

# The Tidings

March 2020

Ballston Spa United Methodist Church



101 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

**Pastor**

*Rev. Kelly Warner*

**Office Manager**

*Susan Cramer*

**Custodian**

*Tom Chase*

**Music Ministry**

*Cathy King*

*Mark Warner*

*Terri Knowlton*

**Christian Education**

*Marcy Wilson*

**Church Council Chair**

*Ilah Sisson Walser*

**Financial Secretary**

*Cherrie Sanders*

**Lay Leader/Worship  
Chair**

*Ruth Persons*

**Staff Parish Chair**

*Joyce Garlock*

**Treasurer**

*Lynne Blake*

**Trustee Chair**

*George Mallette*

**Youth Group  
Leaders**

*Melissa Taylor*

*Cherrie Sanders*

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

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Lenten greetings to our Church family and friends,

On Ash Wednesday 21 people gathered for worship in the sanctuary. Several small candles flickered in the dimly lit space creating a reflective mood. We listened to an Old Testament reading about a trumpet being blown on the walls of Jerusalem. That was a well-known sound for God's followers, calling on them to be alert and know that the day that the Lord's return is coming ever closer! "Repent of your sins", said one prophet; "Humble yourself", said David.

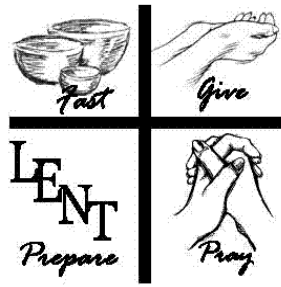
We also sang contemplative songs. My favorite was "Change my heart O God, make it ever true... make it more like You. You are the potter, I am the clay, mold me and make me, this is what I pray."

I invite you, as I did those who came on that Wednesday evening, to consider yourself like a lump of clay! You have been shaped, and been useful, while living your life so far. But would you dare make time to spend with God, over the next 7 weeks of Lent? If you give God your full attention and full access - you will be transformed. The loving hands of the potter sees all that you can become on the inside, and in outward ways too. Lent is a time for refinement and taking out imperfections. It is a time for growing into a more useful vessel for God in this world. The clay itself cannot do any of those needful things on their own. They depend on the Creator to do what He knows best how to do.

I leave you with this Lenten image. Two pieces of shaped clay sit on a wooden table, one is a good effort for an amateur, although it is certainly rough in spots and has little color. It has not been in a kiln long, so it isn't as useful as it might be. The other clay piece has an exquisite shape; smooth in places, but richly detailed in others. It is richly hued and sturdy, because a Master Potter has refined its flaws, put it through high heat and it is now ready to be used for long years of practical service.

In the coming 7 weeks I invite you to make it a habit to pray daily and read your Bible. I also hope you will be in worship every week. Let's go on this Lenten journey together, inviting God to shape us "lumps of clay" into God-molded, strong, beautiful, useful vessels!

Pastor Kelly



## Mission and Outreach News



### Fair Trade Sale

The March Fair Trade sale will be on Sunday, March 8th and will include coffee, tea, hot cocoa and dark chocolate bars. Many thanks to those who support this ministry.

### 5K Thank You Dinner

The 5K Thank You Dinner for March will be Thursday, March 19th at 6:00 PM at Pizza Works in Ballston Spa. Please sign up or notify Stan Lockwood (518.885.1552) or Melody Babcock (518.490.2015) by Sunday, March 15th 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.

### A Sale in March

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



### Rummage Sale and Bake Sale

There will be a Winter Rummage Sale and Bake Sale on Saturday, March 7, 8 am to 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 to 8 pm. We will also accept donations on Thursday, March 5, from 8 am to noon and again on Friday, March 6, from 10 am to 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.

### Chocolate Fest

Thank you to all who helped with the First Friday Chocolate Fest. There was about forty people who visited our church and enjoyed the festivities. There were Hershey Kiss mice on paper cheese crafts, chocolate play dough, heart sugar cookie decorating and crosses with hearts crafts. There were books about chocolate and of course there was chocolate to eat! Even the bad weather didn't stop the fun! We look forward to doing Chocolate Fest again next year.

## Church Happenings

### **Confirmation Classes Scheduled**

There are confirmation classes scheduled for anyone in grades 7 through 12 who would like to be confirmed as a full member of the United Methodist Church. Classes will be held on Friday from 6:30 to 8 pm on February 28<sup>th</sup>, March 6, 13, 27 and April 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be a mini-retreat on April 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to noon. Confirmation will be held on Palm Sunday, April 5. The students will be requesting adults to be their faith friend to take part in some of the class activities and extra events. They will also be standing by the youth at the altar as they are confirmed.

### **Don't Miss Upcoming Youth Group Events**

Come join the fun! March 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 pm 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". 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!

### **Church Council/UMW Ministry Team Highlights**

On March 15<sup>th</sup> the Church Council/UMW will be presenting highlights of their programs during the church service. This happens on the third Sunday of each month, with a different Ministry Team featured. 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.

### **United Methodist Women**

In March, United Methodist Women will be embarking on their 151st year. Having celebrated our 150th Anniversary in 2019, we are looking forward to our next 150 years. Our background is from our foremothers who started a mission organization in March of 1869 in Boston, MA by gathering their donations and making it possible to send two missionaries to India, Isabella Thoburn and Dr. Clara Swain. The rest, as we say, has become history. The United Methodist Women incorporates the women's movements in the United Brethren, Methodists, and Evangelical Churches. All of our foremothers had the foresight to organize and make it possible to care for others, and to share the love of God, advocating for education, health care, and voting rights for women.

On March 15<sup>th</sup> a short presentation will be made during church, giving some further details of the United Methodist Women on the National stage and worldwide outreach.

The comment has been made that United Methodist Women as an organization is not your Grandmother's women's group. In many ways it echoes some of the past through it's giving, but more importantly it has grown and developed. It certainly is not a ladies' tea group, a kitchen staff, or social club. It is an active group striving to learn and share knowledge. Mission U is a prime example of this. Each year for a weekend event, Mission U comes together to study, pray, sing, and enjoy fellowship. This year the event will be held at Silver Bay in September. For further details, please contact Ilah Sisson Walser, Mission U Dean. There is an Annual Meeting of the Conference UMW which will be held October 17<sup>th</sup> at the Conference Center in Liverpool. The meeting will include a business meeting, worship, music, and a keynote speaker.

United Methodist Women are active in issues surrounding maternal health care. Did you know that the United States mortality rate for newborn children rivals statistics of third world countries? It is especially high in populations of black, Latino, and Native American populations.

We advocate for clean water, a fair wage, climate justice, against mass incarceration, and economic inequality. Our publication of Response Magazine contains articles to share information of these issues, as well as spiritual pieces and prayers. It is a wealth of information with colorful pictures opening a whole world at your fingertips.

Our history is important, but our future is open and expansive. If you would like to be a part of this organization, watch the Church Calendar for the next meeting time, we meet approximately four times a year. For something in the in-between months, come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry, which meets on the third Wednesday evening of each month. We may be a small group in this congregation, but we join together with many others and form one of the largest women's organizations. Together we create a mighty force to be in ministry with women, children, and youth throughout the world.

### Lenten Lunches

The popular ecumenical Lenten Luncheons hosted at the Episcopal church are at noon every Wednesday during Lent. Our church will provide lunch on March 4th 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

### Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes can be found on the tables in the entryways of the church. Please feel free to take a package to use for the rest of the year.

## Connections

### 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 8<sup>th</sup>.

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.



3/1 Elana Lotto  
 3/3 Christian Morrison  
 3/5 Troy Caswell  
 3/6 Haley Ann Parlapiano  
 3/6 Tom Forster  
 3/9 Sara Curcio  
 3/9 Matt Kelley  
 3/9 Carrie Sheeran  
 3/9 Anna Wilson  
 3/10 Kevin Grentzer  
 3/11 Emily Groff

3/11 Douglas McAuliffe  
 3/11 Heather Staulters  
 3/12 Donovan Calvert  
 3/12 Jacob Wyland  
 3/12 Maria Dickerson  
 3/12 Kimberly Poteralski  
 3/12 Beverly Thompson  
 3/18 Mark Schmidt  
 3/23 Will Clark  
 3/23 Liam Collins  
 3/23 Jennifer Schmidt  
 3/24 John Sheeran  
 3/25 Sarah Clark  
 3/25 Ryder Skillings  
 3/26 Abigail McCumber  
 3/29 Jennifer Briggs

3/29 Eliana Briggs  
3/29 Bob Elbertson  
3/30 Donna Conley  
3/30 Dick Traver  
3/30 Karina Greco  
3/30 Brennan Coffey



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

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



**Newsletter Deadline:**

**The deadline date for the April issue of The Tidings newsletter is March 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

**Church Office Phone**  
518-885-6886

*March Tidings*

**Office Hours**

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

**Pastor Kelly Warner**

Tuesday – Thursday (all day)

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**Email**

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

**Web Site**

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

*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.*