

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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MAY 2015 NEWSLETTER

Reminder: Communion Breakfast on May 3, starting at 9:30 a.m. There will be NO Praise Service that day.

From the Pastor's Heart: Consecrated to God

We must not think of our daily affairs as being disconnected and insignificant to God. All that we have and do can be used to bring honor to God in such a way that it blesses others. A consecrated life is an instrument of power and influence in the hands of God. What may appear to be of no use or of little value may very well be a diamond in the rough. God seems to delight in taking things that seem insignificant to people and use them to display His glory. There is a definite pattern of this tendency of God in Scripture. God himself states claims of making the weak strong, putting the last first, making the simple wise, and making the impossible possible. Who would ever think that five loaves of bread and two fish could feed over five thousand people? Not a chance. But, consecrated to God, Jesus distributed an overflow of food, enough to satisfy the whole multitude. The people, the Scripture says, ate as much as they wanted until they were satisfied; yet, all the baskets were still full of food. There is no half-stepping with God.

What does it mean to be consecrated to God? It is something that has been set apart for God's use. It may be an object or a person who has been set apart for God's purpose. All the items that were used in the Jewish Temple by the priests, including the priests themselves, were consecrated to God. They were not to be used for any other reason than to perform religious rites to God. The menorah or the great candlelight stand that occupied the temple was consecrated to give light in the holy sanctuary where the sacred items were, so that the priests could perform their ritual duties. The lamp stand was never to be used in the people's private homes. All of the objects in the temple were only to be used for the temple because this is what they were consecrated and designated for - to minister to the Lord. It was dangerous and even life threatening to use consecrated items of God for other things. A consecrated life to God is not meant for practices of wrong doing, but, on the contrary, to exercise righteousness and goodness. Paul and Barnabas were called by God to be separated or set apart for a mission work. They were called to the distribution of the Gospel to the Gentiles. God dedicated them to this type of work. This is also consecration to God. As Christians, when we choose to give our life to God we become consecrated to live a particular lifestyle - a life committed to serving God. Our baptism signifies that consecration. All people in fact are called to consecration, to be vessels in God's hands.

So than, in the light of being consecrated to God, do we feel our life is insignificant and wonder, "What can God do with me?" He can do far more than we can imagine. God has the capacity to forge weaknesses into strength. When I look at the congregation, I do not see a small insignificant congregation. I see a powerful congregation that is of great influence in the hands of God ready for His use to bring about good.

In the epistle of James, James speaks about how small things that appear to be insignificant have great influence upon the whole. Though he speaks about the insignificant size of the tongue in comparison to the whole body, he says, it boasts great power and wreaks havoc upon the whole earth. As James makes his point about the misuse of the tongue or the words we speak, we can also see that this small member of the body has been and can be the source of much good. What great power we wield with such a small member to impact the lives of people. Consecrated to God we can perpetuate goodness with the use of our tongue or the words we speak.

Lastly, let us consider this thought: Jesus tells his disciples, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed you have the potential to move mountains - Insignificant things are powerful influences consecrated in the hands of God. Peace.

References to ponder:

- The woman with two mites (earnings). Her giving was of greater value than those who gave from their wealth. **Luke 21:1-4**
- Gideon's army of 300 against an army of thousands. **Judges 7:1-21**
- God's selection of David as King who appeared less able than his brothers to rule. **I Samuel 16:1-13**
- David, the boy, defeats Goliath, a giant and seasoned warrior. **I Samuel 17:4-51**
- God chooses the base things to confound things that are mighty. **I Corinthians 1:27-29**

- The humbled are exalted. **Matthew 18:4 & Matthew 23:12**
- Faith, the size of a mustard seed has the capacity to move mountains. **Matthew 17:20**
- Two fish and five loaves of bread feed thousands. **John 6:5-13**
- Jesus uses mud and spit to heal a blind man's eyes. **John 9:1-7**
- The last first. **Matthew 19:30**
- The simple made wise. **Psalms 19:7**
- Small devices used to govern the whole body. **James 3:3-8**



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Worship Committee met on Tuesday, April 21 at 10:30am to discuss and finalize plans for our next Communion Breakfast. This will take place on Sunday, May 3rd at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Again, there will be NO 8:30am Praise Service this day. We are extending the food selections and planning to service an additional amount of people. We've scheduled the physical set-up for Saturday, May 2nd at 11:00am. We also discussed plans for our Mother's Day Service - Special Speaker, Readers and Flowers for our mothers and for Pentecost Sunday (May 24th) - decorating the church in red and white and encouraging parishioners to wear something red that day. Our next meeting will be held on June 9th at 10:30am in the Tellers Room.

FROM THE STAFF/PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (S/PPRC)

How to contact Pastor Wilbert? If you want to talk to him and want to be sure he's available, it would be best to call ahead and ask for an appointment. While he welcomes folks dropping by, with an appointment, you'll have his full attention. If you need to reach him after church office hours, his cell phone is 897-6078, his e-mail is: wgamble@s.paulsmiths.edu. Do not hesitate to call him if you need him.



DID YOU KNOW... Your church can be found on Facebook. Just go to First United Methodist Saranac Lake. (complete with capital letters and spaces.) When the page comes up, click on "like."

ADDED INCOME – ONLINE SHOPPING

umcmarket.org This program is for online shopping at a large number of stores. When you purchase through UMCmarket, which is quite easy, a percentage of your purchase price will be sent to umcmarket in our church's name. When the amount reaches \$100, a check will be sent to the church. Every little bit helps and if we work together, we can really make a difference. If you're ordering online, please set up an account, select Saranac Lake as your church and get the little cross and flame button on your computer - in the upper right hand corner. When you are ready to shop, click on that button first and then when their site opens, click on the store you are shopping from.

NOTE: If you are shopping at Amazon.com, be sure to read the special instructions just for that site to be sure your donation is recorded! So, just go to the site, follow the instructions to set up your account and happy shopping while helping the church at the same time. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Smith at 891-3915.

FUEL FUND

Contributions to the Fuel Fund have helped to reduce the strain on the budget. To contribute to the fuel fund, envelopes are made available in the pews or just write Fuel Fund on your check in the memo line and place it in the offering place. Prayerfully consider how you can help and whatever the amount, do it with love and remember, "God Loves a Cheerful Giver!"

COMING !

Have you come to church and noticed folks you don't recognize? Do you see people you haven't seen in a while and can't put a name with the face? Would you like to be able to find contact information for someone in the church? Well, help is on the way!

We will be working with Lifetouch Studios to produce a new pictorial Directory. And, of course, you will be able to purchase photos as you wish. This is a free service to the church and there is no pressure or obligation to buy.

DETAILS: The photographers will be here June 17 & 18 from 2 – 9 pm. More information will be forthcoming.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Since several members of the committee were out of town, the meeting was brief. The Finance committee reported the following:

- Building use donations are up due to Zumba and the Saranac Lake Young Arts Association
- Janitor expenses are up because Unifirst is providing caropets in the entries and fresh carpets are supplied bi-weekly Fuel costs continue to be under last year due to the lower cost of fuel oil. For the first three months of this year, we used 880m more gallons but the cost was much lower.
- Repairs and maintenance are up due to the cost of moving the organ from Bloomingdale and repairing the church doors.
- We are up to date on paying our Ministry Shares (formerly called apportionments).

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

At the meeting on April 12, the group completed their list of mission projects for 2015. The program was a speaker from Grace Pantry. At the May meeting, they will tour the pantry and make a donation at that time. The Fall District meeting will be hosted by the Saranac Lake United Methodist Women. The date is October 17.

TRUSTEES HIGHLIGHTS

Work on the entryway and tower room is complete. Now we need to look at the furnishings – rugs, chairs, etc.

NOTES ON OUR VARIOUS FUNDS

These funds are all ongoing, and are in constant need of contributions.

As of March 31, 2015 the **ORGAN FUND** had a balance of \$6,568.00.

As of March 31, 2015, the **ROOF FUND** had a balance of \$33,511.21 owed to NBT Bank. We are paying \$1550.72 monthly toward that mortgage. Of late, several people have made contributions toward the principal on that loan.

Doing this will reduce the overall amount owed.

PRAISE SERVICE IN NEED OF MUSICIAN

Bruce Barnard has located a laptop computer and has downloaded the CD's for our three hymn books onto it. This computer will be available for services. See Bruce or Marilyn to learn how to program it. It will be located in Pastor Wilbert's office and is only for use with church services!

We hope that using the computer will be temporary and that someone who plays a musical instrument will step forward and donate their services in selecting and accompanying the praise music.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Each congregation is asked to bring a container of water taken from a place where Native Americans may have lived.

This year, the conference will again be at the OnCenter in Syracuse from May 27-30. Five members of our congregation will be attending: Pastor Wilbert, Bill Kelting (our lay delegate) and Mitchel Smith, Cindy Smith and Marilyn Gillespie as equalization members. (Equalization members are selected by the District Superintendent and the District lay leaders, so that the number of clergy and number of laity are equal. Clergy includes those who are retired as well as those with assignments other than pastorates.)

RUMMAGE SALE

It's that time again. Our Spring rummage sale was held April 23,24 ,25.

The following people set-up tables: Jim & Linda Pierson, Alan & Nancy Roberts, Bill & Diane Kelting, John & Virginia Santy, Jim & Barbara Halla, Grant Besio, Charlotte Hall. Helping with the sale and move boxes were: Mitchel Smith, Joel Wit, Neil Stoner, Jim & Linda Pierson, Elders Siddoway & Melearis. Charlotte Hall, Barbara Halla, Jean McDonough, Merle Smith, Nancy Roberts, Joan Sleinkofer, Virginia Santy, Gina Norton, Gail Plunket, Avana Forsyth, Josie Defuria, Linda Otis, Angelique Woodward, Maxine Chardeen, Jessie Aubin, Eileen McCalvin, Helen May, Gayle Vasukynas, Anita Messerole, Rachel Hewitt, Diane Kelting, Cindy Nadon, Dolores Commo, Nancy Cross, Shirley Seney, Eva Stinson, Karen Potts, Michelle Davis & daughter, Marlene Martin, Ruth Damp, Darrell Davies. Bob Donaldson took 2 loads to the landfill.

The items that were not sold High Peaks Hospice, David Keefe, Humane Society, Voluntary Health Asso, Brighton Food Pantry, Austin Dridge picked up to make use of. We also supplied two different families for free with items they needed.

So, in spite of the lousy weather, other things going on in town we managed to make \$3,230 to benefit the church.

A very special THANK YOU to everyone who helped. It was greatly appreciated.

LECTIONARY for MAY

May 3

5th Sunday of Easter
Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
I John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

May 10

6th Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day
Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
I John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

May 17

7th Sunday of Easter/Ascension Sunday
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
I John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

May 24

Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-24,35b
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 31

1st Sunday After Pentecost/Trinity Sunday
Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

MAY BIRTHDAYS

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Georgia McMinn
- 4 Kathy Cross
- 5 Lenore Leavitt
- 6 Britany Clark
- 7 Jessie Aubin
Matthew Huyck
- 8 Raymond Harris
- 11 Kathy Hannon
Marsha Morgan
Brian Stinson
- 13 Allison Gregory
Ashley Kent
Brett King
- 15 Madelyn & Katelyn Gay
Patty Hall Greenia
- 17 Dave Martelle
- 18 Emily & Andrew Gay
- 20 Hillary Pond
Michelle Simmons
- 22 Dustin Lawrence
- 24 Justina Deitz
- 25 Karen Dailey
- 26 Elwin Hall
Madelyn Mader
Michael Martin
Claudia Wamsganz
- 27 Erin Hesseltine
- 29 Greg Bowler

- 1 Jennifer Tuggey
- 2 John Gay
- 3 Michelle Davis
Jim Halla
Benjamin LeBlanc
- 6 Brianna Bandru
- 10 Kara Mae Besio
Teradon Collins
Kitty Peightal
Harley Jean Wilson
- 13 Marilyn Gillespie
- 15 Derek Amberman
Michael Campbell
Cheri Fisher
- 16 Steve Smith
- 18 Jared Bandru
Ross Dailey
Brandon Dupree
Bruce McDowell
- 19 Joan Sleinkofer
- 20 Darrell Davies
- 21 Richard McDonald
- 22 Brandon Stamper
Austin James
- 23 Marisa Farmer
Kristyn Meyer
Makenzie Moody
- 24 Linda Banta
Lee Bouton
- 28 Sheree A. Aubin
- 29 Donny Gay
- 30 Shirley Pickreign

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Bucky & Shirley Seney
60 yrs. 2015
- 27 John & Robin Gay

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Rusty & Wanda Knobel
- 13 Art & Eileen Leavitt
- 15 Mike & Jen Tuggey
- 19 Ted & Sandy Bandru
- 26 Jim & Linda Pierson
- 28 Joe & Cheri Fisher

**First United Methodist
Church**

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 8:30am Contemporary
Service

Coffee and Fellowship 9:20
am

10:00 am Traditional Service

10:00 am **Sunday School**

ALL ARE WELCOME

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
Thur.	May 14	6:30 pm	UMW meeting	Heidi Rich Room
Sat.	May 16	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
Mon.	May 18	7:00 pm	Church Council	Tellers Room
Thur.	May 21	6:00 pm	Girl Scout Leader's meeting	Tellers Room
Wed.	May 27 – Sat. May 30		Annual Conference in Syracuse, NY	

WEEKLY EVENTS

*Sun.	May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	5:00 – 6:00 pm	Zumba	Fellowship Hall
*Wed.	May 6, 13, 20, 27	12 noon	Pastor Wilbert Noon Devotional	DeChantel Apts.
*Wed.	May 6, 13, 20, 27	5-6 pm	Community Supper	Fellowship Hall
*Wed.	May 6, 13, 20, 27	7:00 pm	AA	Heidi Rich Room
*Thurs.	May 7, 14, 21, 28	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
*Fri.	May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	7:00 pm	Bible Study	Lounge
*Sat.	May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	9:30 – 10:30	Zumba	Fellowship Hall
*Sat..	May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	5:00 pm	Lutheran Services	Sanctuary

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63 Church Street
Saranac Lake, NY 12983



**For Those of You Who Are Receiving
This by Mail**

**PLEASE HELP US BY
GIVING US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS**

The best way would be to send an email to
Claudia at:

firstumcsl@centralny.twcbc.com