener with a grip? You know the one!
- * Did you enjoy those homemade jams, or the canned pickles and dilly beans?
- * Sure would love a mug of that butternut squash soup. Or that cream of spinach soup. Or that chili.
- * Have you been the recipient of an amazing, handmade card from someone in our church family?
- * Need a RADA knife? Call Shirley!
- * Would you like someone to pet-sit for you, or run some holiday errands?
- * How about a plate of cookies to go with your morning coffee? Or some peppermint ice cream?
- * Do you have a special project in mind that requires adding words to a favorite photo or printing something kind of big? We know someone who does graphics and has a pretty big printer!

Think creatively. Ask someone you think might be willing to dust off their Christmas Bazaar and dinner skills. Use your TUMC directory to contact them directly, and then offer to make a TUMC donation if they would be willing to fill-in-the-blank for you. It never hurts to ask, and every little bit helps!

This has been a message from your Trumansburg United Methodist Church Council (10/2021).



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; or try the new DONATE button on the TUMC website by **Saturday, December 4**. Thank you, everyone!

Mission and Outreach Update...

Submitted by Ronda Ketcham

Our remaining meeting dates for the year are being held in the church sanctuary at 6 PM on October 18, November 15, and December 13. Feel free to join us!

Our Ongoing Activities include: Sending cards of encouragement, providing rides, meals, visits, phone calls to the ill, bereaved, lonely, and anyone we know needs a helping hand.

Current Short-term Activities in the works are: 2nd Wind Cottages-box of sox (see an article by Mary Jamison pg. 4) and making thanksgiving treat bags.

Our Upcoming Activities include: A new M&O logo to implement- Thank you to Carol G.

2021 Trumansburg CROP Walk-TUMC...

On October 10, 2021 our members and friends (4- footed and otherwise) joined with walkers from the community to support CWS CROP Walk. We were happy to be part of this community event in support of hunger relief locally, nationally and globally. It's also an honor to walk in solidarity with the hungry worldwide, many of whom walk long distances daily for food and clean water.



To date, the Trumansburg CROP Walk raised about \$5,500 for hunger relief. For more precise figures and for the TUMC total raised, look for an update in November.

I thank God for the walkers and donors. Your generosity shows your true heart for those in need.

Proverbs 19:17 says

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.

Proverbs 14:21

Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.

Yours in Christ,

Ronda Ketcham

TUMC CROP Coordinator

Update from the Finance Committee...

Submitted by Judi Eastburn, Very Temporary Finance Chair

By the time you read this, you will hopefully have received your stewardship letter along with a self-addressed envelope and pledge card. We are never sure we have included all that should receive this as we use two different databases to draw the labels from and if we missed you and you would like a pledge card, please either let me or Sheryl Rakowski, our office Administrator, know and we will see that you are sent one. There will also be a few on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Just a little background on pledging and why we need them. Just as your home budget is managed from month to month, Julie, our wonderful Treasurer, manages our church budget. We, of course, have monthly bills, telephone, internet, heat, lights and more for both the church and the parsonage. We pay the copier bill and we pay our paid staff. We budget money for Mission and Outreach and the lay servant ministry and other ministries when we can. This is just a quick snapshot of what is paid monthly, there is more. You get the idea. Your pledges help project a general idea of what income we have to do all this with. Of course we also factor in monies from fundraisers and other income. Not to bore you, just to update you.



We ask that you prayerfully consider what you may be able to give and, of course, we know that circumstances change and you are not held to that amount. We also know that some are not able to pledge at this time and that is absolutely okay. We all give what we can and that includes our time and talents as well as our money. You are all loved and appreciated!

In addition to sending in your pledges and/or doing an EFT (electronic fund transfer through your bank), we now have a donate button on our website which is through PayPal. If you have a PayPal account, you can now donate through that giving button and 100% will go to our church, we have been identified as a charitable organization and therefore they are not charging a fee.

Pledge cards are due November 17 and we will celebrate this campaign on Sunday, November 21 which is Gratitude Sunday. There will be a special coffee hour that day.

The Finance Committee wishes you a safe and happy holiday time.

Your Editor wishes each of you a Safe, Healthy and Happy Holiday!



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We are now worshipping in the sanctuary. Vaccinated people are not required to wear masks, unvaccinated are encouraged to wear masks. The service will also continue to be available on Zoom for those not able to attend. 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](#).

Altar Guild Rep. November: Carol Grove; December: Joan Organ



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

ROMANS 10:15, ESV

