

THE STEPPING-STONE May 10, 2023 Issue



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From The Pastor

Greetings in the name and power of the risen Christ!

Many in our congregation have spoken to me about how meaningful Lent and Holy Week were and how joyous the two services of Easter were! And I found that to be the case for me as well. And now during this season of Easter we continue to celebrate new life, new beginnings, new growth in our lives and in our congregation.

It is amazing how quickly Spring has sprung around us! A few weeks ago we had such warm weather that the leaves on the trees popped open in just a few days' time! And the beautiful colors of spring - the vibrant yellows, pinks, lilacs and greens - are everywhere to be enjoyed!

The prophet Isaiah wrote of the goodness of God in sending justice and salvation to all the nations:

“The whole earth sprouts *newness and life in the springtime*,
and green shoots break through the well-seeded garden soil.
That’s what it is like with the Eternal’s *victory*—
the Lord will cause justice and praise to sprout up before all the
nations, *for all peoples to see.*” Isaiah 61:11, The Voice

We who toil in the garden of the Lord are to plant seeds of justice, kindness, peace, and salvation. We water it with love and care and watch for the seeds to sprout forth. And if we are faithful in our task, God will be faithful in causing what we plant to grow and produce fruit. This is what we celebrate in Christ’s resurrection.

I give thanks to God for all the many members of our faith community who toil in the garden that is Tully United Community Church. At the end of this month, we will be adding some new members to our numbers – more gardeners to help us plant and water with love and kindness. God bless us as we minister to one another and to our community in Christ’s name!

Peace, Pastor Rick +

Moderator Message

The congregation of TUCC can be counted on to be generous with our time, talent, and treasures!

Virtually every day of the week you will find one or more of our members spending time serving the church and our community. Behind the scenes, people are repairing, weeding, repotting, baking, cooking, cleaning, practicing new songs, decorating, and fighting to tame today's technology. On special occasions, we create cookbooks, Lenten books, community dinners, and events to reach and engage our community. The minutes and hours given in service bless our congregation and our neighbors.

God has continually watched over TUCC and gathered a group of people with amazing and varied talents. Few churches have such a fine collection of creative musicians as we do - singers, masters of instruments, song writers – all with a heart for worshipping through music. This alone has blessed our church beyond belief. But, in addition, we have folks who are skilled in building, repairing anything, fixing electrical problems, keeping plants inside and out alive and healthy, cooking amazing food, knitting, quilting, comforting, listening, and teaching. (I will stop here not because that is all the talents, but because I could go on for several pages.) We are blessed with many talents to meet many needs.

Weekly, there are announcements about our donations of coins, dollars, food, back packs, blood, or blankets. We have blessed people throughout our region and around the world with our generosity. Our Boards have enticed us to be even more generous with delicious chicken BBQs and now our Basket raffle. The money from these fundraisers helps with the operational costs of the church and supports capital improvements to the church, church property and the parsonage.

The need for our time, talents and resources never ends. We are working hard to keep the 24/7 emergency food box full. We are collecting monthly to keep adequate funds available through Fishermen's net. Right now, we are working hard to put together the funds needed to repair the parking lot and purchase new chairs for the Fellowship Room. Spring cleanup needs the time and talents of gardeners, cleaners, and handymen. Finally, we need time and talent to fill two leadership positions in the church – Moderator and Clerk and we need new members for each of the Church Boards.

Thank you for all you do and consider how you will continue to honor God with your time, talents and resources.

Blanket Sunday – May 14th

Sunday, **May 14** is of course Mother's Day – Happy Mother's Day to all you moms out there! It is also **Blanket Sunday**.

"How can we meet our sisters and brothers in their greatest moment of need? Everyday, someone in the world experiences hard times. When difficulties happen, a simple act of kindness can make a difference and be the miracle someone was praying for. You can be a part of that miracle. By partnering with CWS through our Blankets program, you can respond to neighbors in their greatest moment of need in a practical and hands-on way."

"For over 75 years, Church World Service has been helping people of faith bring God's hope and healing to people in the U.S. and around the world. When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone. Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters. When our neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way."

Please find offering envelopes for Blanket Sunday as you enter the sanctuary and thank you for your generous offering!



On Sunday, **May 21**, our worship will be a **celebration of the life and ministry among us of Laura Currie**. The choir will be singing several anthems that were meaningful to Laura and there will be an opportunity for folks to share memories. Members of the community are most welcome to join us in this special service.

Church Membership

We have a few regular attenders who have decided to become members! And we have set a date of **May 28, Pentecost Sunday**, for the official celebration of new membership. There may be others who are interested in becoming members of our congregation and if so, please contact the pastor and/or the church office by Sunday May 14. We would like to have a **"Get To Know You" meeting after church on May 21** with Deacons and Mission and Outreach representatives so please let us know if you are able to attend.

May 28 is Pentecost Sunday. If you are able, please **wear red!** We will be receiving **new members** that day, so let's also have a big crowd to welcome them!

Up Coming

June 1-3 is the **Upper New York Annual Conference** of the United Methodist Church to be held at the SRC Arena at Onondaga Community College. For those interested, a Pre-Conference Workbook, outlining the program and proposed resolutions is on the coffee table in the Murdock Lounge.

Saturday, June 3, is the **Iroquois Association (American Baptists) picnic**, 11am -3pm at the Clark Reservation in Jamesville. Hot Dogs and Burgers provided and each congregation attending is asked to bring a dish (or 2) to pass.

Mother's Day is May, 14th (This Sunday)



The Deacons would like to share pictures of Moms. If you have any Pictures (paper or digital) of your Mom or individuals you felt were like your Mom and would like to have them **displayed during Church on Sunday May 14th** please bring them to the office before 12:30 or to worship on Sunday - or you can send digital copies to the church through email: tullyunitedcc@gmail.com and we will display them on the wall during worship.

Picnic Lunch with Linda Cottrell

Saturday, June 10th at Walden Place, Cortland. We would like to have a picnic lunch with Linda Cottrell. Beginning at 11:00 am and eating at Noon. We request a dish to pass and can have up to 20 individuals attend. In case of rain there will be a room available for use. If you would like to go there is a sign-up sheet in the window of the office or you can email/phone the office and Cindy will put your name on the Sign- up sheet.





Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Ann Sedore

Jeff Phelps

Moderator

Consecration Sunday Chairperson,
Board of Stewards

Peter's Weeders

Peter's Weeders will be meeting every other Wednesday morning to keep the church grounds neat and weed free. Please feel free to join us any time. No gardening experience is needed. Our first task will be to plant the 5 new tiny trees from Rotary. Wednesday May 17 and 31 and June 14 and 28 at 9:30 a.m. Janet will start a group list to notify you of weather cancellations.

TABS TABS TABS

We continue to collect can tabs to help with equipment, supplies, and transportation needs for patients at the Shriner's Childrens Hospital in Boston. Small and large tabs from pet food, vegetables, soups, and beverages can be placed in the large jar located in the hallway leading to the Fellowship Hall (either on the shelf, cart, or high chair tray). The tabs TUCC collects are taken to the Shriner's Office in Solvay for shipment to Boston. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH TUESDAY SENIOR LUNCHEON MENU May 2023

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

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

May 16

French Dip au Jus
Broccoli Salad
Fruit
Dessert

May 23

Happy (Belated) Mother's Day!

Goulash (American Style)
Roll and Butter
Fruit
Dessert

May 30 –

"We Remember" Memorial Day

BBQ Pork on a Bun
Macaroni Salad
Cole Slaw
Ice Cream Sandwiches

Menu subject to change

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

Birthdays and Anniversaries



BIRTHDAYS:

May 11th – Chris Kruth, May 13th – Mary Thompson, Michael Rankin, May 16th – Jillian Kublick, Rose Edinger, May 18th – Joe Martin, May 19th – Sharon Trerise, May 22nd – Sandra Burgett, May 23rd – Mark Masler, May 26th – Diane Dewey, May 29th – Jeff Phelps, May 31st – Teri Krom

June 2nd – Staci MacCrea, June 6th – Alexa Pebbles

ANNIVERSARIES:

May 11th – Brain & Cindy Bartholomew, May 20th – Cleave & Laurie Snow, May 27th – Tom Brown & Lydia Aris Brown, Brad & Beth Ann Smith, May 28th - Chris & Robin Miller, May 29th – Joe & Marcia Martin

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	Total
Sunday, 4/16	52
Sunday, 4/23	49
Sunday, 4/30	53
Sunday, 5/7	68

CONTRIBUTIONS (Sunday Offering and Loose Offering) for Sunday

	Total
Sunday, 4/16	\$ 1, 690
Sunday, 4/23	\$ 1, 096
Sunday, 4/30	\$ 2, 310
Sunday, 5/7	\$ 3, 361

Prayer and Praise

Prayer Requests:

Jim Butkus will have knee replacement surgery on 5/10. We pray for a successful surgery. David Choate a friend of Claire Jones., Huyge's have been ill and are on their way to recovery. Janet Brown, former Cortland DSS co-worker, she is in Sayre Hospital. Burial for Laura Currie was (5/1) and Barbara Congdon (5/6).



Continue prayers for:

Valerie Aris, Jud Barker, Linda Barker, Ben- nephew of Marie Kemp, Arthur Brown, Sara Bowling- David Franke's sister, Brenda Burns, Betty (Kay Butkus' sister), Shirley Coffin, Joyce Colaboffo, Peter Colombo, Linda Cottrell, Dan Doody, Betty Fairchild, Pam Falge, Carol Fisher, Jake Greiner, Andrea Hall-mother of Anna Frateschi, Anna Friedberg, Tom Homestead Sr, Gerri Jacobus, Michael Jacobs, Rev. Jim Kane, Marie Kemp (Robert's mother), Jim & Jess Kerr- Whitt's sister, Paul Kinny, Teri Krom, Nancy Lajoie, Beth Lattimer, Mandy – Pamela Poulin's niece, Mary- Jim-Kerr Whitt's granddaughter, Dick McAdoo, Devin McCuish, Kathleen McFarlane, Heather Nodine ,Dick Oliver, Pamela Poulin, Tally Poulin, Hugh Reed, Linda Reed, Tom & Norma Richards, Leslie Sanderson, Jeremy Simon, Sheryl Sonacchio, Jolie Spaulding, Liz Spaulding, Rusty Spaulding, Steve- Sue Wright's son-in-law, Brenda Stoker, Mary Thompson, Joyce West & Jamie (Millis) York.

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

Upcoming TLC Recipients are:

Lura Rouse, Linda Cottrell, Betty Fairchild, Joan Banner

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 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



Sunday, May 14th – Happy Mother's Day

Sunday, May 14th - Spring Basket Raffle Winners will be notified on Mother's Day



Wednesday, May 17th – Peters Weeders 9:30 am

Thursday, Jun 1st – Rotary Breakfast 7:00 am at TUCC

June 1-3 is the Upper New York Annual Conference

Saturday, June 3, is the **Iroquois Association (American Baptists) picnic**, 11am -3pm at the Clark Reservation in Jamesville.

Sunday, June 4th – Consecration Sunday

Saturday, June 10th – Red Cross Bloodmobile- 8:00 am – Noon TUCC

July 9th – First Outdoor Service -Continues through Labor Day

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 TUCS Facebook for the update.

TUCS 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.**