

**Pastor***Rev. Kelly Warner***Office Manager***Susan Cramer***Custodian***Tom Chase***Music Ministry***Cathy King***Church Council Chair***Ilah Sisson Walser***Trustee Co-Chairs***Gary Perkins**George Mallette***SPRC Chair***Jackie Capone***Treasurer***Lynne Blake***Financial Secretary***Cherrie Sanders***Lay Member UNYAC***Linda Sheeran*

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

# The Tidings

January 2019

Ballston Spa United Methodist Church



101 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

## Pastor's Column



Greetings to our church family and friends,

Our January newsletter is filled with articles about our many, recent, December activities, events and mission work. This month's articles are similar to what has been reported throughout all of 2018 - great fullness! It has been busy and exciting around the church and in the Church House; I have yet to experience quiet lulls! Every day I see and hear about our many good ministries. I feel gratitude for your ongoing presence and support. I want to say "Thank

you..." for your time, prayers and efforts - which have been made individually, in teams and as a congregation. You are a good and faithful church.

As a New Year draws closer, I have been reflecting on what it had been like to be your pastor in this year. I am no longer commuting here mid-week but living full-time in your parsonage. There are two new staff people doing a great job for the church. Our whole family is enjoying Ballston Spa and all it has to offer. And when it comes to the church - and all of you in it - we love sharing in ministry with you. You have made us feel welcome, and have been a great blessing. We prayed as a family before I agreed to serve here, and it was a solid "Yes" of affirmation. We continue to feel that way, and wanted you to know how joy-filled we feel in this Christmas season.

We wish each of you a joyous Christmas Day. May it be a time when you savor all that God has given to you, and to those whom you love. We also pray that you will be quietly aware of the Gift of Christ, that babe in the manger, the Hope of all the World.

Pastor Kelly, Mark, Jonathan and Katie

## **Mission and Outreach News**



### **Fair Trade**

There will be a sale of Fair Trade products on Sunday, January 20th. We will have coffee (including hazelnut), tea, hot chocolate, and DARK Chocolate bars. We will again be set up near the coat racks just outside of the Connections Cafe. There has been some interest in possibly ordering fair trade coffee -single serve cups. Please contact Danielle Coffey or Stan Lockwood if you are interested.

### **Thrift Shop News**

The Upper Room Thrift Shop is open on Tuesdays from 9:30 am to noon and serves approximately 20 families a week. If you would like to serve the Lord by helping in the Thrift Shop, please contact Thelma Armer at 518-885-9696 or Melody Babcock at 518-490-2015. We can always use the extra help as the shop is getting busier and busier!



### **The Food Pantry**

The Food Pantry for the first two weeks in December served 37 families consisting of 129 individuals. We have been fortunate to have received some large donations of food and monetary donations this month.

Thank you to the Lions Club for their donation of 20 hams and a large donation of hats, scarves, mittens and gloves. We also want to thank the Ballston Spa National Bank and the Veterans of Foreign Wars who made monetary donations and the Schultz Construction Company from Malta for their large donation of food.

Thanks to all who volunteer at the Food Pantry. Your donations of time and energy make all of this possible.

### **Flood Buckets: An On-going Need**

The need for Flood Buckets is continuous. If you or your family is looking for a simple way to make an impact far from home, this is an excellent opportunity. Simply take an orange slip of paper from the Flood Bucket Bin near the north Welcome Table, purchase the exact item(s) printed on the paper, and return it to the bin. Many thanks, Linda Sheeran- [lsheeran6@gmail.com](mailto:lsheeran6@gmail.com) or 518-885-1729

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

This is a recent story regarding our Prayer Shawl Ministry. One of our members received this letter in a Christmas Card:

"I met you at a garage sale about 12-13 years ago. We had a conversation about prayer shawl because you were looking for yarn to make them with and I had never heard of one before. You were kind enough to mail me a prayer shawl not long afterwards and I can still recall how stunned I was when I opened the box and first experienced the sheer beautiful, delicate, loving energy that emanates from it.

I've benefitted greatly from this wondrous shawl, especially in trying times over the years and always mentally send you quiet thanks of appreciation. It's like being enveloped in a layer of unconditional love whenever I drape your shawl across my shoulders. I keep it in my nightstand along with your note, which includes the names of the other prayer group members.

I feel very fortunate to be one of the lucky recipients of your amazing creations and felt inspired to reach out to you during this beautiful season to thank you with a small gift and to wish you all of the joy and simple pleasures that this holiday season brings.

With love and appreciation, Marta"

What a beautifully written expression of thanks that brings tears to our eyes with a gentle reminder of how when we reach out and touch another person's life, we never truly know how much it may mean in their lives. Thank you for your continue support and prayers that enhance this ministry.

### **Thanksgiving Bag Ministry - Thank You**

Here is an account of the very successful Thanksgiving Bag Ministry 2018. Thank you all for your contributions!

On Sunday collection day before church service was even over, our chapel tables were loaded above and below with food bags filled and brought in by congregations of the local churches. It was somewhat overwhelming. Then the volunteers set to work going through each bag to make sure there were adequate supplies of food. If items were missing, they made a record of that so we could shop for them. If some bags were full and had extras, they were marked XL to give to large families. By 1:00 all those bags and the many more incoming bags were evaluated and guess what? We were only short 12 bags! Then it happened – about 15 of the Hunter girls' soccer team enthusiastically graced the room with around 6 adults AND bags of food. So many that we couldn't even count them. We now had supplies for approximately 140 people. The turkey truck was loaded with 85 birds. There were 69 gift cards for local markets. You would think that would be enough, right? Hold on.

Monday morning 6 men from the Lions Club arrived with 20 boxes chocked full of food supplies and turkeys. Meanwhile 250 Stewart's milk cards arrived. Hannaford had donated 108 jugs of juice. Monday afternoon from 3-6, 120 people came to pick up bags of Thanksgiving food and a turkey or gift card, milk cards and juice bottles. 6 Odyssey of the Mind young people and 2 people from other churches came to help us. 11 people didn't come even though they had signed up for bags. So on Tuesday, we organized the missing, called them and made arrangements to deliver them or have them pick up at church. All were truly grateful, and we are grateful to your church for their generous contributions.

Sincerely,

Bev Davis

First Presbyterian Church Mission Team

### **Adopt A Family Mission**

A big thank you for your generous contribution to our annual "Adopt A Family" mission. Because of your generosity, two children, Adrianna age 5 and Josiah age 3 will have had a very merry Christmas, and the family was able to have a nice Christmas dinner with the gift cards they were given. Every year this mission is a big success because of our congregation. Thank you again for helping this family have a very Merry Christmas.

Mary Drake, Coordinator

### **Summer Lunch Program**

I'm taking this opportunity to pass along to you news of the wonderful grant received once again from The Adirondack Trust Community Fund in support of the Summer Lunch Program. This year the grant totaled \$2,000!

The Summer Lunch Program provides a free, nutritious lunch to students within the Ballston Spa school district during the months of July and August. This worthwhile program sustains solely on individual and corporate donations - no local, state or federal funds support the program. A group of volunteers prepare, deliver and distribute an average of 150 lunches Monday - Friday during the length of the program. The daily lunches consist of either a fresh bagel with cream cheese and jelly, a freshly-made sandwich or 2 slices of pizza; also included are fresh vegetables, fresh fruit, milk or water, chips and cookies or pudding. Needless to say, we could not provide this nutrition without the generous support of organizations such as the Adirondack Trust Community Fund as well as the donations received from many, many individuals; we also would not be able to continue the program without the support of the dedicated volunteers who sign up each and every year.

It is the hope of the program coordinators to be able to expand and extend the program in 2019; it is our desire to be able to fulfill the nutritional needs of even more students this summer as well as possibly extending the program for an additional week. Information on how you may volunteer during Summer 2019 will be available in May.

Thank you to all who help to make this program the great success it has become!

Sincerely,  
Debbie Thompson, Co-Coordinator

### **Ballston Area Clergy Association**

On behalf of the Ballston Area Clergy Association, I would like to thank you for your recent generous donation of \$355.50 to our Community Assistance Fund. This fund was established in 2009 as an ecumenical witness of God's love and compassion to people in times of financial crisis. Thank you for your part in making this a vital ministry to our community!

Justina Danison  
Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper

First Presbyterian  
Church of Ballston  
Spa

## **Sunday School is Cool**



Thanks to Marcy Wilson, Sunday school teacher and pageant chair extraordinaire! It was great to see the kids perform the nativity story. Also much thanks to our Sunday school staff, Catherine King and Sue Cramer for all the wonderful help to bring this event to our congregation!!

We look forward to continuing with our current curriculum Whirl thru the Winter months. We will also continue with group sessions including music and crafts on communion Sunday's and the family Sunday's on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. We soon will be making plans for our next mission in which to get the children involved. Stay tuned! We have lots planned for the coming months!

### **Safe Sanctuary and Church Safety**

Falling can be a serious matter for the young and old alike. Do we check for tripping and falling hazards on our church grounds? With the winter months coming we want to remind everyone of the following leading causes of falling:

1. Uneven Surfaces or loose carpeting. Avoid uneven surfaces when you can or label these areas with signs.



2. Unexpected obstacles on walking surfaces. Pick up trash, toys and debris on walkways inside and out. Keep electrical cords out of walkways as much as possible.
3. Poor lighting. Keep stairways and hallways well lit to prevent falls.
4. Ice or Water on walking surfaces. Salt is available at all of our church entrances. If our entryways are slippery please help those who are unable by adding salt to prevent falls.
5. Take your time. Being late for service is certainly better than being careless about your own or others safety.
6. Help others. Lend a hand to those who are having difficulty walking due to age, health or recent surgery.

Many thanks to those who have helped as volunteer roamers thus far. Continued volunteers are needed. Please sign up and learn about this important ministry.

Let's all work together to keep our church safe!!

## **Church Happenings**

### **First Fridays! #LiveBspa**

Thanks to everyone who helped, donated cookies, or just showed up for our December First Friday. We had the most children ever! We also had a lot of adults stop by and check out our sanctuary and listen to the wonderful organ music. We will continue our First Friday tradition with our next event on Friday February 1st, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. Hope you can stop by and say hi!! Karen Groff

### **5K Thank You Dinner**

There will be a 5K Thank You Dinner on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 6:00 PM. We will order 2 or 3 dinner platters from Augies Family Italian Restaurant and will also have salad, Italian bread, dessert and bottled water. The cost will be \$13.00 per person and reservations are required along with payment by Sunday, January 13th. Please contact Melody Babcock (518.490.2015) or Stan Lockwood (518.885.1552) to make a reservation and payment. Any BSUMC member or friend is welcome to attend these dinners to socialize with others and to thank our 5K Sponsors.

### **Roast Beef Dinner Update**

The weather cooperated and we had a good crowd in the Fellowship Room. There were lots of donated pies to chose from, lots of baked goods for the Bake Sale and everyone we served complimented on how great the meal was -- when is your next dinner? Thank you to all who donated pies, baked goods, money donations and those who donated their time and energy!

The Bake Sale was also successful and many thanks to Karen Groff and Emily Groff for manning the table! Their grand total from Saturday and Sunday was \$236.60. Our grand total for the entire dinner was \$2,270!

Janet and George

### **Craft Night – Get Creative!**

Come to the Connections Cafe on Thursday January 3rd at 6:30 pm for Craft Night. Try a craft or bring one of your own to work on. Learn something new or share your skills with others. This is hosted by our church, but hopefully friends in the community will join us. The vision is for this to be low (or no) cost, but a great time of fellowship. And we have snacks!





### **Special Session of General Conference**

In the New Year, we as United Methodists will need to pay attention to what is happening at a Special Session of our General Conference in February. What follows is a lengthy, but important article I hope you will read, contemplate and pray about in the coming weeks.

There will be a church-wide "Informational Session" offered on January 22nd from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the sanctuary. There will be another gathering on February 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the sanctuary for a teaching session called "Having a Heart at Peace, Not at War".

Kelly

### **Bishop Mark Webb Shares What to Expect at our Special Session of General Conference in February 2019**

December 5, 2018/ By Shannon Hodson

Forty-six years-that is how long the debate on human sexuality has been taking place in the United Methodist Church. The 2016 General Conference gave a specific mandate to the Council of Bishops to lead The United Methodist Church in discerning and proposing a way forward through the present impasse related to human sexuality and the consequent questions about unity and covenant.

After this mandate was given, the Council of Bishops called for a Special Session of General Conference to be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, MO. and appointed laity and clergy across the United Methodist Church to form a 32-member Commission on a Way Forward. This Commission was put in charge of creating a report of recommendations to present to the Special Session of General Conference.

After over a year of meetings and collaboration, the Commission on a Way Forward presented a report to the Council of Bishops in May of 2018 with two possible recommendations to present at the Special Session of General Conference. These plans included: The One Church Plan, The Connectional Conference Plan. The Council of Bishops then asked for the Traditionalist Plan, which was an option in an earlier draft of the report to be added back into the report, leaving three possible Church models.

This past fall, Upper New York (UNY) Area Resident Bishop, Mark J. Webb held six regional gatherings across UNY in preparation for Special Session of General Conference to talk about the report of the Commission on a Way Forward for The United Methodist Church.

### **Delving into the significance of the 2019 Special Session of General Conference**

Bishop Webb started each gathering by educating the attendees about the 2019 Special Session of General Conference, explaining that the United Methodist Church has a legislative body, an executive body, and a judicial body. He further explained that the General Conference is the legislative body and that "it is the only body that can officially speak for the United Methodist Church." The General Conference is the only body that can change the language in the *Book of Discipline*.

The executive body is the Council of Bishops. They can call for Special Sessions of General Conference outside of the normal every-four-year schedule. These are called adjourned sessions and such a session has only been held one other time in the history of the United Methodist Church. Bishop Webb acknowledged that what this means is that "We are in a historic time in that an adjourned session of General Conference is not a frequently used vehicle."

The Judicial Body is like the United States Supreme Court-they can decide the constitutionality of items presented by or to the Council of Bishops.

Bishop Webb then clarified the fact that the delegates for the 2019 Special Session of General Conference are the same delegates that were elected for the 2016 session of General Conference, except for those Annual Conferences that decided to elect new delegates for the Special Session. Upper New York delegation will include the 12 delegates who were elected for the 2016 General Conference, six clergy and six laity. Bishop Webb said, “The Special Session of General Conference will discuss, debate, and vote on the report on the Commission on the Way Forward and Bishops do not participate in debate or vote at General Conference. Bishops do not speak or vote—we preside. Debating and voting is the role of the delegates.”

### **Outlining the report to be presented at the Special Session of General Conference**

Bishop Webb explained that the One Church Model, “provides a form of unity that gives Conferences, churches, and pastors the flexibility to uniquely reach their missional context without disbanding the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church.” The One Church plan would allow churches and Conferences to decide whether to perform same-gender marriages, and Bishops will have the freedom to decide whether to ordain practicing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer persons.

The One Church Plan would allow elders to transfer churches or Conference if they are not in agreement with the church’s or Conference’s stance. In other words, all appointments are guaranteed despite their stance. If clergy decide to leave the denomination, they will be given what they already have vested in their retirement, but no more.

Bishop Webb used an analogy of an umbrella to describe the Connectional Conference plan. He said, “The Connectional Conference plan creates this big umbrella that reflects a unified core that includes shared name, logo, doctrine and services, but under this umbrella, the Connectional Conference creates three values-based Connectional Conferences that have distinctive definitions of accountability, contextualization and justice.”

The Connectional Conference plan allows various parts of the UMC to follow their understandings of human sexuality without breaking unity completely by forming three Connectional Conferences: Traditional, Unity and Progressive. Current US Jurisdictional Conferences would be replaced with three connectional conferences, each covering the whole country, based on theology including perspectives on LGBTQ ministry (i.e. progressive, unity, and traditional). Each Connectional Conference could have its own *Book of Discipline*. Each Connectional Conference could also have its own policies regarding LGBTQ weddings and ordination and could set its own standards for ministerial credentialing and list of approved school/seminaries.

The Traditionalist Plan maintains the current language and stance of the *Book of Discipline*. However, it allows Annual Conferences or any group of 50 congregations to form a self-governing church if they are in “irreconcilable conflict for reasons of conscience with the doctrine or moral teachings and requirements of *The Book of Discipline* on the issues of human sexuality.

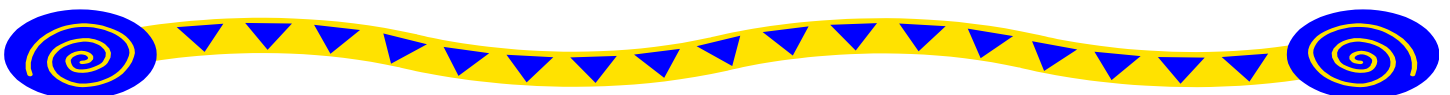
At its most recent gathering in October, the Judicial Council ruled that both the One Church Plan and the Traditionalist Plan contain provisions that have constitutional problems. Proponents of each plan are working to correct those constitutional issues.

### **Praying beyond February 23-26**

Bishop Webb said, “We need to be praying for February 23 through 26, but do you know the date that I am more interested in?...February 27<sup>th</sup>, February 28<sup>th</sup>, and March 1<sup>st</sup> because no matter what happens at this Special Session of General Conference, there is one thing that does not change and that is that the Church of Jesus Christ continues and the mission that the Church of Jesus Christ is called to, continues; and we will still have ministry to do in the name of Jesus.” Bishop Webb affirmed that no matter how the United Methodist Church changes, he will continue to equip leaders to help their congregations become disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Continue to pray for the United Methodist Church as we approach February 23.

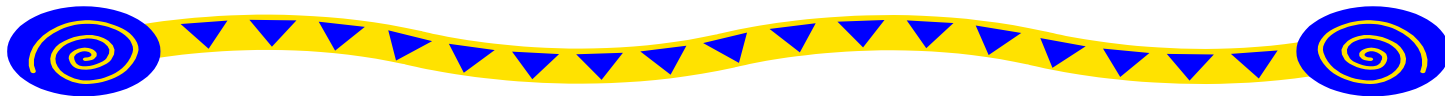
If you missed these regional gatherings there is a four-part video series about Special Session, featuring Bishop Webb. Go to the UNYAC website.



### Wish for you in the New Year

Renewal is rooted in faith, not in resolutions! They are made for New Year's and forgotten on an average of thirteen days later, say the surveys. Faith is the result of a decision about Christ. I cannot make a new me or a new you, but Christ can make you new and me new.

Frank Harrington



1/2 Stanley Lockwood, Tyler Pariapiano  
1/4 Stephen Kidwell  
1/5 Lynne Blake, Shawn Taylor  
1/7 John Staulters  
1/8 Pat Brewster, Jim Cope  
1/11 Heather Mason  
1/12 Billy Mason  
1/14 Shirley MacMillin  
1/16 Debbie Miller  
1/17 John Cummings  
1/20 Thelma Armer  
1/22 Sherry Grentzer  
1/24 Marilyn Peterson, Riley Schmidt, Jake Taylor  
1/25 Sebastian Trumbull  
1/30 Debbie Thompson  
1/31 George Wilson Jr.

**Please let the Church Office know if there are any additions and/or corrections.**



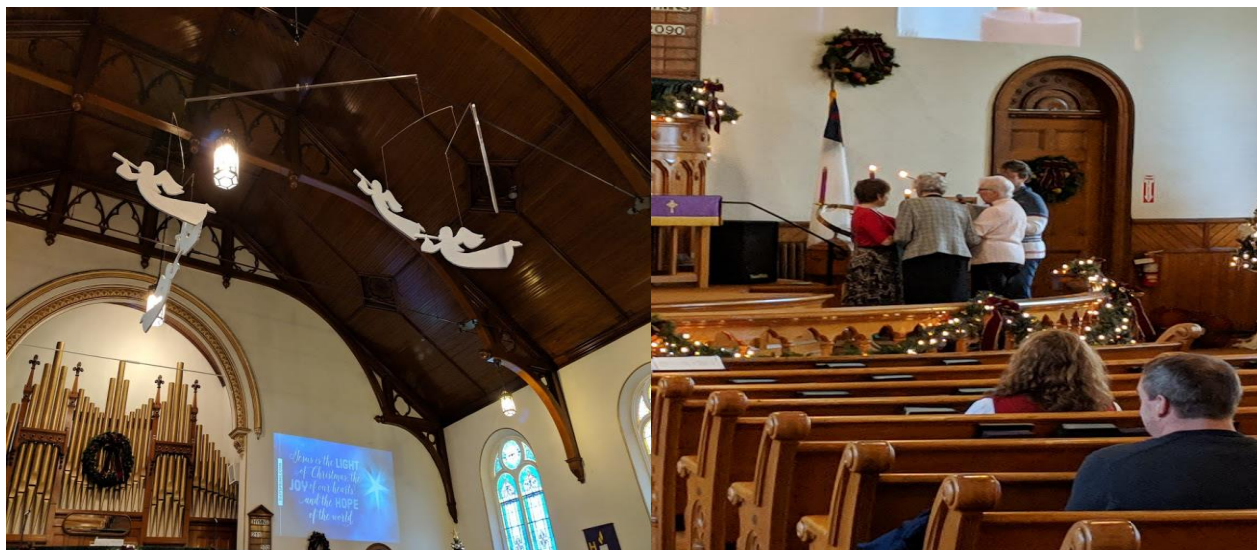
### Losses in our Church Family

Betty McCann 12/5/1927 – 12/11/2018

Barbara Murray  
505 Sperry Hollow Road  
Schenevus, NY 12155







### **Newsletter Deadline:**

**The deadline date for the February issue of The Tidings newsletter is January 20<sup>th</sup>. You may e-mail your article to [bsumc@albany.twcbc.com](mailto: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

## *January Tidings*

**Church Office Phone**

518-885-6886

**Office Hours**

*Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday*  
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Pastor Kelly Warner**

Tuesday – Thursday (all day)

---

**Email**

[bsumc@albany.twcbc.com](mailto:bsumc@albany.twcbc.com)

**Web Site**

[Ballstonspaumchurch.org](http://Ballstonspaumchurch.org)

*“Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.”*