



Spiritual Harvest

September 2021

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

Prayer Chain Requests:
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 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 in Christ,

Greetings in the name of Christ! September dawns and autumn is just around the corner! As many of you know, I enjoy photography. During a recent trip to the Finger Lakes National Forest, I was walking down the Interloken Trail when I came across a curious sight. In the midst of the heat of summer, there was a creek bed running through the middle of the woods. I had been walking along a raised walkway over dry earth, but had not grasped the situation until I came across the place where water flowed so often that the pathway required a walk-way.



The creek bed was entirely dry. Stones, rocks, and small boulders sat in the dust. I looked up the length of the creek and saw nothing but the same dry ground. What a strange sight to find: a creek without water is quite an odd sight!

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

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When I looked a second time, I noticed something else. Along the sides of the dry creek bed were plants growing of every shape and size. Their roots dug into the earth and the plants seemed to be waiting for the water to return. As I looked beyond the ground cover, the forest itself seemed to grow up and spring forth from the space surrounding the creek bed. Even in the midst of the forest, the trees surrounding the corridor of dry earth seemed to be waiting with anticipation for the coming rain.

Psalm 104:14-17 says:

14 You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to use,
to bring forth food from the earth,
15 and wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine,
and bread to strengthen the human heart.
16 The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
17 In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has its home in the fir trees.

Standing in the midst of the wilderness, the call of birds affirmed the truth of the scriptures. Although the creek bed was dry, the water would one day pour forth. The plants waited for the water with an air of patience and faithfulness that even a monk would envy. As I lined up my camera to take a picture, I thought about all of the places that I needed God's love.

As fall comes upon us and as the autumnal harvest begins to ripen, we each can smile with gratitude. We are a people that live by the faith that the Living Water will come again. We are also people that live in a community. As a community we can remind each other of God's faithfulness, encourage each other through dry spells, and celebrate the rain together.

As fall comes, may your well never run dry, may your pantry be filled with good things, and may God bless the community of the faithful. May the blessing of God pour forth upon you and those you love.

In Christ,
Pastor Rob Dean





Special dates

- Labor Day, *September 6, 2021*
- Patriot Day, *September 11, 2021*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 12, 2021*
- Hispanic Heritage Month, *Sept. 15–Oct. 15, 2021*
- *First day of autumn, September 22, 2021*

Trumansburg Area Congregations/Tom Lange Memorial CROP walk registration is open.

- TUMC Coordinator Ronda Ketcham 607-351-0341 or rondaketcham@gmail.com
- October 10, 2021 at St. James Catholic Church
- Give and/or sign up to walk at events.crophungerwalk.org

Let's continue to support the fight against the challenges of disease, disaster, displacement and other concerns that leave people hungry. Join us as we raise funds to help neighbors near and far get the meals they need for today and sustainable food security for tomorrow.



It's Time Church Directory Updates

It's time to update our church directory. Do you have any changes? Are you in, but need some updates? Are you out, but want to be in? If you've misplaced your own copy, there's a directory located in the Fellowship Hall by the phone that you could use as a reference, or just ask me what we have listed. **Please have all updates to me by September 15.**

Carol Grove | 607-387-6128 | carolgrove6115@gmail.com

Losses, Funerals, and Receptions—2021

Submitted by Mary Jamison

The past year and a half has been hard on so many. Loss of loved ones without the possibility of honoring their lives with memorial services or celebrations of their life anytime soon. Needless to say there have been many funerals and celebrations of life in the past few months. The sorrow and memories linger on, but much needed gatherings and services are helpful at last.

Our church has a fairly small group called FUNERAL RECEPTIONS. There is no “chair person”, but contact persons, who currently by default as the senior members are Mary Jamison and Ellen Mitterer. Receptions are offered to families, free of charge as a part of our church ministry, by either the pastor or funeral director. One of them then calls a contact person to get things started. Mary or Ellen try to get details of how many to plan for and what they’d like us to provide. They then, contact the rest of the group. This wonderful group, that also consists of Mary Alice Freeman, Ronda Ketcham, Trudy VanOstrand and Connie Ike, start planning. Even if the funeral is held in a funeral home, we have been known to be asked for a reception in the church. The reception can be very simple or not.

Because so many services have been delayed by the Pandemic, our Pastor has had a high number of services more recently in a short amount of time. This group hasn’t been asked for much either, until recently. The group had planned a luncheon for Cliff Burris’s family a year ago this past March, but cancelled due to the Pandemic. They were finally able to have a service in the church on Friday, Aug. 13th, and only asked for cookies/coffee/punch – they had a family reunion in the afternoon.

We also provided cookies for Chris Kimball-Peterson’s reception at the American Legion on July 30th. Ellen Mitterer spearheaded the cookie events (thanks Ellen), and many folks in the church baked cookies - a total of 32 dozen, which were packaged by members of the Receptions group. Many, many thanks to all of you who baked such a great variety of cookies – too many folks to name.

On Saturday, Aug. 14th, we provided a luncheon for the Boyes family. MJ provided some written guidance, asked for suggestions/received many helpful tips. We worked on Friday for about 2 hours to begin preparations, and then another 2 hours on Saturday, before the service started, plus several hours during and afterwards. Of course, there was time spent during the week with decision-making – phone calls/emails, etc.

When we have a major event (like a luncheon), we often have to ask for help outside of the group – and gratefully folks will just step up and volunteer, which happened this time. If you’d like to volunteer, or become a member of this group, don’t hesitate! It’s hard work, but it comes from the heart!



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Some parts of the two receptions were provided as donations from group members and others (many thanks). We didn't need to solicit anything. We were able to purchase the majority of ingredients from our banked amount through the church. There is a line in the Treasurer's books listed as "Funeral Receptions" – this is NOT part of the church budget, and we do not ask the families, or church to pay for anything. The money in there comes from donations made by families in appreciation for the receptions we have provided. This has helped many times when we didn't/couldn't solicit everything needed.

I'd like to say at this point, a **very special thanks** to those who worked at the Burris and Boyes receptions – Ellen Mitterer, Trudy VanOstrand, Connie Ike, Mary Alice Freeman, Ronda Ketcham, Carol Grove, Dick Peterson, Judi Eastburn, Mary Louise Gallagher (and me too). All worked very hard and efficiently, and everything looked and tasted great, and even the tables looked quite wonderful. The families really enjoyed what we provided, and the fellowship. We were happy to provide this labor of love for them. There was the joy of finally being able to meet and work together again, after a long hiatus of *nothing* much happening in the church, and we laughed and shared a lot during those hours. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.



Update on Veteran's Breakfast...Cancelled for 2021

Submitted by Bill Grove and Meg Gaige

TUMC and the American Legion will not host a Veterans Breakfast in November of 2021. A number of variable factors--including the status of COVID--have convinced us that we aren't ready to encourage a large number of people to gather indoors, regardless of vaccination status. So please make a point of thanking Veterans for their service *whenever* you see them year 'round, and pray that we will feel more confident about bringing the breakfast back in 2022!



Notes from the Editor...

Just a little note to say I hope you enjoy this issue and all the issues of the newsletter. Just a quick note to say we need volunteers now to sign up for coffee hour, the sign-up sheet is by the kitchen. We are also looking for people who might want to join the "Good Word" ministry. If you are not sure what that is, call 387-8202 and give a listen. If you think you could do this, please contact Trudy VanOstrand. That group could use another voice or two. Our next issue will not be out until sometime later October and will be an October/November issue. In the meantime, keep updated with the e-news and a big thanks to Carol Grove for sending those. So until next time when the weather will be getting cooler and the leaves will be turning those beautiful colors..... Blessings to you all!

Judi

Special thanks from the Peterson Family....

Chris has been gone from our midst for a year. Our family misses her so much, but we are heartened by the outpouring of love and support from this wonderful church family. Many families in our church have suffered the loss of loved ones over the past year, and this congregation is ready to support them all. We were finally able to have a memorial service for Chris on July 30th. We thank all of those who participated and for the meaningful support of Pastor Rob. We also want to thank all of the cookie bakers in our church family who made so many cookies for the reception after Chris's service. We know Chris is beaming at you all from heaven. God bless you all.

Calling all Tech or Tech wannabees...

Kelly Brower is looking for a few people to learn how to operate the computer, video camera, and sound systems which allow us to Zoom our service every week to those not in the sanctuary, and for our microphones so those involved in the service can be heard well in person and over the Zoom connection. Also, our latest addition of the two big monitors in the front of the church allows us to project images and words. All of these technologies are used not only on Sundays, but also on special occasions (funerals, so far, but we expect things like weddings and special events will be added). This is too big of a job for a single person to be responsible for- we definitely need some back up people and alternatives, especially for weekday events.

Fortunately, Kelly has been working hard to automate most of the steps, so you don't REALLY have to be a techie to help out - just be willing to learn and to follow a clearly illustrated instruction sheet (Sue's specialty)- mostly turning things on in a specific order and clicking on buttons to switch between camera positions and mikes on/off throughout the service. We are still working out some kinks, but as time goes on, it will become a well-oiled machine.



We owe Kelly a huge thank you for all his time in developing this system for us. I don't know what we would have done without his skills! Please contact Kelly if you are interested in learning this process. It would be much appreciated by all. Please use Sue's e-mail to reach him: suebrowerithaca@gmail.com or leave a message on their home answering machine 607-277-3352.

A note from the Trustees....

Submitted by Dick Peterson, Chair

Summer brings sunny days and, especially this year, many hot days. We try to keep the sanctuary as cool as possible by using our large fans at night to pull cool outside air through the space. Some have suggested that more people might come to church in the summer if the church was air conditioned. There is truth in that. We have discussed air conditioning from time to time, but it is a difficult and expensive proposition for this wonderful 164 year old building. However, we will continue to look at new technologies that might work for us.

If you drive by the parsonage, you will see a well-manicured lawn and a newly paved driveway. We have contemplated paving the driveway for some time, and as we considered the cost of adding gravel (30 tons when needed) every few years, we decided to go ahead with paving. Besides the many obvious advantages of paving, it also eliminates the spring-time job of raking many stones out of the yard that were pushed there by snowplowing.

We continue to thank Jack and Alex Mitchell for their excellent work caring for the church lawn. If you drive by and see them at work, give them a big thumbs up. Their service to the church is a true blessing.

The flat screen monitors are mounted in the sanctuary, and they look very nice. Mike Westervelt did the wiring to bring a dedicated circuit to the monitors. While he was doing that, he mounted the monitors on the wall. It was a task we weren't sure we could do, and he came through for us. We need to continue to recognize Kelly Brower for his tireless work in developing this technology for us so that we can reach out to those who cannot come to church or are cautious until the pandemic is over. The entire system involved a huge effort on Kelly's part, with help from Calf Audio. There is also a new flat screen monitor in the Fellowship Hall, which will soon be mounted on the wall. That will enhance Sunday School and special programs in the Hall. That monitor has made it possible for people reluctant to sit in a crowded sanctuary for funerals to see the service in the Fellowship Hall. The many benefits of these additions will become much more evident as we fully develop the capabilities.



The Trustees have been on summer meeting hiatus, but we all appreciate the special care Paula Austic and Pat Love are giving to Mary's Garden. The floral display is a wonderful sight to everyone entering the back door of the church. A big thanks goes out to Trudy VanOstrand and her grandson Cameron for doing some pruning around the outside of the church.

We can't thank Cal Organ enough for the beautiful job remodeling the small rest room at the church. Be sure to take a look at it when you come in the rear entrance. He does wonderful work.

Finally, our Fall chicken barbecue is scheduled for September 25th. We will have the usual pie sale and the best barbecued chicken in the area (not bragging, it's just the truth). Please mark your calendars and support this fund-raising event. We welcome any and all volunteers to help that day. It's a fun time.

Thank you all for your caring support.

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

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Trumansburg, NY 14886



We are now worshipping in the sanctuary. Vaccinated people are not required to wear masks, unvaccinated are required 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. September: Suzanne Organ



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

ROMANS 10:15, ESV

