



### Moderator Message

The Christmas season has special meaning this year, reminding Christians of just how blessed we are despite the fear and chaos surrounding us. Celebrating the birth of Jesus and the love of family and friends focuses our attention on what is really important.

This holiday season, I invite you to share your love and blessings.

Take a moment to send a message of thanks or encouragement to fellow church members. There are so many folks in our congregation who use their time and talents to bless others. Forget needing addresses and postage, use the Christmas drop box in the narthex for notes and cards. Just a name on the envelop and church elves will make the delivery.

Use your email and Facebook to share the daily devotionals and Church Facebook postings with your friends and family. We will be adding information about Zoom services and YouTube sermon videos to postings so that those needing holiday joy can join us. Some of our shared Facebook postings have reached over 600 people.

Plan to give to our special Christmas Eve offering. The Board of Mission and Outreach will work with local organizations to use these gifts to meet pressing community needs. Donations may be given using the PayPal link on the church website and writing Christmas Eve offering in the note section.

Finally, pray for God's blessing on our church, our community, and our nation and its leaders.

God promises that you and your family will be blessed as you share your love and joy with others during this holiday season.

Ann

### A Note from the Board of Stewards

Together, the giving of contributions is key to the strength of our church; however, we can all help TUCC in many ways. The giving of our time and talents is a morale booster for not only ourselves, but our church. We read in First Peter 4:10, *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."*

There are many ways members currently give of their time and talent which promote community service and impact community involvement. Talents can also help to reduce expenses; which, in turn, helps our financial picture. Anytime we can use our talents to prevent having to hire labor, or present ideas to reduce costs is a real plus. The giving of time can also be key, resulting in a positive effect on fulfilling our mission with what we have.

Stewardship: the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving. Together, let us explore ways to impact our well-being. To be good Stewards, we want to take care of ourselves so we can foster our mission to serve others. Let's practice strengthening our "Stewardship muscles."

God's gift to us is the reason for the season, may you have a blessed and Merry Christmas!

### **From The Pastor**

I haven't been writing a regular letter for the Stepping Stone since the coronavirus hit because I am writing a (nearly) Daily Devotional and have wanted to put my energies into those. But as the year is coming to a close and another Christmas is nearly here, I felt it important to write just a brief note.

I have been so thankful and proud of the ways this congregation has been reaching out to one another and to our community in these tough and trying times. From Meal Trains, to card showers, to calls and visits, to free stuff in the parking lot; this is a church that has kept faith with the active, relevant ministry as a united church to which it was called almost 50 years ago.

That's right. Next year we will celebrate 50 years as the Tully United Community Church. Hopefully by the time we arrive at whatever date we set for that celebration, we will have had our Coronavirus vaccines and things will begin to look more like they used to.

For now, things continue to be different. It's difficult to keep going this way – not being able to sing in church, not able to visit relatives, having to wear masks and keep distant from each other. Yet as I said to someone the other day, better to abide by these hard standards now so that we are still around to enjoy next Christmas with our loved ones.

However and wherever you find yourself this Christmas, I wish you hope, peace, joy and love. I wish you health and safety. I wish you the grace of God, the Light of Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Merry Christmas!

Peace,

Pastor Rick+

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

#### **BIRTHDAYS:**

Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> – John Butkus

Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> – David Spaulding

#### **ANNIVERSARIES:**



## Mission and Outreach

TUCC Angels for Tully Community Christmas Basket Program is in progress.

**Please return wrapped gifts by Sunday, December 13th.**

**Pick up will be Monday, 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.

## 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 11<sup>th</sup>**

## ALTAR FLOWERS Request



Members to all of you who have signed up to bring in Altar Flowers in the past and present as always thank you. However, we still need Altar Flowers for 4 more Sundays in 2021. If you can bring flowers on **January 17, April 11, April 18, or August 29**, please contact Nancy Corey (315-420-5442) or Cindy at the church office. Thank you!



### LOOKING AHEAD.....

Prayer Shawl is the second and fourth Monday each month at 7p.m.

Bell Choir meets each Wednesday at 6:30p.m.

# December 21<sup>st</sup> 2020, The Christmas Star



**The Christmas Star is coming. The Christmas Star** will be the closest visible conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in 800 years. The conjunction of the planetary giants will look like one large **star** on the winter solstice, Dec. 21, 2020, in the southwest sky.

## Prayer and Praise



### Prayer Requests

Marcia (Hugh) Reed's mother, Barbara Stanley fell and broke her hip. She being cared for in their home. Bill Wright has pneumonia and is making slight improvements at home. Karen Prince- for her husband, Smiley who fell and injured his right arm. We ask for a quick recovery. Pam Poulin- cancer found in biopsy but seems to be contained so no spread is expected. For Jaci Colombo, her Mom, Maggie fell. No injuries but health concerns. She will turn 90 in January. Sally Greene is excited about Christmas cookies baked for fundraiser and for decorations in church, for work of deacons and teens and all those who make it happen.

### Continued prayers for:

Rick asked for continued prayers for families of Lutz Mayer and Robert Drum. Betty Ketchum, she will be undergoing radiation therapy. We pray for Jolie Spaulding. Janet Hillenbrand's brother. Prayers for Sue and Bill Wright, Annalee Santelli, 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.

### Joys shared

Bill Wright is grateful for the wonderful care he received at Guthrie! David Franke wanted to let everyone know that Jacqueline and he were very thankful for the cards and condolences they received upon the passing of his mother. It has been such a help to know so many people care. Lorraine Balmer shared the joy that her sister, Linda Cottrell expressed by receiving over 100 birthday cards. Pam Poulin expressed thanks for the outpouring of love and concern. She feels blessed to have received a prayer shawl. Cheryl Haskins nephew Eric is home to continue rehab. He is doing well and has a positive attitude. He was thankful for cards and prayers. Hollis Rotella expressed joy for the beautiful Christmas lights at our Cornerstone park



**Dear Members we have received a few Christmas Cards and we would like to share them with all of our members of the Tully United Community Church**

**From:**



**Diane in Northern Ireland and Bangor Parish Church of Ireland**

This round card reminds me that there are Christians all round the world-we might be far away, but we worship the same Lord. I just wanted to thank you for your hospitality at your services during lockdown and the inspiration in your sermons and daily devotions that John and Jackie Goddard still send to me. I wanted to make a small donation to your work in Tully. Every blessing to you all and your families.



**Susan Swayze, Treasurer, Tully Sr. Citizens**

The Tully Senior Citizens Group would like to extend a Merry Christmas to your church family. We hope this donation will help in these difficult times.



**Sharnyl, Jeff, Madi and Lane Tiderencel**

Just wanted to write and say a huge thank you to everyone at the church for Ken's service. A special Thank you to Pastor Rick for the heart felt service. Kim for singing and tech support, Janet and the other church ladies for their help and delicious food. Everything was delicious! Everyone's time and efforts were very much appreciated. I know Ken would have loved it all. It was all another example of why he and my mom love TUCC. They've been so blessed over the years with your friendship, fellowship and prayers. A family member sent me some cash and I wanted to pass it along to TUCC. Thank you again for everything God Bless--

## **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 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](http://tullychurch.org).**

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