



Beyond the Green Doors

The newsletter of the
Peterborough United Methodist Church
43 Concord Street, Peterborough, NH

February 2018



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Weekly

Sun **Worship Service** 10a
Sun **Adult Bible Class** 11:15a
Wed **Prayer Group** 12:30p
Wed **Covenant Discipleship Group** 6:30p
Thu **Choir Rehearsal** 6:30p

Feb 6 **UMW Planning Meeting** 4p
Feb 14 **Ash Wednesday** 6:30p

Feb 15 first **Lenten Supper** 5:30p
Feb 16 **Open Mic Night** 7p
Feb 18 **Covenant Renewal** Service 10a
Feb 22 first **Lenten Breakfast** 7a
Feb 24 **Men's Monthly Breakfast** 7:30a
Feb 27 **Newsletter submissions due**
Feb 28 **Prayer Shawl Group** 1p
Feb 30 **Annual Report due**

PRAYER CORNER



"Most of my struggles in the Christian life circle around the same two themes: why God doesn't act the way we want God to, and why I don't act the way God wants me to. Prayer is the precise point where those themes converge."

-Philip Yancey, Prayer

Together with your gift of true light, pour out in our hearts the treasure of knowing You that enables us to do Your will. Amen.

CHURCH FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

Matt Keenan Feb
Belle Southwick Feb
Ron LaRoche Jr Mar 1

Membership Anniversaries:

Arnold Johnson, 9 years
Gary Skillings, 9 years

MENS MONTHLY BREAKFAST

The men of Peterborough United Methodist Church continue to host a breakfast for all males on the last Saturday of the month. This is a time for fellowship and community as we break bread together with a simple meal. Breakfast is served beginning around 8 am. Consider coming and bring a friend. Show up around 7:30 am if you would like to assist in the cooking.



A WAY FORWARD - Three Options for Consideration:

As you may, or may not be aware, the world-wide denomination of the United Methodist Church will be hosting a special general conference in February 2019. The purpose of this special general conference is to vote on the issue of LGBT inclusion. This vote, regardless of the elected way forward, will have major consequences for the denomination.

The following are the three options presented by the Commission on a Way Forward:



Option One:

Remain as is... This "means no change in the language in the Book of Discipline that labels homosexuality as incompatible with Christian teaching, that prohibits the ordination and appointment of LGBT people who are self-avowed, that prohibits pastors from performing same sex union ceremonies and prohibits the hosting of same sex union ceremonies in our churches, and that provides for charges to be brought against people who are LGBT and who officiate at same sex union ceremonies."

Option Two:

This option allows LGBT inclusion. It "removes restrictive language and places a high value on contextualization. This sketch also specifically protects the rights of those whose conscience will not allow them to perform same gender weddings or ordain LGBT persons." This option also allows for LGBT individuals to be appointed as pastors, elders and bishops.

Option Three:

This option "is grounded in a unified core that includes shared doctrine and services and one COB, while also creating different branches that have clearly defined values such as accountability, contextualization and justice." This option is a restructuring of the denomination to that similar to Catholic diocese.

- All quotes by Lonnie D. Brooks, United Methodist Insight

Join the last Bishops' discussions on Way Forward Commission, open to all: Thurs Feb 8 1 pm, South Burlington Vermont, or Sat Feb 17 1 pm, Augusta Maine

Learn more: <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward>

FELLOWSHIP IN SONG

Worship Committee has had its first meeting of the 2018 year. The group discussed the upcoming Spring Interfaith Music Tribute, a special song and music share that is being planned by the Greater Peterborough Interfaith Council. The musical event will be held on March 11th at the Peterborough Unitarian-Universalist Church @ 6:30 PM. It is meant to be a community sharing of music that reflects the common themes in worship and song that our different churches and temples have despite the diversity of what we believe! The Worship Committee is interested in forming a group of singers to present a song for the event ... and that's where you come in! If you would like to be a part of a song circle for this one-time performance, please contact Wendy Dunning no later than February 4th. That way, she can get an idea of the numbers of singers she has to work with on this special performance. Fellowship in song! What a concept ... and very Methodist!

JOHN WESLEY'S COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE

Our War Room sermon series is leading up to John Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service on Sunday February 18.

"The heart of the service, focused in the Covenant Prayer, requires persons to commit themselves to God. This covenant is serious and assumes adequate preparation for and continual response to the covenant. Leaders of worship must take seriously the need to prepare the congregation for this service, possibly through study sessions and prayer.

To make this covenant a reality in your life, listen to these admonitions:

First, set apart some time, more than once,
to be spent alone before the Lord;
in seeking earnestly God's special assistance
and gracious acceptance of you;
in carefully thinking through all the conditions of the covenant;
in searching your hearts
whether you have already freely given your life to Christ.
Consider what your sins are.
Consider the laws of Christ, how holy, strict, and spiritual they are,
and whether you, after having carefully considered them,
are willing to choose them all.
Be sure you are clear in these matters, see that you do not lie to God.

Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant,
rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength,
so you can keep your promise.
Trust not your own strength and power.

Fourth, resolve to be faithful.
You have given to the Lord your hearts,
you have opened your mouths to the Lord,
and you have dedicated yourself to God.
With God's power, never go back.

You can review the service here:

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/covenant-renewal-service>



2ND ANNUAL MONADNOCK HUNGER WALK

Planning has begun on the second Monadnock Hunger Walk. If you recall, last year over \$6,500 was raised and donated directly to area town food banks. The goal is to double that amount this year. The planning group is sending invitations out to more local civic groups and business in hopes that they will form walking teams. It would be awesome to get a few walkers from our church to form a walking team. Stay tuned for more information and registration forms, as the May 5th walk date gets closer! This year, the walk will be held right here in Peterborough. The U-U Church of Peterborough will be the 'day of' registration/donations drop-off, and step off spot this year! So, dust off your walking shoes and let's put a team together! Learn more: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2012633869008274/>

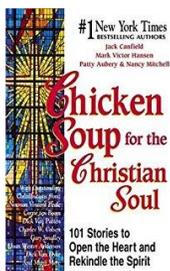


EVERYDAY DISCIPLES: John Wesley's 22 Questions

1. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am?
In other words, am I a hypocrite?
2. Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
3. Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?
4. Can I be trusted?
5. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?
6. Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
7. Did the Bible live in me today?
8. Do I give it time to speak to me everyday?
9. Am I enjoying prayer?
10. When did I last speak to someone else about my faith?
11. Do I pray about the money I spend?
12. Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
13. Do I disobey God in anything?
14. Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
15. Am I defeated in any part of my life?
16. Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?
17. How do I spend my spare time?
18. Am I proud?
19. Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?
20. Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard?
If so, what am I doing about it?
21. Do I grumble or complain constantly?
22. Is Christ real to me?

FROM THE SHELF

Most of us are familiar with the many versions of Chicken Soup for the Soul. For those of



you that are not, they are a collection of short inspirational stories full of wit and wisdom, hope and empowerment. In our church library we have 3 "servings" of Chicken Soup for the Soul and also Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul. (242)
Submitted by Cindy Faust

UMW PLANNING MEETING

A UMW planning meeting will be held Feb 6th at 4PM at the church. The purpose of this meeting is to set the dates, times, places and programs for the UMW meetings this year. Also projects/fundraisers will be discussed. We need your input as we try new ideas. If you are not able to attend, please give your suggestions to Susan Lindquist, Karen Keenan, or Carol Owen.



SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS

Living in His Sufficiency by Charles Stanley
Led by Daryl and Janet Hazel

When something goes wrong, where do you turn for help? Many turn to a spouse, a friend, or even an organized group. Yet God longs to meet our needs. In fact, the Bible says *He is utterly sufficient to satisfy every human need we'll ever experience* (2 Corinthians 9:8).

This study will help you to:

- Develop a deeper understanding of all that Christ has provided
- Learn how to experience the full sufficiency of Jesus Christ in every area of your life—not just spiritually, but morally, mentally, physically, and emotionally
- Discover how to be invulnerable to arguments that can lead you astray

(continued...)

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This next study of the Sunday morning adult class (following coffee hour) will begin on February 18th. It will run for nine weeks; classes will be one hour in length. Drop-ins are always welcome, but preparation during the week will greatly enhance the value of the class. If you intend to participate, please see Janet to get a copy of the study guide by February 11th.

WORSHIP TEAM PLANS FOR LENTEN SEASON

Your Worship Team will be very busy during Lent.

There will be a few special activities and services coming your way, as we "Walk With Our Lord" toward Easter.

Ash Wednesday Service - Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th this year. Pastor Lena will be leading a special service on that evening. Come for the dispensing of ashes, special readings, reflection and penitence as we enter the Lenten season.

Lenten Fellowship Meals - Every Thursday throughout Lent the worship committee will be hosting Lenten Meals. The committee will be trying a new take on these meals by bringing Lenten Breakfasts into the mix this year. Soup and Salad Suppers will be alternated with Breakfasts on a weekly basis. The meals will be starting with a Lenten Soup and Salad Supper on February 15th @ 5:30 PM. Followed by a Lenten Breakfast on February 22nd at 7 AM. Look for sign-up sheets starting on Sunday, February 11th.

For those needing a refresher, Lenten Meals are pot-luck affairs that are held in the fellowship hall at the church. Suppers will run from 5:30 PM until 6:45 PM-ish. Breakfasts will run from 7 AM - 8:30 AM-ish. The hosting worship team member will set the tables, make the coffee and tea, and offer a short devotional reading and grace. A buffet meal will then be shared along with quiet fellowship. Clean-up will be quick and communal.

Attendance at meals is open. One week you may be able to attend and the next week you may not ... there's no pressure. It's all good ... you are welcome as you are able! You are also welcome to bring friends along. There is room at the table, so come when you can!

Special Services - Plans are in the works for our traditional Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter celebration services. Look for more information in the March newsletter. In the meantime, the worship team hopes you find fellowship, good devotional reading and prayer support, time for reflection and peace as you enter your Lenten journey!

SMALL GROUP STUDY: PRAYER BY PHILIP YANCEY

Led by Janet Hazel

"Philip Yancey asks the tough questions about prayer that many are afraid to ask....Yancey writes as a friend and fellow-struggler, giving voice to the questions we may ponder but never bring up....This questioning process...inspires us to pursue prayer more earnestly....[This book] will encourage you as you meet with God daily and bring the details of your life before Him. You'll develop a stronger prayer vocabulary and a richer sense of the mystery and joy of prayer...."

It is our hope that this study will provide a supportive environment for wrestling with questions about prayer and inspiration to pursue prayer more earnestly by exploring ways to deepen your prayer life.

This study will begin the week of February 19th, time and day to be determined by participants. The format will be a one-hour discussion followed by 15-30 minutes of practical suggestions and a short prayer time.

Please sign up in the fellowship hall or contact Janet Hazel if you are interested in participating.

BEYOND THE GREEN DOORS

Church leaders should not be the only ones contributing to the newsletter! **Send in your thank yous**, birthdays, photos, events, testimonials, prayer submissions...

Please submit all materials for the next newsletter (March) to our editors by the last **TUESDAY** of the month, February 27. This is the newsletter that will be released on March 4 and cover until Sunday April 1. Send to Melissa French at 924-6960 or email info@PeterboroughUMC.org, with the subject "Newsletter submission." Thanks!

PETERBOROUGH UMC COMMUNICATIONS

In addition to "Beyond the Green Doors," Peterborough UMC offers the following ways you can keep in touch.

We are at the church. Come visit us, Sunday at 10 am!

We are on the web: <http://www.PeterboroughUMC.org>

We are on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/peterboroughunitedmethodist/>

This newsletter was compiled by Melissa French. Any concerns with content can be addressed with Pastor Lena at pumcpastor68@gmail.com, 603-209-1602, or in person.



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United Methodist Church

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Address service requested