

THE STEPPING-STONE February 15, 2023 Issue



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NOTE: The wasn't a January Stepping-Stone

FROM THE PASTOR

Today as I write this, it is Wednesday, February 15, 2023; halfway through the month of February and about halfway through winter. And today is projected to be around 60° F. And tomorrow, cold enough to maybe have snow flurries. Right at this moment of my writing the wind is blowing hard and the warm sun is streaming through my office window warming my hands as I type. And I am conflicted. So many folks say, “Oh, isn't this warm weather a blessing? I so hate the winter.” I agree that in this moment, the warm weather is a blessing. We don't have to bundle up, pick up a snow shovel and dig out, or turn up the heat in our homes. It is pleasant to go outside in the fresh, warm air and breath it all in. But I am also aware that, as I look out beyond the borders of the property, the markers for the snowmobile trails stand waiting in the silence, and I haven't heard one snow mobile go by this winter. And it *is* winter. We are *supposed* to have snow and cold and the ground is supposed to freeze; and we could call this a winter thaw if had, but I don't think it ever really did. We live in an area where the average snowfall is about 125 inches. So far, Winter 2022-2023, Central NY has gotten 42.6". You and I both know – that ain't right!

So as we enter this Lenten season, I hope you will be thinking about our need to repent for the ways we have damaged our environment, the ways we have acted like the earth is ours to use and misuse as we see fit, for the ways we have acted out of greed or desire for convenience or ease in going along with the crowd, or for our lack of interest, lack of care, lack of self education on the subject. The overwhelming science tells us that this is a dark time for our environment and life hangs in the balance.

Our **Lenten Bible/Book Study is John: The Gospel of Light and Life**, by Adam Hamilton. John's Gospel is different from the other three in that it is less a biography of Jesus' life and ministry and more a theological treatise on what Jesus wanted to get across to his followers through his life and ministry. And the most important things for us to learn are how to reflect the light of God's love in Jesus Christ and how to celebrate life in all its abundant fullness and richness. Light and Life in John's Gospel are not only promises in the sweet by and by – we are to be heralds of the Good News of Light and Life to all of God's creation now – and including in our environment.

The wooden Membership Center is now located in the Murdock Lounge, and there you will find a sign-up sheet and copies of the study book. Please sign the sheet if you take a book and join us Sundays after worship during lent to discuss Christ's call to be Light and Life for *all* the world.

Keep a Holy Lent!

Pastor Rick +

To My Beloved Congregation

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the generous Christmas gift. It's a little late, but we haven't sent out a newsletter lately so my apologies for that! When I moved from my house to my apartment I was not able to bring along my upright piano, which caused me great sadness. So this year I used your Christmas gift toward the purchase of a digital keyboard which takes up much less space and is much easier to move around. Now I can plunk out my part in the privacy of my home in order to get ready for choir practice!

Thank you!!

Pastor Rick +

Board Members Needed

The Board of Stewards has lost a member due to illness and needs a replacement to assist with Board activities. This Board has very diverse responsibilities and a fun team of members. They are currently responsible for preparing for Consecration Sunday, leading TUCC in the selection of new software to manage church business, organizing the chicken BBQ's, crafting our new, very successful community newsletter, and guiding the collection and management of our offerings and memorial giving. Curious about how you might fit in and/or want to join the team, call Beth Ann Smith or Jeff Phelps.

Praise and Worship Team

TUCC Praise and Worship Team opened worship for the first time on Sunday, February 12th. This addition to our music program was requested as a response to the last survey of the congregation. The group led by Rick Huyge and Bob Cooper hopes to lead the congregation monthly in choruses of hope and joy. If you want to join to play an instrument or sing, let Rick or Bob know. Suggestions are welcome.

COINS FOR LENT

During our reflection and preparation for Easter, Lent is a good time to commit to giving money to help those in need. TUCC is sponsoring a **Coins for Lent** collection this year to give to those in need in the community.

The collection starts Ash Wednesday, February 22 and ends Holy Saturday. Coin boxes will be blessed Easter Sunday, April 9th.

- Collection boxes and a helpful pamphlet are available at the church.
- Any types of coins can be given.
- Drop off at the church on or after April 9th.
- Coins for Lent collection will be divided between funding the ongoing needs of Fishermen's Net and supporting a PEACE project addressing domestic violence.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Date	Board	Topic
February 22, 2023 (Ash Wednesday)	Deacons	Ash Wednesday Church Service
March 2, 2023	Christian Ed	Positivity Project – Tully School’s Effort to Cultivate a Supportive Environment
March 9, 2023	Board of Stewards	TBD
March 16, 2023	Personnel Relations Board	Miracles: Faith or Sci-Fi
March 23, 2023	Mission and Outreach	Hospice 101: Finding Peace in Preparation for Dying
March 30, 2023	Trustees	Tom Spangenberg : Kettle Lakes Storm Response Team
April 6, 2023 (Maundy Thursday)	Deacons	Maundy Thursday Church Service

Special Message- from Janet Hillenbrand

Thank you all for the beautiful sympathy cards, kind words, hugs, food and donations in honor of Ed during his Hospice care and for his passing. I feel very loved and know that Ed's family sends love back to you.

TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH TUESDAY SENIOR LUNCHEON MENU

February 2023

60+ - \$3.50 (Delivery - \$4.00)

Under 60 - \$4.00 (Delivery - \$4.50)

February 21

Pizza
Salad
Dessert

February 28

Pasta Alfredo with Chicken
Salad
Garlic Bread
Brownies

Menu subject to change

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

Birthdays and Anniversaries (Dec 7th – Jan 10th)

BIRTHDAYS:

Jan 20th – Mark Guttendorf, Jan 21st - Hollis Rotella, Lee Winger, Jan 24th – Cathy Burgett, Nate Currie, Jan 25th – Mark Stachowski, Jan 26th -Jeanette Holden, Jan 28th – David Franke, Jan 31st – Leilani Schoff



Feb 1st – Dan Johnston , Dedrea Scalza, Feb 6th -Robert Thompson, Tom Brown, Feb 7th – Sonja Shepherd, Paula Mickelson, Breanna Foster, Rebecca Bickelhaupt, Feb 8th – Sharon Hoogs, Feb 11 Dewey Northrup, Sherry Moore, Feb 12th – Steven Cook, Feb 13th – Samantha Kemp, Feb 17th – Norma Richards, Rusty Spaulding, Feb 19th – Liz Spaulding, Tony George, Feb. 20th Adam Kemp, Feb 21st- Lou Hoagland, Sue Bickelhaupt, Feb 23 – Nancy Hatch, Feb 24th – Jim Millis, Feb 27th – Barb Berg

Mar 3rd – Tirzah Smith, Mar 5th - Austin Krom, Mar 6th – Robert Kemp, Mar 7th – Carol Rutherford

ANNIVERSARIES:

Jan 31st - Jim & Sherla Millis,

Feb 4th – Tony & Donna George, Feb 7th – Bill & Sue Wright , Feb 8th – Smiley & Karen Prince, Feb 16th – Peter & Mary Huntington,

Mar 3rd – Richard & Tamara Huyge

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	Total
Sunday, 1/01	36
Sunday, 1/08	62
Sunday, 1/15	62
Sunday, 1/22	60
Sunday, 1/29	54
Sunday, 2/5	60
Sunday, 2/12	53

CONTRIBUTIONS (Sunday Offering and Loose Offering) for Sunday

	Total
Sunday, 1/01	\$ 416.00
Sunday, 1/08	\$4,022.00
Sunday, 1/15	\$3,115.00
Sunday, 1/22	\$ 545.00
Sunday, 1/29	\$1,618.00
Sunday, 2/5	\$1,083.00
Sunday, 2/12	\$1,490.00

Prayer and Praise

Prayer Requests:

The family of Ed Pearson, Ed’s wife Jeanette passed away. Those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. It is a largely Kurdish area and Mary Thompson says many friends of the Kurdish men in Tully have been injured or killed.



Continue prayers for:

Amy & Jesse Kerr-Whitt's sister, Jud Barker, Linda Barker, Ben- nephew of Marie Kemp, Author Brown, Brenda Burns, Betty (Kay Butkus' sister), Peter Colombo, Linda Cottrell, Dan Doody, Pam Falge, Carol Fisher, Jake Greiner, Andrea Hall-mother of Anna Frateschi, Tom Homestead Sr, Gerri Jacobus, Michael Jacobs, Rev. Jim Kane, Paul Kinny, Nancy Lajoie, Beth Lattimer, Mary- Jim-Kerr Whitt's granddaughter, Rowena & Dick McAdoo, Devin McCuish, Kathleen McFarlane, Heather Nodine , Pamela Poulin, Tally Poulin, Linda Reed, Tom & Norma Richards, Leslie Sanderson, The family of Sonja Shepard-for the passing of her brother- Phil, Jeremy Simon, Sheryl Sonacchio, Jolie Spaulding, Liz Spaulding, Rusty Spaulding, Terri Jo- Joan Banner's daughter, Mary Thompson & Joshy U.

People of Ukraine. The families of the all of the shootings in this country.

Joys Shared:

Upcoming TLC Recipients are:

Andrea Hall, Joyce West, Patricia Bloodgood, Pat Ehlers

Upcoming Events

Be sure to add these events to your calendar:

Lenten Soup Suppers – Weekly starting February 22nd

Lenten Adult Bible Study – February 26th

Community Messiah Sing, Palm Sunday- April 2nd

Basket Raffle Kick-off – April 16th

First 2023 Chicken BBQ - April 22

Spring Clean Up Day - May 7th

Consecration Sunday – June 4th

First Outdoor Service – July 9th

Mediterranean Community Dinner – TBD

LENT AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES AND EVENTS - 2023



SUNDAY SERVICES AT 9:30 AM with fellowship hour to follow

LENTEN BOOK STUDY “John: the Gospel of Light and Life” SUNDAYS 10:45-12 NOON
(2/26-4/2)

FEBRUARY 22 **Ash Wednesday Soup Supper at 6 and Service at 7**

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS – THURSDAYS AT 6:00 PM

MARCH 2	Board of Christian Ed	Positivity Project (Tully Schools)
MARCH 9	Stewards	TBA
MARCH 16	Mission and Outreach Board	Hospice 101: Finding Peace in Preparation for Dying
MARCH 23	Personnel Relations Board	Miracles: Faith or Sci-FI
MARCH 30	Trustees	Tom Spangenberg: Kettle Lakes Storm Response Team
APRIL 6	Deacons	Maundy Thursday Church Service

HOLY WEEK – APRIL 2-9

APRIL 2,	PALM/PASSION SUNDAY SERVICE	9:30 AM
APRIL 6	MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE	7:00 PM
APRIL 7	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	12 NOON
	PRAYER VIGIL	1:00 PM-SAT 12 NOON



EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 9

SUNRISE/VIGIL	6:30 AM
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	7:45-9 AM
MAIN WORSHIP SERVICE	9:30 AM

LOOKING AHEAD→

Church Activities

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

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

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 Dining (Curbside Pickup is also available from 12:00 -12:40) or call the church 315-696-8066 to arrange delivery) Beginning January 3, 2023 – Delivery price – add \$.50

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm - Bell Choir

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. - Choir

Thursday, March 2nd at 7 am -Rotary Breakfast

Friday, March 3rd and 4th at 7 pm, and March 5th at 2 pm -Tully JSHS Drama Club Presents- Mamma Mia
For more information go to Tullyschools.org

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=WE9kMnhaK2lSS3dFSk51WTI4MVVQZz09>

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 tullichurch.org.

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