



# Spiritual Harvest

September 2018

Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors

## Trumansburg UMC

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Noon-3 PM

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



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## Pastor's Message

### From "Pew Warmer" to "Prayer Warrior"

Have you heard of the "C25K" app?  
WAIT!, DON'T GO AWAY YET!

"App" is "application", in case you don't have a smart-phone or, like me, your phone is smarter than you are. "C25K" is "From Couch potato to 5 K" (as in "running 5 kilometers").

This is a program that takes you from sitting on the couch to running a 5K (about 3 miles) in 9 weeks. It is a graded process of walking/running that progressively moves you from gentle walking to running by gradually increasing the amount of time you run rather than walk. Pretty simple concept, eh?

True confession: My prayer life is not what I would like it to be. Actually, I believe that is true for most clergy - and probably most Christians. The scripture calls us to "pray without ceasing!" (1 Thessalonian 5:17). Yea, right! "But my grandchildren are here." "But I need to make dinner." "But my favorite tv show is on." But... But... But...

I'm in no shape to run a marathon. I'm in no shape to run a 5K. But I don't have to stay on the couch. The only way to strengthen a muscle is by using it. I'm not very good at "praying without ceasing". But I don't have to stay that way. We all have a "spiritual muscle". How much do we use it?

Here are some simple thoughts about how to strengthen our "spiritual muscles":

#1!!!! It's not about you! It's not even about your prayer. It's about God. If you are concentrating on how long you pray or how you pray, your heading in the wrong direction. The purpose of prayer is to open our hearts to God and reduce the distractions that pull us away from God.

#2 There are many different types of prayer and ways to pray. Use your favorite search engine and look up "how to pray". (my result was: About 900,000,000 results (0.40 seconds) )

#3 How NOT to pray: Let's face it. Most of us use prayer as a way to try to control God. It doesn't work. God is not our pet. When you use words to pray, notice how often your prayer is about what you can get from God.

#4 What is prayer? I often use the image of a "love affair with God" as a way to think about our faith. Remember when you were head over heels in love? Simply being with your beloved was enough. You would go for long walks and talk about the purpose of the universe or how blue the sky was. It didn't matter where you were, where you were going, or who was around. Simply being in the presence of the beloved was enough. And it made all the world brighter.

I'm not going to suddenly turn into a mighty prayer warrior any more than I am going to jump up and run an ultra marathon. But I can turn my mind and heart toward God's presence whether I am in the checkout line, staring at the stars, or talking with a friend.

The beloved calls! My heart soars! What could be better?

*Jeff*

COLOR VERSION OF *Spiritual Harvest* IS AVAILABLE AT  
[WWW.TRUMANSBURGUMC.ORG](http://WWW.TRUMANSBURGUMC.ORG)

## From the Back Pew

By Chris Kimball-Peterson



Well, the summer has been hectic for many of us. The weather has been hotter and more humid than ever before. I think, all of us have been trying to stay cool and hydrated!

Lake Side services have been great. Overlooking the crystal blue lake that makes this area beautiful and peaceful makes the service pleasant. I've seen new faces in church which is not unusual during the summer months.

Our church is going through a challenging time in trying to make this church sustainable and, also trying to make sure that the church is in good shape. The Trustees and Finance Committees have had their hands full in making difficult decisions on these challenges. Great job!

People have been traveling to visit friends and family. Mary J. has endured surgery, which was successful. Her family and the church family have played an important part in her recovery. Thanks to Judi Eastburn for coordinating the meals and visits. Though, I was busy with family visiting, I was able to do my small part. Mary called me, shortly after she got home and asked me (I have this problem, I can't say "No" to Mother Mary!) if I could help her in delivering a special "Thank You" to the staff at Beechtree, where her recovery was. After, much discussion, I was able to deliver 2 wonderful and delicious platters of assorted breads to the staff. I enjoyed doing this for her and the look on the staff's faces was gratifying.

Debbie Pfautsch has been seen in church. It is good that she is doing better and can do this. See, prayers do help in many ways!

Yes, summer is great and we all should be thankful, that whatever life throws at us, we can deal with it.

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## UMW Meetings Resume in September...

Submitted by Sylvia Mitchell

The next UMW meeting will be held on **September 14** at noon at the church. A soup or dessert, coffee and tea will be provided. Please bring a sandwich for yourself. All women of the church are welcome. **Please join us.!**



UMW meets the second Friday of every month, September through June. If you have any ideas for programs you would like to see presented at these meetings, please let Sylvia Mitchell know.



### Special dates

- Labor Day, *September 3, 2018*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 9, 2018*
- Patriot Day, *September 11, 2018*
- Hispanic Heritage Month, *Sept. 15 – Oct. 15, 2018*
- First day of autumn, *September 22, 2018*

### Message from Trumansburg Food Pantry...

Submitted by Peg Benham

Thank you TUMC for all who helped with the Food Pantry distributions in June and July. It was wonderful seeing so many members of our church working together to provide food assistance for families in our community.

Thank you so much for all this congregation does to support the Trumansburg Food Pantry, whether it's monetary donations, canned food donations, or working at the distributions your time and efforts are truly appreciated. Thank you so much and God Bless you for caring.



**Save the Date.....**

**December 1, 2018.....**

**33<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon!**

Submitted by Judi Eastburn

It's time to start thinking about our biggest fundraiser!

This year, Grandma's Corner returns, the RADA cutlery table by the UMW, and of course our wonderful baked goods table and all our crafts! If anyone has any ideas for some new areas, please let one of the organizers know soon.



**What we need everyone to be thinking about and help us with are:**

- \* Good quality items for Grandma's corner, please contact **Kay Cooke** or **Pat Smith** if you have items you would like to donate now, they will be happy to take them off your hands. There is a room designated downstairs in the church, it is the last room on your right, things can be left there anytime for grandma's corner. It would be helpful if you left a note with your name on the items in case we have any questions as to value and/or whether certain items work, etc. We are also thinking we might put up a small jewelry section so if you have good quality jewelry to donate, let us know or drop it off!
- \* Jams, jellies, pickles, tis the season for canning, why not make a few extras for the bazaar?
- \* Crafts, we are always looking for crafts (sewn/quilted items, wood crafting items, dolls, wreaths) (put on your thinking caps, I'm sure you all have some great ideas!) to sell at the bazaar, people come to us just to see the wonderful items we make and they buy many of them!
- \* Our wonderful luncheon will be headed up by **Meg Gaige** and her wonderful cast and crew! Look for sign-ups later in the fall to donate ingredients and soups for this wonderful mouth-watering luncheon.

**Your Help is Needed:** we will be needing people to help the Friday before the bazaar (November 30, pricing items and general setting up) and also the day of the bazaar (December 1, selling, selling, selling!). Our people manning the various areas at the bazaar need people to step in so they can take a break!

Any ideas you might have for our bazaar, please pass them along to **Peg Benham** or **Judi Eastburn**. We so much appreciate all that the congregation does to make this event such a success! You will hear more from us as the time gets closer.

## **A Note from the Trustees...**

Submitted by Dick Peterson

The trustees are very pleased with the lawn care provided by Ryan and Alex Mitchell. They have done a fine job and they are doing it as a service to the church. Thank you Ryan and Alex, you are doing a great job!

The next good news to share is that the east wall brick repairs and sealing were completed on August 7<sup>th</sup>. The repairs look good. Many new replacement bricks were used and repairs included mortar repairs for the entire east wall foundation and repairs of at least three cracked concrete sills under the stained glass windows. Very special attention was given to the arches over each stained glass window. We will not have to worry about water getting in and damaging the integrity of the windows. We hope we can fund the repairs of the west wall and the front wall next year. We are very pleased with the quality of work and the professionalism of John Hackett and his crew. The interior brickwork in the bell tower also has to be repaired. John Hackett and I met with Jim Herschell, the construction manager for Verizon. Jim discussed procedures that must occur when the brick repairs reach the upper level of the tower where Verizon's antenna are located. The output of the antenna can be reduced during low use times of the day to facilitate the brick repairs. The best time to do the work would be at night (after 10 PM when cell phone activity drops off significantly). Work below the bell and antenna level can be done anytime with no concern or restrictions. Verizon is very cooperative and will work closely with our contractor.

We had a week of rain recently, which forced outdoor brick work to stop. John Hackett proposed doing some work inside the tower to keep his men busy. To benefit both the church and John Hackett, he proposed doing the first level tower work at a 20% discounted rate. It was decided to accept a new tower contract to do the work for \$6,000 rather than \$7,500. They completed the lower portion of the tower, including work around the stained glass window and painting the interior window frame. When we are able to contract the rest of the tower work, they will have to build scaffolding in place. There are no other options and it will be a difficult task. We don't have an estimate for the work, but it will have to be done on a time and materials basis. John Hackett is researching options.

Thanks to the encouragement and support of the congregation, excellent progress has been made this year. We will summarize all 2018 brick repair expenses and a budget for the rest of the work after our September Trustee meeting.

Finally, I want to share comments about our church family I have received numerous times from Verizon (Jim Herschell) and John Hackett. Both have told me how warm, friendly and helpful any of our members and staff have been when they work here. Jim Herschell has stated numerous times that he has never done a cell antenna job for a more cooperative and pleasant congregation. They really appreciate the opportunity to work for our church. Thank you all!

***We hope you will join us to celebrate 30 Years of the Trumansburg Food Pantry and 30 Years of Trumansburg CROP Walks!***

## **Trumansburg Area CROP Hunger Walk**

Sunday, October 14, 2018

Starting Place and Host Church  
Trumansburg United Methodist Church

1:45 PM – Walker registration, everyone  
2:00 PM – Walk begins

You can be a walker, donor, spirit walker, cookie baker, and more ...

Watch for on-line options, walker envelopes, and updates about this event!

25% of donations remain in our community for the Trumansburg Food Pantry.



### **Save The Date**

Our 5<sup>th</sup> annual complimentary Veterans Day Breakfast to honor active and former military personnel will be ON VETERANS DAY this year:

**Sunday, November 11, 2018!!**

Please mark your calendar and plan now to join us at the Trumansburg American Legion Post 770 on Seneca Road. We are already looking forward to a repeat performance by the Finger Lakes Fife and Drum Corps!  
More details in the months to come.

Direct any questions or suggestions to Nancy Irish, Bill Grove, Meg Gaige, or Mary Ochs.



## Only 18 weeks to January 1, 2019!

Submitted by Chris Kimball-Peterson  
Chair, New Year's Day Dinner Committee

The hot and humid summer is still lingering. Who is thinking about cold weather and snow? Surely none of us are. But it will come sooner rather than later.

As I sit here in front of my computer trying to put a different spin on what to say to get all of you interested in the upcoming New Year's Day dinner, I am drawn to our Church's Mission statement the last 4 lines:

As the **Trumansburg United Methodist Church**, in the spirit of Christ's teachings, we:  
Learn and explore the wonders and challenges of life;  
Grow and share in God's fellowship; and  
Serve for the good of all.

The last 2 bullet points is exactly what the New Year's Dinner is all about. Over the years, I have been saying that this dinner is our way of opening our doors to the community in fellowship and in serving for the good of all. Soon, this is what we will be doing! Ponder this as I ask all of you for your help in buying and cooking turkeys (if you can), in volunteering to help to prepare the food, in helping to serve the meal, in spreading the word about this awesome dinner and in making sure that this 97<sup>th</sup> Annual dinner is a success.

Most of you know what is needed. You may be asked to provide 2 ingredients for the dinner, as our numbers are dwindling but please do not say "NO!". I know that many of you cannot physically volunteer, but you can help to donate or give a monetary donation to help defray the cost. More donations cut down on final expenses and therefore **MORE PROFITS!** Last year we made over \$2,000 after expenses, I would like to continue this tradition. I realize that 2018 has been a rather expensive time for the church with repairs and other expenses but even a small monetary amount is greatly appreciated.

Some of you, over the past few years, have graciously helped out on December 30<sup>th</sup> to clean dishes, or December 31<sup>st</sup>, to peel potatoes, cut-up bread for the stuffing, or chopping up veggie's for the cole slaw, etc. Yes, we will be washing dishes on Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> probably either after church or in mid-afternoon. The committee will decide this at our fall meeting.

Well...that's all I'm going to say for the time being. It's now up to all of you. Think about this very important ministry that our church provides. When it comes time, I know that this congregation will "step up to the plate."



## From the Choir Loft...

Submitted by Jack and Francine

Hello everyone from the choir loft: here is what is going on with our music program:



- \* Very interesting vocal ensemble work coming up with a great quartet of fine singers.
- \* More duets with Ronda and Jack.
- \* Solos and duets from the Mitchell boys this Fall.
- \* Great organ concert featuring a husband and wife team who specialize in tracker organ performances.
- \* More solos and duets from some young church members.

The choir will resume practices beginning Wednesday, **September 19 at 7:00 pm**. With this announcement, we hope all of our present members will join us for yet another year of fun and music.

For everyone in the church Community, we would love to have new members. Do not worry what you may think of your voice. Like a voice teacher I had in the past said, "I am the vocal professional. I will tell you whether you can sing or not" Don't be shy, give it a try!

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## Report from Finance Committee

Submitted by David Irish, Chair

The finances of the church as of the end of July are in line with what the committee had budgeted. For this discussion I will leave the "brick work" out of the equation. We were slightly above our income projection by three thousand dollars and slightly below on expenses again by about three thousand dollars. While this would normally be celebrated wildly, it still leaves the church with a fourteen thousand dollar deficit, nothing to cheer about. As mentioned many times before, we can estimate our expenses almost to the penny, but our income, the generosity and support of the congregation is harder to gauge. So it is with prayerful concern that we head into the rest of the year.

Thank you for your continued support.



## Knit for Kids Sweaters are Dedicated..

Submitted by Sylvia Mitchell

On Sunday, August 12, many sweaters, I think I counted 13 were presented for dedication.

You may remember this project was started by the UMW Group in 2003/2004. At the time Hester Welch was chair of UMW and made the decision after finding out about this program that "We can do that too!" These sweaters are presently sent to New World Vision, and are distributed to needy children in this country and around the world.



I (Judi) didn't quite get all of them in one shot but here's a sampling. Good job knitters! A child somewhere will be warmer because of you!

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### Note's from the Editor...

It's been quite a summer so far and although I know Fall is ahead, I'm not ready yet for summer to end. I will be heading out to Santa Fe to see my kids/grandkids in a week but it will be a rather quick trip as we are flying (can I just add, I'm NOT fond of flying?) and can only stay a week as both of us have stuff coming up in September (at our age it's mostly health appointments!). I hope you are all having a wonderful summer (where are those vacation stories??).

As many of you know, I lost my sister recently and I'm having a hard time adjusting to not calling her daily, I still start to pick up the phone to call her and then remember. We also lost Mary Barkman recently. What a friend to all she was! A simply wonderful, caring lady. I first met Mary when I had my gall bladder out many years ago and she was my nurse.

On our trip to the beach in NC in June (where we were joined by our daughter and her family), I spent a lot of time watching the beautiful sunrises and sunsets and walking the beach. I used those precious moments to thank God for giving them to me. Sometimes I think we might forget to thank God for the little lights in our lives. So until next time, take time to thank God for all the wonderful things he gives us...

*Judi*

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Please check the calendar for September at  
[www.trumansburgumc.org](http://www.trumansburgumc.org) or check with your committee chair  
for meeting dates/times

Altar Guild Rep: Suzanne Organ  
Alt. Roxanne Smith

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

ROMANS 10:15, ESV

