

The Tidings

Pastor

Rev. Patti Molik

Minister of Music

Cathy King

Asst. Minister of Music

Kathy Haege

Office Assistant

Kelly Schmidt

Custodian

Barbara Cope

Lay Leaders

Kerri Preston

David Lotto

Lay Member UNYAC

Linda Sheeran

SPRC Chair

Pat Brewster

Treasurer

Lynne Blake

Finance Chair

Donald VanVranken

Trustee Chair

George Mallette

Christian Education

Grace Paster

Church Council Chair

Gary Wilson

Church Office Phone

885-6886

Office Hours

Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thurs.

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Pastor's Cell Phone

281-4453

E-Mail

bsumc@albany.twcbc.com

Pastor's E-Mail

pastorpatti07@gmail.com

Web Site

ballstonspaumchurch.org

Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

January, 2016

Ballston Spa United Methodist Church

101 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

1-1 Happy New Year!

1-3 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 AM

1-5 Finance (P) 7:00 PM

1-7 Trustees (P) 7:00 PM

1-8 FOGGS (4th & 5th grade) Youth Group (FR) 6:00-7:30 PM

1-10 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 AM

1-10 Regional Food Bank Outreach 1:00-3:00 PM

1-10 LIFE Youth Group (FR) 5:00 PM

1-10 Contemporary Worship Service (P) 6:30 PM

1-12 Church Council (P) 7:00 PM

1-14 LIFE Youth Group @ Living Hope Church 6:00-7:00 PM

1-17 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 AM

1-17 Outreach at Embury 4:00 PM

1-19 SPRC (P) 6:45 PM

1-20 Hand to Plow (P) 7:00 PM

1-21 Prayer Shawl (P) 6:30 PM

1-22 FOGGS (4th & 5th grade) Youth Group (FR) 6:00-7:30 PM

1-23 Free Lunch (FR) 11:30 AM

1-24 Worship/Sunday School 10:00 AM

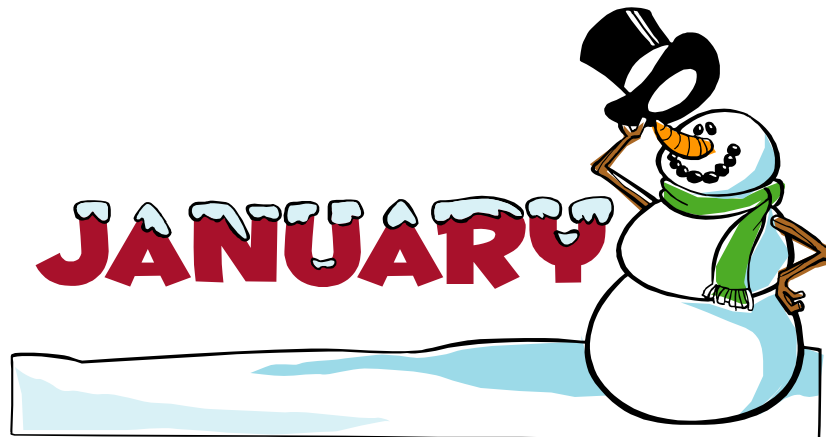
1-24 Fair Trade Sale after worship after worship

1-24 LIFE Youth Group (SS) after worship

1-24 Prayer and Healing Service (P) 6:30 PM

1-31 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 AM

S=Sanctuary, FR=Fellowship Room, P=Parlor, CH=Church House, HSR=High School Room, SS=Sunday School Area





Greeting in the Name of Jesus,

We have begun a new calendar year and we are also beginning a new season here at the church. This time and season will bring forth feelings of anticipation of what's next. It might also bring forth times of why can't we just stay the way we are.

One of the exciting things to remember is that Jesus came to the earth to make things new, not always troublesome, but a fresh new way of experiencing God's love for humankind.

The Scripture states that 1 Samuel 10:6 "At that time the Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them. You will be changed into a different person."

So let us think about how God wants to change our hearts and how God will continue to move our church forward to be the light in the community to reach all peoples with the gospel of Jesus.

Please continue to read the newsletter to keep up to date on the topics we will be discussing at the Administrative Council, and at other committee meetings.

I know that God will bless us as we open our hearts to the will of God for our church.

Be blessed everyone until next month,

Pastor Patti



LIBRARY CORNER

SOMEWHERE SAFE WITH SOMEBODY GOOD

Jan Karon

If you would like a delightful book that is not loaded with sex, violence, and swear words, then this is the book for you. The same characters from the "Mitford" series with Father Kavanagh are here with their "joys and concerns."

After five years of retirement from Lord's Chapel, Father Kavanagh and his wife, Cynthia, take a trip to Ireland, the land of his ancestors. Although they had a great trip something seems to be missing when they return. Could it be the "pulpit?"

Enjoy this book and mingle with the characters you know so well (or get to know them).

Marilynn Peterson

- 1-2 Stanley Lockwood; Tyler Parlapiano
- 1-4 Stephen Kidwell
- 1-5 Lynne Blake; Grace Paster; 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 Marilynn 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.



Does the office have your e-mail address?

Contact the office at bsumc@albany.twcbc.com so we can add you to our mailing list. Please let us know if you'd like to receive **The Tidings** electronically. Also, remember to visit our website (www.ballstonspaumchurch.org) and find BSUMC on **Facebook** so you can keep up-to-date on all of the good things happening at our church!



Lost & Found

Are you missing a coat, a scarf, a pair of boots? Check out the coat rack by the parlor. You may just find that long-lost item!



If you are interested in being a member of our BSUMC email prayer ministry, please contact Peggy Traver at pchurchmouse@earthlink.net.

Anyone may also submit prayer requests in this way, but be certain to get permission from the individual or family concerned.



Fair Trade items will be offered for sale following the worship service on December 20th and January 24th. We will have dark chocolate candy bars, hot cocoa, tea and coffee (including hazelnut).

Thank you to all members for supporting the BSUMC Fair Trade efforts through the purchase of these fair trade items for your own use, or as gifts, and also through your support of the church coffee hour following Sunday church services.



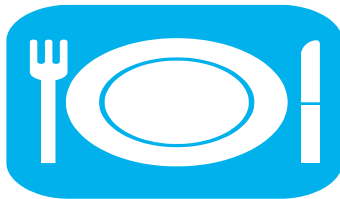
🎵 Praise singers and guitarists are needed to lead the praise set the first Sunday of each month. Rehearsals are at 9:15 prior to the service – you do not have to be a part of the voice choir to sing with the praise team!

🎵 Adult voice choir will be on a break after December 27th until further notice.

🎵 Children’s voice choir will be on a break until further notice.

🎵 ABC (Adult Bell Choir) will be on a break after December 24th until further notice after.

🎵 CBC (Children’s Bell Choir) will be on a break after December 24th until further notice.



Enjoy One, Share One – Enjoy a meal at the Century House Restaurant located at 997 New Loudon Rd. in Latham and they will provide a meal in your honor through the Regional Food Bank.

Outreach at Embury in the Wesley Community

Lawrence St. Saratoga Springs, NY

We had a “Carol Sing” on December 13 from 4 – 5 pm followed by a time of fellowship. Thanks so much to Andrew Paster, piano soloist, Kathy Haege, vocal soloist and Margaret LaFrance, flutist for their beautiful music that made our Hymn Sing very special this month. Many thanks also to our team who helps with set up and take down. I so appreciate Jennifer Sutherland, Patty Leroy, Marty Desiato, Cheryl Backus, Carla Snyder and Marilyn Peterson who make it all possible.

January 17, 2016 we will honor Martin Luther King by singing African-American Spirituals always followed by fellowship time. Then on Valentine’s Day, Feb 14, we will sing “Hymns and Songs about God’s Love”.

You are all invited to join in the singing with us at these Sunday afternoon events. If you would like to be on this ministry team to help with the events please call Shirley Andrews at 490-2006 or sandrew1@nycap.rr.com



Upper Room Thrift Shop & Food Pantry

The Thrift Shop has lots of good used clothing of all sizes available for \$2.00 a bag, as full as you want to get it. It is open every Tuesday from **9:30 am to noon**. Just come in the front door of the Church House and go up the stairs. Good used clothing in all sizes is accepted. Thank you to all who donate to the thrift shop. For those who are donating clothing we ask if it is possible to try to give seasonal items as our storage is extremely limited in the shop.

The Food Pantry is open every Wednesday from **9:30 am to noon**. Our new entrance is now open, up the ramp and in the side door of the Church House, so come and receive a good variety of food. Visits are limited to once a month.

We are fortunate to have such a giving community that helps provide the pantry with all kinds of food. They sometimes give money in memory of someone. We use that to purchase from the Regional Food Bank in Latham at a good price. We also receive a grant once a year from the Food Bank.

The items we usually need are cereal, canned vegetables, spaghetti sauce and personal care products. Donations for the food pantry and thrift shop can be brought in any time the office is open. Thanks to everyone who has helped in any way to make these projects such a success. Thanks also to those who work in them.

What's New in Sunday School



As we journey through the Christmas season and look forward to the New Year, remember that we will now have Sunday School *EVERY SUNDAY*, even on Communion Sundays! It is so important that our children learn about and participate in the Sacrament of Communion as they grow in their faith.

Also, please remember our sponsored child, Joshua, at Christmas and always. Joshua and his family need our prayers all of the time. Please try to remind your child(ren) to bring their offering for Joshua whenever they can. Our financial support is so important to him and his entire family. From all of us in the Sunday School Program, we wish all of you:



Regional Food Bank Warehouse- Sunday, January 10, 2016, 1-3 pm

Giving does not stop at Christmastime.

Give some of your time to the **Regional Food Bank** on **Sunday, January 10, 1-3 pm.**

Bring a lunch to church. We will eat in the Fellowship Room before we carpool to Latham. We will be sorting in the Warehouse Dock. All ages are welcome. Wear sturdy shoes and a BSUMC shirt if you have one.

Invite a friend to introduce them to the work of the Food Bank.

Sign up in the Parlor (look for the cornucopia), or contact Linda Sheeran at 885-1729, or email her at lsheeran6@gmail.com.



THANK YOU-THANK YOU- THANK YOU!

I would like to thank all of my church family for making my surprise 80th birthday party such a wonderful event. You will never know how much my family and I appreciate all that was done for the party. I could not think of a better way to celebrate my 80th birthday. Thank you again for all the thoughtful & kind birthday wishes.

God Bless,

Helen Senecal & Family

A new class is coming... **Love to Stay: Sex, Grace, and Commitment** by Adam Hamilton

The aim of this study is to explore the topic of marriage and loving relationships. This study is not a cure-all for troubled marriages or a recipe book for "Do this, and you will have a happy marriage." It is a careful consideration of data that point to factors making for a happy marriage and an assurance that, no matter how happy people are in a relationship, difficulties will arise but they can met with confidence, faith, and love.

Topics covered include:

- More Than a Piece of Paper
- What She Wants, What He Wants
- The Significance of Sexual Intimacy
- Habits That Hurt, Habits That Heal
- Clothe, Bear With, Forgive
- A Love That Lasts

The book can be found at Cokesbury.com or amazon.com.

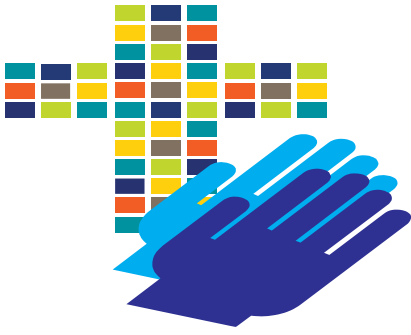
We would like to meet once a week, for 1 1/2 hours, for 4 weeks, beginning the last 2 weeks of January, into the first 2 weeks of February ending just before Valentine's Day. We have not picked a day and time because we want to base it on when is best for the participants. Maybe that would be Saturday morning over coffee and donuts, or Sunday evening pizza, or maybe that is Friday night over appetizers.

All are welcome- singles, divorced, engaged, recently married or long-time married. If young couples are interested (that would be awesome!), we will try to arrange for childcare.

So, please let us know if you are interested, and what time is best for you. Contact: Linda Sheeran at 885-1729 or lsheeran6@gmail.com, or Gary Perkins at 281-2482 or harley0471@gmail.com

We look forward to a fun, relaxed time together! Invite a friend, or two!





Seminar on "Vital Congregations"

In our recent combined meetings in the Adirondack and Albany Districts of the Upper NY Conference we are hearing much about "Making Disciples for the Transformation of the World". As most of you know this is our UMC Mission Statement. Great effort is being put forth for us to grow into the Disciple Making business so that our churches, communities, and ultimately our world will experience the transformational power that comes to us through our relationship with Jesus Christ. Our October meeting was well attended at Newtonville UMC in Loudonville under the Leadership of Rev. Jorge Acevedo, Cape Coral UMC in Florida. Rev. Acevedo has built a team of leaders that work very closely together including weekly prayer meetings, planning strategies, bible study and personal support. This team has planted 5 new churches of varying sizes where new believers are starting their relationship with Christ and the team is taking responsibility for growing them into Disciples for the transformation of the world.

They have a Recovery Ministry called "Celebrate Recovery" by Rick Warren. Jorge states that results are what we see above the water but there is much more going on under the water in this ministry and people are being set free to live for God.

The ministry leadership team covenants to: 1. Love God and one another, 2. Learn together, 3. Lead together and commit to healthy, holy living.

Some other points: Vital churches have a crystal clear focus, they are unashamedly God centered, they want what God wants, passionately concerned about people. Vital churches have biblical strategies like John Wesley Class Meetings with accountability, grace upon grace has to be a strategy.

I would encourage others in our fellowship to attend the next opportunity to hear these conversations about Vital Churches. If you do not receive the Adirondack District News, give Kelly a call and I know she would be glad to see that you get on the list. All workshops, seminars and training classes are advertised weekly and/or monthly.

Shirley Andrews, CLM



Finance Corner

The first month of 2016 begins with our church carrying a fiscal deficit. Our spending plan for fiscal year 2015 totals approximately \$152,000, but our shortfall amounts to about \$6,700, current through November 30, 2015. Undoubtedly, therefore, the year will end in the red and while red is a favored color for the holidays, it is not the best for accounting matters. This is a gentle reminder to everyone that the time has come to (1) plan for 2016 and its pledge commitments and even more importantly, to (2) catch up and pay the remainder of the pledges made for 2015.

Ballston Spa United Methodist Church is particularly blessed. We have faithful members whose pledges reflect a genuine commitment to God's work. Our blessings include those especially energetic members who participate in Church activities to the additional extent that they work on the fundraising efforts, donating time and resources, talents and skills to dinners and bake sales, as well as our clothing room and food pantry. These endeavors yield substantial additional funds to assist the Church in meeting its financial commitments.

The Finance Committee has carefully and prayerfully considered the shortfall issue as the year end approaches. A potential cure for the current deficit is that members take care to satisfy their pledges. Members should remember that the Church's annual budget is created based upon the pledge amounts members put forward on their pledge cards. Pledges, moreover, are covenants. Thus, when a member considers his or her annual pledge, great care should be taken to assure the pledge amount is one that can be met each week, whether the member is in Church every week or not. The Church relies on pledge amounts in planning for payment of expenses.

With a new year ahead of us, now is the perfect time for Resolutions. Several possible new resolutions leap to mind. For example, this is a perfect opportunity to decide to sign up for VANCO, the automatic withdrawal program available to facilitate regular payment of your tithe. With VANCO, any amount can be withdrawn from the account of your choice (credit union, checking, or savings) on a regular basis and deposited, as you designate, in any Church account, consistent with (or in addition to) your pledge. You will be free on Sunday mornings. No more worry about having a check or cash for offering and you will receive an itemized statement at tax time. This requires no effort on your part, leaving you free at the busiest time of the year. If you have questions, please see me or contact the Church office for more information.

Yours in Christ and Best of His Season,

Donald VanVranken

HAND TO PLOW INFORMATION CORNER

We have begun to participate in the Hand to Plow Process offered by our Annual Conference. We have 6 participants along with myself. The 6 people gather with me monthly as well as meeting with other laity from around the Capital District to discuss and learn from one another on how to help our churches address the issues of change. As a clergy I meet 1 time per month for 10 months with other clergy to discuss the same issues from a clergy perspective.

I am very excited about this process and you will find a monthly update here in the newsletter. Here are the eight principles for the process:

Mission— Healthy and growing congregations are driven by the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Leadership— Using the right form of leadership at the right moments is essential to developing healthy and growing congregations.

Vision— Vision is the way that a group of people in a particular context and a particular time will live out the mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Worship— Healthy and growing congregations celebrate worship that is Christ-centered, relevant to their context, passionate, and draws people closer to God through Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Preaching— Great preaching alone will not help a congregation become healthy and growing, however being a healthy and growing congregation requires great preaching.

Missional Life— Healthy and growing congregations do not only have a missions committee, they understand themselves to be the mission of God embodied in their context.

Evangelism— Healthy and growing congregations are actively engaged in sharing the love and grace of Jesus Christ through actions and words working in concert to invite others into the journey of being disciples of Jesus Christ.

Structure for Transformation— Healthy and growing congregations have a structure that is focused on developing disciples of Jesus Christ.



Thank you for your support!

I wanted to say thank you to my church family for, once again, supporting me this time with my **AVON 39 Walk to End Breast Cancer** that I participated in this past October in New York City. Alaina Greco and I, along with another friend that went to SUNY Oneonta with Alaina, walked 26.2 miles through NYC on Saturday the 17th. We then camped out in a little tent on Randall's Island Saturday night which, you may recall, was extremely cold, to say the least. We woke up Sunday morning, took down our tent, and walked the last 13.1 miles to bring our total to 39.3 miles in 2 days! There were about 3,000 walkers that weekend that collectively raised over \$8.7 MILLION to help end breast cancer. The money raised went to a multitude of cancer-related organizations, one of which was called "God's Love We Deliver" which provides nutritious, individually-tailored meals to people who are too sick to shop or cook for themselves.

From everyone affected by cancer, THANK YOU.
Carrie Sheeran



Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline date for the February issue of *The Tidings* newsletter is January 21st. 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

Ballston Spa United Methodist Church

101 Milton Avenue
Ballston Spa, NY 12020



January Tidings

“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”