



From The Pastor

Guidance,

Today is Epiphany and we celebrate the visitation of the Magi, guided by a star, to worship Jesus the Christ of God. If it wasn't for the appearance of the great Christmas star, these seers, these astrologers from the East, might never have ventured on their camels out of the comfort of their own homes in order to offer their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

There are many ways we receive guidance in our lives. Over the past 9 months we have received daily guidance from the CDC, NYS Health Dept., local health authorities and even from one another, about how to keep safe during this pandemic. We haven't always gotten it right. [It's possible the Magi took a wrong turn or followed a wrong path, having missed the No Outlet sign, before they got to Bethlehem.] Yet it is by following the guidance of scientists, medical professionals and government agencies that we can keep safe and healthy.

We know the drill: wear a mask, keep six feet apart, stay home as much as possible and definitely if you feel sick. We are getting so tired of following the guidance – we just want to go back to normal. They call it "COVID Fatigue." Patience is what we need. And patience is a commodity that seems in ever shorter supply. So let us pray for patience for one another and receive prayers for our own patience as we follow the guidance that leads to the gift of health.

We wait. We hope. And we know that God holds us in his hands.

With Hope and Peace,

Pastor Rick +

Moderator Message

As we plan for 2021 and beyond, I wanted to refocus us on the work of the Transition Team. Team members included in their report to the congregation a list of activities to strengthen TUCC. The challenge that lay before us is translating these desires into action. You know the questions: Who? What? Where? When? and How? Over the next few months, the Church Council will be asking the congregation to help us answer these questions. The goal: a plan that mobilizes each of us as we build a church to serve God and the community for the next 50 years.

1. Increase awareness of TUCC through advertising and making the church more visible.
2. Welcome new people

3. Reach out to those members who have become less involved.
4. Read: Michael Gerlinghouse has written in his book Embracing God's Future without Forgetting the Past "As you make adjustments to the life of the congregation, conflicts are almost certain to arise. The question is not whether there is conflict, but how the congregation responds to and works through disagreements. Conflict can be a means of God's revelation of new directions for mission and ministry."
5. Might the Church Council plan for some leadership development that helps leaders think about and practice ways of dealing with conflict. As one writer suggested: "Conflict is nothing more than two ideas in the same room."
6. Adult Study
7. Review Finances:
 - a. For many people at TUCC a conclusion has been drawn that because of declining giving, we cannot afford a full-time pastor. This assumption may well be pre-mature.
 - b. Several "Oaks-Lee financial principles" to guide leadership:
 - i. A budget approved by the congregation that reflects the commitments and priorities of the congregation.
 - ii. A reporting system that allows leaders to review the financial situation and relatively easily assess where we are as to current surplus/deficit and resources available.
 - iii. A commitment to transparency. While all will not be interested in financial details, those who are should be able to access information.
 - iv. A clear request made to members to give (An annual appeal?). A response to those who give (either personal or at least a general communication) that lets those who give know the difference their decision has made to the ministry of the church (keep the focus on the church's ministry and the difference this ministry makes – not on the budget success).
 - v. A clear understanding by the congregation as to the reason and purpose for invested money.
 - vi. Reminders to members to include TUCC in their wills.
8. TUCC relationships to denominations
9. A ministry plan for the church to work on until a new pastor has been called.
10. Conversations on topics that need resolution to place the church in the best possible place for answering God's call.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS:

Dec. 24th – Judy Conklin, Keith Wimmersberger, Dec. 27th Lindsay Moore,
Dec. 29th – Diana Fishlock

Jan. 2nd – Cindy Bartholomew; Jan 6th – Nancy Corey

ANNIVERSARIES:

Dec. 29th – Del & Cheryl Wayne; Jan 2nd – Mark & Bernice Masler

Breakfast Food for Sale

Since Rotary has no idea of when they will return to having breakfast meetings at the church, we are putting the food out that was stored in the freezer for interested persons to purchase. Two 5# packages of link sausage - Tucc cost was \$2.69/# - 5# pkg. price would be \$13.45; 250 strips of pre-cooked bacon (one sealed pack has 150 strips; and the other is partially used - about 110 strips) - Cost \$14.85 per sealed pack; the partial would be \$11.00; Three 5# bags of diced cube potatoes (unseasoned) - Cost was \$3.40/Bag.

Anyone interested in purchasing any item, please contact **Nancy Chawgo (810-4092 or e-mail nchawgo@aol.com)**. Pkgs. Could be broken down into smaller zip lock bags, if interested.

LOOKING AHEAD.....



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Prayer Shawl Meetings- **There will be no prayer shawl meetings until further notice.** Requests are still being taken. Shawl makers will be knitting and crocheting at home. Finished shawls can be left at the church office. If you have any questions, please call Sandy Burgett at 315-696-5197.

Bell Choir meets each Wednesday at 6:30p.m. No experience is necessary.

The mini Stepping-Stone News Letter is done every two weeks. If you have any information you would like to share. Please have your information into the Secretary's office by Jan 19. **Our next mini Stepping-Stone will be posted Jan 20th.**

Request for ALTAR FLOWERS: Please consider volunteering to bring in Altar Flowers We still have the following dates open: **April 11, April 18, or August 29**, contact Nancy Corey (315-420-5442) or Cindy at the church office. Thank you!



Prayer and Praise



Prayer Requests

Lorraine Balmer and Linda Cottrell ask for prayers for a close friend, Bill Hasenberger. He is in the hospital for testing. Mary Thompson continues to have tests. Bill Wright is in Community General Physical Rehab Unit, he is still battling the affects of COVID. Rick also asks for prayers for his friends Randy and Jenny who are in treatment for cancer, Penny who has health problems, Rich who is recovering from COVID, and Jean who passed away 10 days after cancer diagnosis. Karie Cottrell is being treated for blood clots in her legs. Dawn Cox asked for prayers for her daughter Carly and boyfriend Jon, who were in a car accident. She is thankful they were not severely injured. Prayers for Hugh Reed's mother-in-law, Barbara Stanley.

Continued prayers for:

Mary Huntington requested prayers for the father of her children, Joe Kuhn. He is very ill with covid and has been hospitalized. His wife also has covid and is in quarantine. Pam Downey has recovered and is doing well. Nancy Foster is asking for prayers for her daughter, Breanna. She is taking a travel nurse job. Liz Spaulding has an upcoming procedure. Wendy Dale's Aunt Claudia who is sick with COVID. Kay and Jim Butkus' daughter Pam Falge for health concerns. We pray for Brenda, the Millis family's daughter, Pamela Poulin, Jolie Spaulding. Janet Hillenbrand's brother. Prayers for Betty Ketchum, Annalee Santelli, Cheryl Haskins' nephew Eric, Sharon French, Don Bickelhaupt and Edie Cook. We pray they are all getting better and staying healthy.

Joys shared

To the Members of TUCC

A heartfelt THANK YOU for the generous Christmas gift, for your love and support, and for the blessings that together we bring to one another and to our community. It is my joy and privilege to serve in a pastoral role as together we proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in this place. This has been a year of great challenges but our faith in God has led us through and soon we will be able to bring to fruition the many hopes and dreams we have for ministry in this place.

Together we go forward in the faith, hope and love of Jesus Christ!

Pastor Rick +

Laura Zobel expressed joy in spending Christmas with her grandson Elijah. We miss gathering with family and friends but I'm counting joys. Jaci Colombo is thankful for Kim and Hollis who ZOOM our services. She prays that someone will emerge who can help with that whole process. Jaci Colombo is thankful for prayer support her mother has received. She is doing fairly well. Stacey McCrea's mom, Ola Mae Haskins, is recovering from COVID. Pamela Poulin is thankful for prayers. She feels comforted by the support. Lorraine Balmer and Linda Cottrell are

thankful their cousin Irma McGowan is recovering at home after her stroke. Please continue to pray for all those who suffer due to COVID19, both physically and economically.

Engagements



Tizah Smith and Bucky Bordeau are engaged

Sharon French's grandson, Christopher French and his girlfriend Cynthia Cho were engaged over Thanksgiving weekend.

To the Prayer Shawl Committee: We received a thank you card from Angi Fratesechi.

She wrote:

"Dear Friends/Former Neighbors,

My Christmas box from Nancy Toleno (nee Berg) came yesterday. It included a delightful prayer shawl which I am very happy to have. I had 2 strokes a couple of months ago. Life is very hard now. So, I treasure the shawl doubly."

If anyone would like to see the card it is in office window.

Ways to Support Your Church and Community

Ministries come in many forms. Some take time, some take money, and some take both! Here are some suggestions for giving to others:

1. Offerings to TUCC – mail or drop off at church; use the PayPal link on the church website or pay through the electronic bill payment process of your bank.
2. St. Leo's Food Pantry and Outreach, POB 574, Tully, 13159. Attn: Cheryl Paccia. Pantry needs monetary donations for fresh produce, meat, and dairy
3. Donate sauce, tuna, canned veggies, PB, jelly, toiletries, paper products, etc., for the Food Pantry. A donation box is at the church or they can be left just inside St. Leo's hall between 9am – 2pm or just outside the door.
4. Shop *smile.amazon.com* and select TUCC as your non-profit. A percentage is returned to the church!
5. Contact the Pastor, any Board chair or the Moderator to offer your ideas, time or talent. A vibrant church is built around the passions and talents of the congregation.

Meditation and Sunday Service in our Sanctuary

Our sanctuary is open daytimes for prayer or meditation. Hand sanitizer is provided by the door. Homemade masks are available for you to wear and take for added protection during COVID19.

The Zoom link for Sunday services

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84947299698?pwd=MFBKeEN0MDVnVG15Ujl2czhUVVZxZz09>

Meeting ID: 849 4729 9698

YouTube service: Please watch your emails, our website and TUCC Facebook for the update.

TUCC INDOOR WORSHIP GUIDELINES are on our bulletin board and website tullychurch.org.

***Remember: Wash your hands. Wear your mask in public. Stay home if you are ill.**