



Spiritual Harvest

Trumansburg United Methodist Church



FEBRUARY 2012

OPEN HEARTS ~ OPEN MINDS~ OPEN DOORS

Pastor's Message

Long Range Planning Needs YOUR Help.

First and foremost: There are questionnaires at the end of the newsletter to help us gain better insight about who we are as a congregation. PLEASE take the time to fill them out and return them to church by March 4th. This will give us extremely valuable info into who "us" is.

Beginning in November, a group of about 18 people representative of our whole congregation has been meeting to take a look at the big questions about our church: Who are we?

Who do we want to become? How will we get there?

This group has no power to make decisions or tell us what we are going to do. They are giving of their time and energy to delve deeply into questions and information that we cannot expect to get to in worship or other committees.

So far we have come up with a very preliminary list of those things that are most important to us. Rather than share this in its very early stage, I ask your patience until the Long Range Planning group has had the chance to refine it a bit. We will then publicize it within our congregation and incorporate your input before it is brought to Council for final approval.

This will not be a quick process. Studying our congregation, our ministry area, our strengths and values in ministry and how we can best make the gospel real to those around us will take time. (One year is optimistic!)

We will keep you informed as we think we begin to find clarity.

So keep these people in prayer as we gather together to discern where God may be leading us in the coming years and decades.

Rev Jeff

Those active in the Long Range Planning group:

Rev Jeff Losey, Peter Cooke, Eileen Collins, Charlie Dyke, Meg Gaige, Eric Hallman, Steve Huber, Mary Jamison, Steve Ketcham, Gene Lovelace, Julie Messenger, Suzanne Organ, Dick Peterson, Joe Sibley, Sarah Seifert, Roxanne Smith, Lynn Snedaker, Jim Zifchock [Did I miss anyone?]

About Us

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10:15 Sunday Worship Services

Inside this issue:

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Happy February to all....

United Methodist Women (UMW) Our February United Methodist Women's Meeting will be held on Friday, Feb. 10th at noon at the church. Bring a for yourself. Soup or dessert will be provided. Ronda Ketcham will tell us about her mission trip to Guatamala last summer. All women of the church are welcome. Please join us. We always have a good time of fellowship. Submitted by Sylvia Mitchell

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

This year's bazaar was such a wonderful experience for me and as my last bazaar as chair, I could not have asked for a better outcome! As most of you know our bazaar is our biggest moneymaker of the year and this year there was much concern because we were not doing the baskets which usually brought in somewhere around \$1500 to \$1800. In pondering what to do, I tried a couple of new ideas, one being a "grandma's attic" and one being a "book nook". I also expanded the seating for the luncheon. I asked for donations of items for both grandma's attic and the book nook as well as our usual crafts and you all came through so well! Little did I know that we would actually make up for the baskets and then some! The bottom line is that we took in OVER \$3800 which is approximately \$400 more than last year!

I cannot begin to give enough thanks to all who helped! As always, I don't trust myself to name names as I know I will miss some key people so to the quilters, the baked goods overseers, those who led and those who worked at the luncheon, the cashiers, the wonderful publicity, the wonderful setup help, those who helped sell on the day of the bazaar, those who helped price and those who helped decorate, the ones who helped people carry out stuff, those who donated items of any kind, and last but definitely NOT least, the shoppers, my sincerest **THANKS!!!**

As you can see above, it takes a LOT of hands to pull this event off and we are blessed with such a wonderful and giving congregation! My love and congratulations to you all.....Judi

Dear church family and many friends

I wanted to express to all of my church family and friends a warm, deep appreciation and thank you for the many and daily prayers for me during my surgery and complications after/during my recovery time. The many, many cards, the phone calls, the arrival of food, the flowers, the laundry, the visits in the hospital and at home, all have been such a blessing, even the unexpected special arrival of New Years day dinner. I can't express enough how much it all has meant to me. (Pete especially was very grateful for the help with meals). I can't ever remember feeling so warmed and protected by the many, many acts of kindness and caring. May God bless you all. Judy Jager

February Special Dates

African-American History Month
Boy Scout Sunday, February 5, 2012
Valentine's Day, February 14, 2012
Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 19, 2012
Presidents Day, February 20, 2012
Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012
First Sunday in Lent, February 26, 2012

More Harvest Gratitude

Historical Event:

90th New Year's Day Dinner

By Chris Kimball-Peterson, Chairman

The weather was once again sunny and relatively warm for a winter's day. Some people, taking a Sunday drive, saw the sign and stopped by. The dining room crew was ready to serve the 110+ sit-down dinners. A total 90 take-out dinners were either delivered or picked up. Though we came shy of the record-breaking 235 dinners of last year, I am sure that the meal was well worth it to all who participated.

What a day! Over 25 dining room volunteers helped on New Year's Day and should be applauded for their speed in getting all those people served. The 15 kitchen volunteers did not miss a beat. Although there were a few dramatic moments, volunteers stepped in to take over. Long-time turkey carver, Walt Manheim, became ill and was replaced by guardian angel, Lanny Joyce. He stepped up to the platter (no pun intended) and helped fellow carver, Gerry Reynolds. They were able to keep up with the fast pace.

The way the kitchen staff got food to the servers was well choreographed, and platters of meat, bowls of mashed potatoes, squash, gravy, coleslaw and orange-cranberry relish appeared like lightening. Our pie servers, Lois Humphrey, Peg Slocum and Susan McCormick, were busy throughout the morning cutting pies for the 90 take-outs and for the dinner. This year we had enough pies. At about 1:45 p.m. Judi Eastburn, our cashier, along with Mary Jamison, had to finally put a "Sold Out" on the door. To say that the dinner was a success is a moot point. Everyone out did themselves.

This dinner is a "labor of love" from our church to the community. For 90 years this church has provided a delicious homemade meal to help celebrate the New Year. I am personally proud of everyone who helped out the entire three days. For two days prior, volunteers came in to help wash and get bowls for all the tables, peel and cut potatoes, cut up bread for the stuffing, chop ingredients to make the coleslaw. Thanks to Sylvia Mitchell and Sandi Reynolds, who brought her "professional" Kitchenaid mixer to handle all the veggie chopping. Some people, like Peg Benham, Mary Jamison and Dottie Manheim came all three days! Friday's crew worked swiftly and efficiently. Potatoes peelers – Gerry Reynolds, John & Gerri Benedict, Sue McCormick, and Dick Peterson did 90 pounds of potatoes in less than 2 hours!

The dishwashers throughout New Year's Day were very efficient. Gary and Carrie from CARS were a great help, stepping up to the plate and helping with takeouts, along with Carl Benham & Mary Gallagher. The dining room staff – headed by Peg Benham and Mary Gallagher – decorated the room as if it were a 5-star restaurant! The silver decorations were festive and drew favorable comments from all. It was good to see new faces helping with the serving. (I hope you return next year!) Rev. Jeff decided that he needed to "schmooze", so the best way to do that is to pour coffee.....some of it even made it into cups! Thanks to Charlie Dyke and Dick Peterson who were able to handle Rev. Jeff. Marie Rich, as hostess, made sure they were seated and taken care of.

As I said before, this dinner is a "labor of love." There are two individuals who have been part of this dinner longer than me, and they are Mary Jamison and Dottie Manheim, aka Mother Mary and Mother Manheim, respectively. They are the ones who keep me going, especially this year when all the drama caught up with me--they were truly my "mothers". Mother Manheim takes care of all the hot foods and makes sure the gravy is nice 'n creamy and that the squash and mashed potatoes are just right. And then there is her stuffing....! Mother Mary is the person behind my all-time favorite, the orange-cranberry relish. The tartness with just the right amount of orange and cranberries makes this dish a winning favorite. My heartfelt "thanks" to both of you.

Finally, I bet you are wondering how much money we made. Despite an increase in expenses this year, due to the fact that some of the ingredients did not arrive, the grand total after expenses was \$1331--wow!

Next year is our 91st Anniversary and I want it to be special. If any of you have any ideas, please let me know. Once again, THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who made this dinner a success.



WINTER POT-LUCKS: Jan. 22, Feb. 19, and Mar. 18 – 2012 (There will be no Coffee Hour on these Sundays)

What better way to warm the hearts, souls and bodies, than with one of our POT-LUCK dinners after church on a chilly winter Sunday!! Brrrrrrrrrr! **All are invited to stay after church for any or all of these meals—plan your calendar around them.....they're great!!**

HOW DOES IT WORK? Bring your favorite dish-to-share, and your own table service (plates, knives/forks/spoons, cup, napkins, etc.) Beverages will be provided. On your way into the Church from the back entrance, leave your dish in the kitchen (in the oven if it needs warming); cold items go in the 'fridge, or on the "buffet" table; find a preferred spot in the fellowship hall and set up your place settings at the table of your choice. Following the church service, we all troop downstairs and help move the food onto the "grand buffet" tables. After a blessing, usually by Rev. Jeff, we "dig in." Beverages will be available in the window as usual.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? If you'd like to volunteer as a **set-up** or **clean-up** person, please **write your name(s) on the coffee hour sign-up sheet for the Sunday of the month designated for the Pot-Luck.** Ideally, 6-8 people (3-4 folks for each task) would be great. Scheduled dates are: **1/22, 2/19, and 3/18 – 11:30-ish a.m.**

SET-UP TASKS

--**Saturday**—the day before, set up tables/chairs in the fellowship hall, including 2-3 tables for the "buffet". There are usually tea bags, coffee, paper cups, sugar, etc. in cupboards – but check them out to be sure there are adequate supplies; may also have to bring juice and half-and-half for coffee if needed – check in 'fridge.

--On **Sunday morning early**, put on coffee & water for tea, provide some kind of soft drink (juice, etc.) -- set them up in the window area. Start ovens to warm dishes -- set temperature at 250 or so.

CLEAN-UP TASKS – After the meal, we are each responsible for own table service and dish we have brought. While volunteers don't normally do dishes (except for your own or church equipment used), we need someone willing to take home/wash tablecloths & dish towels, etc. We also need 3-4 folks to take down and store tables/chairs (leaving 4 tables set up in fellowship hall for Sunday School). Sweep/dust-mop the floors. Make sure kitchen is neat and tidy – ovens turned off, etc. **LAST PERSON OUT TURNS OUT LIGHTS & LOCKS DOORS. THANKS!!**

IT'S REALLY NOT A LOT OF WORK AND MANY HANDS WILL BE THERE TO HELP! WHAT FUN!!!

Hope to see you there. Anyone want to lead sing-along? Questions? – see Mary Jamison.

Long Range Planning Questionnaire

The purpose of this questionnaire is to give us a better idea of who we are as a congregation as we think about what God is calling us to do and become in the future. Your participation is EXTREMELY valuable! PLEASE take a few moments and answer the questions on the following pages. If there is more than one person in the household, please feel free to either make copies or simply provide multiple answers. Please DO NOT sign the form. Your individual answers are intended to be completely confidential. Thankx! And have fun, Rev Jeff

STUDYING CONGREGATIONS: YOUR CHURCH PARTICIPATION & RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

1. How long have you been a member of this church?

- Not a member 2-4 years 10-19 years
 One year or less 5-9 years 20 or more years

2. On the average, about how many times have you attended church service during the past year?

- None About once a month
 About once or twice a year About two or three times a month
 Once or twice every three months Four times a month or more

3. Has your involvement in the congregation increased, decreased or remained about the same in the last few years?

- Increased (a) Remained the same Decreased (b)

3(a) If your participation has increased, which of the following are reasons for that? (check all that apply):

- More time available Better health Because of children
 Stronger faith Accepted office/other responsibility within the church
 More positive attitude toward the church

3(b) If your participation has decreased, which of the following are reasons for that? (check all that apply):

- Less time available Health problems Because of children
 Decreased faith Given up office/other responsibility within the church
 More negative attitude toward the church

4. Approximately how much does your family household contribute to your church per year?

- Under \$200 \$600-799 \$1,500-2,499
 \$200-399 \$800-999 \$2,500-3,499
 \$400-599 \$1,000-1,499 Over \$3,500

5. How many persons or families have you invited to visit or join your church in the past year?

- None One Two-Four Five or more

6. In what denomination were you raised? If you were involved with more than one denomination when growing up, with which did you have the greatest identification?

- Baptist Methodist Other Protestant: _____
 Disciples of Christ Presbyterian Roman Catholic
 Episcopal United Church of Christ Other: _____
 Lutheran Unitarian/Universalist None

7. Importance or salience of religion – how important would you say religion is in your own life?

- Very important Somewhat important Somewhat unimportant
 Not important Unsure

8. Which one of the following best expresses your view of the Bible?

- The Bible is a valuable book because it was written by wise and good people, but I do not believe it is really God's Word.
 The Bible is the record of many different people's responses to God and because of this, people and churches today are forced to interpret for themselves the Bible's basic moral and religious teachings.
 The Bible is the inspired Word of God and its basic moral and religious teachings are clear and true, even if it reflects some human error.
 The Bible is the actual Word of God and is to be taken literally.

5. Our congregation feels like one large family. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Our congregation feels like a loosely knit association of individuals & groups.
6. The Church's approach to social issues is basically educational, leaving any action to individual conscience. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 The church's approach to social issues is decidedly "activist." We have a proven history of taking a stand as a congregation.
7. The congregation's approach to individual salvation emphasizes education, nurture and gradual growth in the faith. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 The congregation's approach to individual salvation stresses conversion and a born-again experience.
8. Our congregation gives strong expression to its denominational identity and heritage. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 It would be difficult for a visitor to know to which denomination the congregation belongs.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF

1. **Gender:** Male Female
2. **Age:** Under 20 21-25 26-34
 35-44 45-54 55-64
 65-74 75 or over
3. **Marital Status:** Single, never married Married
 Separated or divorced Widowed

4. Do you have children in any of the following groups:

- *Birth – 4 years old Yes No
* 5 – 12 years old Yes No
*13 – 17 years old Yes No

5. What is your highest level of formal education?

- Less than high school graduate
 High school graduate
 Some college, trade, or vocational school
 College degree
 Post graduate work or degree

6. Are you (check only one)?

- Full time "houseperson" or student Employed part-time Employed full-time
 Retired

6 (a) If currently employed or retired, what is/was your occupation?

- 1 *Service worker:* law enforcement, barber, janitor, beautician, porter, waiter, usher, etc.
2 *Clerical worker:* bookkeeper, secretary, mail carrier, telephone operator, shipping clerk, ticket agent, etc.
3 *Farmer*
4 *Operative or Laborer:* semi-skilled and unskilled worker in construction & manufacturing, apprentice, teamster, stevedore, landscaper, etc.
5 *Craftsmen, foremen;* tinsmith, baker, carpenter, mason, shoemaker, electrician, machinist, plumber, etc.
6 *Sales worker:* salesman, insurance & real estate agent, broker, stock & bond salesperson, etc.
7 *Proprietor, manager or official:* public official, credit officer, buyer, floor manager, etc.
8 *Professional, technical:* teacher, doctor, architect, accountant, artist, athlete, surveyor, etc.
9 *Other:* _____

7. What is your household (family or single living alone) income range?

- Under \$7,500 \$7,500 – 14,999 \$15,000 – 24,999 \$25,000 – 34,999
 \$35,000 – 49,999 \$50,000 – 74,999 \$75,000 or more

8. How many years have you lived in this general area?

- One year or less 2 – 4 years 5 – 9 years 10 – 19 years 20 or more

9. Which of the following best expresses your belief about sin and salvation?

- Sin and salvation really don't have much meaning for me personally.
- I believe all people are inherently good. To the extent sin and salvation have meaning at all, they have to do with people realizing their human potential for good.
- All people are sinful, but have only to believe in Jesus Christ to be saved.
- All people are sinful, but may receive salvation as mediated through the sacraments of the church.
- All people are sinful, but only have to live morally responsible lives according to God's commandments and Christ's example, to earn salvation.

10. People sometimes describe God as a "God of Justice" or a God who commands us to bring about justice. Which one of these statements best expresses your belief about what this means?

- The church should work for justice and support groups that are working to end inequality and oppression.
- I think of it at a more personal level. It means I should try to be just and fair in all my dealings.
- Justice is actually a spiritual term that refers to God punishing evil, rather than activities of the church or individuals.
- I'm really not sure what I believe about the meaning of God's justice.
- Frankly, the concept of God's justice doesn't have much meaning to me personally.

SIZE AND CONDITION OF FACILITIES

Please assess each of the following in terms of *size*.

	<u>(1) Excellent</u>	<u>(2) Adequate</u>	<u>(3) Needs attention but not Immediately</u>	<u>(4) Needs Immediate Attention</u>
1. Sanctuary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Educational Space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Fellowship Space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please assess each of the following in terms of *general condition and aesthetic appeal*.

	<u>(1) Excellent</u>	<u>(2) Adequate</u>	<u>(3) Needs attention but not Immediately</u>	<u>(4) Needs Immediate Attention</u>
1. Sanctuary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Educational Space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Fellowship Space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Exterior and Grounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CONGREGATIONAL IDENTITY

Listed below are several alternatives touching upon important dimensions of a church's identity. Using the seven point scale between each set of alternatives, please circle the number that best describes where your congregation falls, "#1" meaning most like the characteristic on the left, "#7" meaning most like the characteristic on the right, "#4" meaning an equal mix of both.

1. Our church is more influenced by History and tradition	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Our church is more influenced by contemporary ideas and trends.
2. Members are similar in values and lifestyle to the people who live immediately around the church.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Members are very different in values and lifestyle from people who live immediately around church.
3. Our church is very involved with the community around the church.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Our church is not at all involved with the community around the church.
4. Our church is primarily oriented to serving our members.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Our church is primarily oriented to serving the world beyond members.

ALTAR GUILD / EASTER MEMORIALS

The Altar Guild is ready to take your order for Easter memorial flowers! You are invited to order a lily in honor/memory of a loved one. If you prefer, you can make a monetary donation to the Altar Guild instead of ordering a plant. The flowers will be used in the sanctuary on **Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012**. A memorial list will be published in the church bulletin and in our newsletter, *Spiritual Harvest*. You can take your plant(s) home after the Easter service.

Please fill out the form below, and:

- Give it, along with your payment, to Chris Kimball-Peterson; or
- Put it in the collection plate (clearly marked); or
- Mail it to the church office: Trumansburg United Methodist Church, PO Box 628, Trumansburg, NY 14886, ATTENTION: Altar Guild/Chris Kimball-Peterson.
- Cost = \$10.00 for white lily.
- Make checks payable to: *Trumansburg United Methodist Church*.
- Clearly note what the check is for: 1) flowers, or 2) Altar Guild donation.



Orders are due on or before Sunday, March 11, 2012.

Your name: _____ Telephone No. _____

EASTER FLOWERS	QUANTITY
White Easter Lily (\$10.00 each) 6" pot	<input type="text"/>
Total Amount Enclosed	<input type="text"/>

In honor or memory of: _____

I would like to make a monetary donation to the Altar Guild in lieu of a plant.

In honor or memory of: _____

Delivery Instructions (please mark your preference):

- Deliver to a shut-in? Yes _____ No _____ (will take home)
- Deliver to: _____ *We encourage you to make your own delivery, if possible.*
- Please take my plant to anyone who would enjoy it!