

THE STEPPING-STONE October 1, 2023 Issue



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FROM THE PASTOR – October 2023

Since my first year in pastoral ministry (1981 for those keeping score) I have said that EVERYTHING is scheduled in October. While we shake off the summer doldrums and we hit the ground running in September, it is really in preparation for the busy-ness and business of October. It still feels that way to me. As you look through this edition of the Stepping Stone, you will see lots of activities in October and in the coming months. And the Board of Stewards is preparing their flyer which will highlight our coming special events and which will be sent out to every address in the 13159 zip code.

It can be frustrating trying to schedule these events, activities, and meetings. In fact, for those who are most involved it can be downright exhausting! And yet the activity of a congregation is one barometer of the health and vitality of a congregation. A congregation that is stagnant, not moving, not growing, might well be in survival mode; i.e. doing enough to get by one more month without having to close down. We pray for churches in survival mode that the Spirit would come and reenergize them. Many, if not most, congregations were in some degree of survival mode during the pandemic, so we all know what it is like. Our activity level here at Tucc suggests that we are NOT in survival mode.

Yet it is not about being busy for the sake of being busy. Another of my favorite sayings is this: “The church is not a club, like the Elks, the Masons, or the Rotary. And we don’t operate like the Historical Society or the Library Boards.” They all do good works on behalf of the community and of people in need and we thank God for them. What I mean by that is, what we believe and what we do and how we live our life as a congregation is completely based on Jesus’ words and example. So, if someone asks, “Why do you have a ministry to the Kurds, or Why do you do a luncheon every Tuesday for the Senior Citizens, or even Why do you sponsor the Red Cross Blood Mobile,” the answer is not (only) that these are good things to do for people in need, but that we are imitators of the Christ who brought Good News to those in need and who showed by example what the Kingdom of God was like.

So as we are going about doing good, feeling busy with lots of busy-ness going on that pulls at us and requires our time and energy, just remember – we are missionaries to a world that needs the Love of God in Jesus Christ.

“Live in such a way that you are a credit to the Message of Christ. Let nothing in your conduct hang on whether I come or not. Your conduct must be the same whether I show up to see things for myself or hear of it from a distance. Stand united, singular in vision, contending for people’s trust in the Message, the good news.” Phil. 1:27

Peace,

Pastor Rick +

Moderator Message

Preparing For Emergencies At TUCC

The Kroms provided information about emergency preparation to church leaders at the fall huddle. TK Krom ensured that the group knew where all exits and fire extinguishers were and reviewed response to fire emergencies. There was also a quick review of fire extinguisher use.

We reviewed emergency evacuation and proper interaction with police and rescue personnel. We were provided with NYS Emergency Information materials. Copies of these are available in the Fellowship Hall.

Finally, Terry Krom gave us pointers on “stop the bleed” which highlighted how to think about managing shooting victim and strategies for slowing bleeding in extremities.

The Tully Free Library Revitalization Project

The Tully Free Library Board requested that the church members receive information about the current library revitalization project.

During the 2019 strategic planning process, survey of community members and organizations found that there was a strong desire to have more space for tutoring, quiet activities and computer use.

The Board hired an architect to help evaluate the structural integrity of the library and to consider options for improving space use to meet the needs of patrons. The study done by the architects and consultant engineers suggested the importance of

Improving safety:

- installing fresh air ventilation and an energy-efficient heating system for improved air quality,
- establishing an addressable fire alarm system that connects all fire and smoke detection devices.

Increasing accessibility

- making the circulation area more user-friendly, with a new service desk that is ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible,
- opening the entryway to expand visibility and access to all library spaces.

Expanding usability

- Reconfiguring space to add two study rooms for quiet tutoring and more community meeting spaces,
- relocating the fireplace to a quiet reading nook,
- redesigning the entrance foyer to include movable glass partitions so the Padget Community Room is integrated with the main library space,
- Adding an elevator to improve access to second floor storage and work space

The library received a New York State Library Construction Grant for \$805,857 which covers 75% of the project including architect and engineering analysis. The Board is responsible for raising the remaining 25%. We have already received generous grants and donations and continue our fundraising efforts.

The goal is to begin construction in 2024 and keep the library functional through much of the work.

There is information in the Fellowship Hall on more specifics about the project and fundraising events.

Did You Know....?

by Claire Jones

“And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him.” ([Leviticus 19:33 KJV](#))

From the Pentateuch (that is, the 5 Books attributed to Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) to the beloved story of Ruth, to the Psalms, and throughout the Gospel, scripture exhorts us to welcome the strangers—the foreigners—in our land, and to treat them as we would treat our “own.” The ancient rationale for this was that the Hebrew people were sojourners in Egypt; as we read further, especially in the Gospel, Jesus broadens this reasoning to a less legalistic and more gracious approach: God’s love, for all of Creation, and especially for all humankind, created in God’s own image. TUCC’s ministry to our Kurdish neighbors affirms our commitment to this scriptural mandate.

According to various dictionaries, a sojourner is simply a temporary resident. Modern translations of scripture use alien, migrant, immigrant *etc.* instead of sojourner. All of these are consistent with the meaning(s) of the original Hebrew. But in the geopolitical realities of 2023, it’s not at all simple. Take, for example, our Kurdish neighbors. Are they Refugees? Aliens? Migrants? Immigrants? While we, the Church, reach out with love, in Jesus’ name, to all newcomers to our town, region, and country, it is essential for us to have a basic understanding of newcomers’ legal status. Why? Because legal status determines what other resources may be available to help our new neighbors to thrive in their new home.

So, here are a few legal definitions:

- Temporary resident = *a foreign national granted the right to stay in a country for a certain length of time (e.g. with a visa or residency permit), without full citizenship.* ([US Citizen and Immigration Services](#))
- Alien = a foreign-born person who lives in the United States, has not naturalized, and is still a citizen of a foreign country, according to the US government. (various sources)
- Migrant = “...someone who changes his or her country of usual residence, irrespective of the reason for migration or legal status. Generally, a distinction is made between short-term or temporary migration, covering movements with a duration between three and 12 months, and long-term or permanent migration, referring to a change of country of residence for a duration of one year or more.” (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs) Note—migrants can also be people who move from one part of their country to another.
- Refugee = “...persons who are outside their country of origin for reasons of feared persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order and, as a result, require international protection. The refugee definition can be found in the 1951 Convention and regional refugee instruments, as well as UNHCR’s Statute.” (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)
- Immigrant = “...a person living in a country other than that of his or her birth. No matter if that person has taken the citizenship of the destination country, served in its military, married a native, or has another status—he or she will forever be an international migrant.” (Migration Policy Institute)
- Immigrant = “Any person lawfully in the United States who is not a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or person admitted under a nonimmigrant category as defined by the INA Section 101(a)(15).” (US Dept of Homeland Security)

Scripture does not make these fine—one might say almost pharisee-like --distinctions! Psalm 39:12 captures this, along with our very human sense of separation—or alienation—from God, and our desire to be at peace and united with God, and with all Creation, through Jesus Christ.

“Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were.” [Psalm 39:12 KJV](#)

TUCC Chicken BBQ



\$8.50 per Half Chicken - (no sides offered)
Sat, September 30, 2023 11:00am until gone

Tully United Community Church Parking Lot Meetinghouse Road.
Pre-Order (**preferred, not necessary**)
at: TUCCchicken@gmail.com until 6pm on September 29, 2023
(Pick up by 12:15)

Fall Cleanup Month (October) at TUCC

Instead of a one -day event **please sign up** at the **Welcome Center** for a small project to complete on your own time. The Trustees appreciated your help keeping our buildings and grounds looking nice!

Volunteers Needed for Tuesday Senior Luncheon

Volunteers needed for the Tuesday Senior luncheon. Any amount of time between 10 am and 1:00 pm would be helpful. Some tasks could include chopping vegetables, setting tables, serving, or washing dishes. We serve up to 40 lunches each week for our deserving senior citizens. Thanks for considering this community service.

Kings Corner Market

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the annual Kings Corner Market bread sale the best ever. To those that help set up, tear down, baked bread, or manned the booth. Our sales totaled \$545, which is being put into the Maui relief fund. A real team effort and community outreach.

Mission and Outreach

Mission and Outreach thanks everyone who donated items and money towards school supplies recently. Over 30 backpacks were delivered to PEACE along with over-the-ear headphones, scientific calculators, binders, and many other essentials. We truly appreciate your contributions as many school children and families in our area have benefitted from your generosity.

Community Day

Thank you to all of the volunteers and donations. This year our sales were over \$1,000.00.

From the Board of Mission & Outreach: World Communion Sunday

Our Mission/Outreach Board supports three fundraisers each year. On **Sunday, October 1st** this year many churches will celebrate by taking communion and collecting funds that sponsor scholarships for worthy students both here in the U.S. and throughout the world. We will have offering envelopes available for your donations. If you wish to write a check, make it payable to TUCC and write World Communion offering on the memo line. Our board thanks you for your continued support.

Christian Ed

The board of Christian Ed is running a discussion on Spiritual Gifts led by Claire Jones. It started 9/24-10/15. Additionally, we're having a bonfire with hotdogs and marshmallows, storytelling and music! 10/15 from 4:30-7.

Rotary Manpower Schedule

Rotary meets the first Thursday of the month for Breakfast. They eat at 7:00; so set up begins at 6:00 a.m.

Oct. 5 – Dave & Nancy Hatch, **Nov. 2** – Ray & Sally Greene, **Dec. 7** – John Burgett & Lorraine Balmer

Flutes and Piano

Sunday, Oct. 8 at 3pm

Tully United Community Church

Lana Stafford • Debra Perkins
with Sabine Krantz

Concert will be repeated on Saturday,
October 14, 7pm at St. David's Dewitt
For more info please visit lanastafford.com



County South Family Resource Center
12 Clinton Street, P.O. Box 312
Tully, NY 13159

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FISH (Friends in Service Here) is a volunteer organization that provides transportation to medical appointments for individuals unable to drive themselves and unable to arrange other transportation. The program is primarily sponsored by PEACE, Inc. It currently serves those residing in the towns of Fabius-Pompey, LaFayette and Tully.

Drivers and Dispatchers are needed in all 3 communities.

Drivers: The minimum commitment is one drive a month that is scheduled on a specific day, according to your availability. Some drivers choose to be "random drivers." They agree to be called for rides that have no scheduled driver or when there may be two drivers required in one day. Of course, the random drivers have the option of declining a drive if they are not available. Volunteer drivers are equipped to provide transportation for the ambulatory only.

Dispatchers: Dispatchers are assigned one week (Monday - Thursday) a month, according to their availability. They receive calls from riders, take their information regarding their needs and call the driver that is scheduled for the day needed, passing along the information. Being a dispatcher does not require you to sit at home waiting for your phone to ring on your week. You can carry a cellphone with you wherever you go or let the rider leave a message on your home phone. Then call them back as soon as you can. Riders are required to call at least 3 days prior to their appointments.

Riders: Riders are also needed. Since, Covid, the number of riders has decreased.

The FISH program is a free service. All drivers and dispatchers are volunteers. Please spread the word that more drivers, dispatchers and riders are needed.

If you can spare one partial day a month (or more) to help out your neighbors, call Kay Butkus at (315) 436-6352 and/or Barb at (315) 696-8203.

Counters Schedule Oct – Dec

Counter	Alternate	
10/1/23	David Franke	Nancy Chawgo
10/8/23	Kathleen Randall	Lorraine Balmer
10/15/23	Mel Moore	Nancy Chawgo
10/22/23	Nancy Chawgo	David Franke
10/29/23	David Franke	Kathleen Randall
11/5/23	Mel Moore	Nancy Chawgo
11/12/23	Nancy Chawgo	Lorraine Balmer
11/19/23	Brad Smith	David Franke
11/26/23	Lorraine Balmer	Mel Moore
12/3/23	Nancy Chawgo	Lorraine Balmer
12/10/23	Kathleen Randall	Brad Smith
12/17/23	Mel Moore	David Franke
12/24/23	Lorraine Balmer	Nancy Chawgo
12/31/23	David Franke	Brad Smith

TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH TUESDAY SENIOR LUNCHEON MENU

Sep 2023

60+ - \$3.50 Under 60 - \$4.00

Oct 3

Brats In A Blanket
(Little German Brats in Crescent Rolls)
Sauerkraut
German Potato Salad
Dessert

Oct 10

Stuffed Cabbage Casserole
Roll
Homemade Applesauce
Pumpkin Raisin Cookies

Oct 17

Ham & Bean Soup
Garlic Bread
Salad
Apple Crisp

Oct 24

Mac N Cheese
Fresh Fruit Salad
Roll and Butter
Brownies

Oct 31

Roasted Foot (Meatloaf)
Vampire-Killer Stakes (Garlic Bread)
Brains (Green and Wax Beans)
Monster Mash (Mashed Potatoes)
Dirt (Chocolate Pudding with Gummy Worms)

Menu subject to change

CURBSIDE PICKUP AVAILABLE – 12:15-12:30, Or call the church to arrange delivery 315-696-8066

Deliveries are for Shut-ins or due to illness

Birthdays and Anniversaries



BIRTHDAYS:

Sep 14th – Ian Foster, Sep 15th -Lura Rouse, Sep 18 – Peter Huntington, Sep 28th – Nick Mariani, Sep 30 – Dewey Northrup

Oct 1st – Cynthia Stephenson, Oct 2nd – Andreyah May Cook, Oct 3rd – Taylor Currie, Oct 5th – Rachel Cooper, Oct 7th – Robbie MacCrea, Win Skeele, Oct 8th – Larry Berg, Zoe Guttendorf

ANNIVERSARIES:

Sep 30th – Dewey & Jill Northrup

Oct 3rd – Peter & Sharon Mariani, Oct 4th – Tom & Nancy Corey, Oct 6th – Bill & Diane Dewey, Oct 8th – TK & Teri Krom

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Total

Sunday, 8/20	43
Sunday, 8/27	42
Sunday, 9/3	46
Sunday, 9/10	58
Sunday, 9/17	58
Sunday 9/24	41

CONTRIBUTIONS (Sunday Offering and Loose Offering) for Sunday

Total

Sunday, 8/20	\$ 620.00
Sunday, 8/27	\$1,025.00
Sunday, 9/3	\$4,510.00
Sunday, 9/10	\$3,120.00
Sunday, 9/17	\$2,148.00
Sunday, 9/24	\$5,000.00

Prayer and Praise

Prayer Requests:

Lila Donley- Linda and Lorraine's sister. Sybil Burlingham-Knapp for healing after a surgical procedure. For anyone that has contracted COVID. Doug MacCrea had blood clots removed from his lungs and is recovering in Ames, Iowa. David Cottrell -Linda's brother-in-law is being treated for leukemia.



Continue prayers for:

Valerie Aris, Jud Barker, Linda Barker, Kelly Beck, Ben- nephew of Marie Kemp, Sue Bickelhaupt, Sara Bowling-David Franke's sister, Arthur Brown, Janet Brown, Brenda Burns, Father Cary, David Choate, Amy Christopherson, Shirley Coffin, Joyce Colaboffo, Linda Cottrell, Gael Daly, Edwin-Sonja Shepherd's brother, Betty Fairchild, Pam Falge, Carol Fisher, Anna Friedberg, Jake Greiner, Andrea Hall-mother of Anna Frateschi, Elaine Haines, Jim Herrift, Peter Huntington, Gerri Jacobus, Michael Jacobs, Jim & Jess Kerr- Whitt's sister, Paul Kinny, Nancy Lajoie, Beth Lattimer, Mandy – Pamela Poulin's niece, Devin McCuish, Kathleen McFarlane, Rey Manson, Heather Nodine, Dick Oliver, Hugh Reed, Linda Reed, Tom & Norma Richards, Leslie Sanderson, Jeremy Simon, Sheryl Sonacchio, Liz, David & Jolie Spaulding, Rusty Spaulding, Steve- Sue Wright's son-in-law, Brenda Stoker, Mary Thompson, Joyce West & Jamie (Millis) York.

The people of Kurdistan and the people in Hawaii and Canada due to the wildfires.

**Upcoming TLC Recipients are:
Andrea Hall, Joyce West, Patricia Bloodgood, Pat Ehlers**

LOOKING AHEAD→

Church Activities

Reminder: The 24/7 Pantry Box can always in the TUCC parking can always use food items.

First Sunday of each month: - Bring in non-perishable food items and paper products for the **food pantry at St. Leo's Hall** and the **emergency food pantry at TUCC.**

Also, we will have a **special offering** on the first Sunday of each month **for the Fisherman's Net Fund.** Proceeds will go to help lower income families in our community who are struggling.

Tuesdays at 12:00– Senior Luncheon Dinning (Curbside Pickup is also available from 12:00 -12:40) or if you are a **shut -in** or **ill** call the church 315-696-8066 to arrange delivery.

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm - Bell Choir

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. - Choir

This Saturday, Sep 30th – Chicken BBQ 11:00 am until gone

This Saturday, Sep 30th Circle Singing with Joey Blake **-1:00 pm at TUCC**

Sunday, Oct 1st World Communion Sunday

Saturday, Oct 7th – Blood Drive 8:00 am to Noon

Sunday, Oct 8th at 3:00 pm– TUCC Flutes and Piano Concert



October 15th at 4:30 -7:00 pm -Community Bon Fire: Singing, Story Telling and Refreshments

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. 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 Relaxation

Our sanctuary is open daytimes for prayer or meditation. The Murdoch Lounge is available for relaxation and offers coffee, tea, and snacks.

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 TUCC Facebook for the update.

TUCC 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.**

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01 AA-Noon AA- 7:30 pm	02
03	04 AA-Noon Scouts	05 AA-Noon Sr Luncheon Noon -2 pm	06 AA-Noon	07 Rotary Breakfast- 7 am Hear2Learn 10-12:30 AA-Noon	08 AA-Noon AA- 7:30 pm	09
10 RALLY DAY & Last Sunday under the tent	11 TAG set up AA-Noon Scouts	12 TAG set up Sr Luncheon Noon -2 pm AA-Noon	13 TAG set up AA-Noon Senior Citizen Dinner 6 pm	14 TAG set up Hear2Learn 10-12:30 AA-Noon	15 TAG SALE AA-Noon AA- 7:30 pm	16 TAG SALE Community Days Parade 9 am
17	18 AA-Noon Scouts	19 Sr Luncheon Noon -2 pm AA-Noon	20 AA-Noon	21 Hear2Learn 10-12:30 AA-Noon	22 AA-Noon Fall Clothing Drive for PEACE 9 -4:30 pm @ PEACE AA- 7:30 pm	23 FALL HUDDLE
24 Special Gift Day after church (4 weeks)	25 AA-Noon Scouts	26 Sr Luncheon Noon -2 pm AA-Noon	27 AA-Noon	28 Hear2Learn 10-12:30 AA-Noon	29 AA-Noon AA- 7:30 pm	30 Chicken BBQ 11:00 am until gone Circle Sing with Joey Blake 1:00 pm

October 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01 9:30 am Service Special Gift Day after church (4 weeks)	02	03	04	05 Rotary Breakfast– 7 am	06 AA-Noon Concert Practice 5:00 pm AA- 7:30 pm	07 Blood Drive 8 am -Noon
08 9:30 am Service Special Gift Day after church (4 weeks) 3:00 pm– TUCC Flutes and Piano Concert	09 AA-Noon Scouts	10 AA-Noon Sr Luncheon Noon -2 pm	11 AA-Noon Senior Dinner 6:00 pm	12 Hear2Learn 10-12:30 AA-Noon	13 AA-Noon AA- 7:30 pm	14
15 9:30 am Service Special Gift Day after church (4 weeks) Community Bon Fire: 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm	16 AA-Noon Scouts	17 Sr Luncheon Noon -2 pm AA-Noon	18 AA-Noon	19 AA-Noon	20 AA-Noon AA- 7:30 pm	21
22 9:30 am Service	23 AA-Noon Scouts	24 Sr Luncheon Noon -2 pm AA-Noon	25 AA-Noon	26 AA-Noon	27 AA-Noon AA- 7:30 pm	28
29 9:30 am Service	30 AA-Noon Scouts	31 Sr Luncheon Noon -2 pm AA-Noon				30

