

The Tidings

March 2018



Ballston Spa United Methodist Church

101 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Pastor's Column

Greetings!

In the season of Lent, the church fixes her eyes upon the cross and we consider what it means for our lives. To help us do that I bring you this true story about Charles Murray, an Olympian who participated in the 1968 summer games. This man came to discover that "the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those who are being saved it is the power of God." (I Corinthians 1:18)

In 1967 Charles was well underway in his training as a high diver for the Olympic team. In his spare time, he took a class in photography at the University of Cincinnati. That's where he met a young Christian who began to share his faith with him. The stories and ideas he shared seemed fascinating to Charles since he had been raised in a home where his family never attended church. One day his new friend asked him if he felt ready to put his trust in Christ as his Savior. Charles' countenance fell and he shook his head. He still felt overly burdened by the sins of his life, and he couldn't accept that someone would die to take away his guilt. The sacrifice seemed too great.

In the days that followed Charles was unusually quiet. Once he called and asked his friend where he might find some particular verses on salvation in the Bible. His Christian friend could see how troubled he was, but he didn't have any idea how to help him. Shortly after that encounter, Charles decided to swim some laps and practice dives. Using his special privileges as an Olympian in training, he was let into the university's pool facilities around 10:30 that night.

It was a clear night in October and the moon was big and bright. The large pool was housed under a ceiling of glass panes so the moon shone brightly across the top of the wall. Charles climbed to the highest platform to take his first dive. At that moment the Spirit of God began to convict him of his sins. All the Scriptures he had read, all the occasions when friends had witnessed about Christ flooded into his mind. He stood on the platform backwards to make his dive, spread his arms wide for balance, and looked up to the wall. That's when he saw his own shadow by the light of the moon. It was the shape of a cross. That was when Charles yielded his heart to Jesus Christ. He realized he no longer had to bear the burden of his sin, He had a Savior who had died for him. As he sat down on the platform, he asked God to forgive him. At 20 feet in the air he trusted in Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

Suddenly, the lights in the pool area came on. A custodian had come in to check the pool. As Charles looked down from his platform he saw an empty pool which had been drained for repairs. He had almost plummeted to his death, but the cross had stopped him from disaster.

What a powerful story for us in this Lenten season! I hope it inspires each one of us to consider how much we need the cross of Christ. May it also inspire us to think about the people who are in our lives who need to discover that their sins can be forgiven, their burdens lifted, and a new life started by putting their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. As your pastor, I am praying that you will have a holy journey this season. I hope you have made a commitment to a new spiritual discipline, so that when Easter morning comes you feel NEW LIFE within you.

May God's love go before you, Christ's blessing to be around you and the Holy Spirit's joy be within you.

Christ's servant and yours, Pastor Kelly

Pastor

Rev. Kelly Warner

Church Council

Chair

Ilah Sisson Walser

Christian

Education

Angela Kinne

Trustee Co-Chairs

Gary Perkins

George Mallette

SPRC Chair

Jackie Capone

Treasurer

Lynne Blake

Financial Secretary

Cherrie Sanders

Lay Member

UNYAC

Linda Sheeran

Lay Leader

Debbie Thompson

Winter Music

Leaders

Terri Knowlton

Ethel Lesh

Mark Warner

Office Assistant

Katrina Tatura

**PLEASE notify us
of any address
changes and/or if
you no longer wish
to receive this
publication.**

Lent has begun!

At our Ash Wednesday service, so many people came forward to receive ashes the entire Alter rail was filled. What a meaningful beginning this was for our Lenten journey. We also celebrate that several people in our church have committed to spiritual disciplines during this season of reflection and growth.

We hope many people will come to the Maundy Thursday service at 7 PM. Terri Knowlton will provide music. Pastor Kelly will offer Scriptures and Reflections, then we will end with the option of foot washing, or hand washing. On Good Friday please join us at 6:30 PM for a Protestant Stations of the Cross service. This will be for third graders and up in the Sunday school area. Adults will be using the sanctuary and parlor space for interactive meditation stations. Although this may be unfamiliar to you, you are encouraged to discover how meaningful such an experience can be in your life.

Welcome to our custodian

Our Staff – Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that Tom Chase is our church's new custodian. Tom is a native of Saratoga Springs, who now lives in Ballston Spa. He is an Indianapolis Colts fan. He also likes to race radio-controlled vehicles. Please give him a warm welcome!

New Mailboxes

We hope you have noticed our new mailboxes in the parlor. This well - crafted gift was made by our very own Gordon Willey. This new way of receiving mail and communicating with Committee Chairs and others within the church should bless our Ministries both today, and in our future

The office assistant has responsibility for delivering incoming mail to the appropriate mailbox and any special instructions should be shared directly with her. For everyone's convenience there is paper, pens, paper clips and envelopes located nearby.

In the interest of maintaining strict confidentiality, any correspondence directed to the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) must be placed in a sealed envelope before being put into that mailbox. Additionally, and again to preserve and protect confidentiality, all mail for the Finance team (Treasurer, Financial Secretary, 5K) as well as for the Trustees will remain at the Church House. Those mailboxes are labeled and located in the file room.

Your feedback on this new system will be appreciated; any comments can be put into the mailbox for Lay Leader. Please approach this

change with an open mind and positive attitude as we work to continually improve our communication with one another.

Positive Response to New Beginnings

In an effort for Pastor Kelly to better get to know us, and for us to get better acquainted with her, six conversational gatherings happened in January and February. In total, 65 of you have participated! What a wonderful response! But, we still have not been able to accommodate everyone who is interested. So another opportunity is scheduled for **Sunday, March 11**, in the Connections Café (Parlor), 11:45-12:45, after Coffee Hour. (Snacks are provided.)

Thanks to all who have already participated and shared. For all others, please sign up on the purple clipboard in the parlor, or contact Linda. We will happily continue as long as necessary. Linda Sheeran

lsheeran6@gmail.com or 518-885-1729



Sunday School News

Family Fun Night was a huge success, it took place on Wednesday, February 21st. Children young and old enjoyed fun games like air hockey, toss the ball and foosball alongside crafts and yummy treats! We look forward to our next Family Fun Night, Parent Night Out and many more fun events! Thank you!

Our Sunday School is doing a local mission

We are collecting blankets, dry and wet food, animal beds, treats, wash cloths and towels for cats and dogs at the Saratoga Animal Shelter. You will find a collection area in the back of the sanctuary. This has already been generously filled to overflowing more than once, however we are still collecting these much needed items. Thank you for your strong support! On Family Sunday, March 18th, all the gifts will be presented in church by our youth.

Learning Opportunities

Safe Sanctuaries Training to be offered

March 4, March 10

Two trainings are planned.

Sunday, March 4, 1:30 to 4:30 pm at the Burnt Hills UMC. Call or email (518)399-5144 or burnthillsumc@gmail.com

Saturday, March 10, training is 1 PM to 4 PM, at the Saratoga Springs UMC, 175 Fifth Ave., 12866. Register with Carrie Boyer at (518)480-4866 or adironackdistrict@unyumc.org

"A Senior Moment"

Every couple of months, my mom's church honors one of their members in the church newsletter. Recently I was asked to send a few photos of my mom and write a few anecdotal stories about her for the upcoming issue. Since the church likes to make a surprise out of these tributes, I had to sneak around her house and borrow some of her old-time pictures. I think my mom will be happily surprised when she sees that she is the next honoree. And it was fun for me to reminisce, and go through old albums.

Maybe we could include something like this in our Newsletter too. Would you like to write some special articles? If so, please contact me with your questions and/or interest. Linda Sheeran, 518-885-1729, or lsheeran6@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Story

When my aunt died a little over a year ago, it was very hard on her daughter, my cousin. My aunt and uncle used to own a Model T Ford, and they always kept what they called a Granny. Square afghan in the back seat of "Maggie." It had several individual 6-inch black frames surrounding bright colorful centers in each frame. The Sunday before the funeral, I was stunned when I saw a prayer shawl matching that afghan pattern resting on the rack in the corner of the sanctuary. Had it been there all along and I just didn't notice it, or did a little miracle just happen? Needless to say, I gave that prayer shawl to my cousin after my aunt's funeral. She was in awe, and instantly pulled it close to her chest, eyes closing for moment. It was like her mom had just given her a hug. She cherishes the memories that mini-afghan evoked in her hurting heart. Thank you for this ministry- Linda Sheeran



Birthdays

- 3-1 Elana Lotto
- 3-3 Christian Morrison
- 3-5 Troy Caswell
- 3-6 Haley Ann Parlapiano
- 3-9 Sara Curcio; Matt Kelley;
Carrie Sheeran; Anna Wilson
- 3-10 Kevin Grentzer
- 3-11 Emily Groff; Douglas McAuliffe;
Heather Staulters
- 3-12 Donovan Calvert; Jacob Wyland;
Maria Dickerson; Kimberly Poteralski
- 3-13 Scott Bryant
- 3-18 Mark Schmidt
- 3-23 Will Clark; Liam Collins; Jennifer Schmidt
- 3-24 John Sheeran
- 3-25 Sarah Clark; Ryder Skillings
- 3-26 Abigail McCumber
- 3-29 Jennifer Briggs; Eliana Briggs;
Brennan Coffey
- 3-30 Donna Conley; Dick Traver; Karina Greco
- 3-31 Brian Wainwright



Anniversaries

- 3-6 Mark & Jennifer Schmidt
- 3-10 Melissa & Dennis Taylor

Thank you

On behalf of Mary Hale's children and family we want to thank you all for your prayers and support during this difficult time. Your compassion and thoughtfulness was much appreciated.

God bless,
Maria and Keith Dickerson, Karen Hale and Helen Senecal.

LIBRARY CORNER

The new book for the Library this month is FRIENDSHIP IS A SPECIAL PLACE by Susan Florence. This is a short book with beautiful illustrations which warm your heart and puts into words the way you feel about "special friends."

Ecumenical Lenten Luncheons

Wednesdays 12:00 – 12:50 pm

WHAT JESUS DID FOR US ON THE CROSS

The Village churches of Ballston Spa (Alliance, Baptist, Episcopal, Methodist & Presbyterian) will hold an ecumenical Lenten lunch series entitled "WHAT JESUS DID FOR US ON THE CROSS" on Wednesdays during Lent (February 28 – March 28) from 12:00-12:50 pm at **Christ Episcopal Church** (15 W. High St., Ballston Spa). All are welcome each week as we share in a free meal and hear a brief reflection led by the village clergy. For more information, please contact Father Derik Roy at 518-366-5160.

March 7th – Message by Pastor David Wald, Community Alliance Church

March 14th – Message by Pastor Kelly, BSUMC – meal

March 21st – Message by Pastor Scott DeBlock, First Presbyterian Church

March 28th – Message by Father Derik Roy, First Baptist Church

Our church is responsible for providing the lunch on March 14th.

If you have any questions contact Helen Senecal at (518)885-6883 or Diane Solotruck at (518)885-5280.

Fair Trade

The next Fair Trade sale will be Sunday, March 18th after service in the North Entryway. We will again have coffee, tea, dark hot chocolate, and organic dark chocolate candy bars including Extreme Dark, Panama Extra Dark, Caramel Crunch with Sea Salt, and one with Toasted Almond Bits.

Thanks to all members and friends who support this ministry which enables small farmers from third world countries to make a living. Last month \$360 was raised through your generosity.

5K Dinners in March

The next 5K Thank You Dinner will be Thursday, March 15th at 6:00 PM at the Recovery Sports Grill in Malta. Each person will order off the Menu that night. To sign-up, please see **Melody Babcock (518)490-2015** after church or call her by Monday, March 12th if you would like to attend.

Everyone is invited to join us for these dinners which are an opportunity to socialize with other church members and friends, as well as to thank our Falling Leaves 5K Sponsors for their support.



Chocolate Fest was a great success!♥♥♥

Thanks to everyone who participated in our first

Chocolate Fest Event. We had lots of participation in our children's craft area. Children were able to choose from a variety of crafts or coloring items. Several adults stopped by and enjoyed coloring and crafts also. The chocolate kiss diamond ring was a big hit with the young and old alike!

A variety of refreshments were provided for the public. Stan and Donna Lockwood sold Fair Trade candy bars during the event and were very successful! We are looking to do this again next year and it has inspired us to think about an adult coloring night as a regular event. Please see Karen (518-8853750) or Emily Groff (518-928-1656) if this is something you might be interested in in the future.



Thank You, Ballston Spa UMC!

The Upper New York Conference (UNYC) thanks the generous churches across the Upper New York Conference who paid their 2017 Ministry Shares. This year, the Conference Ministry Shares were just over \$100,000 more than last year's collection. In 2017, 638 churches contributed 100 percent of their Ministry Shares; this is up from 632 churches in 2016. You can be proud that Ballston Spa United Methodist Church has been paying 100% for several years. This generosity has enabled the UNY Conference to pay 100 percent of their General Church apportionments for the second year in a row. Because of churches like us, great things will continue to happen across the world-wide United Methodist Connection.

"Ministry Share giving isn't an act of 'paying a tax' or 'paying a bill,' but is, instead, an act of giving to God for mission and ministry through the Upper New York Conference." Rev. Susan Ranous, chair of UNYC Council of Finance and Administration (CF&A)

The Cross

The cross is more than an ornament to be worn about the neck or a symbol to adorn a sanctuary.

To Mary it was a memory of agony, to Paul it was a symbol of glory; to those at Golgotha, it was a holiday, to a skeptic it is a superstition, clouding the human mind.

To one thief it was the door to hell, to the other it was a gateway to paradise; to Christ it was a bier and a throne, a way to eternity for humankind.

To many millions of storm tossed souls like us, it is an anchor, offering a haven of rest in a sea of storms. **At the foot of the cross, our sins and God's love meet in a redemptive encounter...**



Lay Servant Courses Offered in Adirondack, Albany Districts

The Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course is a foundation course designed to help people explore their call to service within the United Methodist Church. "Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship."

Basic Lay Servant Course: First UMC, Ticonderoga: March 3 and March 17

It is from 9 AM to 3 PM Saturday March 3 and March 17 at First UMC, 1045 Wicker St., Ticonderoga, NY 12883. Call Grace Trombley at (518)585-7995.

March 11, 2018 - Daylight Saving Time Starts

Remember to change your clocks ahead one hour, or you will be at church extra early.



March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Cub Scouts 7:00 pm (FR)	2 Setting up for Rummage Sale, 9:00am – 6:00 pm	3 Rummage and Bake Sale, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm (FR)
4 Worship 10:00 am Holly Communion; Sunday School meeting, 9:15 am (SS area)	5 Boy Scouts, 7:00 pm (FR)	6 Thrift Shop 9:30 – noon Finance Mtg., 7:00 pm (P) Cub Scouts, 7:00 pm (FR)	7 Food Pantry, 9:30 – noon Ecumenical Luncheon, 12:00-12:50 pm, (Christ Episcopal Church); Trustees Mtg., 7:00 pm (CH)	8 Cub Scouts, 7:00 pm (FR)	9	10
11 Worship 10:00 am “New Beginnings with Pastor Kelly”, 11:45-1:00 pm	12 Boy Scouts, 7:00 pm (FR)	13 Thrift Shop 9:30 – noon Council Mtg., 7:00, pm (P) Cub Scouts, 6:30 pm (FR)	14 Food Pantry, 9:30 – noon Ecumenical Luncheon, 12:00-12:50 pm, (Christ Episcopal Church); Worship Team, 6:30 pm (CC)	15 Cub Scouts, 7:00 pm (FR)	16 5 K Dinner at “Recovery Sports Grill”, 6:00 pm	17
18 Worship 10:00 am Fair Trade Youth Mtg., 12:00- 2:00 pm	19 Boy Scouts, 7:00 pm (FR)	20 Thrift Shop 9:30 – noon Cub Scouts, 7:00pm (FR)	21 Food Pantry, 9:30 – noon Ecumenical Luncheon, 12:00-12:50 pm, (Christ Episcopal Church); Prayer Shawl, 6:30 pm (CC)	22 Cub Scouts, 7:00 pm (FR)	23 SPRC Mtg., 6:00 pm (CC)	24
25 Worship 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Blessing	26 Boy Scouts, 7:00 pm (FR)	27 Thrift Shop 9:30 – noon Cub Scouts, 6:30 pm (FR)	28 Food Pantry, 9:30 – noon Ecumenical Luncheon, 12:00-12:50 pm, (Christ Episcopal Church)	29 Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00pm (CC)	30 Good Friday Good Friday Service, 6:30 pm (S)	31

CC= Connections Cafe
CH= Church House
FR= Fellowship Room
S = Sanctuary

Bishop Mark J. Webb's Letter

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Our hearts ache and our spirits grieve as once again senseless violence and evil has taken the lives of innocent people. I invite you to join me in praying for the victims and families of the shooting yesterday at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Our prayers are with our United Methodist brothers and sisters in the communities of Parkland and Coral Springs, Florida as they seek to be the presence of Christ during this horrific time.

Like you, I watch and listen as people attempt to make sense of events like this. I hear the discussions that attempt to find a reason and then ultimately a solution. We must lead and be engaged in the conversations that address the moral and spiritual decay in our society. We must lead and be engaged in the conversations that work toward ending all acts of violence and evil, including gun violence. We must lead and be engaged in the conversations that seek to address the hopelessness, fear, and spiritual yearnings found in each person. We must confess our lack of compassion, passion, and urgency in offering the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and action to the world around us.

Ephesians 6 remind us of a powerful truth: "for our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." The words of Jesus in John 12 invite us to claim and proclaim a promise as well - "I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness."

May we allow the light of Jesus to continue to transform us and then may we take that light into the darkest parts of our community and world, trusting that light to penetrate the darkness. The light of Christ is our hope, our source of peace and the true solution for transforming change in us, in others and in our world. Let us boldly offer Jesus!

Grace and peace,



Bishop Mark J. Webb



Adirondack District Superintendent

Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb is pleased to announce The Rev. Deborah Earthrowl as Superintendent of the Adirondack District, effective July 1. Rev. Earthrowl currently serves as pastor of the Salem and West Hebron United Methodist churches in the Adirondack District. She has been involved in various leadership positions in Upper New York, as well as a predecessor conference. She currently serves on the UNY Board of Ordained Ministry, the UNY New Faith Community Leadership Team, and serves as a coach with the coaching network through Vital Congregations. Rev. Earthrowl is also currently a member of the Adirondack District Leadership Team and has been a volunteer director at Skye Farm for nearly 20 years.

"Rev. Earthrowl brings a contagious love for Jesus and a commitment for assisting the church in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," Bishop Webb said. "Debbie's experience and love for ministry in all settings, specifically rural ministry, will be a gift to the work of Upper New York and Adirondack District".

Current Adirondack District Superintendent the Rev. William Mudge will be appointed to First United Methodist Church in Baldwinsville, effective July 1.



Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline date for the February issue of *The Tidings* newsletter is April 15th. You may e-mail your article to bsumc@albany.twcbc.com, drop it off, or mail it to the office. Anyone may submit an article for the newsletter.



**Sunday Worship 10 AM - Nursery Care Available
Sunday School 10:15 AM**

Ballston Spa United Methodist
Church

101 Milton Avenue
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Address Service Requested

March Tidings

Church Office Phone

518-885-6886

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday
9:00 a.m. - noon

Pastor Kelly Warner

Tuesday - Thursday (all day)

Email

bsumc@albany.twcbc.com

Web Site

Ballstonspaumchurch.org

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

