THE mini STEPPING-STONE November, 25, 2020 Issue



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Moderator Message

The challenges of 2020 might be tarnishing a bit of our thankfulness this year. I found these facts on a Christian website and found them quite humbling. "If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75 percent of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet or spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8 percent of the world's wealthiest people. If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week. If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death, you are more blessed than 3 billion people in the world. If you can read this, you are more blessed than over 2 billion people of the world that cannot read at all."

So, I encourage you to feel blessed, be thankful and sing praises.

Psalm 95:1&2

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

Message from the Church Council

TUCC congregation:

As you are aware the incidence and prevalence of COVID 19 has been rising significantly in the region and State authorities have been taking steps to slow the spread. The Church Council met Sunday to discuss this situation and to determine whether additional steps were necessary for our church.

During our discussions we acknowledged that as we move into Advent season, in-person worship is a vital part of the faith life for many in the congregation. We reaffirmed our commitment to working together to offer a safe and sacred place to celebrate the birth of Christ as long as feasible.

At present, the Church will continue with in-person services with Zoom connections for those who prefer. Based on the evolving situation, the following actions will be taken.

- If the state moves Tully area into the yellow or orange zone, the church will follow any new safety strategies dictated.
- If a member of the church who attended an in-person service is diagnosed with COVID 19, services will be moved to Zoom only during a 14 day quarantine.
- If the state moves Tully area into the red zone, the church will suspend in-person services.
- Should other concerns arise, Church Council will evaluate risks and take action immediately.

At this time, the Church Council requests that members continue wearing masks, social distancing, and using hand sanitizer before entering the service. Members who are vulnerable to COVID 19 infections are encouraged to carefully evaluate in-person attendance. Individuals experiencing any symptoms of illness are asked to use Zoom only.

The Trustees will continue efforts to add filtration and ultraviolet lighting to HVAC. In addition, there will be efforts to increase fresh air circulation during services.

The Deacons and Rev. Reed will redesign Christmas activities to minimize risk to the congregation in attendance.

Should you have particular concerns or recommendations, please contact any Church Council member or call the Church office.

Other topics: Church Clerk Needed

The Church Clerk role remains vacant. Please consider joining the church leadership team. The Church Council will ensure adequate orientation and support.

The Church Clerk acts as secretary to the meetings of the Church Council and to the Annual and Special Meetings of the Church. She or he maintains records of the proceedings of these meetings which are available for inspection by Church Members and serve as the historical records of church business and actions. The Church Clerk works with the Board of Mission and Outreach and the Church Council to ensure the maintenance of the official "Church Membership Roll."

The Clerk attends the meetings outlined above and spends time generating the minutes and ensuring proper organization and storage.

If you have questions, please contact Ann Sedore.

Mission and Outreach

Information from PEACE, the **TUCC Angels for Tully Community Christmas Basket Program** have arrived. There are 28 angels. **Please return wrapped gifts by December 13th**. Pick up will be December 14th.

If anyone has toys to donate you can take them to the PEACE office. Any monetary contributions can also go directly to that office.

We had many boxes of cleaning and personal products that are delivered to us regularly. We gave some to the youth for their project with the Rescue Mission. PEACE came for the rest of them and will distribute the items to those who have a need for them.

Lorraine Balmer

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS:

Nov. 14th – Kay Butkus; Nov. 19th Len Foster; Nov. 20th -Julie Burgett, Ed Hillenbrand, Marissa Scalza, and Sharon French; Nov. 25th – Eve Carlton; Nov. 26th Mike Gates, Dawn Cox,





Linda Cottrell

Nov. 27th – Nancy Chawgo, Sallly Greene

ANNIVERSARIES:

Nov. 22nd – Paul & Eleanor Burt

Announcement for the Youth Group

The youth group is collecting for their Holiday Project, **2020 Rescue Mission**. Their collection box is located in the Narthex

These **items** are **needed** for Syracuse

- Batteries (AA or AAA)
- Combs and Brushes
- Conditioner
- Deodorant
- · Hand or body lotion
- Lip Balm
- Nail clippers sets
- Shampoo
- Shaving cream
- Soap (bar), body wash
- Toothbrush and holder
- Toothpaste
- Wrapping paper, bows, tissue paper, tape and gift bags are gladly accepted.

Please deliver items by December 11th.

Leftover Vacation Bible Camp craft and wood materials have been brought into the Fellowship Room from the shed. Please help yourself and take home any pieces for family projects



LOOKING AHEAD......

Prayer Shawl is the second and fourth Monday each month at 7p.m. Bell Choir meets each Wednesday at 6:30p.m.

Thanksgiving is November 26th



Prayer and Praise

Prayer Requests

Pamala Poulin and her family, Lutz Mayers passed away this week. Pam is also having surgery this week. David Franke shared, Dorothy Nichols Franke died this week of covid. She was in a nursing home in Arkansas. He requests prayers for his siblings, Sara Franke Bowling, Leah Franke, Daniel Franke, and his mother's ten grandchildren. We pray for Jolie Spaulding who would have been in the confirmation class. She is really struggling. For the family of David White, he died this past week. Janet Hillenbrand has asked for prayers for her brother who is newly diagnosed with cancer. Prayers for Annalee Santelli who is in ICU. Her grandfather is Jim Gambell. Prayers for the family of Thom Edinger who has died. Richard Huyge is thankful for financial security and prays for those who are not.

Continued prayers for:

The Wimmersburger family members who were so sick. They are improving. Ruth Cooper is recovering from wrist surgery. Cheryl Haskins' nephew Eric, Mary Thompson, Sharon French, Don Bickelhaupt and Edie Cook we pray they are getting better and staying healthy. The Millis' family asks for prayers for their daughter Brenda who has some health problems. For the Hobart Family after the loss of John and his girlfriend.

Joys shared

It is a joy to congratulate those confirmed on Sunday, November 22nd, Maya Huyge, Aidan and Amberle Brown. And to welcome new members of TUCC, Tamara, Richard and Maya Huyge and Aidan and Amberle Brown.

We are thankful for Del Wayne and his calling to teach the confirmation class.

Lorraine Balmer is thankful that her sister Linda is doing well. Janet Hillenbrand shared that her daughter is now cancer free. Ed Hillenbrand shared the joy of modern technology. Which made it possible for 23 people to ZOOM in on the baby shower for Bennett and Cori. They are expecting in January. Rick Reed expressed joy in the blessing of Adaptability in these COVID times. Cheryl Haskins shared that Eric is in rehab and may go home soon. Ed Hillenbrand is thankful to be 85 and able to enjoy activities like going hunting with his son. Peter Huntington also 85, is thankful for health and his children and grandchildren. Blessings to all of you for this Thanksgiving

Dear Church Community,

Lutz Mayer passed away peacefully in his sleep this past Wednesday, November 19th, just shy of his 86th birthday.

Son David and I had been by his side the previous couple days, easing his journey with love, gratitude, songs sung, memories and prayers shared, and lots of classical music. Even when beyond tired, Lutz would hum along and conduct to the joyful notes.

A kind Rabbi came by with lovely psalms and comfort for all three of us. And he was pleased to learn of Dad's lineage from Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch. The rabbi noted that he would include some of Hirsch's teachings in his next sermon, in honor. Although Jewish, he loved coming to TUCC church services, especially the Lord's Prayer, music and Rick's sermons.

Some of you may not know that Lutz, parents and sister made it out of Nazi Germany just in time in 1938 and were taken in to the United States, settling in Wimington, Delaware where his mother's three brothers had lived since the 1920s.

We are planning a Celebration of Lutz's Life for Sunday, December 6, via Zoom. It will open at 1:45 pm EST with photos and some of the master composer's own work. We will also include time for family and friends to share fond and funny memories. Zoom information will be posted on Hartwell Funeral Home's Memories section. Feel free to add yours. Memorials in his honor may be made to Save the Children.

Thank you for your love and support.

Sincerely,

Pamela Poulin

Card Shower for Eric Haskins

Cheryl Haskins shared with us several weeks ago that her nephew was involved in a terrible motorcycle accident in Florida. Initially not expected to live, he has received wonderful medical care and lots of prayers and will be going home soon. We think it would be a wonderful and unexpected surprise to send him a card shower of well wishes as he continues his recovery and adjustment.

Please send cards to: Eric Haskins

Apt 320

2738 Roosevelt Blvd Clearwater, FL 33760

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; pay through electronic bill pay 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. 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!

Board members and officers needed!! Can you support the church with your time and talents? Our church works best when everyone takes a task. Please join a Board (Christian Education, Deacons, Mission and Outreach, Personnel Relations, Stewards, or Trustees) or serve as an officer. Call Bernice 607.423.8760 and volunteer; thank you for pitching in!

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 <u>and take</u> 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.