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Lynne Blake

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George Mallette

**Youth Group
Leaders**
Melissa Taylor
Cherrie Sanders

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to receive this
publication.**

The Tidings

February 2020

Ballston Spa United Methodist Church



101 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Greetings Church family,

This front page in our newsletter is a space where pastors have often shared their thoughts about God, the church, its ministries - and how we might share such things with the world outside our doors. It is a message from the pastor's heart, seeking to guide, bless or encourage their congregation. This month I want to offer us all some reminders and guidelines about communication. Some might call these "common sense", but I think that in these days of never-ending tensions (in society, government, workplaces, and our beloved United Methodist Church) it is good to be reminded of the basics. This wisdom comes right out of the Bible!

The key to great communication starts in the HEART. It is the "control room" of our mind so God reminds us to "guard it well" (Proverbs 4:23). Whenever we want to share our perspective, our "truth", we are to do so in a loving way. Here are some specific ways we can communicate most effectively as Christians:

Don't be quick to speak. James 1:19 says "Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger." We all have times when emotions or negative thoughts get bottled up in us, and we can be tempted to speak recklessly. That unfiltered "venting" may feel temporarily satisfying but speaking rashly often has lasting consequences. Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer spoke of the need to practice "the ministry of holding one's tongue". Are there people in your life with whom you need to "hold your tongue"? God can help you have more self-control and thoughtfulness when you feel the need to express yourself. If this is a need you feel, then take this to the Lord in prayer and God will help you.

Don't focus on just "your own opinion". Proverbs 18:2 says "A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions." Communication is about sharing and exchanging ideas and opinions. Focusing solely on your opinion is one-sided and it can even be narrow-minded. One of the best ways we can invite others to freely express their thoughts is to say "Help me understand what you mean...". If you are genuinely humble and can keep yourself in a place of "curiosity", that helps communication feel safe for others. This is definitely a "do unto others as you would like them to do unto you" reminder from God!

Don't be argumentative. Proverbs 25:24 says "It is better to live in the corner of the housetop, than inside a house shared with an argumentative wife." Let's not be "one of those people" - the stereotypical, cantankerous individual nobody wants to be around. Find a time and place when you are rested and feeling able to have a productive discussion. Set a reasonable time limit for

your dialogue. Be respectful in the words you choose to use - and in their quantity! Also be mindful of your tone of voice. Did you know that the root word in sarcasm means "to cut flesh"? Ouch - who would want to cut someone and make them bleed? That is a cautionary image and reminder, isn't it? When we

communicate, our goal is to be heard but it must also be to listen and understand the other person. That full circle is needed. We can and will disagree with others, but with God's help we can be our best, loving, respectful self in the process.

"Now that you know these things you will be blessed if you put them into practice!" John 13:17

Pastor Kelly

Mission and Outreach News



Fair Trade Sale

The February Fair Trade sale will be on Sunday, February 2nd and will include coffee, tea, hot cocoa and dark chocolate bars. Many thanks to those who support this ministry. Valentine's Day is coming ♥♥♥

February First Friday

On February 7th we will be hosting Chocolate Fest. We look at this as a "party with a purpose". There will be hundreds of people who will visit our church and we would like to make them feel welcomed. Maybe they are looking for a place to come more frequently. Maybe they are looking for friendship. Maybe they are looking for God. Let's make this the place to find all three.

We will be having hot cocoa and baked goods. Donations are welcomed as is any help you may offer. The movie "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" will be shown.

Come for the people. Come for the fellowship. Come for the chocolate!

"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity!"
Colossians 4:5

5K Thank You Dinner

The February 5K Thank You Dinner will be Thursday, February 20th at 6:00 PM at the Recovery Room in Malta. Please sign up or notify Stan Lockwood (518.885.1552) or Melody Babcock (518.490.2015) by Sunday, February 16th if you wish to attend so they may reserve space at the restaurant. Anyone can attend these dinners which we organize as a way to say thank you to the generous sponsors and supporters of our Falling Leaves 5K Run.

The Upper Room Thrift Shop and Food Pantry Needs Volunteers

The Upper Room Thrift Shop and Food Pantry are seeking volunteers for their ministries.

Helen Senecal, Thelma Armer and Melody Babcock are extremely flexible with scheduling. You may let us know what Tuesday or Wednesday you are available. We try very hard to use you on that date.

The hours are Tuesday from 9:30 to noon for the Thrift Shop. The volunteers sit and wait for customers to fill their bags, then take their \$2-a-bag donation. They may help pack the clothes in the bags and put back empty hangars. It is a happy time for the customers are delighted with their "deals" and we are thankful for their purchases. All money goes to the Food Pantry.

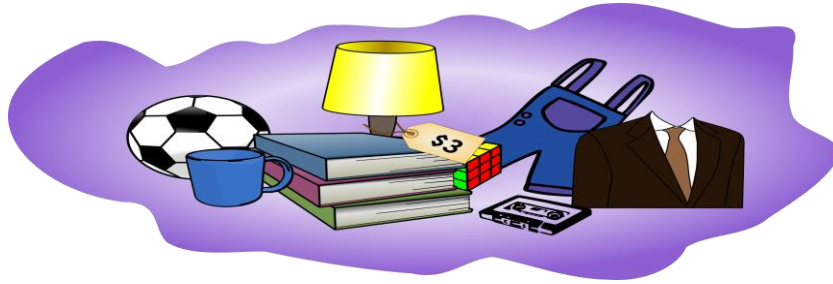
The Food Pantry is open Wednesday from 9:30 to noon. One volunteer waits on the client, writing down names and family members. They offer food on the shelving in the front. The second volunteer gets food from the freezer and refrigerator and restocks the front shelves between clients. The clients are very appreciative of the variety of food we are able to give them.

Please contact Thelma Armer at 518-885-9696 or Melody Babcock at 518-490-2015 for the Thrift Shop, Helen Senecal at 518-885-6883 for the Food Pantry.

Both ministries are praised by the community we serve.

A Sale in March

There will be a "March Madness" sale in the Thrift Shop during the month of March. All winter clothing will be reduced. Come shop for some great bargains!



Rummage Sale and Bake Sale

Ugh! Is winter getting you down? Maybe this will help! Start thinking "Spring" and start cleaning out those shelves and closets you've been meaning to do. The church will offer a Winter Rummage Sale and Bake Sale, Saturday, March 7, 8 AM --3 PM, in the Fellowship Room. In preparation, we are asking for donations to be brought to the Fellowship Room starting Wednesday, March 4. Items may be dropped off from 4 PM -- 8 PM . We will also accept donations on Thursday, March 5, 8 AM -- Noon and again on Friday, March 6, 10 AM -- 4 PM. Those items include linens, housewares, games, puzzles, books, sporting goods, collectibles, etc. Please, NO electronics, NO TV's, NO computers, NO kids' car seats, NO big furniture items, NO mattresses. It would be helpful if games and puzzles have all the pieces and are sealed, if possible. Make sure items are clean and not damaged.

We will be looking for volunteers to help set up, price items, and help out the day of the Sale. Maybe you would rather help with the Bake Sale!? We will need baked goods to sell and someone to be at the table. We will be offering complimentary coffee and tea as well as offering hot dogs, chips, sodas and water to purchase.

Any Questions may be directed to Melody Babcock or Janet Mallette.

Church Happenings



Scout Sunday

On February 9th our service will be led by the Boy Scouts. Please join us to celebrate 111 years of scouting with a troop sponsored by our church.

Don't Miss Upcoming Youth Group Events

Getting the word out early for our next two amazing youth group nights! Mark February 28th from 6:00-8:30 on your calendars for our Angry Birds and Pizza night. We will watch the latest Angry Birds movie, sample fun food (based on that theme), and you know the games and crafts will be fun and creative! Our faith lesson that night will be taken from the movie, focusing on creative ways to solve conflict. Kids should absolutely bring a friend; they will be warmly welcomed and make great memories!

March 27th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. there will be an Emoji-themed night. We'll see how well everyone knows the meaning of emojis (images that express emotions). Kids will ♥☐ the games, give a 👍 to the activities and leave feeling like it was a great 🎉. So please 📅 the date, so your kids won't 🙄 if they miss out!

In related news, if you are at church on the Sunday after Youth group, you will get to see the smiling faces and enthusiastic participation of the kids on our Worship screen. You can also see them posted on our website! Parents are loving these events, saying it is something their kids look forward to on Friday nights - plus they can go out on a much appreciated "date". Last month 13 kids came, several were new or newer, plus some of our regulars were missing. Those leading this group are Cherrie Sanders, Melissa Taylor and Pastor Kelly. This vital ministry for families is fully funded by our church; it is one of our identified priorities. Thanks to all who had that vision, and thanks to those making that vision becoming an exciting reality!

Ministry Team Highlights

On the third Sunday of each month, one of the church's committees of Ministry Teams will be featured in the service. This will let everyone know what is going on with that team or committee and who is involved in it. It will be a good way to be informed about what is happening in our church. This month's highlights will be from the Lay Leader/Servant Ministries.

Sneak Peek for Lent

In a few weeks, we will publish details about the popular ecumenical Lenten Luncheons hosted at the Episcopalian church. Our church will again provide a luncheon one week and Pastor Kelly will share a devotion. The churches and pastors that participate are listed below. Any donations made are donated to the Ballston Area Clergy Association Community Assistance Fund.

United Methodist Church	Pastor Warner
First Presbyterian Church	Pastor Legg
Hope Church	Pastor Thompson
First Baptist Church	Deacon Staulters
Christ Episcopal Church	Father Roy

It's Not Too Late!

Anyone who wants to read about our many ministries from 2019 can pick up a purple covered Annual Church Report. These are found in the Connections Café.

Coming Soon!

The pencils in the pews are being replaced with wonderful new pens. Thank you to Lynne Blake for her thoughtfulness.

Offering Envelopes

We will soon have a new supply of offering envelopes. They will be located on the tables in the entryways of the church.

Lay Leader: What do they do?

The work of a servant leader is to open a way for God to work through you and the resources available to you in a particular ministry area.

Servant Leaders are entrusted with the precious and vital task of managing and using God's gifts in the ongoing work of transformation.

We do this by:

- ❖ Receiving people into the body of Christ
- ❖ Helping people relate to Christ through their unique gifts and circumstances
- ❖ Nurturing and strengthening people in their relationships with God and with others
- ❖ Sending transformed people out into the world to lead transformed and transforming lives
- ❖ Continuing to reach out, relate, nurture and send disciples

An easier way to remember the above is to use H.O.P.E. H is for **hospitality** that we offer to those not yet in the body. We **Offer Christ** by providing opportunities for people to commit their lives to God through baptism by water and the Spirit and profession of faith. We help people find a true sense of **purpose** in life and what it means to live out their belief through acts of goodness and acts of mercy, regular participation in the sacrament of Holy Communion, and other means of grace. Through **engagement**, we send out grace-filled followers of Christ who are putting their faith into action, helping to transform the surrounding community, and offering hospitality in the name of Jesus Christ. Thus, H.O.P.E. cycles back around.

Courses/Classes are available for you to take. Here are a few upcoming classes which can be taken for credit or non-credit. For example, you can take the Basic Lay Servant course and not become a certified lay servant.

Basic Course

March 13: 6 PM to 9 PM and March 14: 9 AM to 4 PM
Plattsburgh UMC, 127 Beekman St., Plattsburgh 12901
Registration contact information TBA this month

Advanced Course: Spiritual Gifts

March 21 and 28: 9 AM to 4:30 PM
Hudson Falls UMC, 227 Main St., Hudson Falls (12839)

To register, contact Arlene Schmidt at adschmidt@nycap.rr.com

Advanced Course: Lay Speakers Tell Stories: Dancing with Words

Monday, April 6: 6 PM to 9 PM

Tuesdays, April 14, 21, 28: 6 PM to 9 PM

Tuesday, May 5: 6 PM to 9 PM

Malta Ridge UMC, 729 Malta Ave. Ext., Ballston Spa 12020

To register, contact Arlene Schmidt at adschmidt@nycap.rr.com

From your 2020 Lay Leader – Ruth Persons

Connections

Who Doesn't Love Getting Mail?

In the new year we have welcomed Terri Knowlton back as our Music Assistant during Cathy King's snow-bird stay in Florida. For anyone wishing to stay in touch and drop Cathy and Jerry a note, their address is: 963 Hingham Way #201, Naples, Florida 34104.

Casting Crowns – Only Jesus Tour

Do you like Christian music? Do you like concerts? Casting Crowns will be coming to the Times Union Center in Albany on March 8th.

Casting Crowns is a contemporary Christian and Christian rock band started in 1999 by youth pastor Mark Hall, who serves as the band's lead vocalist, as part of a youth group at First Baptist Church in Downtown Daytona Beach, Florida. They later moved to Stockbridge, Georgia, and more members joined. Some members of the band currently work as ministers for Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church in McDonough, Georgia. The band has won a Grammy and a Dove Award. If interested in going as a group, please contact Mark Warner at 518-309-3737.

A Farewell Message from Karen Groff

I have now moved to Saratoga and have finally closed on my house in Ballston Spa. I have had some of the best years at Ballston Spa United Methodist (almost 30!) but it is time for me to move on. I have held many hats while here and thinking about it, I came up with a list! UMW President and Secretary, UMW Woman of the Year, Usher Chairperson, Church Council Chairperson and Secretary, Nominations Committee, Sunday school Superintendent and teacher, Youth group leader and currently Safe Sanctuary Chair, Webpage Person and Facebook Person, First Friday Leader. In the interim I will continue to wear a couple of these hats as long as needed while others transfer to some of these duties.

I have had ups and downs while in the church, but its congregation has always been there for me and my family. I have received many cards, gifts, hugs, cooked meals and visits from concerned members of this church, and I will always be grateful. My daughter grew up in this church and I credit much of what she is today to its people and its teachings. My life in this church has always been about doing! Sometimes it drags me down, but always, after it's all over, I always feel like I have given back, and it has given back to me. It is what connects me the most to God. The last few years I have been internalizing whether Ballston Spa was still a good fit for me, and I have come to the decision that, although I still love the people and its pastor, I need to grow and move on. I will miss everyone dearly and the church grounds hold many memories for me. I hope that you find connection in the doing of the church! You always can manage to fit time in for what needs to be done. I am so blessed to have been able to serve! I wish everyone the very best and I am sure I will see you all around from time to time. God Bless you all! X0 Karen Groff

It All Depends on Your Attitude

By Joel Stephen Williams

In Africa it is said that there is a certain fruit called the "taste berry." This berry supposedly can affect one's taste for several hours. Not only is the berry itself sweet, it makes other things seem sweeter when eaten. What a wonderful fruit this must be if it really exists and works that well.

In human personality there is a "taste berry," and it is one's attitude. If one's attitude is good, good can be found in the worst of tragedies. The worst of defeats can spur one on to do better the next time and to take advantage of lessons learned.

With the right attitude one can see good in others in spite of their faults. A flawed effort on the part of someone whose heart is not totally pure can be viewed, not as a worthless attempt by a scoundrel, but as a step in the right direction.

On the other hand, if our attitude is not right, we can find fault with the best of efforts by the sincerest of people. Even the brightest of days will be overcast with a shadow of negative judgments. Have you ever been around someone who has the wrong attitude toward the Lord's church? All they can point to are the flaws and the faults (and there are plenty of them and they are easy to spot). All they seem to do is criticize and judge. If you try to get these people to see the good side of the picture, my experience has been that many of them refuse to listen. They do not want their negative prejudice to be dismissed by the truth. They do not want to know about all the benevolent work, mission work, and other good deeds done by God's people out of the goodness of their hearts.

It would be nice if we had a spiritual taste berry which we could give to people which would instantaneously make them positive, tenderhearted, grateful encouragers. All I know to do is to recommend a strong dose of prayer, Bible reading and "thinking about such things" as whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable (Col. 4:8).

Ash Wednesday

On February 26th at 7 pm you are invited to an Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary. Ash Wednesday is a Christian holy day of prayer and fasting. It marks the first day of Lent, the six weeks of penitence before Easter. Ash Wednesday is traditionally observed by Western Christians. Most Latin Rite Roman Catholics observe it, as do some Protestants including Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, Nazarenes and Independent Catholics.

During Ash Wednesday mass or services, a minister distributes ashes by lightly rubbing the shape of a cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The tradition of tracing a cross on the forehead is meant to identify the faithful with Jesus Christ.

Ashes are a symbol of death in the Bible. God formed humans out of dust:

"The Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and he became a living person. (Genesis 2:7).

Found Phone

If anyone is missing a cell phone and think it is yours, please contact the office to claim it.



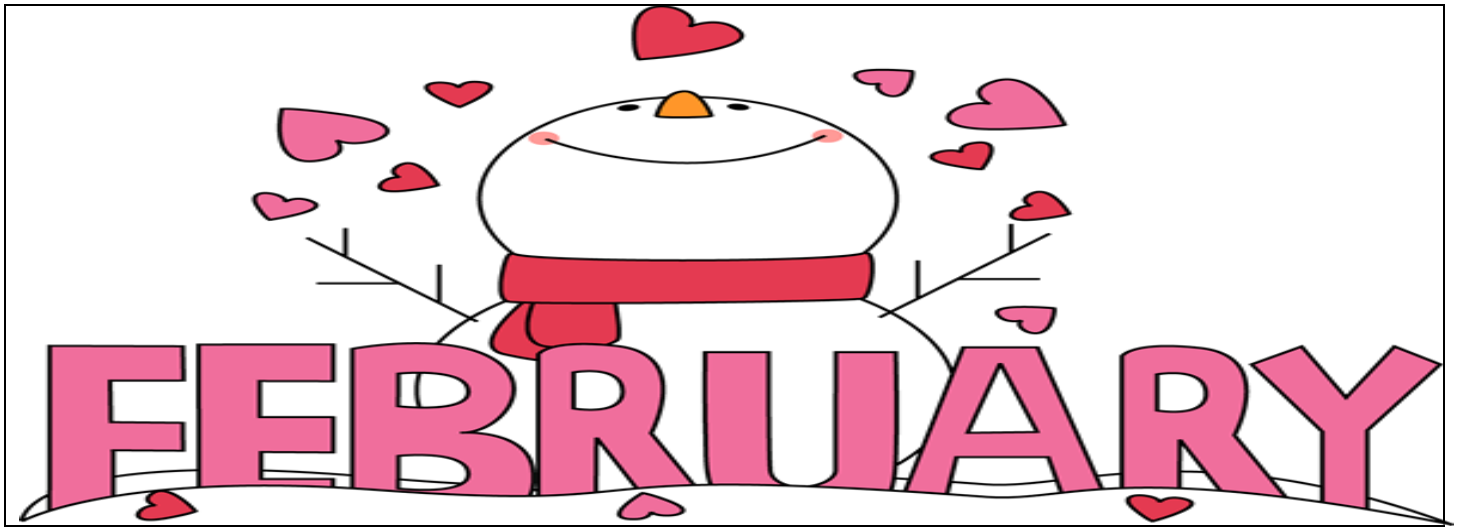
2/19 Dickerson, Keith
2/22 Duthaler, Alexander
2/23 Parlapiano, Nicholas
2/29 Blake, Jonathan

2/1 Wilson, Maddy
2/2 Higgins, Patricia
2/3 Caswell, Parker
2/3 Thompson, Joshua
2/3 Greco, Jason
2/4 Schmidt, A.J.
2/4 Evans, Garret
2/6 Traver, Peggy
2/6 Simmons, Brian
2/7 Haege, Kathy
2/7 Wolsey, T.C.
2/14 Kelley, Jeannine
2/16 Cherrstrom, Eliason
2/16 Natale, Taylor



2/14 Tom & Heather Forster
2/15 Frank & Mary Townley
2/17 Jason & Michelle Greco

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



Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline date for the March issue of The Tidings newsletter is February 20th. 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

February 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

Web Site

Ballstonspaumchurch.org

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.