



Warren United Church Newsletter

Warren, Vermont 05674

November & December 2017

Worship and Church School: Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Church Office: (802) 496-2713

www.warrenchurch.org

Kurt Shaffert, Interim Pastor

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

*For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confess,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest,
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*O blest communion, fellowship divine,
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Dear sisters and brothers of Warren United Church,
As we sing this traditional hymn, we remember those who have gone before us. Those who we now call “saints” were once persons just like us – seeking fellowship, seeking peace, seeking to live the lives to which one is called ... seeking the “blest communion” with one another and with the Holy One. Set to music as it is, it may sound as though all of this takes place easily, that these “saints” knew what they were doing and that it came without struggle. However, the hymn notes that these saints “labored”. It took work, and we now remember them on the other side of that work... seeing the perspective that cannot be seen in the midst of it.

Those we now call “saints” were once persons like us. We can take heart from their example and recognize the sacredness of the labor of Being Church together. There is joy in what occurs amidst the gathered - the presence of Christ among us. We are not alone as we gather and labor. We are called together, different as we may be. We are called together in Christ. And we are led forward in the labor.

A friend of mine recently advised, “Go where you are loved.” May we be strengthened and encouraged that the Warren United Church may be where we each and all are loved. The hymn reminds us, “Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!”

In Christ,
Kurt

You will soon be receiving a letter from the Stewardship and Mission Committee. Attached to this letter will be a document from our Church Treasurer, Bob Cumiskey, illustrating some of our financial realities in terms of income and spending. There will also be a Time and Talent Registration sheet as well as a Pledge form. We encourage you to prayerfully give the most you can in terms of physical and financial support. EVERY gift—no matter how large or small—makes a difference. We look forward to keeping this church strong together!

CHURCH GREETERS

Greeters are needed for November and December. The signup sheet is in the Emma Ford Room along with a job description. The holiday season is always a busy time for our congregation, and we usually have many visitors worshipping with us. It is so important to make everyone feel welcome and appreciated when we worship together. Please sign up or contact Freddie Mahlmann if you can support this important part of being a welcoming church.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Jesus said, "Where our treasure is, that's where our heart will be." (Matthew 6:21) ... "Or to flip it around, try putting your treasure in your church and see where that leads your heart. That, I think, is a worthy spiritual experiment." Holly Friot of Barre Congregational Church

On Sunday, November 12th, we will each have an opportunity to determine the relationship between our hearts and treasures as we present our pledges of time, money and skills to be used for God's purposes in and through the Warren United Church during the coming year. Again, we hope that you will read the informative letter that will soon arrive at your home, pray in advance about this decision so that it will be both intentional and God-inspired, and then be with us to celebrate our giftedness in worship on Consecration Sunday, November 12th. To love lavishly and to give generously is the call of Jesus, and the only way to bring his healing and saving power to people of our time. Giving is the path of gladness. May you discover the truth of this in your life.

VITALITY AND VOLUNTEERISM

One good measure of the vitality of a church is how involved its active worshippers are in volunteering for the teams (formerly called committees) that are necessary for the smooth functioning of a church. We have a pretty good track record at our little church, but we can do better. It is not unreasonable to expect every active worshipper to volunteer in some capacity to help support the church. We are entering the time of the year when participation on teams for the following year need to be determined. The Church Council has decided to make some temporary changes to see if the level of volunteer participation on our teams can increase. Based on the success of this effort, we can amend our governance Bylaws to reflect any necessary permanent changes.

In the past, we have relied on responses to our Time and Talent forms that are solicited at Consecration Sunday to determine interest in serving on teams. In addition, the leaders of the teams recruited people they thought might be willing to serve (and we may have inadvertently overlooked some people). The pool of interested potential volunteers was often limited because of arbitrary term limits designated in our Bylaws.

For 2018 participation on a team will be open to anyone who actively worships at the Warren United Church. Term limits which may have prevented someone from serving in 2018 will not be applicable. The term limits most affects the Deacon, Trustee and the Stewardship and Mission teams. The Stewardship and Mission team will be split into two different teams. *(continued...)*

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This has been discussed for years, the Stewardship and Mission team wants to do it, and 2018 is the right time to make that change.

We are introducing the new team called "Liturgists". Pastor Kurt has empowered our Deacons to become more actively involved in each service by doing the liturgy and this has been positively received. But some people might want to be an occasional Liturgist, while not committing to be a Deacon. And some people might want to be a Deacon but are less interested in performing the liturgist role. Going forward the Pastor, with the Deacon's help, will manage the Liturgist function and the position will be filled by Deacons who want to do the liturgy and also anyone else with an interest.

We want people to step forward and express their interest in being on a team or teams, rather than having to be recruited. Add your name on one or more of the lists to be posted in the Emma Ford Room or speak with the current team leader to ask questions and/or express an interest. Available teams include (current team leader is listed after the team's name): Deacons (Freddie Mahlmann), Liturgist (Freddie Mahlmann), Christian Education (Amanda Morse, Melody Showacre, Chrissy Rivers), Trustees (Doug Stoehr), Stewardship (Brent Adams), Mission (Brent Adams), Music (Ginny Roth, Carey Bennett, Bob Cummiskey), Called to Care Ministry (Chrissy Rivers), Flowers (Judy Phelon and Marlene Weston), Church Cleaning (Doug Stoehr) and Hospitality (Peggy Johnson).

Please prayerfully consider how you might best volunteer your time and talents to the Warren United Church in 2018. Many hands make light work! We look forward to a large, vibrant group of volunteers.

~The Church Council

NOVEMBER 19th: SHARED WORSHIP AT WAITSFIELD

We will be enjoying our customary combined pre-Thanksgiving service again this year with the Waitsfield United Church. You are invited to join with the Waitsfield Choir rehearsals there at 7:00 PM on the two Thursdays before, November 9th & 16th. Choir rehearsal will also take place on the morning of the 19th at 9:00 AM at Waitsfield Congregation--We hope you'll be a part of this celebration of God's goodness!

PASTORAL SEARCH UPDATE

The Search Team (Doug, Jada, Chrissy, Fran & Sandra) is still working diligently on finding a new settled Pastor. Although we have received a few new pastoral profiles, there is no news to report at this time. We are blessed to announce that Pastor Kurt has agreed to extend his service to our church as the Interim Pastor beyond the end of this year and for the foreseeable future.

UPCOMING MONTPELIER GOSPEL CHOIR CONCERTS

We recently experienced the energy and talent of the Montpelier Gospel Choir's Director John Harrison leading our singers in worship during October. We hope to have him with us again on occasion in the new year! Here are a few more chances to enjoy more of that soul-stirring music:

The Small Choir (a cappella):

Saturday, November 18th at 7:00 PM at Waitsfield UCC

The Full Choir:

Saturday, December 2nd at 7:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church, Barre

Sunday, December 3rd at 4:00 PM at Bethany Church UCC, Montpelier

A WORTHY TRADITION IN THIS VALLEY: TURKEY BASKETS



Again this year, the Valley Interfaith Council will provide boxes of Thanksgiving meal fixings and other basic staples to many of our neighbors in need. On **Sunday, November 19th**, we will hold a food drive to gather ingredients for the meal boxes. (*coincidentally, this is our morning of combined worship at the Waitsfield Church*) These ingredients may be brought to worship that day. Our youth will sort and organize the food that afternoon at the Waitsfield UCC. We are in need of volunteers to pack and / or deliver the boxes on **Tuesday, Nov. 21st**. Packing will begin at 9:30, with delivery happening when packing is complete—probably 11:00 or so. Contact Suzanne Peterson at 496-4109, email suzanne0419@gmavt.net or Arlie Belknap at 496-3346 if you can help with either activity. Items needed for the boxes include:

Canned turkey gravy – 10 ½ oz can
Stuffing
Cranberry sauce – 16 oz can
Canned corn, peas, or green beans – 14.5 oz can
Canned fruit – 15 oz can
Apple sauce – 23 oz can
Biscuit Mix – Betty Crocker
Tuna – 12 oz can

Peanut Butter – 18 oz jar
Brownie Mix – 20 oz box
Crackers – 8 oz box
Brown in bags (large size)
Potatoes
Fruit (apples and oranges)
Butter - 1 lb
Cheese - 8 oz block

Cash is also welcome to help defray the cost of turkeys we purchase from the Vermont Food Bank and miscellaneous items needed to fill in the gaps at the last minute. Checks can be made out the MRV Interfaith Council. Thank you, everyone, for your assistance on this important outreach!

ON TO DECEMBER: ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCES

Please join us in preparing for and celebrating our Savior's birth:

--**Sunday, December 3rd** is the First Sunday of Advent

--**Wednesday, December 6th at 7:30 P.M. Advent Service of Light and Hope**
This offers lovely respite in a hectic season.

--**Sunday, December 10th** during 10:00 worship, our **Christmas Pageant**.

--**Sunday, December 10th** after worship, the **sanctuary will be decorated**. We'll need lots of help for this.

--**Wednesday, December 13th at 7:30 PM** annual concert by **Counterpoint Singers and the VSO Brass Quintet**. Admission is free, but tickets are required. General seating (handicap accessible). Donations are appreciated. Call Ginny Roth at 496-3865 to reserve tickets. This is a wonderful musical offering for the holiday season in our acoustically favorable sanctuary! Go to www.VSO.org for more information.

--**Sunday, December 24th THREE services:**

10:00 AM Hymn-Sing service

4:00 Alternate service for those who prefer to be home earlier in the evening

7:00 PM our annual Christmas Eve candlelight service

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

On Sunday, December 24th, Warren United Church will be offering three services: a 10:00 AM "Hymn Sing" style service, a late-afternoon service at 4:00 p.m. (for all who prefer to be home earlier on that evening) and the traditional evening service at 7:00 pm. While people of all ages are welcome at either service, the late afternoon one will be especially appealing to families with children and will showcase many of the musicians within our congregation. The adult choir will sing at the traditional 7:00 service, accompanied by piano. We hope you will join us for this joyful celebration of the reason for the season. All are welcome!

November

November 1 Kenda (Blair) Garrett, Carol Milkuhn
November 7 Karen MacDonald
November 9 Maria Burfoot
November 10 Frances Blair
November 15 David Ellison, Jada Munro
November 16 Noah Fleckenstein, Marla Davidson
November 20 Justin Ricketts
November 22 Sue Russell
November 27 Laura Blair, Elliot Carr, Noah Carr

December

December 3 Steven Parker
December 5 Ellen Bruno, Gary Crosby
December 9 John Winchell
December 10 Blake McKnight, Amalia Veralli
December 18 Joe Goldstein
December 19 Lisa Roth
December 20 Fay Kathan, Libby Morehouse
December 24 Charles Snow
December 29 Virginia Roth
December 30 Christiana Potter
December 31 Laurie Bartlett, Kym Staples, Brent Adams, Melodie Showacre



Warren United Church
PO Box 114
Warren, VT 05674

Mail To:



November 2017

un	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:30-4:30 Office Hours	2 6:30 Deacons	3 9 AM Prayer 10-3 Office Hrs 7:00 AA	4
5 9:00 Bible Study 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship & Communion	6	7 8:30-3:00 Office Hours	8 6:00 PM Women at the Well	9 6:30 Stewardship & Mission Mtg 7 PM Choir Rehearsal at Waitsfield UCC	10 9 AM Prayer 10-3 Office Hrs 7:00 AA	11
12 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship Consecration	13	14 8:30-3:00 Office Hours 6:30 PM Prayer & Worship	15 12:00 PM VAUCE Meeting @ Middlebury Congregational	16 7 PM Choir Rehearsal at Waitsfield UCC	17 9 AM Prayer 10-3 Office Hrs 7:00 AA	18
19 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship At Waitsfield 12PM Sorting @ Waitsfield	20	21 8:30-3:00 Office Hours T-Baskets @ 9:30 Waitsfield	22	23	24 9 AM Prayer 10-3 Office Hrs 5:30 Free Supper @ Waitsfield 7:00 AA	25
26 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship	27	28 8:30-3:00 Office Hours 6:30 PM Prayer & Worship	29	30		

December 2017

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9 AM Prayer 10-3 Office Hrs 7:00 AA	2
3 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship with Communion	4	5 8:30-3:00 Office Hours	6 7:00 Service of Light & Hope	7 6:30 Deacons Meeting	8 9 AM Prayer 10-3 Office Hrs 7:00 AA	9
10 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship w/ Pageant 11:30 Decorate Christmas Tree	11	12 8:30-3:00 Office Hours 6:30 Prayer & Worship	13 Counterpoint & VSO Brass Quintet Concert	14 6:30 Stewardship & Mission Meeting	15 9 AM Prayer 10-3 Office Hrs 7:00 AA	16
17 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship	18	19 8:30-3:00 Office Hours	20 6:00 Women at the Well	21 6:30 Church Council Meeting	22 9 AM Prayer 10-3 Office Hrs 7:00 AA	23
24 10:00 Hymn Sing 4:00 Christmas Svc 7:00 Christmas Svc	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26 8:30-3:00 Office Hours 6:30 Prayer & Worship	27	28	29 9 AM Prayer 10-3 Office Hrs 5:30 Free Supper @ Waitsfield 7:00 AA	30
31 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship						