

**United Church of Bristol
7177 County Road Two
Bloomfield, NY 14469**

TO:

July-August, 2013



“God is still speaking,”

**Rev. Thomas (Tim) Hamlin, Pastor E-mail: redcedar58@gmail.com Phone: 585-727-2938
Church School -- 9:00 am Worship -- 10:00 am Fellowship Hour -- 11:00 am
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Those Whom We Hold in Prayer

Several of our elders who recently have had or are having a rough patch: Philip Gladding, Pauline Pestle, Jim Dunne, Doris Lochte, Hazel Burnett; the Rogers Family, recently celebrating the life of Elizabeth (Pete) Rogers Mancini; Richard Lyons at the recent death of his mother; any within our church family and community who are grieving, undergoing treatments, or facing hard challenges.

Our Heartfelt Gratitude to:

Organizers and hosts for the progressive dinner; Art Cratsley for tending the beautiful lily garden by the front steps; Cc Bodnar and all who have helped with completion of the **Words to Live By** volume; Emily Angell for lending her photography skills and Catherine Joseph for address updates and layout of our new church directory; everyone, most especially Deb Footer, who helped make the recent celebration of Tim Hamlin's tenth year as our pastor such a memorable occasion – and a total surprise to him!

About Worship on September 1

Our usual order of service will be modified so that we can experience a bit of the worship from the recent General Synod of the United Church of Christ. Lyle Jenks and Corrine Pimm, delegates from Genesee Valley Association, will assist in worship, and Bob Green will be at the organ as Mary enjoys a vacation day. South Livonia UCC is invited to join us for this special time of worship.

Joy Jar & Outreach Update

Recent distributions of our Joy Jar contributions have gone to the organizations we learned about during our Lenten series: Quallaquoe Mountain Connections, a school in Lesotho, Southern Africa, self-help projects in Honduras, and the Gleaners' Kitchen in Canandaigua. August offerings will also be forwarded to the Gleaners' Kitchen hot meals program. We supported Shaina Babcock's travel with youth from Ionia United Methodist Church to a service project in Pennsylvania. Our church is very generous in the "Five for Five" U.C.C. offerings.

News from Our Church Cabinet

Trustees are busy with installation of new electrical conduit into building and preparing for top coat on parking lot. Christian Education Committee is planning for adult study groups; Memorial Fund has arranged for refinishing of the Bible table; Food Cupboard has recently served two new families; progress on committee handbook updates is slow; a plan to distribute **Words to Live By** is underway.

Update from the Deacons

Deacons have had a very busy start to summer!. We oversaw the Springett wedding, rehearsal and wedding of Amy Sterling, and a memorial service for Elizabeth Mancini. In conjunction with the new church directory, we are wanting to be in contact with inactive members; watch next issue for a list of those for whom we need contact info. We helped four members celebrate their 80+ birthdays in June, and a fifth in July; three more are coming up in August. Members have enjoyed flowers, candy, or a book along with a visit or lunch date with one of the Deacons. Anyone who would like their name added to the list for the rest of 2013 or is turning 80 in 2014, please see Deb Footer. Deacons have arranged for guest preachers during Tim Hamlin's vacation; if there are pastoral needs during the August 5-18 period, contact any of us: Diane Bassage, Faye Brocklebank, Elaine Burd, Deb Footer, Catherine Joseph, Bob Marcellus.

Altar Flowers

Contact Gloria Miles in August or Fran Staub in September to offer garden blooms or to arrange for memorial or tribute flowers on the altar.

Community Opportunities

Spaghetti Supper every first Wednesday from 5-7 at Honeoye UCC; Film screening/discussion: "Brother Outsider," documenting Bayard Rustin's shaping of the 1963 March on Washington, Thursday August 29 at 7 in Victor Town Hall; Bristol Volunteer Fire Department annual Clam Bake is September 14, noon – 5; tickets from Sharon at Bristol Town Hall.

Pastor's Letter

Growing out in my backyard is a zucchini plant the size of a VW. But it was not always thus. Back in May, when I stuck a scraggly stem into the ground, I never would have dreamed of the behemoth that now reigns there. The hot, wet summer has blessed my spherical friend, as it pushes out "lawn carp" in every direction. It has also pushed me...to find creative ways to cook zucchini. So far, I'm in a bit of an "oil and garlic" rut – but it's a delicious rut.

I find that the zucchini plant does more than feed my tummy; it feeds my soul, as well – if I let it. Such deep abundance from something once held as "no account" is a message of hope for me. And I guess I need that message...

I admit it: I'm prone to predict, assess, and rank pretty much everything in the world around me - animal, vegetable or mineral. That's a "good" zucchini plant. That's a "bad" idea. That's a "good" person. That's a "bad" group of people. I sometimes feel as though inside me dwells a miniature Caesar, lifting his hand to the crowd in the Coliseum, poised to render either a "thumbs up" or a "thumbs down", at the least provocation.

In my defense, our culture is rife with "thumbs up" and "thumbs down": the "10 best cities in America", The "5 worst storms in U.S. history", the "20 best schools", the "10 worst films", the "top 10 athletes", and the "20 worst dresses on the runway at the Oscars."

We live in a statistician's dream world – always something to rank, rate and label. I'm just glad my zucchini never heard my doubt-filled muttering a couple of months ago. I fear it might have broken its spirit...and impoverished my diet!

I've come to believe that most of us ardently wish to be seen as good and competent and beloved, regardless of our scraggly beginnings or our missteps along the way. We want to be viewed through the eyeballs of Christ - the one who could peer past first (and second !) appearances and see the glowing ember of God within each human heart.

But Jesus didn't just "happen" to have that gift. I believe he had it because he had first felt God's deep and searching love himself. "We can't give what we ain't got." It's impossible to love another if we hate ourselves. It's like standing at the base of a mountain trying to offer assistance to another climber half way up. On the other hand, it's almost automatic to love another if we truly love ourself.

As the summer flows into early autumn, I hope to join with others as, together, we learn to love both ourselves and others more deeply. Small groups meeting to nurture the spirit, prayer groups to cultivate our bond with God, and worship to kindle both faith and service, are all on the horizon.

My zucchini plant stands in silent, lush testimony to God's cultivating hand in our midst – even when we might never have believed it. May we pay attention to even "no account" beginnings, trusting in the glory of God to blow away our tiny predictions and bring moist, rich life to even the driest souls – in and through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Peace be with you all...

Tim

Birthdays

<u>August:</u>		<u>September:</u>	
Jon Joseph	8/5	Elaine Burd	9/4
Ellie Babcock	8/7	Mackenzie Smith	9/4
William Strasser	8/7	Sue Forsyth	9/7
Faye Brocklebank	8/10	Greg Case	9/7
Temperance Bassett	8/13	William Bassett	9/9
Ellie Fletcher	8/17	Jenna Rath	9/10
Lance Bassage	8/23	Betty Green	9/10
Tom Forsyth	8/25	Christopher Kunes	9/10
Linda Allen	8/27	Bill Hall	9/12
Charles Cooper	8/29	Lucinda Perrin	9/12
		Linda Stanley	9/14
		Effie Rogers	9/14
		Art Cratsley	9/14
		Deb Footer	9/15
		Ed Perrin	9/17
		Pat Pestle	9/21
		Richard Gilbert	9/21
		Annette Fagan	9/24
		Bill Wheeler	9/24
		Neil Bassett	9/27
		Mary Lynne Casey	9/29

United Church of Bristol Calendar for August & September 2013

- August 4 Quarterly Meeting after worship; Directory photos during fellowship hour
Annual Progressive Dinner beginning at 4:00 at the Bassage residence
- August 11 Rev. Emily Castner, chaplain at Monroe Community Hospital, guest speaker
Directory photos during fellowship hour
- August 18 Rev. Frank Nichols, former chaplain at Albion Correctional Facility, guest speaker
Birthday Cake during fellowship hour; Trustees will meet during fellowship
- August 25 Missions & Outreach Committee will meet before worship; Communion during worship
- September 1 U.C.C. General Synod Celebration during worship with visitors and guest musicians
- September 8 Deacons will meet at 9:00
- September 9 Cabinet will meet at 7:00
- September 15 Church School Rally Day with Wildlife Defenders program at 9:00
Birthday Cake during fellowship hour
- September 22 Missions & Outreach Committee will meet before worship
- October 4 Worldwide Communion Sunday

Watch for dates of Sunday morning Choir rehearsals, Christian Ed and Pastor-Parish Relations Committees

Mark your Calendar!! Fall Turkey Dinner Date is Saturday, October 19