

United Church Herald

Winter

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

◊ 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

◊ New Sexton

◊ FAT Tuesday Dinner & Silent Auction

◊ CALENDAR



Blessings ~ to you all in the extended United Church community both near and far. The church is still heavily draped in the snowy mantle of winter. Inside and out the church is buzzing with activities for the childcare, church, and wider community. We are grateful for the grace of God in our ministry in Newport and across the wider church around the world.

This month especially we are in need of prayer as the global United Methodist Church gathers for the much anticipated Special General Conference in St Louis. Emotions are running high for this meeting and there is work to be done by all to pray for patience and discernment for all the delegates. There will be much to discuss as the UMC finds its way forward.

We will be offering a time for prayer and to watch the conference livestream each day at UCN, Feb 22-25 from Noon to 1 and then until 4 on Tuesday the 26th, the final day.

Please keep your worldwide Methodist family in your thoughts and prayers.

Peace

James



Annual Meeting Minutes: Minutes from last months Annual Meeting are on the following pages. This is a brief synopsis of the meeting. If you have any questions please contact James, or Doug Spates. We do know that the list of those in attendance is not accurate. Please contact Valerie with corrections.

February 2019

THE UNITED CHURCH OF NEWPORT ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES Sunday, January 20, 2019, 11:30 AM

In Attendance: James Merriam, Doug Spates, Peg Jordan, David Barlow, Kathleen Ahearn, Vivian Spates, Marvelene & Keith Richards, Ruth Richard, Kathy & Alan Aiken, Brian McNeal, Irene Perry, Jim & Nicole Johnson, Carolyn & Dennis Lyster, Janet Wiseman, Ida Cadieux, Joyce Flint, Dan & Ruth Marquette, Phil Marquette, Amy Newton, Chuck Newton, Nancy Newton, Valerie & Paul Rittershausen, Merle Chilcott, Ronald Benson, Rachel Lafont, Sherry Bradley, Susan Kuzma, Pat Vana, Bettie Souliere, Susan & Charlie Kremer, Patty Beckwith, Martha Peck, Mary Hoadley, Wendy Franklin, Patty Stryker, Susan Jewitt, Val & Lorraine Whipple, .. Nathan & Regina St George plus three children, Colleen Moore de Ortiz & daughter, Lordis and other guests ...

The meeting was opened at 11:30 by James Merriam with prayer.

All in attendance were asked to sign in. A quorum of 31 members was needed for a vote on a bylaw change. Fifty people were in attendance, forty-one voting members.

ARTICLE 1: Doug Spates was nominated by Ron Benson, seconded by Janet Wiseman to be Moderator.

ARTICLE 2: Kathleen Ahearn was nominated by Doug Spates, seconded by Valerie Rittershausen to be Clerk.

ARTICLE 3: After quick review of the minutes from the 2018 annual meeting, Janet Wiseman motioned to approve as printed, seconded by Ruth Marquette. Passed unanimously.

At this point Sherry Bradley was brought forward to present flowers and cards to: Merle Chilcott on his 90th birthday, Ron & Benita Benson on their 60th wedding anniversary, Bettie Souliere on her "retirement" from the custodial position.

ARTICLE 4: James voiced the greetings from the VT Dist of the NE Conference, UMC Rev Jill Colley Robinson and Rev Paul Sangree, Associate Minister from VT Conf UCC. Both were unable to attend after last weeks postponement. Rev Paul will join us as a guest preacher on Feb 3rd and Rev Jill April 7th

ARTICLE 5: Committee reports were received and approved with motion from Keith Richards and 2nd by Charlie Kremer. There was discussion on the Building & Grounds report stating the needed repairs to the church roof. No motion was acted on.

ARTICLE 6: Sherry referred everyone to committee members list on pages 9 & 10 or annual report noting those people going off Committee Boards.

- Executive Board: Paul Rittershausen, Alan Franklin, Ron & Benita Benson
 - Finance Committee: Patty Thomas resigned because of her moving to Chittenden County next month.
 - For Pastor Staff Relations: Susan Kuzma
- Sherry presented the following candidates for committee offices:
- ◆ Executive Board: Susan Kuzma, Keith Richards, Lorraine Whipple, Chuck Newton

Office Hours & Staffing

Valerie normal Winter office hours from **Mon 9-12, Thu and Fri. 9-2** with additional hours before or after dependent on scheduling requests.

802-334-6033 office
802-324-0659 cell

◆ Finance Committee: Janet Wiseman

◆ Pastor Staff Relations: Kathy Aiken, Wendy Franklin, and Susan Jewitt as alternate
Charlie Kremer motioned to accept all candidates presented and Kathy Aiken seconded. Passed unanimously.

Both Christian Education and Mission/Hospitality invited people to join their committees. Lorraine Whipple joined the Mission & Hospitality Committee. Chuck Newton joined the Building and Grounds Committee.

Sherry announced that Joe Wiseman, David Barlow, and Jim Johnson have agreed to be the Audit Committee for 2019.

A motion was called for to vote on all the committee nominations. Valerie motioned, Paul seconded. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 7: James announced the dates for the UCC & UMC conferences and asked for delegates. Understanding that people need to check their calendars he asked that anyone interested please speak with him. James also noted that the cost of these conferences will be paid for out of the church budget. The VT Conference of the UCC will be held in Fairlee, VT, April 26-27, 2019. The NE Conference of UMC, will be held June 13-15, 2019 in Manchester, NH. Both Martha Peck and Patty Beckwith spoke positively on their experiences at attending past conferences.

ARTICLE 8: Treasurers report was submitted by Susan Kremer, followed by question, answer, & discussion time. Both Janet Wiseman and Keith Richards added to the discussion with explanations. With request from Susan, Janet was thanked by the congregation for her help in assisting with reports and "training" her. Mary Hoadley motioned to accept the report. Sherry Bradley seconded. Motioned carried.

Other Business: An introduction was made to the congregation of our new sexton, Nathan St George. Nathan introduced his wife Regina and their children: Damian, Anthony, and Cecelia.

ARTICLE 9: Finance Committee Report was brought forward by Brian O'Neil. Discussion followed regarding \$15K budgeted from ECC. Keith noted that the money is based on last years real figure but is an estimate for this year's budget purposes. Sherry questioned why income that is not guaranteed is in the budget. Janet responded all numbers are estimates. No income is ever guaranteed, even pledges are not guaranteed. A budget is strictly a projection for both income and expenses. Amy Newton voiced concern of using \$25K from the Church's Trust Fund. Dan Marquette explained "general funds" and "designated funds". Keith Richards explained that Trust Fund money had been used in the past and it is customary that approximate 5% is a "safe" amount to use from returns.

Martha Peck requested that members consider to remember UCN in our wills. Martha, Kathy & Alan Aiken, and Patty Beckwith mentioned that even a small increase in our pledges can make a big difference.

Discussion continued on the pastor compensation of \$67K. Janet explained how the total amount was established from many different considerations. Martha expressed support for full time minister at this salary.

Ron Benson expressed concern of lights being left on in the building in the evening. Dan M suggested that the new sexton include the securing of all lights being turned off each night as part

of his responsibilities.

Doug S expressed that the concern of \$25K from the Trust Fund is only as needed.

Alan Aiken gave praise for the community involvement which welcomes new prospective members.

Peg Jordan questioned what are the plans for future fund raising activities.

Chuck N suggested putting the weekly giving and budget numbers in the weekly bulletin.

After discussions ended Sherry Bradley requested a paper ballot for the budget. Amy Newton seconded this motion. Paper ballots were handed out to voting members and collected for counting. Merle Chilcott and Martha P counted the ballots. The budget was approved with a count of 28 yes and 13 no votes.

ARTICLE 10: Dan Marquette answered a few questions from the floor on the report on Trust Funds. Motion was made by Ron Benson to accept, seconded by Valerie R. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 11: The audit for 2017 was not done. Complete oversight by the committee.

ARTICLE 12: Pastoral Report: Rental income is up from increased activities in the church. James is honored to be the face of the church in the community. Motion was made by Valerie R to accept, seconded by Keith R. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 13: Colleen Moore de Ortiz was introduced. She is a public health nurse and thanked the church for our part in the Promise Community program which received a Dept of Ed grant to help children 0-5 in our community, and for our help in fighting the opioid crisis. She thanked us for being good neighbors.

New Business: Change to the Bylaws: Doug Spates directed people to the proposed changed noted on the back of the report. With little discussion, Peg Jordan made a motion to accept the change, Dan Marquette seconded, motion carried. (*These changes are posted on bulletin board by office door or you can contact Valerie for a separate copy.*) [[*Changes were printed in the previous newsletter.*]]

Martha P—spoke to the open & affirming question at UCN. In her opinion we need to proclaim this publicly. Brian McNeal expressed his support for the status quo.

ARTICLE 14: A Memory Circle was formed around the room in honor of our deceased members and friends. Those acknowledged: Anna Klaffky, Alice Macey, Irene Hodge, Bette Gannon along with Richard Lafont, Hammond Parker, Claire Dyer, and Elizabeth Farman.

The motion made to adjourn at 13:14 PM by Chuck Newton, seconded by Charlie Kremer. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen Ahearn, Clerk

Typed by,
Valerie Rittershausen

Staff appreciation gifts were given to: James, Valerie, Amy, Ruth, Bettie, and Bill (not present) after the meeting had adjourned.

2019 Committee Members

Executive Committee (9)

Doug Spates (14)
Jean Condon (14)
Charlie Kramer (18)
Pat Vana (15)
Janet Wiseman (15)
Susan Kuzma (19)
Chuck Newton (19)
Lorraine Whipple (19)
Keith Richards (19)

Finance Committee (8)

Brian McNeal (14)
Janet Wiseman (15)
Bill Graham (14)
David Barlow (16)
Keith Richards (15)
Alan Feltmarch (14)
Susan Kremer (18)

Auditors (all 1 year terms)

David Barlow
Jim Johnson
Joe Wiseman

Mission & Hospitality (up to 10)

Marvelene Richards (15)
Kathy Aiken (15)
Jocelyn Laber (10)
Lorraine Whipple (19)
Patty Stryker (18)
Valerie Rittershausen (17)

Pastor & Staff Relations (up to 8)

Sherry Bradley (14)
Alan Aiken (15)
Kathy Aiken (19)
Peg Jordan (14)
Kathleen Ahearn (16)
Andrew Beals (16)
Kathy Beals (17)
Wendy Franklin (19)

Buildings and Grounds (up to 10)

Jean Condon (18)
Frank Goad (12)
Paul Rittershausen (17)
Chuck Newton (19)
Peter Alexander (18)
Bettie Souliere (17)

Christian Education (up to 8)

Valerie Rittershausen (15)
Connie Johnson (15)
Nancy Newton (15)
Kathy Aiken (15)

Treasurer of Trust Funds

Dan Marquette

Treasurer (UNC Operating Funds)

Susan Kremer (18)

Financial Secretary

Sherry Bradley

2019 BUDGET—STEWARSHIP

After the Annual Meeting two families decided to 1) up their pledge and 2) actually make a pledge for the 1st time ever. Both were touched by the discussion at the meeting. The proposed budget is just a best estimate of what the income and expenses will be for the coming year. No one can guarantee that 1) pledges will be met by all who pledged and 2) that an unexpected expense will not happen.

Pledges to the UCN have dropped off in last few years. Maybe it's a committee issue but it takes ALL of us to step up to the plate and make changes. It was expressed quite simply that if everyone one of us committed to and gave an extra dollar each week; we could easily meet our forecasted expenses without touching the endowment fund which is meant for emergencies such as roof repair, excessive heating costs, ... We as the United Church of Newport are a family. Families do the best they can to stick together and assist one another. A dollar a week would be giving up one or two cups of coffee, a beer, or glass of wine a month.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Next Event—Bake Sale **Attention: All “Chefs” & Bakers** (male, female, young or old), the Friendship Circle will be holding their annual Bake Sale at the Newport Municipal Building on **Tuesday, March 5th**. **Donations of HOME MADE foods would be greatly appreciated.** All proceeds go to the Friendship Circle who uses their money to help with so many things connected to our church and family. We are looking for: cookies, breads, donuts, pies, jams, jellies, pickles.... And the list goes on. Donations must be dropped off by 8 am that morning. Please label your donations, especially if they have nuts. Any questions, please contact Peg Jordan.

Next meeting is Tuesday March 26th at 1:30 PM



MEET OUR NEW SEXTON!

The Pastor Staff Relations along w/ Building & Grounds would like to announce the hiring of Nathan St. George as our new sexton. Nathan will begin his employment with us on February first. Please introduce yourself to him when you see him around the building and the neighborhood. Nathan is a man of many talents and we believe he will be a skilled and faithful caretaker for our beautiful building. We hope also to convince him to make us some of his award winning chili from time to time. Nathan and his wife, Regina, have three small children under the age of five and live in downtown Newport.

I'd like to introduce you to Sierra Ruth, coordinator of a brand new Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) program launching in Orleans and Northern Essex counties. BBBS needs some help - there's a need for community-minded employers and individuals like yourselves to promote the program to your contacts – perhaps you know people who would love to mentor a child, or have children that could benefit from having a mentor. As a new program, of course there is a financial need as well. There's a note from Sierra below – please feel free to get in touch with her at your leisure. Thanks! ~Julie

Julie Raboin, Substance Abuse Prevention Consultant
Vermont Department of Health
100 Main St Suite 220
Newport, VT 05855
802.334.4391
julie.raboin@vermont.gov



Hello!

My name is Sierra Ruth and I have recently been hired to be the new Program Coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sister Of Vermont for Orleans and Northern Essex, which is now in full swing! We have children signed up who are ready for some positive experiences and adventure in our community program! To make this possible we need adult volunteers who are willing to meet 2-4 times a month for 2-4 hours at a time. Each match is made by professional staff, and done with care based on mutual interests and personality. These matches are continually supported by professionally trained staff through scheduled meetings and availability of communication across a variety of platforms. BBBS Vermont is part of the oldest, largest, and most effective youth mentoring organization in the United States, and independent research has proven that it has a direct, measurable and lasting impact.

If you would like to receive volunteer or youth applications for the people you support in your organization, or yourself, I would be more than happy to send them via email or mail! Or if you would like see what other ways your organization can get involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters please check out our website and contact me with questions. <https://www.bbbsvt.org/>

Best Wishes,
Sierra Ruth
Email: sierra@bbbsvt.org
Phone: 802-689-0092 EXT 3

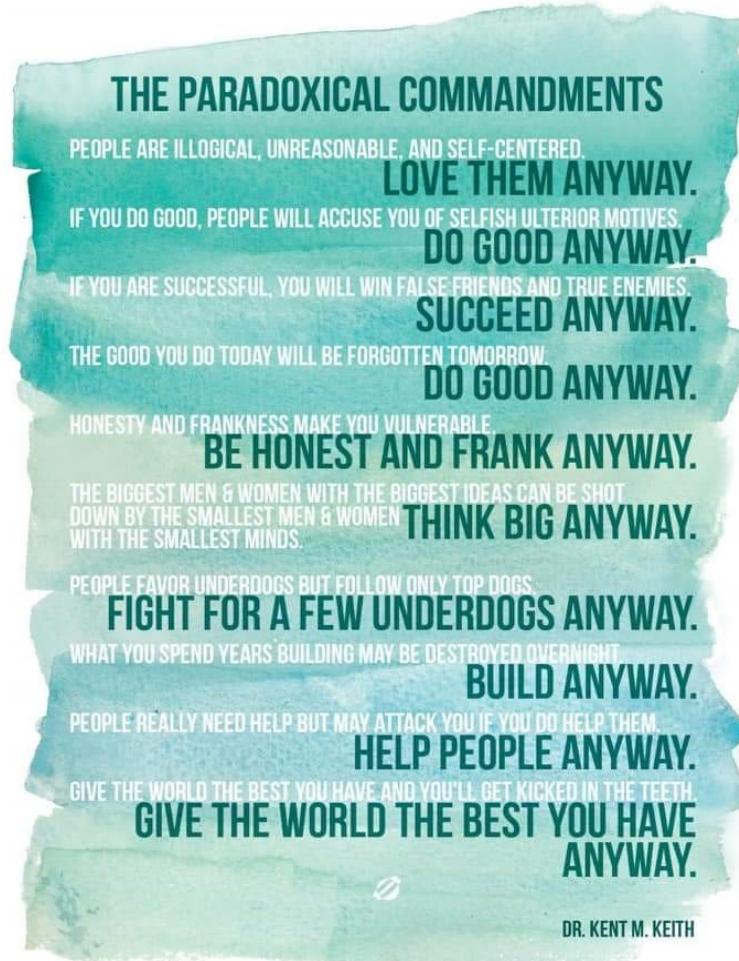
ECC Update:

Infant room is completely full with 8 slots. Pre-K has 5 full time and 4 part-time children.

On February 14th we held a Parent breakfast that was very well attended. The parents enjoyed a yogurt parfait, hearty carrot muffins, and coffee to either eat with their child or take as a to-go.

Eight high school students from the Early Childhood program and one student from CCV will be starting internships at ECC for the next five months.

Green Mountain Farm to School will be doing a monthly workshop with the Pre-K room.

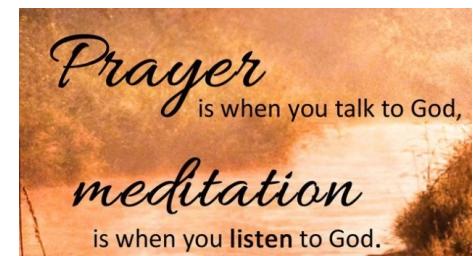


LENT

For the season of Lent the United Church of Newport will continue the wonderful visitation ministry which has been so wonderful over the last few years. After scheduling feedback the visitations will be on Sundays after church for the duration of Lent beginning Sunday, Mar 10th. We will also add a Wednesday night bible study open to any and all who would like to join.

The theme for Lent is inspired by the old English Proverb that 'it is better to light one tiny candle than curse the darkness'. I hope you will consider this and the optimism it holds in your own prayer and join in the service and ministry of this time of preparation.

We will begin Wed, Mar 13th w/ soup at 6 PM





Former First Lady [Michelle Obama](#) stated that Mental Health First Aid "really gives you the skills you need to identify and ultimately help - someone in need."

Want to sign up for a [Mental Health First Aid USA](#) Training in the Newport Area?

Email sunny.naughton@neklsvt.org to sign up.

There are training's geared towards helping YOUTH and training's geared towards helping ADULTS.

We can also plan a training with as few as five participants at your organization - just contact Sunny!

Mar 7th - Youth Training - 8AM to 4PM - United Church of Newport

Mar 13th - Adult Training - 8AM to 4PM - United Church of Newport

Apr 5th - Youth Training - 8AM to 4PM - Emory Hubbard Building

Apr 12th - Adult Training - 8AM to 4PM - Emory Hubbard Building

Note we have a YOUTH Training Hosted by the NCCC broken into two evening courses on March 14 and 21

Watch for coverage of 2019 General Conference

New England Conference Director of Communications Beth DiCocco will be covering the special called session of General Conference in St. Louis. Watch the website and [our social media channels](#) for updates throughout the session, Feb. 23-26. The Livestream of the 2019 General Conference begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23. Find the link and more on our GC2019 page: www.neumc.org/GC2019.



Courageous Conversations: Post-General Conference, the NEAC will host gatherings across the Conference to help us all understand and process the events of the 2019 General Conference. We hope that you will plan to attend a session near you.

UCN viewing of General Conference

Prayer and an hour of watching from 12 to 1 Saturday- Monday, and longer time on the last day, say 1 to 4 PM. Anyone may request more time or specific events once we know the schedule.

James will happily talk and pray or visit with anyone in the area who'd like guidance in all of this.

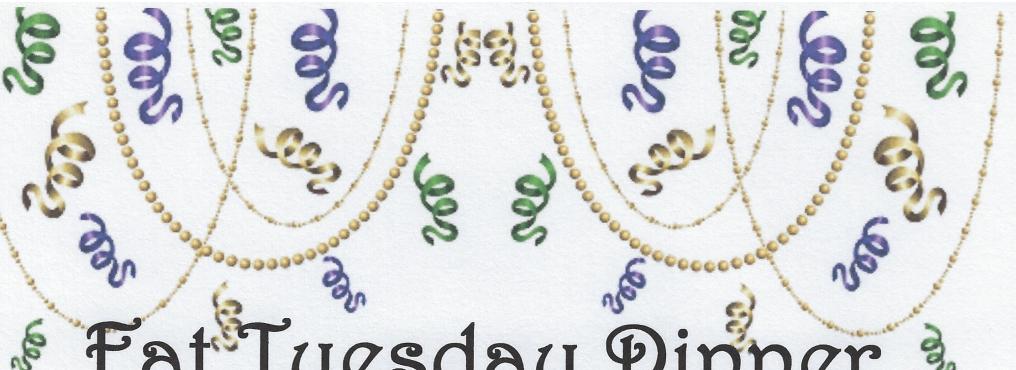


UNITED CHURCH OF NEWPORT

Income vs. Budget

31 January 2019

	2019 (4 Sundays) 7.7% of the year		
	January Actual YTD	January Budget	Annual Budget
Sunday Collections	\$8,221	\$8,750	\$105,000
Trust Funds	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
Fundraisers	\$0	\$0	\$6,000
Friendship Circle	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
ECC Fiduciary Fees	\$0	\$1,250	\$15,000
ECC Utility	\$516	\$0	\$0
Church Rental & Fees	\$575	\$0	\$0
Totals	\$9,312	\$10,000	\$156,000
Average Sunday Collection	\$2,055.25		



Fat Tuesday Dinner

Tuesday, March 5th 5:30 PM

United Church of Newport

Call for Tickets 334-6033

Tickets: Single \$15, Couple \$25,
Family (4) \$40 ~ Children under 6 free



Lots of delicious foods! ~ SILENT AUCTION ~

Wide variety of items: food gift certificates, classes at Wellness Ct., waterfront/beach Appraisal, Gardening, Quilt, just to name a few

Followed by

Jazz Evensong 7 pm @ St. Mark's

All proceeds go to UCN

"Community Emergency Fund"



“COMMUNITY EMERGENCY FUND”

Approximately 1 year ago there was a Penny War to raise money for the Pastors Discretionary Fund a.k.a. Fellowship Fund. We raised approximately \$250. It is time to raise more funds for the same account. However it has been suggested that we rename it “Community Emergency Fund,” a more accurate description. In 2018 we gave out approximately \$4,000 to those who needed some help at critical times. Approximately 50 people were helped with utility bills, diapers, gas to get to doctor appointments or to work. We also helped with medicine co-pays on occasion. Most received help no more than twice. Over the past few months we have had to turn most people away for lack of funds. We would like to remedy this and be ready for the spring when we know there will be many needing assistance after this long cold winter.

On that note, we, James, Valerie and some others have come up with the FAT Tuesday Dinner—Silent Auction event. Many of you have already heard about it, being announced in church. We are looking for volunteers to create yummy dishes we can serve for a price ranging \$10-\$15 per person. Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday dishes would be the theme but other hearty dishes are just as welcome. We have had suggestions of jambalaya, gumbo, pan seared shrimp or catfish, fish chowder, Cajun shrimp, hushpuppies just to name a few. Again basics such as lasagna, beef stew, chili dishes are just as welcome. We plan to have cake (Valerie's) and ice cream with a wide variety of toppings to fit the theme.

In conjunction with the dinner we will hold a Silent Auction. Items such as: Basket of scrapbooking materials, wreath and humming bird feeder from Spates the Florist, quilt from Country Thyme, certificate for 2 months of free classes at the Wellness Center, four hours of gardening, certificate for one large cake or # of small cakes valued at \$200. Again this is just a few to start. Please consider donating or offering up your services for this worthy cause. Please include a suggested minimum bid. Items for auction must be at church office by noon on Friday, March 1st.

After the dinner, St Mark's is hosting a Jazz Evensong event at their church to top the night off.

If you have any questions or something to offer or you would like to volunteer to help that night please contact Valerie, James, Kathy Aiken, Lorraine Whipple.

Of course you can always make a monetary donation directly to the Community Emergency Fund anytime.

Silent Auction



February—March 2019

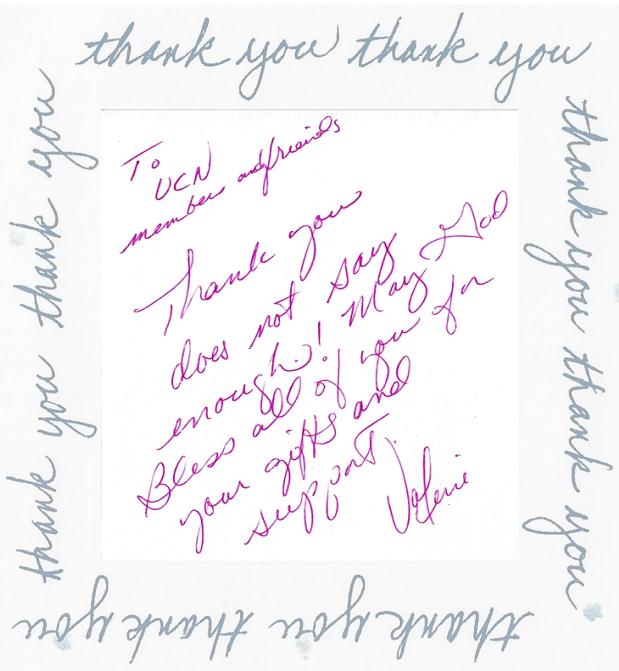
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 WL—JM	18	19	20	21	22	23
WORSHIP AT 10AM LUKE 6:17-26 “MUST BE DOING SOMNETHING RIGHT”			Celtic Service @ UCN w/ St Marks 7 PM Exec Board mtg 7:45 PM NEKO—Clergy conference in Danville	Community Meal—noon Soups 3 rd Hood Chat 5:30 PM		
24 WL—JM	25	26	27	28	1 MARCH	2
WORSHIP AT 10AM GENESIS 45:3-11,15 “DOWN IN EGYPTLAND”	Cooking with AJ 11-3 PM	St Mark's Souper Lunch NOON	ChrisEd & Spiritual Leader- ship Pot Luck 6PM		WORLD DAY OF PRAYER  A DAY OF PRAYER	MEDITAION CLASS 2PM
3 WL—JM	4	5 TOWN MEETING	6 ASH WEDNESDAY	7	8	9
WORSHIP AT 10AM LUKE 9:28-45 “MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE” PASTOR STAFF RELATIONS MTG 11:15±	Newport PALS 10 AM Cooking w/AJ 11-3 PM (in FH this day only) Northsong 7 PM	BAKE SALE @ MUNNIPAL BLDG 8 AM FAT TUESDAY DINNER / SILENT AUCTION 5:30 PM	B & G 6 PM ASHES TO GO W/ST MARK'S WORSHIP AT 7PM MATTHEW 6:1-21 “THERE BE TREASURE”	Food Truck NEKLS 7:30-4:30 PM		MEDITAION CLASS 2PM
10 WL—JM	11	12	13	14	15	16
WORSHIP AT 10AM LUKE 4:1-13 “TEMPTATION” VISITATIONS	Cooking with AJ 11-3 PM Northsong 7 PM	Food Shelf 10-1 pm	Food Shelf 10-noon Bible Study 6 PM Fin Committee 6 PM Exec Board 7 PM			MEDITAION CLASS 2PM
17 WL—JM	18	19	20	21	22	23
WORSHIP W/ HANDBELLS AT 10AM LUKE 6:27-38 “GIVE FREELY” VISITATIONS	Cooking with AJ 11-3 PM Northsong 7 PM		Bible Study 6 PM	Community Meal noon Corned Beef & Cabbage 3 rd Hood Chat 5:30 PM		MEDITAION CLASS 2PM

Jan. 27, 2019

Dear United Church of Newport Family,

Thank you so much for the special monetary gift I received! It truly means a lot that you support me and the bell music we share. I feel blessed in this church community!

Ruth Marguerite
UCN Bell Choir Director



To members & friends of United Church of Newport,
Thank you so much for your generous gifts.

~Bettie Souliere

The Annual Town Meeting Day Food Sale, sponsored by the Friendship Circle of the United Church of Newport, will be held **Wednesday, March 5, 8:00 am 'til sold out,** Municipal Building, 222 Main St, Newport.

ALL HOMEMADE GOODIES! Donuts, pies, breads, jams, pickles,...

Celtic Worship Service

Wed, Feb 20th @ 7 PM

UCN 63 THIRD STREET, NEWPORT

A Joint Ministry of
The United Church of Newport & St. Mark's Episcopal Church

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

United Church of Newport

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