

THE STEPPING-STONE July 12, 2023 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 – July 2023

For the next few Sundays of July, the Common Lectionary has us out in the fields planting seeds and watching for growth. The entire season of Pentecost is about growth, but these next few weeks bring us close to the agrarian world view of Jesus and his followers. And we who live in a rural setting have an advantage when these scripture lessons come up – we live it every day!

Not that every one of us is a farmer. But many of us do grow plants in a small garden. And even if we don't, farming is so much a part of who we are as a community together that we are greatly influenced in our thinking, speaking, and living.

“You can plant corn until the 20th of June” and “Knee high by the Fourth of July!” are pretty common phrases to us, and as we approach Independence Day each year, just about all of us are looking at corn fields to determine just how high the corn has grown. While we started off in the Spring with a bit of a draught, the rain has been falling pretty regularly and the corn was, indeed, Knee High by the 4th!

In First Corinthians 3:6-8 the Apostle Paul tells the church at Corinth:

My job was to plant *the seed*, and Apollos was called to water it. Any growth comes from God, so the ones who water and plant have nothing *to brag about*. God, who causes the growth, is the only One who matters. The one who plants is no greater than the one who waters; both will be rewarded based on their work.

Jesus' stories and Paul's example tell us that we are all farmers in God's Kingdom. We each have a job to plant seeds of kindness, justice, peace, and inclusion and to water these seeds with grace, mercy, compassion, and hope. As long as we are doing our job as good gardeners, God will cause the growth.

So keep digging, keep planting, keep watering! A farmer's work is never done!

Peace!

Pastor Rick +

Moderator Message

Church Council Calls TUCC Annual Meeting

August 6, 2023 10:45am

The Annual Meeting of the Tully United Community Church will be held Sunday, August 6, 2023 at 10:45 in the sanctuary. Zoom attendance will be available. A quorum of 10% of active church members is needed to conduct business of the church.

The Annual Report for the program year will be available the by August 1st and will be emailed to members. Please print your own copy; bring it with you to the Annual Meeting.

The Board reports, the proposed budget, and a slate of officers and board members will be presented for members' consideration and voting.

Four proposed changes to the TUCC Constitution will be presented for Congregational vote. Amendments to this Constitution require a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the qualified voters present at the meeting. An article outlining the proposed changes is included in this edition of Stepping Stone.

Please let Ann Sedore, Moderator know if you would like other items added to the Annual Meeting Agenda.

Proposed Changes to the TUCC Constitution August, 2023

The Church Council is proposing changes to the four sections of the TUCC Constitution. Amendments to this Constitution require a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the qualified voters present at the annual meeting. As required in the constitution the proposed changes follow. Questions about the proposed changes may directed to any member of the Church Council.

Proposal 1: Replace Article II with an updated Mission and add Core Values

Remove current Purpose Statement

ARTICLE II – Purpose (CURRENT)

“The purpose of the Tully United Community Church is to Faithfully present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Persons, Groups and Institutions, encouraging them to

Respond in faith and love,
Live the Christian Life Style,
Discover the depth relationships of Christian Fellowship,
And become change agents promoting
Justice, Human Dignity, and a Sense of Community.”

To fulfill this Purpose we shall provide:

1. Preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
2. Christian Education at all age levels;
3. Christian Service within this Church and the Church Universal;
4. Christian Witness and Mission within and beyond the community of Tully;
5. Christian Fellowship;
6. Financial support for the Church's Work; and
7. Facilities which support the Church membership and programs.

To achieve our Christian mission, we are committed to a positive mode of growth and development. A variety of programs will be used to continually reach out and serve the ever-increasing needs of the growing community and world. We place no restrictions on the type of programs we may undertake in response to these needs

Replace with the Mission Statement which is currently posted on TUCC website and add Core Values identified by church members lead by the Transition Team in 2019

ARTICLE II: Our Mission and Values

The mission of the Tully United Community Church is to be an inclusive community of faith, proclaiming the message of God’s love in the teachings of Jesus Christ through worship, teaching and service.

We are an ecumenical fellowship of Christians who believe in God and who seek to follow Jesus in discipleship. Our history includes two specific denominational families: the American Baptists and the United Methodists. While we affirm and maintain our ties to these expressions of Christian witness, we seek to be open to all people who seek to love God and live out their life of faith among us.

Our unity celebrates a diversity of gifts and thinking which leads us to open our hearts and minds and doors to all who enter.

We have no creeds or doctrinal formula to which our members must ascribe, but rather believe in a God given freedom of conscience in regard to matters of religious faith.

Our prayer is that at worship we will catch a glimpse of God’s meaning, purpose and direction for our lives and hopefully discover a new centering presence for our daily living.

Our program life is one which seeks to minister to community needs that we might be a benefit and blessing to all who come through our doors.

Our Core Values

We believe that an environment that promotes loving relationships and belonging is critical for meaningful worship and spiritual growth. We are committed to be accepting, caring, welcoming, helping, and inclusive.

We believe that a vital, God-center church finds multiple ways to reach out and support community. We are committed to understanding and serving community needs.

We believe that a church that promotes spiritual growth and loving relationship produces a congregation characterized by peace, harmony, and joy.

We believe that Christians thrive in a church committed to growth and learning. We are committed to Bible study, questioning, dialogue, and skills development through real life experience.

Proposal 2: Add Dual/Associate Membership option to Membership Section. (Additions in red)

ARTICLE IV – Membership

Section 1. Membership in this Church shall be open to any person:

- A. Who has been baptized and confirmed; or been baptized by immersion; or
- B. Who has made a “Profession of Faith” in God, the Scriptures, and the Bible; or
- C. Who has transferred their membership by letter from any Christian Church.

Section 2. Each member must affirm that he or she will be a responsible person in the matters of church attendance, financial support, and the use of his or her talents for the betterment of the Church.

Section 3. Dual/Associate Membership shall be open to any person

- A. Who has been baptized and confirmed; or made a "Profession of Faith in God, the Scriptures, and the Bible;
- B. Who has been associated with denominations other than the American Baptist Churches/USA or the United Methodist Church; and
- C. Who wishes to be under the care, accountability, and partnership of this faith community, but does not wish to change their denominational affiliation or withdraw membership from another Church

Section 4. The Board of Mission and Outreach shall maintain a membership roll which designates both regular and dual/associate members. The list will also designate each listed member as active or inactive. Members may request at any time, in writing that their status as a member be changed (e.g., from active to inactive or vice versa); however, the Board of Mission and Outreach is authorized to make the final determination as to whether a member is designated as active or inactive. Members will be notified in writing when membership status is being changed. The membership roll shall be regularly updated to reflect changes in membership and membership status. In addition, the Board of Mission and Outreach shall conduct a census, or survey, at least once every five years, which will request that each active member or dual/associate member (1) specify whether he or she desires to be designated as active or inactive; and (2) provide current contact information and any information the member wishes to provide regarding birthdays, anniversaries and family makeup. In conducting the census, the Board of Mission and Outreach shall use multiple methods to contact to maximize responses.

Proposal 3: Change current statements defining term limits for Church Officers and Board Members.

Article VI: Church Organization

Section 1: Officers

The six Church Officers shall be elected from the Membership of the Church at the Annual Meeting for one (1) year terms, and may not serve for more than (3) consecutive terms. Terms may be extended in one year increments if qualified replacements cannot be identified.

Section 7: Boards

The Boards shall consist of a reasonable number of members as is required to complete their duties, with consideration given to the balanced representation of men and women, to be elected from the church membership at an Annual Meeting for a stated term of three (3) years.

~~Board members may not succeed themselves, but may be re-elected after the expiration of one year from the end of their term of office.~~ Terms may be extended as needed to ensure adequate Board size and appropriate experience and expertise.

Proposal 4: Add one new function to The Board of Personnel Relations (addition in red)

Section 12: The Board of Personnel Relations

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.
- I. **Oversee payment for substitute personnel and temporary staff.**

Burying the Time Capsule on July 16, 2023

Weather permitting, we will be burying the 50th Anniversary time capsule on July 16th. The congregation will join the Church Council in the front of the church immediately following the service for this event. Pictures will be taken to commemorate the event and create a pictorial reminder to those celebrating the 100th anniversary!

Ladies Circle News

The Lillian Bigsby Ladies Circle recently completed two Brother Keeper's sleeping bags for the Rescue Mission. Inside each sleeping bag we put sweat pants, sweat shirt, socks, gloves, hat, and a cut up heavy garbage bag to place beneath the sleeping bag when in use by the homeless.

We are in need of socks, gloves and used sweatshirts, as our inventory has been depleted; both men and women. We meet the second Monday of each month starting in September at 10:00 a.m. and work until 11:45-Noon. Those attending bring whatever they want for lunch; and we rotate bringing a dessert. We eat and chat for about an hour. We welcome anyone who cares to join us. Feel free to contact Sandy Burgett, Lorraine Balmer, or Nancy Chawgo for more information.

Kings Corner Market

Our Church sells small loaves of bread and promotes our outreach to the community at Kings Corner Market. Help is needed in making bread and manning our booth. Small aluminum bread pans are located in the church upper kitchen cupboard just left of the sink. Baking is asked to be done in the Church kitchen (anytime Monday preferred). There will be a sign-up sheet on the office window for both manning the booth (4-7) and/or providing bread. All monies earned go to the Church's General Fund.

DID YOU KNOW?

by Claire Jones

Reading the Bible can be daunting! Have you noticed that two people can read the same passage from scripture and come up with entirely different – and often conflicting--understandings of what they read? Sincere Christians may take what they read literally and apply it to today's circumstances, not taking into account the ancient culture(s) that influenced the writer; at its worst, this has led to social injustices such as support of slavery in the USA, and the historical—and in some denominations continuing--subjugation of women. Yes, as the writer of Hebrews tells us, Jesus Christ IS the same, yesterday, today and forever." (Heb 13:8) But human cultures are not!

It has often been said that the Bible should help the reader to ask questions more than to find answers. So, here are some questions to ask ourselves as we read scripture, particularly New Testament, that can lead us to being in meaningful dialogue with the Written Word, through which we come to know Jesus Christ, the Living Word. As we question and listen and learn, may our hearts be truly opened to the fullness of the Word of God.

Who were the primary audience?

Jews/Gentiles/Followers of "The Way"

(*eg*, Pharisees? the "crowd" that followed Jesus? Jesus' disciples? early Christians?)

Where did they live? (name of province/town & its location relative to Jerusalem/Rome)

When did they live? (within a generation/two of Jesus' death? Later?)

What were their circumstances? (*eg*, being persecuted?)

What is the writer's apparent goal(s)?

Telling a story? Evangelism/conversion? Comfort/assurance?

General advice for Christian living? Addressing a specific issue/concern?

What is the writer's tone? (*scolding/exhorting/praising etc*)

What is the writer's theme?

What words are repeated? What images are used most frequently?

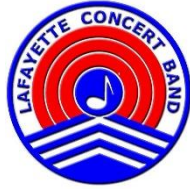
Does the writer refer to any Old Testament scripture?

How is the writer connected to the audience?

From where/whom does the writer draw authenticity/credibility?

Summer Music

Summer Music: There will be four Music in the Park concerts this summer. **July 16 and 23**. Come to Cornerstone Park at 6:30 with your lawn chair and enjoy an evening of music. Rain venue is at TUCC



The Lafayette Community Concert Band will be at TUCC on **Tuesday, August 15** at 7:30.

Peter's Weeders

Wednesday, July 26 & Wednesday, August 9th at 9:30 am During the rest of the summer please feel free to stop and weed any little patch around the church. Peter would appreciate a ride over to help out.



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Ride and Run for the Rescue

Our Church has a team in the 'Ride and Run for the Rescue'. this is a major fundraiser for The Rescue Mission in Syracuse. The event is **on July 29**, this year. Our team is, **TUCC Team**. *Contact Jaci Colombo, for more information.*

To make donations directly to the Rescue Mission, through the TUCC Team page, Go to the following link

[Check out TUCC Team's team fundraising page for Rescue Mission Alliance of Syracuse, NY](#)

Request for Altar Flowers

We do not have anyone signed up on our Altar Flower Calendar for August 13. If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact Marica Martin (315-696-8889) or the office (315-696-8066) or tullyunitedcc@gmail.com.

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.

Aug. 3 – Lorraine Balmer & Sonja Shepherd

Sept. 7 - Trudy Krewson & Sue Wright

Oct. 5 – Dave & Nancy Hatch

Nov. 2 – Ray & Sally Greene

Dec. 7 – John Burgett & Lorraine Balmer

Counters Schedule July – September

7/2/23	David Franke	Brad Smith
7/9/23	Kathleen Randall	Lorraine Balmer
7/16/23	Mel Moore	Nancy Chawgo
7/23/23	Nancy Chawgo	David Franke
7/30/23	Lorraine Balmer	Kathleen Randall
8/6/23	Nancy Chawgo	Lorraine Balmer
8/13/23	Kathleen Randall	Nancy Chawgo
8/20/23	Brad Smith	David Franke
8/27/23	Lorraine Balmer	Mel Moore
9/3/23	Nancy Chawgo	Lorraine Balmer
9/10/23	Kathleen Randall	Brad Smith
9/17/23	Mel Moore	David Franke
9/24/23	Lorraine Balmer	Nancy Chawgo

**TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH TUESDAY SENIOR LUNCHEON MENU
July 2023**

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

July 18

Egg Salad Sandwiches
Chips
Cupcakes

July 25

Chicken and Cheese Quesadillas
Salsa
Mexican Street Corn Salad
Dessert

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:

Jul 14th – Brian Goodfellow, Jul 18th – Lorrie Spaulding, Jul 19th – Kathleen (Haynes) Randall, Jul 22nd – Sarah Goodfellow, Kim Guttendorf, Jul 23rd – Jill Northrup, Jul 24th – Laura Zobel, Jul 27th – Trevor Dewey, July 30th – Ben Wayne, Jul 31st – Patricia Hayes, Del Wayne, Jackie St. Germain, Julian Finn Moore

Aug 1st – Amberle Brown, Aug 7th – Jim Butkus, Aug 9th – Tom Richards, Aug 11th – Elijah James Chave, Aug 13th Trudy Krewson, Aug 14th – Beth Ann Smith



ANNIVERSARIES:

Jul 14th – Jan Kublick & Kim Cameron, Jul 24th – Tom & Michelle Mott Kohberger, Jul 29th – Mark & Kim Guttendorf

Aug 2nd – Don & Sue Bickelhaupt, Aug 14th – Tom & Norma Richards, David & Jacquelyn Franke

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Total

Sunday, 6/18	68
Sunday, 6/25	65
Sunday, 7/2 (4 th of July)	51
Sunday, 7/9	52

CONTRIBUTIONS (Sunday Offering and Loose Offering) for Sunday

Total

Sunday, 6/18	\$ 1,266
Sunday, 6/25	\$ 2,790
Sunday, 7/2	\$ 1,680
Sunday, 7/9	\$ 790

Prayer and Praise

Prayer Requests:

Elaine Haines is on Palliative care and possibly going to Francis House. Prayers for Elaine’s family too. Family of Jerry Hart who passed at the end of June. A good friend of Ray & Sally Greene. Linda Cottrell went into the hospital July 2nd.



Continue prayers for:

Valerie Aris, Jud Barker, Linda Barker, Ben- nephew of Marie Kemp, Sue Bickelhaupt, Sara Bowling- David Franke’s sister, Arthur Brown, Janet Brown, Sandy Burgett, Brenda Burns, David Choate, Shirley Coffin, Joyce Colaboffo, Peter Colombo, Betty Fairchild, Pam Falge, Carol Fisher, Anna Friedberg, Jake Greiner, Andrea Hall- mother of Anna Frateschi, Ricky Hillenbrand, Tom Homestead Sr, Gerri Jacobus, Michael Jacobs, Jim & Jess Kerr- Whitt’s sister, Paul Kinny, Teri Krom, Nancy Lajoie, Beth Lattimer, Mandy – Pamela Poulin’s niece, Devin McCuish, Kathleen McFarlane, Heather Nodine, Dick Oliver, Hugh Reed, Linda Reed, Tom & Norma Richards, Leslie Sanderson, Jeremy Simon, Sheryl Sonacchio, Jolie Spaulding, Liz, David & Jolie 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:

Linda Cottrell, Betty Fairchild, Joan Banner, Andrea Hall

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

Wednesday, Jun 28th at 9:30 am Peter's Weeders

Sunday, starting Jun 25 – Jul 23 – Music in the Park concerts at 6:30 pm

Sunday, Jul 9th – First Outdoor Service -**Continues through Labor Day**

Sunday, Jul 9th – Aug 13th – after worship Bible/Book Study begins

Saturday, Jul 29th – Ride and Run for the Rescue

Tuesdays in August at 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm Kings Corner Market

Wednesday, August 9th at 9:30 am Peter's Weeders

Tuesday, August 15th at 7:30 pm Lafayette Community Concert Band at TUCC

Sunday, August 6th at 10:45 am Annual Meeting

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.**