

The Tidings

January, 2018

**Ballston Spa United Methodist
Church**

101 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Pastor
Rev. Kelly Warner

Lay Leader
Debbie Thompson

Minister of Music
Cathy King

Office Assistant
Katrina Tatura

Lay Member
UNYAC
Linda Sheeran

SPRC Chair
Jackie Capone

Treasurer
Lynne Blake

Finance Chair
David Lotto

Trustee Chair
Garry Perkins

Worship Chair

**Christian
Education**
Angela Kinne

**Church Council
Chair**
Ilah Sisson Walser

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

Greetings to all at the Ballston Spa United Methodist Church!

This is the month when it will be my joy to begin serving you (and the wider community) as your pastor. For the last few months I have been mostly behind the scenes offering leadership in a few key areas so that there is a smooth transition into the New Year. Something else that has been happening in this interim time has been the sharing of prayer requests in worship for each person in my family. We deeply appreciate your concern and also your desire to come to know us better.

As I sit in my living room this morning, with my twinkling Christmas tree before me, I have realized that all of our ornaments tell a rather full story about of our lives. As I have "gone down memory lane" looking at them (while sipping my morning cup of coffee), I've realized they might be a fun way to get to know us even better. So here goes...

I spy a light purple ceramic angel my grandmother painted for me; a reminder that during my kindergarten year I begged to wear ONLY purple clothes. There is a colorful wooden "waiter" and "waitress" that remind Mark and me that waiting on table helped pay our college loans; it also symbolizes our work ethic and our preference to stay out of debt! There is a petite wicker basket holding balls of yarn that symbolizes my love for crocheting, and any number of ornaments related to baseball, which is one of Mark's passions. We lived in Latham for 7 years when we were first married, teaching French (and math) and we call those our leisurely "B.C" years... Before Children.

There is a simple shell Mark put on a hook and gave to me one year after we had visited his parents in Florida. Their dream came true to head south in retirement and never shovel snow again. Rose and (Rev.) Charles Warner have been two of the most outstanding and influential Christians I have ever had the privilege of knowing. When I spoke to Charles about feeling a call to become a pastor, his kind blue eyes grew serious. He hung his head in reflection, then looked up and said "If there is any other way you can serve Christ, go and follow that path. But if God has clearly called you into ministry, you must answer that call, but it will be the hardest thing you will ever do." I could not know then what I know now, but his words were wise and true. I am indebted to Charles; for nearly 30 years his pastoral experience has blessed me and his own life inspired me.

The next ornament is always hard to spot. It is a small, round, dark brown nut called a Buckeye. Mark and I moved to Dayton, Ohio for three years so I could attend United Theological Seminary and get my Master of Divinity.

We had saved money from our teaching jobs – Mark worked 3 jobs there and me two – so we did manage to pay our bills in full come graduation. But we had to get creative with gift-giving. So there is a small, empty box, wrapped in red wrapping paper that Mark gave me as an ornament from that era. I cherish it! And for Christmas back East with family, we collected a lot of Ohio's famous Buckeyes. We thought they were great gifts to share; we'd crack them open and enjoy eating them in the evenings. We were doing just that, almost ready to clean up the shells and start snacking when Mark came in and told us all to stop. My dear husband had been off in a corner reading an encyclopedia, learning about Buckeyes. Thank God he was - because we learned they cause severe vomiting and can lead to death. So you bet we have screwed an eye-hook into a Buckeye as an ornament from that memorable year.

Since we were spared, we moved to northern Vermont that spring where I served two churches. While there we adopted Jonathan (10/14/99) and then Katie (6/11/02), both as infants. That's when our tree received many colorful, home-made kid's ornaments. I bought one for Mark that that brings back vivid memories, Dr. Seuss's "Hop on Pop". Next we moved to South Glens Falls where I pastored for 7 years. We added ornaments for Jonathan like Veggie Tales, Ben 10, and superheroes. Katie got baseball ones, and since then she has continued in sports playing soccer, basketball and tennis.

We moved to Albany where I served at Pine Grove UMC, and two unique ornaments from that time are a home-made paper decoration and a Twilight Zone ornament (that plays the theme song). I can't help but smile as I consider how fitting these are for our family during the three years we lived there. I had a traumatic brain injury during that time, which dramatically changed our everyday lives and as part of my Physical therapy at the time, I was re-learning how to use scissors to cut in a straight line. So those ornaments were the gifts I could slowly, but proudly create and give away.

For the last 3 ½ years I have served at the Hartford UM church. We caroled on Main Street two of those years, riding on a tractor bed between homes. I have one of the home-made wooden ornaments our teens made as gifts for the community. The memory that most delights me is that we had teens join us who were not part of our church's youth group. It was a mostly male group, and they are close-knit in their small community. They all took our packets of copied carols, gleefully clomped over snow banks and stood bunched together in front of the houses. Then they sang boisterously, some not at all familiar with the songs – but giving it a good try. They were the most misfit, but joyful group of singers I have ever heard.

Well, thanks for taking the time to learn more about me and my family. I think you now know not just more about where we have been and some things we have experienced, you also know more about who I will be as your pastor. I love my morning coffee, so expect a "hospitality corner" somewhere in the office so you can join me sometime. I feel as "called" to ministry today as I did when Charles' blue eyes searched mine so long ago. By my side is a wonderful, devoted husband, who has a love for the church and music. He is an amazing dad, a hard worker, and just to be forewarned: if you ever play Trivial Pursuit with us, he is a team unto himself; the rest of us join together in an attempt to defeat him. (That's what happens when you think encyclopedias are leisure reading.)

We love our kids, and as a pastor I am immensely drawn to kids and teens. I love helping them grow in their faith and become all God created them to be. I love things that are home-made, and people who don't yet know Christmas carols. I like people that are authentic, and give gifts from the heart. I think Jesus loves such things too. I have had a major health crisis with my TBI but God, family and friends have strengthened me. I think you will find that any "test" that comes my way, I choose to give it to God and He helps turn it into a "TESTimony".

And about that year I was five and in kindergarten, and I loved purple... Just yesterday I was musing about how Ballston Spa's school colors are purple (and gold). You don't suppose God has a really mischievous sense of humor, and He was getting ready all those years ago to send me – to you? I suppose we'll never know!

But here I am, ready to serve Christ and all of you here at the Ballston Spa UMC. I am eager to live into the bright and good future God has for all of us!

Pastor Kelly Warner

P.S. Proving that I am also sensitive to the needs of staff, Katrina said she was really short on material for the January newsletter. So I wrote a REALLY long article this month. They will definitely be shorter down the road!





- 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.



Many, many, many thanks to ALL who helped with the dinner by donations of money, pies, baked goods and helping serve. A special "thank you" to Karen Groff for running the Bake Sale that made \$193 total. The dinner made \$2329, so the Grand Total is \$2522!! This is a wonderful outreach to our community.

Blessings to all,
Janet and George Mallette.

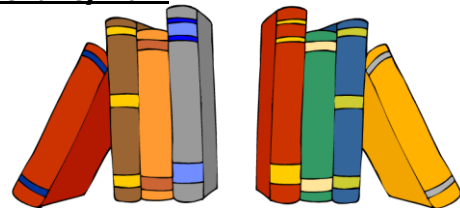
Fair Trade

The first Fair Trade sale for 2018 will be January 21st after service in the North Entryway. We will 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. Thank you to all members and friends that support this ministry that enables small farmers from third world countries to make a living.

5K Dinners

5K Thank You Dinners will resume on Thursday, January 18th. We will order several platters of food from Augie's Family Style Italian Restaurant and also provide salad, dessert and bottled water. Cost will be approximately \$12 per person payable by Sunday January 14th. We will meet in the parlor at 6:00 PM for dinner. Please contact Melody Babcock (490.2015) or Stan Lockwood (885.1552) if you have any questions or want to make your reservation.

Everyone is welcome to join us for these 5K Dinners as we express our gratitude to our race sponsors and those restaurants that provide generous gift cards for our Falling Leaves Charity Run.



LIBRARY CORNER

SANTA MIRACLES by Brad and Sherry Steiger

50 true stories that celebrate the Most Magical Time of the Year. In this merry and magical collection of Santa stories, you'll meet real life Santas who show that anything can happen during the most wonderful time of the year. (Taken from book jacket).

Marilynn Peterson

Give 2 hours of your time to the Regional Food Bank! Sunday, January 14, 1 - 3 pm Sign-up in the Parlor!

Bring a bag lunch to church and we will eat together following Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Room before we carpool to Latham. Wear comfortable, warm clothes as we will be sorting items in the Warehouse.

A stop for ice cream, or hot chocolate, may be in order at the end of our shift.

Questions? Linda Sheeran - 518-885-1729 or lsheeran6@gmail.com



New Beginnings Conversation

Members and friends of the Ballston Spa United Methodist Church, I am delighted to become your pastor in this New Year. It will be my joy and privilege to serve you in the coming seasons and years of our life together. I am very much looking forward to forming relationships with you, and would like to begin to do that in some small group settings of about 10 people.

Please sign up to participate in a "New Beginnings Conversation". I see this as a time to gather in an informal setting, enjoy some simple snacks and a drink, and come to know (both) you as a person and some of what matters to you at church. I will guide each small group through this time of sharing, with the intention of keeping them to about an hour long. My goal in our time together is to actively listen. It would be a wonderful gift to me if you could make the time to be present at one of these gatherings. Sign-up sheets will be available before and after worship, or you can contact the church office during the week.

I do want to mention that seniors or others who may not be able to "come join us" will be given the chance to be visited instead. So do reach out with that request to the church office. And when it comes to "families with kids", especially younger ones - I'd invite you to consider the following options. Mark, Katie and I would enjoy sharing a simple lunch with you - at the church after worship, or in your home. (We could even combine a few households together if that might work best!) Our Sunday lunch is typically grilled cheese, bagels, sandwich/subs, soup, etc. After eating, I will adapt what I do with the "grown ups" so it suits the ages of the kids. I think that get-togethers like this will be really amazing!

Here are the proposed times/locations. If you would be willing to host a gathering in your home (you'd need adequate parking and need to let us know whether or not you might have handicap accessibility) that would be most appreciated.

Wednesday (church parlor)	Jan. 10th	11-12:00 pm
Tuesday (church parlor)	Jan. 16th	7-8:00 pm
Sunday (church parlor)	Jan. 21st	12-1:00 pm
Wednesday pm (church parlor)	Jan. 24th	6:30-7:30
Sunday pm (church parlor)	Jan. 28th	12-1:00



Wind, Water & Fire Devastate... Love, Money and Muscles Follow

The United Methodist response to the devastating 2017 hurricane season is getting a boost through new grants from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). The General Board of Global Ministries and UMCOR approved more than \$7 million in grants for hurricane and other disaster-relief work. UMCOR already had received some \$15 million from donors in recent months. Full-page ads in the Wall Street Journal and New York Times have highlighted the denomination's commitment to long-term disaster relief and that 100 percent of all donations go directly to relief efforts.

You can follow the continuing UM response through www.umcor.org.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS EVENING January 11, 2018, 7:00 pm

**First Presbyterian Church of Ballston
Spa
22 West High St. Ballston Spa, NY
12020**

January 11, 2018 is Human Trafficking Awareness Day. First Presbyterian Church of Ballston Spa, in conjunction with Albany Presbytery, will be hosting a special Awareness Evening from 7:00-8:30 pm in our Church Hall. John Kelly, Law Enforcement Coordinator for Saratoga Center for the Family will offer a presentation.

The entire community, Ballston Spa area congregations and Albany Presbytery congregations are encouraged to attend. Please call Pastor Scott DeBlock at [518-885-5583](tel:518-885-5583) for details

~ January 2018 ~

December

February ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Thrift Shop, 9:30-noon	3 Food Pantry, 9:30 – noon Trustees Mtg., 7 pm (CH) Cub scouts Committee, 7 pm (FR)	4 “New Beginnings” with Pastor Kelly, 1-2 pm (CP)	5	6
7 Worship 10 am with Holy Communion	8 Boy Scouts, 7 pm (FR)	9 Thrift Shop, 9:30-noon; Council Mtg. 7 pm (P) Cub Scouts	10 Food Pantry, 9:30 – noon “New Beginnings” with Pastor Kelly, 11-12 pm (CP)	11 Cub Scouts	12	13
14 Worship, 10 am Regional Food Bank, 1 - 3 pm	15 Boy Scouts, 7 pm (FR)	16 Thrift Shop, 9:30-noon; Worship Committee 6:30 (P); Cub Scouts	17 Food Pantry, 9:30 - noon “New Beginnings” with Pastor Kelly, 7-8 pm (CP)	18 Cub Scouts	19	20 Boy Scouts Training Event 8:00am-noon (FR/P)
21 Worship, 10 am “New Beginnings” with Pastor Kelly, 12-1 pm (CP)	22 Boy Scouts, 7 pm (FR)	23 Thrift Shop, 9:30-noon; Prayer Shawl 6:30 pm (P); “New Beginnings” w/Pastor Kelly, 6:30-7:30 pm (CP); Cub Scouts	24 Food Pantry, 9:30 - noon	25 SPRC Mtg., 6 pm (CP) Cub Scouts	26	27
28 Worship, 10 am “New Beginnings” with Pastor Kelly, 12-1 pm (CP)	29 Boy Scouts, 7 pm (FR)	30 Thrift Shop, 9:30-noon; Cub Scouts	31 Food Pantry, 9:30 - noon	Notes:		



JANUARY



Newsletter Deadline:

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

January Tidings

Church Office Phone

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"