

THE STEPPING-STONE



February, 2020 Issue

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Phone: 315-696-8066

FROM THE PASTOR

At our recent Transition Team Congregational Workshop, we were asked to list the assets of our congregation. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see a list of the many and varied assets that have been bestowed upon this faith community. And hopefully, you will think of more and share your ideas with our church leadership. It was later brought to my attention that no one wrote "God" as an asset. Now, I imagine that God as an asset is assumed and that's likely why no one wrote it down. And I am, of course, admitting that I didn't think to write down God as an asset. I guess we take for granted that God is an asset and we move along from there to list the other important and useful resources that we have available.

Let's not take God for granted. I'm not one who thinks that "God" and "Jesus" have to be in every answer. That's the stuff of Sunday School when we don't know an answer and think that either of those is the universal right answer to any question. Like water is the universal solvent or "mother spit" is the universal cleanser! Remember a few decades ago when "Jesus Is The Answer" was a popular slogan? A counter slogan then arose: "Yeah, but what's the question?"

That all goes to the heart of this whole exercise. God *IS* an important asset – the supreme asset – for our congregation's or any congregation's success. God is the answer. But what's the question? That's what the transition team is working on and bringing to the congregation to wrestle with. The assets that we listed, varied and numerous, show us that God has blessed us with all we need for ministry in this place. And our discussion of mission and ministry using these assets expresses the width and breadth and depth of what we might do for Christ and the Kingdom here in Tully and beyond.

Leon (The Rev. Leon Oaks-Lee) as our facilitator told us not to think of these assets as something that is expendable. We don't use an asset and it's spent and gone forever. God as the supreme asset assures us of this. The gifts and abilities, the resources and finances that God gives us are to be used and when used for ministry and mission, are not expendable, but renewable. Remember the Sunday School song: "Flowing over, flowing over, my cup is full and flowing over." And please remember this because I believe it is essential for our future as a congregation: If God gives us assets that we don't use for mission and ministry, then what would be the reason for God to renew those assets? This includes finances and people. If we need new people or more money just to continue to exist, that isn't doing ministry and there isn't reason for God to give more. Let us be wise in discerning what ministries God is calling us to pursue in the future. But also let us not shrink away from doing them, afraid that we will spend and use and not have anything left. The mission field is wide open to us. We move forward with confidence, God being our supreme asset for ministry in this place.

Peace,
Rick +

A TALE OF TWO JANUARY EVENTS

Early in January, the TUCC Leadership met at the Winter Huddle. Church Clerk, Karen Prince, has provided a summary of the morning meeting for this Stepping Stone. Yes, we looked at the statistical reports and had Board meetings, BUT we also looked at the ways we minister within our building walls and also outside the walls. We touch a lot of people through these ministries!

Equally important, just this past Sunday, January 26, the Transition Team and Facilitator Leon Oaks-Lee led a workshop. Over 50 members participated! The first task was to identify our “assets” (our strengths) and the second task was to propose ideas of ministry action. For both of these tasks there was brainstorming and dialogue and there was energy in the Fellowship Room! There were pieces of paper taped to every bare spot of wall and into the kitchen. The last task of the workshop was to indicate which ministry action you felt called to support. Attendees voted by moving to the wall space dedicated to an action.

Please see the following additions to this Stepping Stone with the Assets of our church and the suggestions for Ministry Action!

We hope you will spend some time reading and cogitating on the possibilities for TUCC! We bet even more ideas surfaced afterwards as each individual reflected upon the experience. All ideas are welcome! It’s important that we share ideas because it sparks creativity in each other. Jot your ideas down and leave them in the church office. When a handful of members are committed to a Ministry Action, that action will take flight and the rest of us can support its wings!

Bernice Potter-Masler, Moderator and Nancy Chawgo, Chair Transition Team



ASSETS (STRENGTHS) OF TUCC IDENTIFIED BY PARTICIPANTS

People: caring, welcoming, inclusive, generous, diverse, hardworking, great volunteers, maintenance skills, financial skills, many varied skills, great interim Pastor, decorators, lay leaders, supportive, concern for environment/stewardship of God’s earth, inviting, camaraderie, smiling, talented musicians – vocal and instrumental

Theology: many different professions of faith, wide religious backgrounds, prayer chain, counseling, Casowasco opportunity

Parking Lot: big, spacious, ample, flat

Church: accessible, flexible space, beautiful sanctuary, wonderful education wing, safe haven, large meeting/gathering rooms, nice bathrooms, well maintained, stained glass windows, open doors, BIG tent

Kitchen: big, dishes, licensed, great cooks

Parsonage: lovely

Scenery: beautiful (lakes, hills), lots of land space, meditation walk, seasons to enjoy

Area: walkable, traffic and runners go by, close to Town Hall, near 81, 20, 11, tourism in area, skiing, SU, drug store, parks and rec., fire department, bank, library, Rehab Center, Arts Center

Community Partnerships with: Cub and Boy Scouts, PEACE, Rotary, AA, Tully Arts Council, TAG, Farmers Market, High School sports, Memorial Day Parade, TAHS Community Day Parade, Red Cross Bloodmobile space, FISH, Afterschool, Hear2Learn, Crop Walk, Christmas at the Station, Food Pantry, Flood Buckets, Healthy Start, Brother’s Keeper Quilts, Sr. Citizens Lunch

TUCC Ministries: Adult Fellowship, Youth Group, Prayer Shawl, Hospitality group, Community dinners, Fisherman’s Net, blood pressure readings, Bike Ride, Backpacks, fabulous choral and bell choirs, bottle/can tabs collection, Christmas angels, workshop events, Lenten booklet

JAN. 26TH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - SUGGESTIONS FOR MINISTRY ACTION

Quarterly Dinners w/activity (Music)
Once a month non-traditional service
Advertise to Traveling People
Advertise to community
Christian Wellness Retreat
South Meadows or Meditation Garden Outdoor Worship
Revitalize VBC
Mothers Morning Out
Talent Show
Bible Study
Monthly (Spirituality Programs) - promote spirituality through music, games,
Music outreach to community, nursing homes, upload choir to Social Media
Music – our type
Christian Music Concert at church
Spring/Summer Concert – invite other churches
Transportation to church worship and activities - Church Bus
Welcome Wagon
Land – 5 extra acres for expansion or rental
Use kitchen
Senior Citizen Center - for gathering and/or additional meal
Internship to youth for participating in Music (or offer scholarship)
Use of Parsonage as Temporary Emergency shelter thru PEACE or Fisherman's Net
Use of Parsonage as refugee resettlement
Rent out Parsonage – if not needed for Pastor
Use space for programs: parenting, support of young families, singles, teach community classes, weddings,
instructional Arts & Crafts, offer educational programs
Rent Space in church

Additional Suggestions since workshop:

“Time Off” for parents (Sunday school for 1-10 yr. olds)
Race of the Churches – 5K (raise \$) – sponsored by area churches
“Walking with God” – exploring nature in CNY (begin and end at church)
Contemporary Christian Music once a month: “Jesus is just alright with me”
“Walk and Talk about Jesus, Just want to see his face”
Introduction to the Bible – History, Literature, Spirituality
Summer classes in writing Christian Literature (4 classes)
Faith Healing
Song Circles – Saturday Afternoons
Website Development
Oven Fresh Bread Sunday



CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS



HOW ARE WE DOING?

January 2020 attendance

January 5 – 67

January 12 – 61

January 19 – 49

January 26 – 75

BAPTISMS/CONFIRMATIONS: Please speak with Reverend Richard Reed about your interests as soon as possible

A service of **CHILDREN'S BAPTISM** can be held anytime during our Sunday morning worship services. Speak with Reverend Richard Reed or any Board member to set up a date for the baptism.

NEW MEMBERS can be welcomed into church membership anytime. See Reverend Richard Reed following worship, or call the church office, 696-8066.

BABY HAVEN NURSERY

The Baby Haven is available beginning at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings. If you have questions, see Pam Downey or call the church office at 315-696-8066.

2019 YEAR END FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial statements for 2019 were handed out following morning worship (or mailed to those that were not picked up) on January 26th. If you find an error or have any questions about your statement, contact Beth Lattimer, (696-5542) church financial secretary.



Holy Communion will be held Sunday, February 2, 2020 during our 9:30 a.m. worship service (Communion will be served in your seats and gluten free wafers will be provided.) Children will attend morning worship with their families and Sunday school classes will be held following the Children's moment.

JANUARY 11, 2020 HUDDLE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

How have we ministered to our community and to each other? We listed names of the many community organizations using our building as well as many activities in which TUCC is involved. We are a very active ministry!

Transition Team – Rev. Leon Oaks-Lee emphasized that decision-making requires values. Identifying our interest, passion and energy for our ministry is important. On Sunday, January 26th, there will be a light luncheon followed by a congregational workshop.

Lenten Booklet – Nancy Chawgo will prepare the 2020 Booklet.

Public Relations Team – Updates on expanding TUCC communications and requirements were explained.

Stewards

Approval for Life Touch to prepare pictorial directory
Lent/Easter informational postcard
Additional counter still needed
TUCC audit

Trustees

February 9th – Boy Scouts' Sunday
Portable microphone issue
Electronics housed in back room

PRB

Stability of financial situation
Fundraising
Review of Constitution

Christian Education

March 29th – Easter Egg Hunt
April 2nd – Craft workshop
Baby Haven attendant
VBC

Mission and Outreach

Cookbook success
March 22nd – One Great Hour of Sharing offering
April 26th – Chicken & biscuit dinner, benefit Fisherman's Net
May 10th – Blanket Sunday
Flood Buckets – Monetary contributions needed

Deacons

Review of Advent/Christmas services
Preparation for Lent/Easter season

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26, 2020

Soup Supper and Service begins at 6 p.m. A service will follow at 6:45 p.m. Lent Soup Suppers will be on **Thursdays at 6 p.m. beginning March 5th** during the season of Lent. Bell Choir will not practice on Feb. 26, 2020.

STEWARDS MESSAGE

At our recent Winter Huddle planning session, a list was created of organizations and events that TUCC sponsors or participates in: Cub & Boy Scouts, AA, Sr. Citizens, PEACE, Here2Learn, Tully Rotary, Tully Arts Council, Fisherman's Net, Blood Mobiles, Flood Buckets, Back to School Backpack Program, Prayer Shawls, Brother's Keepers Quilts, Food Pantry, St. Leo's Music Festival, Community Dinners, Community Parade, Crop Walk, Christmas at the Station, Tabs for Shriners, Christmas Angel Tree, Epiphany Choral Festival and others that we didn't think of that Saturday. Tully United Community Church is more than worship, **we are COMMUNITY!**

LILLIAN BIGSBY CIRCLE NEWS

Members of the Lillian Bigsby Circle Reminder: we do not meet January, February, or March.

SCOUT SUNDAY

Tully United Community Church is honored to be the Sponsor for Tully's active Scout program.



In honor of this cooperative endeavor, the members of Tully United invite

the scouts and their families to observe National Scout Sunday together. This church service will be held Sunday, Feb. 9 at 9:30 a.m. at Tully United Community Church on Meetinghouse Road followed by a coffee/cookie refreshment time. We hope you can provide an opening flag ceremony and present the Scout's Oath. If any Scouts are interested in participating by being ushers or doing a reading, please let the church office know. 315-696-8066. Pastor Rick Reed and all our members thank you for this participation.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP DINNER

On Sunday February 9th, Adult Fellowship will meet at TUCC at 5 p.m. and the pot luck dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass. In honor of Valentine's Day, bring your wedding

picture or baby picture for a contest to see who can guess the most.

Everyone is welcome and invited to come. Please sign-up in the Church Narthex (Welcome Center).

PRAYER SHAWL REMINDER

Prayer Shawl group meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month at 7 p.m. to work on prayer shawls/fellowship time. The completed prayer shawls are given to those in need of comfort during difficult times. If you have suggestions of a person to be recipient of a prayer shawl, please complete one of the request cards on the table in the narthex and turn it in to the office or give it to Sandra Burgett. We will do our best to honor as many of the requests as possible in a timely manner.



We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of Sue Sweetland who passed away on Dec. 23, 2019.

Our sincere condolences also go out to the family and friends of Art Payne, who passed away on Jan. 6, 2020.

Give Blood, Save a Life

+ The next community blood drive will be held at TUCC on Saturday, February 15th from 8:00 a.m. - NOON. See Sally Greene for more information. 1-800-RED CROSS Walk-ins are always welcome.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

The Board of Mission and Outreach is collecting items for Flood Buckets now. They are requesting monetary donations in order to purchase the appropriate items needed to fill the buckets.



YOUTH GROUP: As a fund raiser, the youth group will be selling sub-sandwiches on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020.



Youth Group meets every other week and is led by Del Wayne.

FISHERMAN'S NET REMINDER

The Fisherman's Net Program is a joint effort of TUCC, P.E.A.C.E. Inc. and the St. Leo's Outreach Program. If you have furniture or household items to donate, please contact the P.E.A.C.E. office at 696-8203 to arrange for the items to be dropped off (or picked up if needed). P.E.A.C.E. has a storage area in the three bay shed at the far end of the church parking lot. Monetary donations are also needed to help those in need. Checks should be made out to the church with **your offering # and Fisherman's Net written on the memo line.**

MEETING TIME FOR THE ROTARIANS

The Tully Rotary Group meets at the church on the 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. for breakfast and a program. Nancy Chawgo and her crew of volunteers continue to co-ordinate and provide the weekly breakfast. Work begins at 6:00 a.m. for breakfast that is served at 7:00 a.m.

February 6th – Ray & Sally Greene

February 20th – Sonja Shepherd & Lorraine Balmer

DEACONS

SUNDAY MORNING REFRESHMENT FELLOWSHIP AND COMMUNION

In February, Sharon Mariani and Kim Guttendorf are the refreshment fellowship providers and communion preparers. If you can provide cookies, etc., for refreshments, please sign up on the sheet located on the refreshment table on Sunday mornings. All monies collected help cover the cost of the coffee, refreshments, and supplies.



2020 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

A draft copy of the 2020 altar flower calendar is posted on the bulletin board in the church narthex. There are some dates available for anyone who is interested. If you have questions, please see Nancy Corey, (420-5442) or call the church office 696-8066. Thank you!

SHUT-INS FOR FEBRUARY

- February 2- Beverly LaForse
2 Bella Vista Drive
Ithaca, NY 14850
- February 9– Don & Joyce West
Walden Place
839 Bennie Rd.
Cortland, NY 13045
- February 16– George Cook
Jewish Home-Menorah Pk
4101 Genesee St.
Syracuse, NY 13214
- February 23 – Fran Fishlock
1786 Union Street, Apt 113
Niskayuna, NY 12309

We invite you to take a moment each week to send a holiday greeting card or note to those listed and to sign the card located at the welcome center on Sunday mornings. If you have a friend or family member that you would like included on the shut-in list, please get his/her name and mailing address to the church office (696-8066).

TABS, TABS AND MORE TABS

TUCC continues to collect big and small tabs from soda and juice cans for the Shriners' Hospitals in Boston to buy braces, time in physical therapy and other needed items. The money from these tabs also helps transport children in our area to Shriner's Hospital Boston, Springfield, Philadelphia, Canada and St. Louis. A large container for you to place tabs is located in the Riehlman Fellowship Room of the church. If you have questions or need more information about the tabs, contact Nancy Chawgo. Thank you.

RETURNABLE CANS AND BOTTLES

TUCC and Boy Scout Troop #62 continue to collect returnable cans and bottles (rinsed out, returnable aluminum cans and glass and plastic bottles) in the *Cans for Christ* bins in the east entrance way at the church. Proceeds are used to help cover expenses of camping trips that the scouts take throughout the year.

FOOD PANTRY REMINDER



Canned foods and non-perishable food items continue to be collected here at TUCC for the local food pantry on the first Sunday of the month (February 2nd), also communion Sunday. Also, food donations may be dropped off in the church office anytime. Especially needed are canned foods and non-perishable food items as well as paper products and toiletries. Baby foods and diapers (all sizes) also continue to be needed. The food pantry located at St. Leo's church hall is open one Wednesday a month from 1:00-2:00, or by appointment (696-8721)

SNOW SHOVELERS' SCHEDULE

2019-2020 winter season. Schedule:

MONDAYS – Ed Hillenbrand

TUESDAYS – Robert Kemp

WEDNESDAYS – Sam Colombo

THURSDAYS – Bob Thompson

FRIDAYS – Jim Butkus

SATURDAYS – Mel Moore

SUNDAYS – all above scheduled-in office

Alternates are: Len Foster

Jan Kublick

Brad Smith

Ray Greene



COMMUNITY NEWS

TULLY SENIOR CITIZENS' GROUP

The Tully Senior Citizens' Group will meet at the church Wednesday, February 12th at noon for the monthly dinner and program. All those 50 and over are welcome to become a member of the Tully Senior Citizens' Group. Yearly dues continue to be \$5.00 per person. Questions: See Esther Hoose, 315-317-1618.

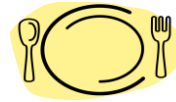
During the months of January, February, and March the second Wednesday of the month gatherings will be held at NOON at the church. If the Tully schools are closed due to inclement weather, then the meeting will also be canceled. Those attending are reminded to bring their own table service and a large dish to pass for the noon meal.

F.I.S.H. NEWS

The Tully and LaFayette F.I.S.H. Program (Friends in Service Here) is in need of drivers who can drive clients to medical and dental appointments. Volunteer

drivers are scheduled to drive once a month on either a Tuesday or Thursday. If you are able to help drive, please, contact Barb Kohberger at the P.E.A.C.E. office 696-8203.

Anyone living in the zip code area of 13159 or 13084 needing transportation to medical or dental appointments is asked to call the F.I.S.H. number 696-8659 or 696-8506 no later than three working days prior to the appointment.



P.E.A.C.E. HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

P.E.A.C.E. Inc. sponsors the senior citizens' hot lunch program that is held each week at TUCC on Tuesdays at noon. A donation of \$3.50 per meal is appreciated. (Those who bring guests: \$6.00.) Menus for the month are available at the luncheon.

All seniors 50 and up are welcome to attend the weekly lunches. If you have questions, call Velda Bumpus (683-5833). In order for enough food to be available each week, you need to let Velda know the week before if you plan to attend.

2-4-20 Sweet & Sour Shredded Pork over sesame rice, oriental blend veg., tropical fruit
2-11-20 Italian Meatballs & marinara over spaghetti, Ital. green beans, diced pineapple & Ital. bread
2-18-20 Golden battered Cod filet, red skin potato wedge, 4-way mix veg., vanilla ice cream
2-25-20 Tuna salad on whole wheat Kaiser w/ lettuce & tomato, French onion, trop. fruit.

FOOD GIVEAWAY AT ST. LEO'S CHURCH HALL

In addition to the local food pantry, St. Leo's Church hosts a FREE food giveaway through Wegman's that is held the first Tuesday of each month (February 4th) at 3:00 p.m. A variety of surplus food items are available each month for EVERYONE in the local community. If you have questions, call 696-8721 for more details.

FOOD \$EN\$E REMINDER

The Food \$en\$e Program continues to be held at St. Leo's Church. Food \$en\$e of Tully also covers LaFayette, Fabius, Otisco and Preble. For more information about the cost (\$20.50) of the program and how to participate, please call St. Leo's Hall at 696-8721. Payment can only be made by cash or food stamps (no checks). You may go to www.stleostully.org for more details about this program.

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH
5872 MEETINGHOUSE ROAD
TULLY, NY 13159**

**THE STEPPING-STONE
FEBRUARY 2020**

**Rev. Richard G. Reed, Interim Pastor
Bernice Potter Masler, Moderator
Dawn Cox – Church Secretary**

315-696-8066 tullyunitedcc@gmail.com Website-tullychurch.org

Non-Profit Organization

ABOUT OUR CHURCH The Tully United Community Church has both United Methodist and American Baptist affiliation.

OUR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE is held each week at **9:30 a.m.** All are invited afterwards, 10:30 a.m. for coffee, snacks and fellowship in the Reihlman Room.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Classes are held during morning worship. Children are dismissed for classes following the Children’s Moment.

HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated during our 9:30 a.m. worship service Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020 in seats and gluten free wafers are available.

Tully United, Tully United Community Church’s Burbio Calendar

Feb 2020 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 3rd Sunday after 9:30am - Isa 9: Ps 27:1; 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Refreshment 11am - Transition Team	27 12pm - AA Meeting 7pm - Prayer Shawl	28 12pm - AA Meeting 12pm - PEACE Senior	29 12pm - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Senior Choir	30 12pm - AA Meeting	31 11am - AA Annual 12pm - AA Meeting	1 12pm - AA
2 4th Sunday after Green 9:30am - Mic 6:1-8; Ps 9:30am - Worship- 10:30am - Refreshment	3 12pm - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Boards Meet 8pm - Council Meeting	4 10:30am - Hear 2 Learn 12pm - AA Meeting 12pm - PEACE Senior	5 12pm - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Senior Choir	6 7am - Tully Rotary 12pm - AA Meeting	7 11am - AA Annual 12pm - AA Meeting	8 12pm - AA
9 5th Sunday after Green 9:30am - Isa 58:1-9a; 9:30am - Scout Sunday 10:30am - Refreshment	10 12pm - AA Meeting 7pm - Prayer Shawl	11 10:30am - Hear 2 Learn 12pm - AA Meeting 12pm - PEACE Senior 5:30pm - Scout's Blue	12 12pm - AA Meeting 12pm - Sr. Citizens' 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Senior Choir	13 12pm - AA Meeting	14 12pm - AA Meeting	15 8am - RedCross Blood 12pm - AA
16 6th Sunday after Green 9:30am - Deut 30:15- 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Refreshment	17 12pm - AA Meeting	18 10:30am - Hear 2 Learn 12pm - AA Meeting 12pm - PEACE Senior	19 12pm - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Senior Choir	20 7am - Tully Rotary 12pm - AA Meeting	21 12pm - AA Meeting	22 12pm - AA
23 Transfiguration White or Gold 9:30am - Exod 24:12- 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Refreshment	24 12pm - AA Meeting 7pm - Prayer Shawl	25 10:30am - Hear 2 Learn 12pm - AA Meeting 12pm - PEACE Senior	26 12pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Ash Wed.Soup 6:30pm - No Bell Choir 6:45pm - Worship 7:30pm - Senior Choir	27 12pm - AA Meeting	28 12pm - AA Meeting	29 12pm - AA

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – March ISSUE: February 23, 2020