

THE STEPPING-STONE February 9, 2022 Issue



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FROM THE PASTOR

“We should get a church cat!” That was one suggestion after discovering that mice have been getting into the church – again. During the height of the pandemic, when we weren’t using the building much at all, they moved in, in droves it seems, and it took a while to find all their feeding and hiding places and clean them up. And you know what mice do wherever they go! Those little black “sesame seeds” were EVERYWHERE!

Then the Trustees and Sr. Luncheon Kitchen Crew just recently did a major clean up of the pantry in the church kitchen. It looked wonderful! We freed up some shelf space to store food stuffs. The mice hadn’t been seen. It was so encouraging to go into that pantry. And then – they struck again – this time helping themselves to little bags of potato chips and leaving behind their little black calling cards. ARRRGH!!!

There is a phrase we sometimes use: “As quiet as a church mouse.” It’s possible this comes from the fact that when a predator is on the prowl, such as a cat, mice tend to be as still and quiet as possible. There is a similar expression: “poor as a church mouse” referencing the lack of crumbs or other leavings within the church or the adjoining clergyman’s abode, due to the strict economies practiced therein. Well, these might be quiet church mice, but they weren’t poor – they found plenty to eat!

I use the past tense; they *weren’t*. Thank you, Janet, for your diligence in ridding us of the current mouse plague! (If the current world-wide plague were only so easy) Clean up, mouse traps, and new bins to put food stuffs in - hopefully that will solve the problem. And thankfully they are here instead of the parsonage (Baptist me crossed myself as I typed that – a little added protection perhaps!)

All God’s creatures have to find food and shelter; especially when it is frigid and snowing outside! We offer our building as a sanctuary for people. Sorry to say, we can’t do the same for mice. During our recent Huddle, we enumerated the ways that we have ministered to our congregation and to the community, and improved our building. Both bells outside now peal twice daily, the chimes on the organ sounded beautiful during Christmas, new lighting fixtures just recently installed inside and outside will save us hundreds on our building electric bill, an Adult Bible/Book Study during Advent was well attended and well received, a Children’s Message and Bulletin is now a regular part of each Sunday service, the Sr. Luncheon program is growing, and the list goes on. There should be no doubt that this congregation is moving forward in the direction of deepening personal spiritual growth and expanding community service. We are faithful to God’s call to ministry and mission; providing food for body and soul under the shelter of God’s wings.

“Work hard and cheerfully at all you do, just as though you were working for the Lord and not merely for your masters, remembering that it is the Lord Christ who is going to pay you, giving you your full portion of all he owns. He is the one you are really working for.” Colossians 3:23-24 Living Bible

Shalom and stay warm!

Pastor Rick +

From the Moderator

Huddle Accomplishment Review

During Spring Huddle, the Pastor, Board members and Church Officers reviewed the church activities of the last five months. The list of accomplishments was quite impressive and demonstrated again how blessed, creative, and energized the Tucc congregation is. We thought everyone would want to review the list and join us in celebrating our work and thanking God for His unending support.

Creating Beautiful and Meaningful Worship

- Created Beautiful Christmas as Usual

- Baptistry beautified with Changing Seasons

- Children’s Moment Reinstated with Music and Interactive Activities

- Dramatic Interactive Components Added to Services (one example: Christmas intergenerational Nativity)

Strengthening Welcoming and Communication

- Updated Usher Guidelines and Recruited New Ushers

- Streamlined Attendance Tracking

- Refined Use of Zoom

- Increased Use of Direct Emails to Members

Improving Our Facilities

- Worked with National Grid to Upgrade Lightening

- Recertified Kitchen for Public Use

- Reorganized Space to House Historical Records

- Coordinated Repair of Organ Chimes and Bell Tower

Expanding Programs Offered by Tully United for the Arts

- Offered:

- Piano and Flute Concert

- Five Alive Concert

- Winter Solstice with Saxophones and Marimba

Blessing Our Local and Worldwide Communities

- Continued Donations of Blankets, Food, Diapers, Blood, School Supplies, Christmas Angel Tree, Prayer Shawls, and Sleeping Bags

- Continued Support of Fishermen’s Net

Sponsored 50th Anniversary Community Dinner and Sundae Bar
Organized 40 Hygiene Kits for Disaster Victims
Donated to Haitian Special Needs Fund
Collected Christmas Eve donations for Heifer International
 2 goats, 1 sheep, and 20 flocks of 20 chickens
Reinstated Senior Luncheons
Attended King's Corner Market
Participated in Community Days (Game Booth and Food Concession)
Joined Ride and Run for the Rescue
Offered Candy and Fun at Trunk or Treat (Over 400 Children Plus Family Attended)
Hosted TAG sale and Christmas at the Station
Provided Hospitality for several funerals

Other Blessings

Contributed articles about TUCC to the Tully News
Offered Adult Christian Education Class (The Journey)
Conducted a Successful Capital Campaign for Bell Tower Repair
Raised Funds from a Successful Chicken BBQ
Received A \$2000 Grant for Senior Luncheons
Made Significant Progress on Structuring Policies, Procedures and Plans

We also recognized during our review that we need to plan earlier, communicate with the congregation and the community more effectively, and continue to expand the ways we serve people and serve God.

Ann Sedore

The Lenten Season at TUCC

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 marks the beginning of the Lenten season. Lent is a period of 40 days during which Christians remember the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus Christ.

Lent is not mentioned in the Bible, but many connect it with Jesus' 40-day stay in the wilderness. Mark tells us that during this time, Jesus was tempted by Satan. Matthew and Luke provide details about the kinds of temptations Jesus faced.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday with the symbolic gesture of ashes on foreheads. Ashes are a graphic reminder of our sinfulness, an outward sign of inward repentance and mourning as we become aware of our sin.

During the days following Ash Wednesday, Christians set aside time for reflection on Jesus —to consider his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial, and resurrection. Many embrace self-sacrifice, self-discipline, and penitence.

Lent ends on Mandy Thursday with the commemoration of the Last Supper.

TUCC offers several activities to bless our congregation during Lent. A devotional booklet for the season, organized by Nancy Chawgo, will be available by February 27th. Pastor Rick will be offering a Lenten Adult Bible Study and the Church Boards will be coordinating weekly Lenten Soup Suppers.

If you want additional suggestions for preparing your heart during this season, many on-line resources are available. One with many novel ideas is: Preparing Your Heart for Lent: 6 Things You Can Do Today to Grow Your Faith Over the Next 40 Days. <https://creativehomekeeper.com/preparing-your-heart-for-lent/>

At the end of the 40 days of preparation, we will welcome Easter - the joyful celebration of the gift God gave us through the death, burial, and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ.

Submitted by Ann Sedore

**Tully United Community Church
Lenten Soup Supper Dates, Sponsors and Topics
2022
Focused on Spiritual, Emotional and Physical Health**

Theme Verse: "I pray that God, who gives peace, will make you completely holy. And may your spirit, soul, and body be kept healthy and faultless until our Lord Jesus Christ returns. The one who chose you can be trusted, and he will do this." I Thessalonians 5:23-24

Date	Sponsor	Topic
March 2, 2022	Deacons	Ash Wednesday Service
March 10, 2022	PRB	Physical Health – Focus on Exercise
March 17, 2022	Board of Mission and Outreach	Holistic Medicine
March 24, 2022	Trustees	TBD
March 31, 2022	Board of Christian Ed	Positivity
April 7, 2022	Stewards	Local Action on Climate Change
April 14, 2022	Deacons	Maundy Thursday Service

Submitted by Ann Sedore

From the Financial Secretary

IRS 2021 Contribution Statements have been mailed. If you have not received your 2021 contribution statement, please contact Mel Moore (Financial Secretary). Mel can be reached by email mlacny@gmail.com or by sending a text to **315-247-6000**.

Lenten Articles

Do you have an inspirational favorite? It's time to start compiling writings for the 2022 Lenten Devotional booklet. Please drop off any inspirational material you might like included to the office or send via e-mail. All are welcome; short, long (200 words), serious or light.

Curbside Pickup for Tuesday Senior Lunch 11:30 am – 12:30 pm for February 2022
Or call the church at 315-696-8066 to arrange delivery

This month's menu is:

February 15th – Happy (Day After) Valentine's Day
Homemade PA Dutch Style Chicken Potpie Soup, Roll, Chips, Cookie

February 22nd – Happy Birthday, Geo Washington!
Tuna Pasta Salad, Chips, Cherry Dessert

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS:

Feb. 11th - Dewey Northrup, Sherry Moore, Feb. 12th – Steven Cook, Feb. 13th – Samantha Kemp, Feb. 14th – John Burgett, Feb 17th – Norma Richards, Rusty Spaulding, Feb 18th – Art Berg, Feb 19th – Liz Spaulding, Tony George, Feb. 20th – Adam Kemp, Feb 21st – Lou Hoagland, Sue Bickelhaupt, Feb. 23rd – Nancy Hatch, Feb. 24th – Jim Millis, Feb. 27th - Barb Berg.

Mar. 3rd – Tirzah Smith, Mar. 5th – Austin Krom, Mar. 6th – Robert (Bob) Kemp, Mar. 7th – Carol Rutherford

ANNIVERSARIES:

Feb. 16th – Peter & Mary Huntington; Mar. 3rd – Richard & Tamara Huyge



<u>CHURCH ATTENDANCE</u>	Total
Sunday, January 16	42
Sunday, January 23	55
Sunday, January 30	53
Sunday, February 6	53

CONTRIBUTIONS (Sunday Offering and Loose Offering) for Sunday

	Total
Sunday, January 16	\$1,116.00
Sunday, January 23	\$562.00
Sunday, January 30	\$1,532.00
Sunday, February 6	\$1,786.00

Prayer and Praise

Prayer Requests:

Roxann Exposito- for a bone marrow transplant end of March and currently undergoing chemo now, Pam Falge is doing well. Her cancer meds are being reduced accordingly. Beth Ann Smith is battling vertigo.



Sympathy & prayers for the family of Marilyn (Amidon) Brown, Sympathy & prayers to the family of Gary Warner, cousin to Jim Millis, Sympathy & prayers to the family of Fran Fishlock . Pamela Poulin requests prayers for her first cousin, Brian Poulin

Continue prayers for:

Paul Kanar, The family of Florence Hochreiter, Nancy Lajoie, Mimi Cornue, , Pamela Poulin and her family, Beth Lattimer, Mary Thompson, Linda Cottrell, Ed Hillenbrand, Leslie (Cornue) Sanderson, Betty Brady, Jocqueline Franke’s mom.

Joys Shared:

Upcoming TLC Recipients are:

Betty Fairchild, Paul & Eleese Kanar, Joyce West

Thank you for your thoughtfulness

To: Tucc from the Tully Community Christmas Basket Program “Thank you for your continued support! It is always appreciated. Sincerely, Barb Kohberger

To my friends at Tucc “Thank you so much for your kind thoughts for me during this difficult time. I really appreciate you all and your words of comfort. It really helps me. Sincerely Pamela

LOOKING AHEAD→

Sunday, February 20th at 3 pm there will be an **Ordination Council** for David Harris at the **First Baptist Church of Syracuse** in Jamesville. Each congregation in the Iroquois Association of ABC/NYS is asked to send one clergyperson and one layperson to the Ordination Council to review his ordination paper and ask questions of Mr. Harris and then to vote to extend ordination. If anyone wishes to attend as the lay delegate or just to observe the process, please speak with Pastor Rick.

Ash Wednesday is March 2. There will be a short service with ashes at **12 noon**, and the traditional **Soup Supper at 6** followed by a service with ashes at **7pm**.

A Lenten book study, “Witness At The Cross” by Amy-Jill “AJ” Levine will begin on **March 6** and continue **through Palm Sunday, April 10**. Sessions will be held in the sanctuary on Sundays immediately following the morning service at 10:45. A sign-up sheet is outside the church office. We are asking a donation of \$20 toward the cost of the book from those who are able to afford it.

Click on the attachment for more information.

CHURCH CALENDAR

We are currently experimenting with developing a monthly calendar to include in the Stepping Stone outlining the services and programs of the congregation along with some of the regular meetings of outside organizations in our building. Please make sure the church office knows of your upcoming meeting so that it can be on the official office calendar and so we can put it on the monthly calendars in the newsletter.

Click on the attachment for the calendars for February and March.

GRANT AWARDED THE TUCC TUESDAY SENIOR LUNCHEON PROGRAM

We are proud to announce that the **Tully United Community Church Tuesday Senior Luncheon Program has been awarded a \$2000 grant from “Music For The Mission” of Syracuse, NY.** Founded by Joe Stanley of Stanley Law in 2009, the organization’s mission is to help the homeless and the hungry populations living in Central New York through music events. This year, 29 grant applications were received and 15 organizations were selected to each receive a \$2000 grant for a total of \$30,000 in total grant money awarded. This grant, written by Pastor Rick, will assist the Tuesday Senior Luncheon Program to expand its reach and to keep the price of meals low, currently at \$3.50/meal.

During the month of February, meals are available for curbside pick-up and limited delivery is available. A sign-up sheet is now being posted at The Meadows and 8 meals were delivered there this past week. Thanks to our regular Kitchen Krew – David Fraser, Ruth Cooper, Teri Krom, and Jim Millis for all the work they do to send out 25-30 lunches every Tuesday! See Pastor Rick for more information or to volunteer!

Church Activities

Bell Sales – On going. There are still a few anniversary bells that have the carillon printed on them for \$10.00. Holiday bells are on sale for \$15.00. If you are interested in purchasing a bell, please contact Pamela Poulin (607- 749-3474).

February - 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

Saturday, February 12th 8:00 am to noon. Red Cross Blood Drive at TUCC

Sunday, February 13th – from 11:00am until 2:00pm Stop by Lorenzo in Cazenovia (Route 13 entrance) during Winter Fest! The Lorenzo Driving Competition will be hosting “Horses and Hot Chocolate” and the New York State Draft Horse Club offers horse-drawn sleigh/wagon rides! Meet the Cazenovia College miniature horses, take a winter ride, have a chance to tour Lorenzo’s mansion, and seldom seen, carriage collection, and more. Admission, tours, hot chocolate and rides are free.

Monday, February 14th – Valentine’s Day



Tuesday, February 15th 11:30- 12:30– Curbside Pickup Senior Luncheon

Tuesday, February 22nd 11:30- 12:30– Curbside Pickup Senior Luncheon

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 marks the beginning of the Lenten season

Short service with ashes at **12 noon**

Traditional **Soup Supper at 6:00 pm** followed by a service with ashes at **7:00 pm**.

Beginning Sunday, March 6th -immediately following morning service at **10:45 am A Lenten book study**, “Witness At The Cross” by Amy-Jill “AJ” Levine and will continue **through Palm Sunday, April 10.**

Friday, March 25th Freeze Out 5K to End Homelessness

Freeze Out Homelessness in 2022 Onondaga Community College: Registration starts at 6:00 pm inside **SRC Arena Run/walk starts at 7:00 pm** Register today at Freezeout5K.com For information call Gina Rapasadi 315-701-3891

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 TUC – 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 TUC 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. Masks are available for you to wear and take for added protection during COVID19.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87556610214?pwd=WE9kMnhaK2ISS3dFSk51WTI4MVVQZz09>

Meeting ID: 875 5661 0214

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

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

***Remember: Wash your hands. If you are not fully vaccinated, wear your mask in public. Stay home if you are ill.**