

THE STEPPING-STONE December 15, 2021 Issue



Phone - 315.696.8066

Snail Mail – 5872 Meetinghouse Rd., Tully 13159

Email – tullyunitedcc@gmail.com Website – tullychurch.org Facebook – Tully United Community Church

FROM THE PASTOR – DECEMBER 2021

Seems like we always say it – “This year went so fast; where did the time go?” And 2021 is no exception. We continue to struggle with the Coronavirus – its devastation and dis-ease. We are back to mask mandates and yet another variant is spreading through the world. Some are struggling to schedule a booster while others are still not convinced that vaccination is wise for them or for their children. Others may ask God in their prayers why God isn’t doing something to end this. I believe that the God who created the universe and made science as a way to understand and interact with the creation, has given us the vaccinations to help us end this and daily increases our understanding of this and other illnesses. At any rate, the COVID plague still plagues us as we near year two of it. And as we near the end of 2021, over 800,000 of our citizens have died because of it.

Perhaps Merry Christmas and Happy New Year are a little more difficult to utter this years’ end. Maybe happier than last year, but still, disease, violence, environmental crisis, hate – it seems that they are all on the rise. So the message that we as the church have to share is perhaps more urgent than ever. We are Good News people. We are a people that serve a God of creation, peace, mercy, grace and love. And while violence, hate and destruction increase around the world, our voices of reconciliation, welcome, and joy must resound all the more.

Have you heard the bells outside the church building? Both bells peal daily at 12 noon and 6 pm and also on Sunday at 9:20 and 9:30. It’s a wonderful thing! And folks pause to listen. It becomes an outward and visible (auditory) sign of the message we bring to the community. In fact, the bells began to peal as I wrote these sentences and I paused for the full minute just to listen. They are uplifting and joyful. And so should we be.

Any change in the culture comes with a change in our individual attitudes. Wonderful things are happening here at TUCC – we are moving forward into ministry, into service projects, into fixing things, into embracing people. And in every way God is lifting us up, blessing us, challenging us, renewing us as a congregation. So we bring 2021 to a close and we face the challenges of 2022. And whatever may come, we affirm with the Apostle Paul: *“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 4:4-7

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pastor Rick +



A Request - If anyone has a **Santa hat and beard** to loan, please contact Pastor Rick.

Moderator Message

Sunday after the “Hanging of the Greens” service, I thought about how much our TUCC congregation loves this season. We fill the sanctuary with the beauty of poinsettias. We bake and send cookies to our TLC recipients and college students. We scoop up the Angels from the Angel Tree and happily give gifts to those in need. We donate generously on Christmas Eve so that others are blessed. Light and music fill our services. No doubt, Christmas joy and love radiates from our church as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Honestly though, Christmas just amplifies our joy and generosity. Throughout 2021, we rarely missed an opportunity to reflect the love of God and share our talents and resources with the community. We may only have a few weeks to enjoy this blessed season, but as we move into 2022, we will carry the joy of Christ’s birth, His message to serve the poor and heart broken, and His commitment to justice and mercy with us.

50th Anniversary Time Capsule

TUCC continues plans for burying a time capsule to commemorate the first 50 years of our history. The capsule has been purchased and plans are to bury it in the spring. Pictures of the capsule and burial site will be framed and placed in the Murdoch Lounge.

The following is the initial list of items to include. Should you have additional recommendations, please give them to Cindy Travers in the Church office.

- Bulletin from September 50th Anniversary celebration Sunday
- Stepping Stone for September
- Commemorative TUCC Bell
- A copy of the anthem sung on that Sunday
- TUCC coffee mug
- TUCC pen
- Picture of the sanctuary showing the altar decoration commemorating merger.

Two Church Boards Request Additional Members

As TUCC moves into another busy year, two of the Church Boards are asking that you consider joining in their work: The Board of Christian Education and the Board of Personnel Relations. Each has a vital role in the ongoing health of the church. Following are the duties of each defined in the Church constitution. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Rev, Rick Reed or Ann Sedore.

The Board of Christian Education shall:

- A. Prepare and administer programs approved by the Church Council that will effectively provide Christian Education at all age levels.
- B. Administer adult workshops and youth ministry.

The Board of Personnel Relations shall:

- A. Foster constructive communications between the congregation and its pastoral leadership and implement the congregation’s responsibility for its pastor’s professional and personal well-being.
- B. Annually join with the pastor in an evaluation of pastoral effectiveness in the context of the Church’s Total Ministry.

- C. Determine the need for, and upon Church Council approval, hire, and retain all staffing.
- D. Foster constructive communications between the congregation and all paid staff.
- E. Annually join with each paid staff member in an evaluation of the staff member's effectiveness in the context of the Church's Total Ministry.
- F. Provide information and make recommendations on all pastoral and staff salaries and benefits, and make recommendations to the Church Council.
- G. Support a Pastoral Search Committee whenever there is a need for pastoral staffing.
- H. Support Pastoral Internships as available to the Church, and assist the Pastor in evaluating a Pastoral Intern's effectiveness in the powers and responsibilities assigned by the Pastor and approved by the Church Council.

Monthly Family Sunday to Start in January

Starting on the first Sunday in January, TUCC will start again to celebrate Family Sunday. Once a month, children will remain with their families during the entire Sunday Service. TUCC believes that children need to learn about the importance of group worship by participating in it. Here are a few things we know:

Children need to learn about worship and communion from family and our congregation. We are in this together. We believe that practice, explanation, and tolerance is necessary to teach busy toddlers, curious, questioning kids, and restless, preoccupied teens about the importance and meaning of group worship.

The Church needs to provide guidance to parents and church members about what to say to children of all ages and each other about worship and its components. In the next few months, materials will be made available to help us all with this work.

We love our children and want to join together to let them know this.

Christmas Eve Service Offering

The Christmas Eve Service Offering will be donated to Heifer International. They are an organization that work in 21 countries around the world providing support and training to communities of underserved peoples. Heifer International – www.heifer.org

Ushers/Greeters

The Deacons are looking for folks to serve as Ushers/Greeters on Sunday Mornings. We need 2 ushers each Sunday, either individuals or families, and we would greatly appreciate it if you could sign up for a month at a time. Please add your name to the schedule on Sunday morning or contact the church office. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Food Pantry- This is the time of year we want to think about the less fortunate. Please bring in any extra food items you may have.

Baby Blankets- Baby Blankets can be donated to the Labor of Love Program through the Syracuse Healthy start. A basket is in the church entrance to drop off.

Diapers Needed - Barb Kohberger from PEACE is requesting diapers they need **size 5 and 6 pampers.**

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS:

Dec. 17th – Jaci Colombo, Dec. 22nd – Sherla Millis, Dec. 24th – Judy Conklin, Keith Wimmersberger,
Dec. 27th – Lindsay Moore



Jan. 2nd – Cindy Bartholomew, Jan. 6th – Nancy Corey, Jan. 7th – Scott Frost, Jan. 10th Cassie Berg

ANNIVERSARIES:

Dec. 18th – Keith & Janice Wimmersberger; Jan. 2nd – Mark & Bernice Potter-Masler

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Total

Sunday, November	14	48
Sunday, November	21	58
Sunday, November	28	47
Sunday, December	5	73
Sunday, December	12	73

CONTRIBUTIONS (Sunday Offering and Loose Offering) for Sunday

Total

Sunday, November	14	\$3, 674.00
Sunday, November	21	\$1, 956.00
Sunday, November	28	\$1, 546.00
Sunday, December	5	\$4, 536.00
Sunday, December	12	\$1, 627.00

Prayer and Praise

Prayer Requests:

Prayer's for the families that have lost loved ones:

Family of Jessica Fairbrother-her husband Ben is Cathy's nephew, Betty Hoffman- Aunt of Kim Guttendorf, Richard Parrow-brother of Mary Huntington, Linda Limpert-cousin of Sally Green.



Continue prayers for:

the following individuals who we hope are all getting better and staying healthy: Kay's brother, Thurman and his wife Ruby's health problems. Jeremy Simon who is a missing person. Ed Hillenbrand, Nancy LaJoie, Leslie (Cornue) Sanderson, Karen Prince's brother- Brad LeFever, Linda Cottrell, Pam (Kay & Jim's daughter), Barb and Art Berg, Betty Fairchild, Beth Lattimer, Brenda Millis and Mary Thompson.

Joys Shared:

Mary Huntington's granddaughter graduated from University of Nevada – majored in Neuro Science.

Upcoming TLC Recipients are:

Linda Cottrell, Betty Fairchild, Joyce West, Fran Fishlock

Tully United Community Church Tuesday Senior Lunch Menus

Every Tuesday at Noon our church sponsored **Senior Luncheon**. This is meant to keep the place of the PEACE Nutrition Program senior lunch until they are able to return. All are welcome – price is \$3.50 for 60+, \$4.00 for under 60 and no one is denied if unable to pay.

<p><u>December 21- Christmas Dinner</u></p> <p>Pork Loin Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Black Forest Cheesecakes</p>	<p><u>December 28, 2021</u></p> <p>Tomato Basil Soup with Tortellini Grilled Cheese Sticks Dessert</p>
<p><u>January 4, 2022</u></p> <p>Chicken Casserole with Potato Topping Carrots Apple Crisp and Vanilla Ice Cream</p>	<p><u>January 11</u></p> <p>Baked Ziti Italian Bread Salad Dessert</p>
<p><u>January 18</u></p> <p>Cheesy Spinach Mushroom Tomato Quiche Jello Dessert</p>	<p><u>January 25</u></p> <p>Sloppy Joes on a bun Cole Slaw (or Cabbage Salad) Potato Chips Brownies</p>

***Menu is subject to change.**

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).

December - 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

Tuesdays, at Noon – Senior Luncheon

Book Club- Climate Change Solutions- 1st Tuesday of every month- Beginning in January 2022

Tully United Community Church

Please contact Kim Cameron (315-427-8291) or kimberlycameron4@gmail.com for more information.

- Sunday, December 19th- 3:00 pm Tully United For The Arts Presents**
Winter Solstice Concert – Featuring: The Lakes Saxophone Quartet;
Audience Christmas Carol Sing-Along and More!
- Friday, December 24th – 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service**
- 11:00 pm Communion and Candlelight Service**
- Saturday, December 25th - Christmas Day**

Merry Christmas



Decorating Our Sanctuary, the Poinsettias were given by:



Kay Bates
Judith Conklin
Sandra Burgett for friends and family
Kay & Jim Butkus for our children
Teri Clark-Krom for our parents
Chris Ehlers in memory of William H. Ehlers
Win Skeele & Carol Rutherford



Marcia Martin
Lydia Aris-Brown
Sally & Ray Greene for our parents
Mark & Kim Guttendorf in memory of Edwin J. Morley
Peter & Mary Huntington in memory of our parents
Thomas & Nancy Corey for their children & grandchildren



Cindy Stephenson
Jaci Colombo
Laura Zobel for Edwin & Margaret Kerins
Richard Reed in memory of Clifford & Doris Jean Reed, and loved ones
Ann Sedore for my parents, Millie & Pete Ziegler and Grandparents Annie & John Freed
Pamela Poulin in memory of Husband, Lutz Mayer; parents, James & Lillian Poulin; Godmother -Muriel Pons

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. Shop *smile.amazon.com* and select TUCC 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 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.**