

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

Prayers of compassion go out to all who have lost loved ones especially to Ginny Ford and the Cratsley family. Prayers for continued gains in health issues to Denise, Wendy, Isabella, Haley and Kali. Prayers for all those with medical issues, depression, anxiety, people ravaged by war and political upheaval and especially prayers for those who strive to build bridges between people and nations.

Prayers of thanksgiving for the joy of the Easter Season, gatherings with friends and family, luminous moments when goodness shines in the world, those who speak courageous words for the sake of justice and peace and the Spirit who makes us one.

Deacons Report

Welcome spring! The Deacon's continue with all our normal duties including visiting our over 80 members. We have visited five people for their birthdays so far this year and have fourteen in the next seven months. If anyone is turning 80 and would like to be added to the list, please contact a Deacon.

The Deacons are currently gearing up for our booth at **Bristol Fun Days** on June 10th. We are focusing on inviting kids to **Vacation Bible School** to be held at the end of June.

The Deacons will not meet in July but as usual will be available to our congregation if anyone has a need we can help with.

Have a great summer!

Altar Flower Committee Report

First, a big thank-you to all who ordered Easter flowers. The church always looks special with so many fresh flowers!! As our flower gardens are growing and producing please know that a fresh bouquet is always welcome on the table in the Narthex.

The schedule for Altar flowers is as follows:

June Fran Staub 229-7306

If you are planning to put memorial arrangements on the altar please let the appropriate committee member know. Happy gardening!



Bristolite Luncheon

The Annual Bristolite Luncheon for One Room

Schoolhouse Kids will be held Tuesday, June 12th at the United Church of Bristol at noon. Cost of the lunch will be \$7. Those wishing to attend can RSVP to Pat Pestle at 585-229-2821.

Poets Corner

God's Expressions

Look without!

Behold the beauty of the day;
The shout of color to glad trees,
And sun and seas,
And wind and sky:
All these are God's expression,
Which men must love ere they can understand.

The Extravagance of God

More sky than man can see,
More seas than he can sail,
More sun than he can bear to watch,
More stars than he can scale.
More breath than he can breathe,
More yield than he can sow,
More grace than he can comprehend,
More love than he can know.

Christian Education

Looking forward to an exciting **Vacation Bible School** Monday June 25th through Friday June 29th from

9 am to noon. Children ages 5-12 are welcome. 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!



Pastor's Letter

As often happens when I sit down to write a piece for the **Bristoletter**, I stared at a blank white computer screen, feeling rather intimidated by its emptiness. Some folks refer to “writer’s block.” Mine is more like “writer’s blank.”

So, without anything else issuing from the mental faucet, my attention began to wander around to the various icons dotting the edge of my computer screen – one of which was the battery charge indicator. It told me that the charge was less than 50%. But I had plugged the computer into the power strip in the church office nearly an hour before! Slowly, it dawned on me that I had neglected to turn the power strip **ON**.

The analogy was not lost on me: the ways in which we human animals too often forget to access the energy and vitality that is right before us...to turn on the “power strip.” If I might play with this image just a bit more: a power strip is a protective measure. It prevents rogue “surges” from over-loading the circuits and “burning something out.”

A power strip also has the added benefit of being easier to access than many of the wall outlets that are so often buried behind furniture. In essence, the strip makes the power more easily accessible.

But I still have to switch it “on”. As one who is always on the prowl for a good metaphor, I found the power strip too good to pass up as a symbol of God: a source of power made available to me, giving me the means to avoid being burn-out or overwhelmed, and yet dependent upon my initiative to access it.

It’s no secret that there’s much within this world today that would block our access to God...**AND**...to the God-within-the-other – whoever the other is. I remember hearing once that building codes require an electrical outlet every 8 feet. But, to my knowledge,

there aren’t any building codes which limit that amount of furniture you can place in any given room. So rooms can get pretty crowded! Before long, we can get to the point when we’re snaking an extension cord into the living room from somewhere else...in order to get power.

Let me stretch this over-worked metaphor even further! We all need energy, power, vitality, and spirit – whichever term we use. That’s a human necessity.

But if we have blocked the means of accessing it in one place, we can begin to look for it elsewhere, sometimes going to elaborate lengths to get it – stringing “extension cords” from who-knows-what other source in order to keep ourselves going. And after enough cords are crisscrossing our living space, we can get tripped up...and even fall down. And that can hurt.

Of course, sometimes it’s only when we’ve fallen that we can spy that original outlet that was there all the time, but buried beneath our accumulated “debris” of living.

Do what you will with this tired illustration. But please remember to access the **Spirit of Life** as best you can. I like to think that the **United Church of Bristol** offers a fine source of spiritual energy in our community. **In the coming weeks, we will be celebrating Bristol Day, honoring Dads and Grads, diving into Vacation Bible School, worshipping at Levi Corser Park, and getting into all sorts of other benevolent mischief for the sake of Christ and the world.**

If you want to come on up to the top of **Baptist Hill** and “plug in”, we’d sure love to see you!
Blessings of power, promise and peace to you all...
Tim

United Church of Bristol Calendar for June and July 2018

June 3 **Deacon's Meeting @ 9am,
Communion
Cabinet Meeting @ 11:30am**

June 7 **Clean-up at the Valley Church @ 9am**

June 10 **Worship in the Valley @ 10am
Bristol Fun Day Parade @ 11am!
DON'T MISS OUR FLOAT IN THE BRISTOL DAY PARADE!
Come and support Christian Education as we enter our first float!**

June 12 **Bristolite Luncheon at United Church of Bristol @ Noon**

June 17 **Honoring our Graduates and Dads
Awarding of the Leighton and Hazel Gilbert Scholarship**

June 24 **Semi-Annual Meeting after Service**

June 25-29 **UCB Vacation Bible School
9am – noon**

July 8 **Communion**

August 12 **Worship at Levi Corser Park @ 11am followed by a picnic lunch**

Happy Birthday in June to:

Rylan Angell – 6/2
Amanda Angell – 6/5
Susan Damaske May – 6/5
Reagan Fletcher – 6/5
Nick VanStralen – 6/7
Nikolle VanStralen – 6/7
Andy Fagan – 6/8
Dave Parsons – 6/10
Gladys Cooper – 6/11
Jodie Pierce – 6/11
Linda Enzman – 6/12
Bill Stanley – 6/15
Ana Stanley – 6/19
Kyle T. DiBiase – 6/21
Joan Hall – 6/26
Sophia Sylvia – 6/28
Dorothy Erb – 6/29

Happy Birthday in July to:

Brett Fletcher – 7/6
Sean Fagan – 7/11
Richard Lyons – 7/12
Ginny Ford – 7/13
Emily Angell – 7/16
Jordyn T. DiBiase – 7/18
Kali Schrader – 7/27
Haley Snapp – 7/29
Emily Fletcher – 7/30
Shaina Babcock – 7/31