



TUCC's 50th Anniversary

This year, 2021, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the merger of the Baptist and Methodist Churches to form Tully United Community Church. The Church Council has been discussing some possibilities for celebrating the occasion, but is looking for thoughts and ideas from the congregation. Currently, plans are focused on the late summer or early fall. Please feel free to discuss any suggestions with council members or send to the church email.

Sunday School at TUCC

Pam Downey serves as our Sunday School Superintendent and organizes weekly lessons for any children that attend.

The current set of lessons is called “WHY KNOWING THE BOOKS IS IMPORTANT.” The focus is moving beyond knowing the books of the Bible, to “knowing what’s in the books!” The children are led to understand that the Bible is a story that God tells for us and not just random writings from random people! From studying the most beautiful and meaningful story ever written to appreciating God’s historic story, our children will come to appreciate how long and hard God has stuck with mankind – and He will stick with them too.

Children participate in the opening part of the church service and then leave for the lesson and other fun. Feel free to invite children you may know to join us weekly.

TUCC Facebook Page

The TUCC Facebook page offers encouragement, humor, and timely church information. If you haven’t already, visit the page and like it. If you read it daily, please share with your friends to help spread our message of love and faith. If there are messages you would like to share send to the church email. Some of the recent messages have reached over 800 people.

Church Calendar of Events

The Church Council has developed a church calendar of events that will be available on-line. The calendar will be stored on the church website under the tab labeled events. Should you want to add activities to the calendar, please email name of the event, place, time and contact person to Ann Sedore at ann@sedore.com.

New Zoom Link

There is a new Zoom link for Sunday Morning Worship. This is the new link we must use going forward. The old link will not work.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87556610214?pwd=WE9kMnhaK2lSS3dFSk51WTI4MlVlQz09>

Meeting ID: 875 5661 0214

Pastoral Search Committee Update

At the Annual Meeting in September, the congregation voted on two amendments.

First vote was on the amended motion. *"Rev. Rick Reed be given first consideration in the Search Committee's process.* The motion passed 47-2

Second vote was on the amended motion *"Form a Search Committee to use American Baptist resources to find a candidate to present to the congregation to be our settled pastor and that Reverend Rick Reed be given first consideration.* The motion passed 42-10

Throughout October, the Church Council selected 7 people to be on the Search Committee: Janet Hillenbrand, Jan Kublick, Mark Guttendorf, Peter Huntington, Hugh Reed, Kathleen Randall and Laura Rankin. We also have Rev. Leon Oakes-Lee as our counselor from the ABC.

Our first meeting was on Nov. 15 where Ann Sedore gave us the documents and outline we would need for our journey. She gave us a goal date, the end of the first quarter. (March 31) We met weekly on Zoom right up until Dec. 22 and resumed again on Jan. 6th.

Our mission was pretty simple...prepare a job proposal for Rick Reed. Many of us were true optimists and were hoping to get this package together, put a bow on it and offer it to Rick just before Christmas. But, we realized that this process had to be done properly, not quickly. We must follow the guidelines of our Church Constitution and the ABC. One resource that Leon gave us was a guide titled, "Calling a Settled Pastor." That guide was 120 pages. We also found that we had to work hand-in-hand with the Personnel Relations Board and the Church Council. It was also important to put together a job offer that was well thought out and appealing. If this was a job that we put in the Want Ads of the newspaper, would a candidate circle it?

We needed to put together a package which includes three facets.

A Church Profile, a Compensation Package and Pastoral Position Description.

- The Church Profile is a serious look at who we are as a church. What we stand for, our history, what worked in the past, what is not working and where we want to be in the future. That could have been a time-consuming process in itself but we were lucky that the Transition Team had done most of the work on that matter last year.
- The Compensation Package went together rather smoothly and we have sent it on to the PRB for approval. There will be items to be ironed out but that would include Rick's input.

- The Pastoral Position Description came from the PRB. We did have some concerns about it because it seemed a little too task oriented. It had been modified for a pastor who was new to the position and not necessary for someone who has 40 years of experience. With Bob Cooper’s guidance, the PRB made the changes and quickly got the document back to us over the Christmas break. We approved the pastoral description and the Church Profile and sent them on to the Church Council.

Our final step includes a “soft interview” with Rick to see if there are any more questions and to see if Rick has questions. We did invite Rick to one of our earlier Zoom meetings. We asked him questions and he shared his thoughts about the Church Profile and the Pastoral Position Description. When you think of it, Rick has been interviewing for almost 3 years! Then, you, the congregation have a task to complete. The Search Committee can only present a candidate. The congregation still has to vote.

During this time of Epiphany, I am seeing many analogies to this Time of Light. The Search Committee, well, we are the Wise men/women. We see the star; we know where the star is. We just need to follow the process to get to the star. That means we need to take the proper path. The story has it that the Wise Men did not arrive in Bethlehem almost 2 years later. Of course, it won’t take us that long. We are not lost in the desert. We are confident that we will have our job done by the end of the first quarter.

When you travel in the desert, you need to use a camel and not a Corvette. We will get to our destination.

Any questions, please ask me or anyone on the Search Committee.

Laura Rankin
315-696-5327
Lwr13020@gmail.com

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS:

Jan. 7th – Scott Frost, Jan. 10th Cassie Berg, Jan. 20th – Mark Guttendorf



ANNIVERSARIES:

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 Feb 2nd. **Our next mini Stepping-Stone will be posted Feb 3rd.**

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

Prayer and Praise

Prayer Requests:

Bill Wright is at home recuperating. Delancy Wayne Sr., Del Wane's father needs our prayers as he approaches the end of life's journey. Marie Kemp's friend, Maria, her cancer returned and needs our prayers. From Terri Krom, friends in Tucson, Chris and Tim are in the hospital with COVID. Amy Christopherson and family, Han Christopherson passed away unexpectedly yesterday, Jan 17th.



Continue prayers for:

Laura Zobel -Pray for our country as our new administration comes in. Bill Hasenjager, close friend of Lorraine Balmer and Linda Cottrell.

Lets also remember to keep in our prayers the following individual's who we hope they are all getting better and staying healthy: Mary Thompson, Bill Wright, Friends of Richard Reed's Randy, Jenny, Penny, and Rich; Karie Cottrell, Dawn Cox's daughter Carly and boyfriend Jon, and Hugh Reed's mother- in- law, Barbara Stanley, Liz Spaulding, Wendy Dale's Aunt Claudia, Kay and Jim Butkus' daughter Pam Falge, Brenda Millis, Pamela Poulin, Jolie Spaulding. Janet Hillenbrand's brother, Betty Ketchum, Cheryl Haskins' nephew Eric, Sharon French, Don Bickelhaupt and Edie Cook.

Joys shared

Janet Hillenbrand is thankful that level 1B of vaccines will be available soon. Ann Sedore's grandson, Alexander, just finished his MBA and received multiple awards. Rob, Stacey McCreas, son just started his new job on Wednesday at Valvoline in Liverpool.



Congratulations!!!!

Jolene Cook was married on January 17, 2021. She is now Jolene LaFrance

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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87556610214?pwd=WE9kMnhaK2lSS3dFSk51WTI4MlVlQz09>

Meeting ID: 875 5661 0214

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.**