



# Spiritual Harvest

September 2020

Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors

## Trumansburg UMC

### Location:

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

Pastor Robert "Rob" Dean

Sunday Worship Services  
9:15 AM on Zoom  
Starting Sept. 13 at 10:15 AM  
on Zoom



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## Pastor's Message

Beloved in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from the Trumansburg United Methodist Church! As I write this article, it is difficult to believe that summer is giving way to autumn. Soon the leaves will fall, pumpkins will arrive, and school bells will ring! This fall will look unlike any other fall in living memory, but with God's blessing it will be a wonderful season full of laughter, learning, and joy.

Over the past month we have been having socially-distanced campfires at the parsonage and I have had several people ask me when we will have "regular" worship on Sunday morning again. I have had the same question asked of me at a funeral parlor and in the grocery store. The answer to that question is neither simple nor satisfying. When I am asked that question I likely feel just as frustrated as the person listening when I cannot say "Things will be normal again by this date!"

As frustrating as it is to say, we are reopening slowly for a reason. This virus is dangerous. Listening to the news yesterday I learned that COVID19 is on track to become the third leading cause of death in the United States this year. Everyone wants to be together in worship, but we can only gather safely if we are cautious, judicious, and careful.

Yes, we have the right to be open! Yes, we can throw open the doors and welcome people in to worship. We can do it quickly. These things are possible, but should they take place? Paul wrote to the church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 10:23-24): " 'All things are lawful,' but not all things are beneficial. 'All things are lawful,' but not all things build up. Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other."

It would be nice to worship in person again every Sunday. On my end, it would be wonderful to preach to anything other than empty pews and a camera! Sunday morning would be lovely with people in the sanctuary, but would it be beneficial to the body of Christ? Would it be beneficial to "the least of these?" How do we balance our call to love our neighbor with our desire to worship together?

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

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I believe one of the best responses to this subject was shared by Bishop Bickerton of the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. In a webinar hosted July 23rd, 2020 on reopening houses of worship (sponsored in part by the NYS Council of Churches), Bishop Bickerton said:

“This is where our proclaimed faith could have the greatest impact—in the way we live out the faith we claim. Because of our faith, we will follow the guidelines. Because of our faith, we desire to take care of our people, especially those disproportionately affected: those with pre-existing conditions and the elderly. Because of our faith, we choose to be smart, united, disciplined, loving, especially loving...”

In the end, our church is not open yet because we seek to love the individuals who cannot safely make it on Sunday. We do not want to leave behind people at risk. We want to include as many people on this journey as possible. The process of opening slowly and inclusively takes time.

Let’s be clear: We are making progress towards reopening. What’s even better, we are making progress towards reopening in a way that will be durable in the event of a local surge in the virus. We are working towards having an improved sound system to include live music on Sunday mornings, clearer audio for speakers, and inclusion of lay leadership within the sanctuary. We are discussing what worship will look like without congregational singing, hymnals, bulletins, or shared bibles. We are doing our best to move forward in a way that will not only prepare us for today but allow flexibility for tomorrow.



In the meantime, I thank you for your patience. This process is not a pleasant process, but it is good that we are being careful and conscientious. Let us continue to reach out to each other with love regardless of what this fall brings.

In Christ, *Pastor Rob Dean*

P.S., the included photo shows stacks of hymnals, bibles, and worship books collected from the pews in our sanctuary. Thank you to everyone who is helping our transition team to “get ready for worship!”



### Special dates

- Labor Day, *September 7, 2020*
- Patriot Day, *September 11, 2020*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 13, 2020*
- Hispanic Heritage Month, *Sept. 15–Oct. 15, 2020*
- First day of autumn, *September 22, 2020*

## Adult Sunday School!

Fall is here and we are using the opportunity to engage in a new Adult Sunday School. This year we'll be reading through and discussing "A Year with John Wesley and Our Methodist Values." This affordable book (\$2.50) gives us a place to begin our conversation around what it means to be Methodist. Each month includes an essay to help open conversation and each week we'll delve into parts of that essay with other readings and scriptures.



Who was John Wesley and how did he shape our church? Why do we do some of the things we do or believe some of the things we believe? These questions are extremely important as we wrestle with our identity in light of global conversations about the future of the church. If we know where we have come from, it might help us know where we want to be!

Please join us at 9:00 on Sunday mornings starting the Sunday after Labor Day! Join the Zoom Meeting early and discuss our common heritage before worship. As the church reopens, we'll do our best to continue to offer the Zoom option as we continue our study!.

### Worship is returning to 10:15 on Sundays!

Starting the Sunday after Labor Day, we will be worshipping on Zoom starting at 10:15. As we continue to make progress, opportunities will hopefully be opening for joining the service in person and participating in the service from the sanctuary! Please stay tuned and don't forget to change your calendars!

## THANKS FOR THE HISTORY...

Submitted by Mary Jamison, Church Historian

In sorting through our dear (late) Betty McKnight's estate, 2 framed documents belonging to TUMC's history, came to light. I would like to thank Cheryl Hine for donating them to our history collection. Betty had evidently come across them somewhere and seeing the connection to our church had procured them.

One of the documents is a "certificate" of membership to the Epworth League, when from our church, the Trumansburg Methodist Episcopal Church - Young People's Epworth League, became an official member of that group –dated December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1889. The Epworth League was founded in May of 1889 in Cleveland, Ohio for young adults in the Methodist Church, ages 18-35. The name Epworth was taken from the place where our founder, John Wesley, was born – Epworth, Lincolnshire, England. The organization's purpose was to encourage and cultivate Christ-centered character in young adults around the world through community building, missions and spiritual growth, and leading young adults to Jesus Christ with Biblical instruction/studies, and nurturing Christ's teachings within the church and community. The Epworth League existed from 1889-1959, when it became known as the Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) and was geared towards a younger group (mostly high school age), and later became the *United* Methodist Youth Fellowship. It was popularly attended by many youth, and quoted in books and movies throughout the years. Ernest Hemingway describes General Eisenhower in his book "Across the River and into the Trees", as "strictly the Epworth League". The League is still active in some Methodist churches and can be found online, and the United Methodist Youth Fellowship is also still active in our churches.

The other document is a listing of members of our church who were either drafted or enlisted in the military organizations of this country during World War II, or may have served in some civilian way. At the top of the document is printed "Our Service Roll". I found many familiar names listed (all handwritten), and dated 1943, and listed as the Methodist Episcopal Church back then. Some of the names familiar to me were: Winton Baines, George and James Burns, Carl and Alvin Vann, F. Earl and William Asay, Gordon Houseworth, John Covert Jr., Gerrit Allen, L. Grant Meeker, Lewis (Buster) Tunison, George Boyer, Lester Burns, Burdett Mount, George Pokorney, Leon Payne, Thomas (Tom) Reynolds, Carl Smith, Ernest Wellin, William (Bill) Boyer, Arthur Moody (former pastor), and many more I'm not familiar with. Surprisingly among all the males named were several women – Miss Ethel Newton, Jean (Duddleston) Baines, Claire Hymes (later Covert), Janice Moody (pastor's wife), and Mabel Crippen. All are no longer with us. This listing, on an official looking document, was probably put together by the pastor at that time, Rev. Chester Zogg in 1943 (written at the head of the list). Rev. Zogg's daughter, Carolyn Zogg, lives in the Lodi area and is a Trustee Emeritus of the Lodi Historical Society whose address is the old, beautiful Methodist Church in Lodi. Having attended functions there with Al, I can attest to the beauty and well preserved interior and lovely stained glass windows, plus a lovely old organ, with hand painted pipes which was restored some years ago. You should go and see it sometime, perhaps attend some function when we can do that again!

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I'd like to posthumously thank, Betty McKnight, who had the foresight to lay claim to these 2 documents, and for Cheryl Hine who saw their value as part of our history, and bringing them to me. I'll find an appropriate place for them, and hope that those who come after me will see the historical value in them and not discard them. They are true historical treasures. I hope that you will take the time to look at them when they're on display (someday), and see the "clouds of saints" attached to them from the past. At my age, I found them most interesting, as I became part of this church in 1952 through being invited to join the Methodist Youth Fellowship, and after that, joining the church in 1955. I worked alongside of some of those named above, and have lovely memories of those times with them. This is a special place to me, and I'm always happy to find out more about its inception, and especially the folks who kept us going, so that we can enjoy this wonderful old building today and for years to come. We have a wonderful church family, who continue to work hard to not only keep the building up to snuff (so much accomplished over the past few years), but also to those who reach out and nurture us and each other with their love and caring. Thank you all for your generous nature and spirit. Thanks again to Cheryl for the wonderful gifts!

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## COVID

Written by Marge Lener

Dear Lord,

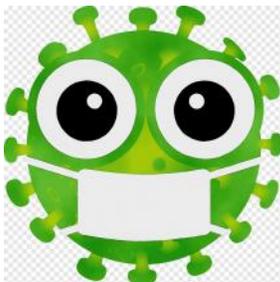
We need your help,  
we don't know where to turn.  
We've done our best,  
we've worn our masks, we do the rest.  
Still we are losing friends (to COVID).

We know you're there for us,  
the doctors and nurse are too.  
But it doesn't seem to be enough.  
Life never used to be this tough.  
And still we are losing friends (to COVID).

You, Lord, are our best friend,  
you, Lord, are with us to the end.  
Please help us to do our part  
to end this pandemic, so we can start  
to stop losing friends (to COVID)

And, so our plea to you,  
help us make it through,  
and we will start each day anew.  
As we say "Good-bye!" to COVID.

*Signed by your followers*



## Thank you to a very caring church family

From Dick Peterson

*You are a wonderful church family, and my family wants to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your gifts, food, countless cards, and so much help as we experienced during Chris's journey of illness. We asked God for a miracle, hoping that He would spare her from her disease. We didn't get that miracle, and we are broken-hearted, but we realize that the miracle we did receive is the miracle of a church and a congregation of warm-hearted people who care and help so much. We cannot say enough what your support has meant to us, and we know your prayers and your kindness will help us through the difficult times ahead. Chris loved this church so much and her faith was raised to great heights over the 25 years we worshipped together with you.*

*Thank you all and may God's blessings shine upon you always.*

### Notes from the Editor...

Fall is on the way and it's sad that we won't be doing most of our wonderful fall activities. No fall barbecue, most likely no Veteran's breakfast, most likely no bazaar or New years Day dinner. Hopefully by the next issue we will be either VERY close or will be having services in our sanctuary again but it will be different. We will social distance and wear masks and not sing and not touch things and use sanitizer and no coffee hour, and this is just not the Methodist way is it? I don't know about you but I'm missing hugs, I'm missing my kids/ grandkids so much and I hate to see cold weather arrive which will mean not as many outdoor walks for me (I'm not good in the cold). God is watching over us, I have to believe that, and things will eventually get better.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter as much as I enjoy putting it together and reading it and writing some of it, etc. Next issue if there is space I hope to publish the last few child photos I have over from the contest I started before this COVID time. I won't tell you who they are right away as it will be fun for you to guess some of them. I still have some pretty cool ones.

Air hugs to you all...Until Next Time.....

*Judi*

## Granny's Bible Cake

Submitted by Cheryl Hine

I found this recipe in a cookbook published for the First Baptist Church in Bainbridge, NY. A note at the top of the recipe said that the recipe was originally printed in "Sunshine" magazine from Edinburgh, Scotland. I want you to know that I have not actually tried this recipe, but I have looked up each scripture verse and it does sound interesting. The recipe is presented here exactly as it is in the cookbook. If any bakers feel adventurous, this is your opportunity!

¼ lb. Judges 5:25 (last clause)

¼ lb. Jeremiah 6:20

½ T. I Samuel 30:12 (2<sup>nd</sup> clause) NOTE: I think we interpret "2<sup>nd</sup> clause" as I Samuel 30:12b.

1 large Jeremiah 17:2 (NOTE: This verse does not make sense as an ingredient for the recipe.

It may be a misprint. Jeremiah 17:11 makes more sense as a clue)

¼ lb. I Samuel 30:12 (1<sup>st</sup> clause or 12a)

¼ Jeremiah 24:1 (chopped)

1 oz. Numbers 17:8 (blanched & chopped)

½ lb. I Kings 4:22 (first clause)

Season to taste with II Chron. 9:9

Pinch of Leviticus 11:13

½ t. Amos 4:5

1 ½ T. Judas 4:19 (last clause) NOTE: This is a mystery to me because there is no book of Judas. I tried Jude 4:19, but it did not fit. My guess is that the 1 ½ T is what we would call baking powder. (Maybe Pastors Rob and Kayti can help us out with this biblical book)?

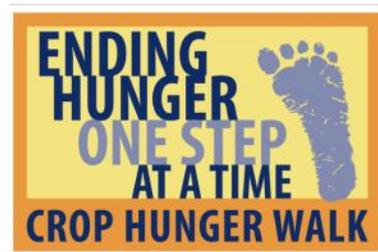
Method: Proverbs 23:14 # 1, # 2, and # 3 to a cream. Add # 4 still Proverbs 23:14. Add # 5,6, and 7. Add # 8, 9, 10, 11, having mixed them. Add # 12 lastly. Leviticus 26:26 in a slow oven 1 ¼ hours. Cake should be wrapped and mellowed like fruit cake.

### Crop Walk 2020 goes virtual!

**It will be like nothing before but, much the same!!**

Crop Walk 2020 will still take place this year! Yay! The official date is Sunday, October 11th. Last year TUMC raised and donated \$2244. Let's see if we can get up to \$2500 this year. Details to follow. Questions from walkers and those willing to donate can be addressed to me, Ronda Ketcham.

Ronda Ketcham  
TUMC Crop Walk Coordinator  
[rondaketcham@gmail.com](mailto:rondaketcham@gmail.com)



## Thank you so much to all...

Submitted by Judi Eastburn

Let me start by saying, I am sure I may miss someone and for that I apologize right off the start. It takes a whole congregation to get through all the things that have arisen with this pandemic time when things seem to be always changing and of course the day to day things that still need to happen to keep our church running.



Thanks go out again to all those who helped get the parsonage ready, you've read about them in past newsletters and Cal Organ continues to make sure all things are running smoothly at the parsonage so thanks again to him for all his work.

A big thanks for the transition team who helped our new pastor and his family get acquainted with our church and the Trumansburg area in general. The team consisted of Meg Gaige, Chair, Peter Cooke, Judi Eastburn, Mary Louise Gallagher, Bill Grove, and Pat Love. Each one helped get many things together for the Deans. A thanks to Sue Brower for her wonderful welcoming signs!

Let me again thank Pastor Natalie for her hard work in getting us on zoom services to begin with and for Mary Ochs who stepped up and offered to run the slides, etc. in the background. These were the beginning of our zoom services which have evolved with Pastor Rob filming from our sanctuary. With the help of Kelly Brower and the fact that we have upgraded our Wii fi, the services keep getting better and better, and more and more people are learning to get online either by computer or phone. Also, thanks to Mary Louise Gallagher and Cheryl Hine who have helped with several services.

Next came time to start thinking about our eventual reopening. I thank Sue Brower, Dick Peterson, Joe Sibley, and of course Pastor Rob for helping with this committee. We have met a few times and are progressing cautiously. Big thanks go out to Grace Dean who picked up all the bibles and the hymnals and other things from our sanctuary so we can comply with the State regulations.

Thanks to Meg Gaige and Bill Grove for cleaning out the pastor's office making it easier for Pastor Rob to move in. Thanks to Mary Jamison for starting the task of cleaning out the secretary's office. Mary was first to point out that she would not want that position looking at how unorganized that office had become. She pitched right in and as she started going through some of the paperwork, she called Julie Messenger, who came in to help with sorting some of the financial and other files. Mary says Julie has been a godsend, and I would agree. Julie has organized things so well and they both continue to work on the office.

Thanks to Carol and Bill Grove for such an excellent job of cleaning out the nursery. It looks fantastic!

Thanks to Eileen Collins who really wanted to step down as Financial Secretary in April and has continued to do that job through this time when we have no administrative secretary. We are planning on adding that to the secretary's position when it is filled, hours were added to include time to do that task.

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Thanks to Trudy VanOstrand for taking over the task of coordinating the Good Word phone message ministry. And to the Mitchells for mowing the lawn this summer.

Thanks to all the ones who have come in and helped move furniture, etc. I know Joe Sibley and Bill Grove have been there doing some of that.

Thanks to Carol Grove who keeps us in the loop by sending out our announcements on the e-news. That has been so important particularly during this time to keep everyone up to date with what has been going on. Also, of course, thanks to Carol for keeping the Food Pantry, which is housed in our church, up and running.

As you can see, many, many things are going on in our church! We are TUMC Strong!!

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## **Finance Report...**

Submitted by Judi Eastburn, on behalf of the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee would like to say how proud we are of all of you. The contributions and pledges have been coming in regularly by mail. Our budget, although not always perfect, is doing decent. Of course, expenses have been down a little with the church being closed and they will start to go up now with the eventual (hopefully soon) reopening. So please keep sending your checks when you can. Send contributions to the church, Trumansburg United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 628, Trumansburg, NY 14886. The mail is picked up several times a week now.

At our recent meeting, we were brought a proposal to upgrade our sound system and have cameras to accommodate both sanctuary services and live zoom services for those who are not yet comfortable in attending in person yet. It will also be good to have the ability in the future so people who are ill or away, could still see our services. The proposal passed, and with the approval of the trustees, we will be paying for this from Memorial Funds. So, in other words, when you see and enjoy all the new sounds/video, you can imagine the wonderful saints of our church watching over and providing that for us.

As we have been cleaning out the office, we have found things like old packing slips, etc. All packing slips should be turned in to Julie Messenger, the Treasurer. Also, any receipts from services performed, items purchased, all invoices, etc. She also keeps the timesheets from Jays Cleaning and keeps all new hire forms and copies of completed ones, this includes W-4, IT-2104, I-9, new hire form, NYS Notice & Acknowledgement of pay rate, Direct Deposit Enrollment, Paychex, etc. We have found that we have not had a great filing system and many things have not gotten turned in that should have. Working with Julie has been a pleasure as she is extremely organized and loves to do so, so please make sure she gets these things in the future, either in her box in the church or by email.

Again, thanks to all of you for keeping the finances chugging along in this most difficult time!



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Trumansburg, NY 14886

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Trumansburg, NY 14886



Join our Worship Service on Zoom Sundays at 9:15 am.;  
10:15 am starting on September 13.  
To Join go to [Trumansburgumc.org](http://Trumansburgumc.org) and click the link on the  
front page to go to the zoom link for worship; 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

