

Bristoletter

**Newsletter of the United Church of Bristol
A member congregation of the United Church of Christ**

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

TO:

“God is still speaking”

Paula Dorn
Treasurer

Catherine Joseph
Moderator

**Rev. Thomas (Tim) Hamlin, Pastor E-mail: redcedar58@gmail.com Phone: 585-727-2938
Church School -- during service Worship -- 10:00 am Fellowship Hour -- 11:00 am
<churchofbristol@gmail.com> Church phone 585-657-7030 Web: UnitedChurchofBristolUCC.org
to receive Bristoletter by e-mail, contact jschrader@cnbank.com**

Those Whom We Hold in Prayer

Mary & Jim, Carrie, Al, Jim, Braydon, Janine, John, Phil, Chris, Dillon, Debbie, Debbie's dad, Erin, Rod, Wendy, Mary Jane, Shalanda, Andrea, Jody, Ryan, Carrie, Claude, Jan, and all the caregivers. Prayers for Steven as he travels in Germany. Prayers for a New Year filled with peace. Prayers for warmth and safe housing for all those who find themselves homeless during the cold winter months. Prayers of thanksgiving for Wendy's blessings of strength and spirit, for the commitment of many to support the ministry of this church, for thoughtful visits made to a number of church friends, for generous donations given by our church to the Christmas Fund of the United Church of Christ in support of retired clergy, for the courage to stand for what is just and true and good, and for the gift of Christ's transformative power.

Joy Jar & Outreach Update

Happy New Year 2016! Mission and Outreach continues to assist neighbors, both near and far, in times of difficulty through the generous giving at Joy Jar time. An important local recipient is the United Church of Bristol's own food cupboard. Joy Jar monies donated to our food cupboard helped provide Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for 2015. Mission and Outreach has committed to the same for 2016.

The annual "Souper Bowl" will be held this year on Sunday, February 7th following worship. Proceeds from a free will offering in appreciation for a fellowship meal of soup, bread and cookies (!) will go directly to our food cupboard. The Joy Jar that day will also benefit the United Church of Bristol's food cupboard.

We hope to see you at our Souper Bowl which promises to be quite 'Super'!

Altar Flower Committee Report

Many thanks to all for ordering poinsettias for Christmas! In a couple more months we will be selecting the plants for Easter.

If you wish to place an arrangement on the Altar as a remembrance; please contact Fran Staub @ 229-7306 in February and Gloria Miles @ 229-2322 in March. Think Spring and happy gardening! Diane Bassage

Christian Education Update

Please join us at 9am for our annual Easter Egg Hunt with resurrection rolls event on Sunday, March 20th [Palm Sunday and the first day of Spring!].

Children are invited to participate in an egg hunt and also the telling of the story – a marshmallow represents the body of Jesus, dipped in anointing oil and spices [butter and cinnamon sugar] then wrapped in a crescent roll [the tomb]. The marshmallow melts as the roll is baked – Jesus has risen!

Deacons Report

As I sat making notes about what the Deacon's accomplished in 2015, I realized we did a lot. Of course there are the birthday visits each month and visits to people in need, hospital, nursing homes, rehab, etc., delivering Christmas gifts to those who are unable to join us, and the monthly Communion service. Last year we also helped at several memorial services where we said good-bye to friends, assisted with the Blue Christmas service, and hosted one of the Lenten speaker series soup suppers. We arranged two Sunday services while our Pastor enjoyed time off, and assisted at three others with guest speakers. We provided for and assisted in "decking the halls" for the Christmas season. We would like to say thank you to all who provided decorations.

As we move into 2016 we look forward to hosting the start of our Lenten season with the first soup supper before our Ash Wednesday service on February 10th. Please join us and continue with soup suppers through the Lenten Speaker Series as we move towards Easter Sunday. We wish everyone good health and Peace as we make our journey together in 2016.

Acolytes Assisting With Services during Lent

The Deacons of the UCB would like to reinstate the children of the church as Acolytes during Lent.

What Does an Acolyte Do?

Acolytes bring the light of Christ to light the candles on the altar and take that light back out into the world after worship. Acolytes might also assist with the serving of communion, baptism and the offering in some churches.

By carrying the symbols of our faith, the acolytes can become an important part of the worship in the sanctuary. Children have an opportunity to be part of the service. They are the witness for Christ by standing in front of the congregation and lighting candles. Their act signifies the presence of the Lord in His house. IF YOU ARE A STUDENT IN GRADES 1-12, OR HAVE A CHILD OR GRANDCHILD THAT MIGHT BE INTERESTED please contact Diane Bassage @ 657-6609 [daytime] or ddbassage@frontier.com.

Information Meeting/Practice

Sunday Jan.24 @ 9:30 meet in front entry/come up the spiral stair case! There will be sign-up sheets-for the Sundays starting with Feb. 14 through Easter Sunday! We will need two Acolytes at each service. We will learn about this together! For much more info about Acolytes check out the internet [do not be overwhelmed, we are a small church/on a small scale. There are a couple very cute videos.]

Pastor's Letter

I live only 6.6 miles from one of the fanciest ski resorts in Western New York. But about one mile CLOSER to me is a lesser known resort that boasts nearly as much fun, for those of a particular "bent" of mind, and without the 60 dollar lift ticket. This alternative destination – what might be named the "Last Resort" - is known as the South Bristol Dump. I believe the politically correct name is the "South Bristol Transfer Station."

A lot of stuff gets "transferred" there. When I visit, I tend to traffic most in recyclable bottles and cans. These are generally pretty uninspiring commodities, though I'm quite happy to be rid of them. However, once in a while, the South Bristol Transfer Station (SBTS) inherits some very interesting artifacts of our ever-transferring society.

Recently, there was a lovely "spring-chair" unceremoniously dumped into one of the large scrap metal bins. Pulling aside the shards of metal roofing and a deceased window frame that covered this precious find, it was possible to salvage this "vintage" patio chair and bring it home. You may ask "why?" And I have to confess that the question occurred to me, too! Coated with lead-based paint with a couple of bolts missing, this was certainly nothing that Martha Stewart would feature on the cover of Living Magazine.

But there was something both endearing and impressive about this chair that prompted the rescue. For one thing, with very little effort, it bounces! So it offers entertainment with minimal effort. Always an attractive equation! Second, this chair is unique. "You just don't find that kind of thing anymore." I doubt it's for sale at Walmart or Lowes or Runnings. Even on the Internet, I found very few chairs anything like this one. And lastly, here was an opportunity to pull something from the brink of compaction...and put it to use.

There's no question about it: this chair is proving to be a lot of work. It's no small task to scrape off paint that has probably clung to the metal longer than I have clung to Earth. New hardware is needed, of course. And then there's the whole process of painting. On one level, I can understand why someone tossed the chair. From a simple "cost-benefits" perspective, this might be considered a total waste of time. So why do I do it? Maybe my real, deep-seated motivation for taking it on in the first place has to do with my sense that "value" is often misjudged. Chairs are misjudged. People are misjudged, too. Too easily discarded. Too easily "transferred."

I think I identify with the chair. I'm certainly not looking the way I did when I "came off the line." Most of us aren't. I like to think that we can be cherished even so - maybe even more so for having been well seasoned. Perhaps we can start describing one another as "vintage", "timeless" or even "classic." I like to think that we all have a bit more "bounce" left in us. Finally, there's something attractive about putting the time and effort into something seen as peripheral or, worse yet, expendable...and making it shine.

You knew I'd get religious at some point. So here goes: Suffice it to say that Jesus Christ was forever "dumpster diving" into that vast bin of discarded humanity and pulling out some gems: renewing their bounce (remember the cripple who sprang to his feet and danced off into a brighter tomorrow?) and restoring them to their rightful place in community. No rust, dents, cracks or breaks can prevent the redemptive power of God. I'm counting on it.

God bless you all. And happy diving!
Tim

United Church of Bristol Calendar for February and March 2016

- January 18 Martin Luther King Celebration - First Cong. Church in Canandaigua at **noon**
 January 19 **TLC Group** at Joan Halls house at **2pm**
 January 24 **Adult Formation Group** after worship
 January 31 **Annual Meeting** after service
 February 7 **Communion and Souper Bowl Sunday Celebration**
 February 10 **Lenten Soup Supper** hosted by Deacons **6pm followed by Ash Wednesday service**
 February 14 **Deacons Meeting 9am and Cabinet Meeting 11 30am**
 February 17 **Lenten Soup Supper** hosted by Missions/Outreach **6pm.**
 Guest speaker Sue Forsythe on Israel
 February 21 **Birthday Cake Sunday**
 March 2 **Lenten Soup Supper 6pm**
 Guest speaker Ray Henry on Origins of the Seneca's
 March 6 **Communion**
 March 13 **Deacons Meeting 9am and Cabinet Meeting 11 30am**
 March 16 **Lenten Soup Supper 6pm**
 Guest speaker Pic Shade, Board member of Qholaqhoe Mountain Connections on education and nutrition for children in Lesotho, Southern Africa
 March 20 **Easter Egg Hunt & Resurrection Rolls 9am**
 March 24 **Maundy Thursday Service 7pm**
 March 27 **Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 7am**
Easter Breakfast 7 30am

Happy Birthday in February to:

Lyle Jenks	2/7
Karla Babcock	2/8
Joyce Gilbert	2/10
Dale Comfort	2/12
Colleen Miles	2/12
David Davenport	2/14
Pat Sanford	2/14
Zadoc Fletcher	2/18
Bob Bolcarovic	2/21
Walter Babcock	2/22
James Dunne	2/23
Fran Staub	2/25
Edie Thomas	2/25
Diane Marie Bassage	2/26
Dianne Marie Case	2/26

Happy Birthday in March to:

David Hudson	3/5
James Chappell	3/7
Bob Drayn, Jr.	3/10
Alexa Cooley	3/13
Dianne Marcellus	3/14
Kaylee Angell	3/15
Paula Dorn	3/15
Rena Faulkner	3/16
Noah Van Stralen	3/17
Pat Panzarella	3/17
O'Mallie Angell	3/22
Jase Chappell	3/22
Richard Johnson	3/23
Madeline Cooley	3/29

Liturgist, Greeters, & Fellowship Hour – December 2015 & January 2016

DATE	LITURGIST	GREET & FAREWELL	FELLOWSHIP HOUR
Feb. 7	Karla Babcock	Mary Lynne Parmelee & Jan Schrader	Outreach & Missions Comm. 'Souper Bowl Sunday'
Feb. 14	Diane Bassage	John & Rena Faulkner	Bob & Stephanie Drayn
Feb. 21	Pat Pestle	Babcock Family	** VanStralen Family **
Feb. 28	John Faulkner	Joan Hall & Ann Ward	Lance & Diane Bassage
March 6	Dianne Marcellus	Faye Brocklebank & Paula Dorn	>> Ellie Babcock & Jan Schrader <<
March 13	Mary Lynne Parmelee	Don & Pat Sanford	Joan Hall & Edie Thomas
March 20	Deb Footer	Lance & Diane Bassage	** John & Rena Faulkner **
March 27	Joan Hall	Bob & Dianne Marcellus	Sally Ess & Pat Pestle
April 3	Jan Schrader	Linda Ensmann & Gloria Miles	Faye Brocklebank & Mary Lynne Parmelee

- **“Greeters”**: Please try to remember to have one or both of you be a “fareweller” at the end of the service by the front door to wish those people well who may not be staying with us for fellowship hour. Thank you for adding this new task and making everyone feel welcome all the time at UCB! Your other duties are to be at the door by 9:20, remember to wear your name tag, ask guests to sign our guestbook, hand out the Sunday bulletins and any other hand-outs, count all the attendees and enter the total in the book, take up the collection when called by the Pastor. Headsets are now kept in Pastor’s office and should be returned there after the service.

-**“Fellowship Hour”**: You will need to provide juice for children and non-coffee drinkers. Pick up the cake if it is ****Cake Sunday****, Pat and Sally order it. The cake is picked up at Wegman’s **catering desk**. You pay for it, then are reimbursed by the church when you submit the receipt.

** These represent “Birthday Cake Sundays”. If you are new to this, please see Pat or Sally.

>> These are “Pot-luck Sundays”. A light snack for fellowship hour is all that is needed on these Sundays. Please, all are welcome to join in for a pot-luck luncheon after our light refreshment during fellowship.

+Please find your own substitute if you are unable to fulfill your appointed task. THANKS!

+If you would like to be added to this list, please let Pat or Sally know.