

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**

“God is still speaking”

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Those Whom We Hold in Prayer

Ginny Ford, Wendy Wheeler, Denise, LaRue, Bob and Dianne, Ann, Gloria, Meredith and Lee, all who are struggling with the flu, those with chronic illness, those with addictions, those who are grieving especially Rena and Ellie, those who are traveling, The leaders of our world and those who are impacted by fires, tornadoes, earthquakes, mudslides, violence and accidents.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for:

The courage to follow Christ, those who reach out in kindness to others, those who keep us safe and keep our roads passable, the beauty and grace of nature. The knowledge that spring is coming, the joy of music in our church, the joy of children in our lives, Pat and Sal, and our dear Pastor Tim. For family gatherings, birthdays, anniversaries, family from out of town, trips for recreation, renewal and reunions.

Prayers for new babies and for those about to be born.

Prayers and thanks for the new people in our congregation.

sAltar Flower Committee Report

Easter Flowers – the last date to order is Sunday the 25th. Easter lilies - \$8.50

Yellow tulips and/or daffodils - \$ 6.50

Thank you all in advance for your orders!!

For anyone wishing to place memorial arrangements on the altar the following are coordinators for the upcoming months:

Gloria Miles	229-2322	April
Diane Bassage	657-6609	May
Fran Staub	229-7306	June

Wishing you all Easter Blessings and Happy Gardening!!

CANS, CARTONS AND COINS FOR KINDNESS

This is a continuing program in our Sunday School class initiated by Mary Lynne Parmelee to create an awareness in our children about the need for generosity and compassion for those around us who are less fortunate than we are. As part of this program the children helped stock our food cupboard for Easter boxes that will be distributed the end of March to the needy families in our community.

Please remember to bring in items to replenish our well used food cupboard. For a list of needed items check with Pat Pestle or Sally Ess.

Joy Jar & Outreach Update

Qholaqhoe Mountain Connections (QMC) was established in 2009 in response to the dire needs of the population of the rural Qholaqhoe Mountain region of the country of Lesotho, a developing country geographically surrounded by South Africa..

Lesotho has been dramatically affected by the El Nino induced drought that has impacted much of sub Saharan Africa. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, more than 60% of the population has been affected by serious food shortages. While the peak of the drought has passed, emergency response to the problem continues. The shortage of food remains acute and has been witnessed at Qholaqhoe High School, where many students are hungry on a daily basis. QMC has addressed this issue locally by providing supplemental food to several students and through financial assistance for the school's daily lunch program.

-QMC's home page at www.qmconnect.org/

A number of years ago, UCB's Outreach committee identified QMC as a recipient of our ongoing support. The congregation recently received the following letter from Pic Schade, treasurer of Qholaqhoe Mountain Connections.

Dear Members of the United Church of Bristol,

Your recent most generous contribution is going to help feed the children at Qholaqhoe High School. The recent drought has caused food prices to increase which caused the high school to cut back portion size - funds for food were limited. So QMC helped, plus we added funds to finance a Friday lunch meal. School is dismissed at noon and historically there was no lunch meal so students walked home on empty stomachs - some for 2 hours or more. Now there is a Friday lunch - thanks for helping to make this possible.

Thank you for your support over the last six years, for believing in us and what we are doing

for people half a world away who are in great need.

Rea leboha,

Pic (Schade)

Thanks to all of you who continue to support the Joy Jar and the blessings it brings to so many.

SPRING DINNER

Saturday, May 12

4:30pm-7pm

Menu:

Pulled pork sandwiches

Salt potatoes

Coleslaw

Copper carrots

Applesauce

Homemade pies

\$9.50

Christian Education Update

Sunday, April 1st we will celebrate the Easter holiday with our **Easter Egg Hunt and Resurrection Rolls at 9am** in the Fellowship Hall!

Vacation Bible School will be held the week of June 25-29th from 9:00-12:00pm! We have purchased a new exciting VBS program and are sending Stephanie Drayn and Linda Ensmann to a training workshop where they can share ideas with other churches in the Rochester area on April 21st. We look forward to an exciting week! We are also planning a float and booth for **Bristol Fun Day (June 10th)** featuring our VBS theme!

Thank You

~ **Thank you** from Gloria Miles for all the get well cards and prayers after her knee repair surgery. Yet another example of the caring and compassion of our UCB family.

~ **Thank you** to our three presenters during our Lenten soup suppers:

Libby Campbell

Julie Jugle

Deirdre Dye

Reiki

Aroma therapy

Massages

All of these presenters offered their expertise into some of the healing modalities that are available to us. We thank them for their time and knowledge.

Deacons Report

As we head towards spring and Easter (even in the snow!) Deacons are continuing their calls and visits to our parishioners 80 and older for their birthdays and also those in need of company.

The Deacon's hosted the second of the Lenten Soup Suppers with over twenty people attending, receiving information on how essential oils can improve your health. We continue to serve communion every month and are now working on updating our yearly schedule for up-coming events and duties. Bristol Fun Days has been scheduled and we are going to work with the Christian Education Committee on show casing **Vacation Bible School** to be held this summer at UCB. Anyone in need can call any of the serving Deacons and we will be glad to help. Happy Easter!

A Poem on Friendship

Good friends are better than fine gold!
I find it sweet as I grow old
To prove to you this happy truth
To which I held in early youth.
And having proved, shall ever hold:
Good friends are better than fine gold!

The more we love the better we are; and the greater our friendships are, the dearer we are to God.

Pastor's Letter

“We preach **Christ** crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles” (I Corinthians 1: 23)

Easter landed on April Fool's Day this year.

Easter, that ever so elusive holy day that skates around the Spring calendar like a blob of mercury in the palm of your hand: try to pin it down...and it moves.

But of all the eligible days, April 1st seems to be an entirely fitting day for **Easter**. There is probably nothing more “foolish” than the thought of a man callously betrayed, brutally murdered, and buried under a rock...who then has the audacity to break free of death, greet his friends on the road, and straightaway rise to heaven – all in half a week! Talk about multi-tasking! What an absurd tale...

I get together on a regular basis with a group of folks who actually believe this stuff! We probably all fit nicely into some sort of diagnostic category in the psychiatric manual, but it doesn't seem to trouble us much. We keep gathering, week after week, to hear about it, sing about it, reflect upon it, and...lean upon it! Some might call it a shared delusion. I call it a shared joy!

As a kid, we never made a big deal of April Fool's Day. No presents, no cards, no April Fools cake or April Fools tree. Pretty much business as usual. But my older brother **DID** honor the day one year when he pulled me aside and with his most earnest older brother voice assured me that mom and dad had bought me a pet alligator for April Fool's Day. I snatched up the fantasy like a gator eating chicken! And I

was off and running...running to mom to excitedly inquire about my new pet.

Well, suffice it to say that I got a lesson in April Fools pranks that day...along with learning that mom wouldn't have a reptile for a house pet if **Jesus Christ**, himself; delivered it.

And he didn't. But what he **did** deliver was even better than a baby gator. He came through with a promise that the “end”...really isn't.

Something far better than a George Lucas sequel. **A message of abundant and eternal love and life for every last one of us fools!**

And this isn't all about the “hereafter” either. It's about the here and now. Fools for **Christ** embrace a stout hope that even the darkest times can give way to a brighter day. Even the most derelict relationships can find a new burst of life. Even the dreariest journeys can turn a corner to find a rainbow. Even the most hardened anger or the most bedeviling anxiety can give way to peace. Even the most entrenched injustice can be dismantled by courage and truth.

As a kid I wasn't thinking about all that. I just grieved my lost lizard. I survived. And somehow, in the days and years that followed, in the course of all the losses and gains of living, a message came through: that even in our most discouraging moments, we are held by a

God of boundless love, whose foolishness is greater than any human wisdom.

So, I'll continue to gather with anyone crazy enough to join me. I may not have a gator at my side, but I've got **someone** better. And that's enough for me.

In Christ,

The fool on the hill

United Church of Bristol Calendar for April and May 2018

March 29	Food Cupboard Easter boxes handed out Maundy Thursday Soup Supper- 6:00, service follows at 6:30
March 30	Good Friday Vigil 12 – 2pm
April 1	Sunrise Service 7am Easter Breakfast 7:30am Christian Education Easter Egg Hunt and Resurrection Rolls 9am Easter Service 10am
April 8	Trustees and Deacons meetings 9am Holy Communion Cabinet meeting 11:30am
April 14	Church cleaning day 9am
April 15	Birthday Cake Sunday
May 4	Church Women United meeting hosted by United Church of Bristol at Noon
May 6	Holy Communion and Pot Luck Dinner
May 12	Pulled Pork Dinner 4:30 – 7pm
May 19	Bob Ford Memorial Service at St. John's Episcopal Church 11am
May 20	Birthday Cake Sunday
June 10	Bristol Fun Day!
June 24	UCB Semi Annual Meeting after worship
August 12	Worship at Levi Corser Park 11am

Happy Birthday in April to:

Jonathan Angell – 4/2
Sally Ess – 4/3
Mary Ann Strasser – 4/5
Stephanie Drayn – 4/7
Jan Schrader – 4/9
Sheila Hudson – 4/14
Logan Sylvia – 4/16
Brandi Mastin– 4/19
Lauren Schrader – 4/23
Al Miles – 4/25
Laura Damaske – 4/25
Lynn Damaske – 4/27
Jane Strickland – 4/27
Mary Dunne – 4/28
Matt Angell – 4/29

Happy Birthday in May to:

Mark Stanley – 5/1
Ava Schrader – 5/2
John Babcock – 5/3
Kailee Faulkner – 5/8
Tim Hamlin – 5/8
Therese Van Stralen – 5/12
Matt Schrader – 5/13
Zachary Schrader – 5/15
Jenny Babcock – 5/15
Steve Schrader – 5/16
Sandra White – 5/21
Frederick Odell – 5/22
Isabella Snapp – 5/25
Neale Van Stralen – 5/30

**Liturgist, Greeters, & Fellowship
Hour – April & May 2018**

DATE	LITURGIST	GREET & FAREWELL	FELLOWSHIP HOUR
Apr. 1	Catherine Joseph	Lance & Diane Bassage	Sally Ess & Pat Pestle
Apr. 8	Cc Bodnar	Dave & Sheila Hudson	Don & Pat Sanford
Apr. 15	Bob Drayn	Priscilla Cratsley & Deb Footer	** Ellie Babcock & Linda Ensmann **
Apr. 22	Joan Hall	Don & Pat Sanford	Donna Parsons & Jan Schrader
Apr. 29	Mary Lynne Parmelee	Bob & Stephanie Drayn	Lance & Diane Bassage
>>May 6<<	Jan Schrader	Cc Bodnar & Faye Brocklebank	>> Charleen Boyce & Debbie Lamphier<<
May 13	Dave Hudson	Linda Ensmann & Carolyn O'Dell	Dianne Marcellus & Edie Thomas
May 20	Sally Ess	Richard & Norma Lyons	** Rena Faulkner & Matthew Zeaborowski **
May 27	Lance Bassage	Joan Hall & Dianne Marcellus	LaRue Fletcher & Mary Lynne Parmelee
June 3	Stephanie Drayn	Sally Ess & Pat Pestle	Priscilla Cratsley & Deb Footer

- **“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 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 attendees and enter the total in the book, take up the collection when called by the Pastor. Headsets are now kept in the 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 **BAKERY now**. Check with Pat or Sally about payment for the cake.

>> These represent “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. The potlucks will start again the first Sunday in October. We will get the potluck meal going as quickly as we can after service, there will be light munchies before the meal is ready.

We seem to be running low of people for ‘the list’ due to a variety of reasons (illness, surgery....). Therefore there is a need to use people perhaps more often. We try not to put people on any ‘job’ two Sundays in a row. If anyone would like to be added to the list under any jobs, please see Pat or Sally. Thanks!

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