

Mystery solved! It turns out that over the course of this being copied and passed on someone omitted the creators name, John. John is the seventeenth book. Thank you Betty Vossers!

The Bible Brain Twister Challenge

BIBLE Brain Twister

Created by **John Kezer**

I once made a **remark** about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a **lulu**, **kept** people **looking** so hard for **facts**, and for others it was a **revelation**. Some were in a **jam**, especially since the name of the books are not capitalized, but the **truth** finally struck home to **numbers** of readers. To others, it was a real **job**. We want it to be a **most** fascinating few moments for you. **Yes**, **there** will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require **judges** to help them. I will quickly admit **it** usually takes a minister to find one of the 17, and there will be loud **lamentations** when it is found. A little lady says **she brews** a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can **compete**. **Relax** now, for there really are the names of 17 books of the Bible in these sentences. (One preacher found 16 books in 20 minutes. It took him three weeks to find the seventeenth one.

The United Church of Newport welcomes:

Dr. John Weaver as he performs an Organ Concert

Sunday April 24th at 3:00 pm

Mark your calendars now!

SPECIAL DATES



Palm Sunday	March 20
Easter	March 27
UCN Organ Concert	April 24
Mother's Day	May 8
Northsong	May 15
NACO	June 5
Youth Sunday	TBA
Father's Day	June 17
Relay for Life	June 25

Love yourself
as the unique
individual
God created
you to be—
nothing more,
nothing less.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**United Church of Newport
63 Third Street
Newport, VT 05855**

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Newport, VT
05855**

The first two Sundays of March we will join with UCC Global Ministries in raising awareness and funds using Our Hands to do God's Work. Will you join us? Speak to the Mission and Hospitality Committee for more information or look for the brochure that will be in next weeks Sunday bulletin.

One Great HOUR OF SHARING

onegreathourofsharing.org

One Great Hour?

WILL YOU GIVE TO

In a world where communities are being displaced by the catastrophes of war, famine and natural disasters, the Church is called to reclaim the spiritual discipline of solidarity. Christians are summoned to adopt and live out "a theology of *acompañamiento* [accompaniment]." (R. Goizueta) As natural, economic and political forces disrupt and uproot communities, the Church is called to stand in solidarity with these refugee communities as they seek to move beyond the trauma of displacement and toward a new life of well-being and promise.

Ruth's promise to Naomi defines what "solidarity" authentically entails; and it stands as a challenge for Christians to intentionally walk with refugees as they seek to build a new home in a strange land:

"Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." (Ruth 1:16)

Is this not the Gospel? Did not Christ, the Word of God who migrated and "moved into the neighborhood" (John 1:14 *The Message*), accompany us in our alienation and displacement? Did we not receive the Holy Spirit in our hearts to be our "advocate" (John 16:7) who "intercedes [for us] with sighs too deep for words" (Romans 8:26)? Will we make Ruth's promise our own?

Feb-Mar-April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21 WL-Peg	22	23	24	25	26	27
			Lenten Visits			
28 WL—James	29	1 MARCH	2	3	4	5
		Valerie on vacation Returns Mar 15 Friendship Circle Bake Sale	Lenten Visits B & G mtg	Food Truck Arrives		
6 WL—Janet	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Food Shelf	Food Shelf	Food Shelf Lenten Visits Exec Bo & Fin mtgs			
13 WL—Peg	14	15	16	17	18	19
Youth Room - "Work Party"			Lenten Visits ChrisEd mtg	Community Meal		
20 WL—James	21	22	23	24	25	26
Palm Sunday Youth Group Mtg		Friendship Circle	Lenten Visits	MAUNDY THUR	GOOD FRIDAY	
27 WL—Janet	28	29	30	31	1 APRIL	2
Sunrise Service Pancake breakfast EASTER						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Pot Luck Lunch			B&G mtg			

February Birthdays

Alison Barlow
 Meredith Beals
 Benita Benson
 Betty Butterwick
 Jessie Hamblett
 Cynthia Jordan
 Lily Markwell
 Valerie Rittershausen
 Gary Robinson
 Sidney Toll
 Janet Wiseman

Happy Birthday to You!
 And You! And You!
 Come join the fun!



The Last Sunday of each month we will be celebrating all those with Birthdays the past month.

March Birthdays

Katie Alexander
 Debra Batista
 Kathy Beals
 Joyce Bianchi
 Elwin Brewer
 Kathy Converse
 Gary Laber
 Denise Piette
 Ruth Richard
 Doug Spates
 Sylvia Ward

UNITED ANGELS AGAINST CANCER

CURRENT TEAM MEMBERS ARE:

SUSAN KUZMA, VALERIE RITTERSHAUSEN, JUDY HURD,
 SHERRY BRADLEY, CAROL SHELTRA, & KATHY AIKEN.

THEY CHALLENGE YOU TO THINK OF EACH PERSON YOU KNOW WHO HAS BEEN TOUCHED BY CANCER. WHETHER IT WAS A FAMILY MEMBER, FRIEND, OR YOURSELF, CONSIDER DONATING 50¢ - \$1 FOR EACH PERSON AND WE WILL DEFINITELY REACH OUR GOAL OF \$1000 BY JUNE 1ST. YOU CAN GIVE YOUR DONATION TO ANY TEAM MEMBER (CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO RELAY FOR LIFE OR AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY) OR GO TO OUR WEBSITE AND DONATE ONLINE. SPEAK WITH A TEAM MEMBER IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.



THE OFFICIAL SPONSOR
 OF BIRTHDAYS!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES FOR 2016

- ◆ Mar 13th Youth Room “Work Party”
- ◆ Mar 20th Bowling 11:30 at Hoagies
- ◆ Apr 10th Visit Jedd’s Sugar House
- ◆ May 7th Participate in “VT Green Up Day”
9-12:30 with lunch
- ◆ Jun 12th Hike and picnic at Valerie’s,
4-8 PM pot luck

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Youth Room officially moved to the Preschool space. You will notice gradual changes over the next few months as we begin projects with the youth like: painting and decide on how to use the space. We will keep a small section of the new Youth room to be used as a nursery if –when needed. **Does any one have a pool or ping pong table they are not using** and would be willing to donate to the youth? The room is large enough to have a gaming section as well as sitting. If you do please contact Valerie at the office.

Youth Room “Work Party”

Come in clothes ready to clean and paint.

We have walls to wipe down before painting.

Toys and games to put away.

Bring a bag lunch.

This room is for YOU come take ownership!

Time: 11:00 to 2:00

Arrive when you can.

All Youth from grades 6-12 invited.

KEEP ALL OF THE BELOW COMING!

- ◆ HATS AND MITTENS FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN
- ◆ SOCKS AND UNDER GARMENTS FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN
- ◆ CAMPBELL’S SOUP LABELS FOR EDUCATION
- ◆ CAN TABS FOR SHRINER’S HOSPITAL CHILDREN
- ◆ GENERAL MILLS BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION
- ◆ LARGE GROCERY BAGS –PAPER AND PLASTIC
- ◆ CHILDREN’S BOOKS

donated to the Newport City Elementary School. The items were well received. It was unanimously voted to do this again but begin the drive in the fall for early winter delivery.

A "Progressive Dinner" is in the planning stages as well as a "Night Out". The first "Night Out" will be Saturday, April 9th at the Eastside. Look for more details in up coming Sunday Bulletins and newsletters.

There will be a Pot Luck

Lunch following Worship Service on Sunday, April 3rd. Just for fun and fellowship.

Friendship Circle

Will meet again on Tuesday March 22nd at 1:30 PM. One item on the agenda will be the up coming Rummage Sale scheduled for Friday and Saturday May 6th & 7th.

Please **do not** bring anything in for the Rummage Sale until mid April. There is NO room to store it.

It is time to think about Easter and the coming of spring flowers. Envelopes for Easter Flowers will be in the bulletins for the next few weeks, they can be found on the "Church Life Tables", or ask an Usher. Please consider donating to the flower fund to assist in making our altar beautiful and joyous as we celebrate the Good News of the Resurrection.



Pulpit Supply:

Mar 6	10:00	Janet Wiseman	
Mar 13	10:00	Peg Jordan	
Mar 20	10:00	James Merriam	Palm Sunday
Mar 24	7:00	James & Janet	Maundy Thursday
Mar 25	12:00	Peg Jordan	Good Friday
Mar 27	7:00	Janet Wiseman	Sunrise Service
	8:00		Pancake Breakfast
	10:00	Janet Wiseman	EASTER Service



2016 UCN Committee Members

New members are in *Italics* - **corrections underlined**

Executive Board *(meets 2nd Wed @ month)*

Benita Benson
Ron Benson
Jean Condon
Alan Franklin
Chuck Newton
Paul Rittershausen
Doug Spates
Pat Vana
Janet Wiseman

Finance Committee *(meets 2nd Wed @ month)*

David Barlow
Alan Feltmarch (correction)
Bill Graham
Jim Johnson
Brian McNeal
Keith Richards
Patty Thomas

Pastor & Staff Relations *(meets 1st Wed @ month)*

Kathleen Ahearn
Alan Aiken
Andrew Beals
Sherry Bradley
Peg Jordan
Susan Kuzma

Building & Grounds *(meets 1st Wed @ month)*

Frank Goad
Vern Hurd
Corey Marqis
Chuck Newton
Ed Newton
Dan Pickering

Spiritual Leadership *(meets as necessary—generally after church)*

Alan Aiken
Kathy Beals
Ron Benson
Judy Hurd
Wendy Franklin

Carolyn Lyster
Amy Newton
Judy Szych

Christian Education *(meets 3rd Wed @ month)*

Jill Chaffee
Connie Johnson
Nancy Newton
Amy Pickering
Valerie Rittershausen
Jeremiah Schuyler

Mission & Hospitality *(meets as necessary—generally after church)*

Cynthia Adams
Kathy Aiken
Patty Beckwith
Karen Chitambar
Judy Hurd
Susan Kuzma
Jocelyn Laber
Kelley Meunier
Marvelene Richards



Where do
you see
our hands
doing
God's
Work?



Merriam will be joining our church staff, part time at first, full time as soon as James and his wife, Kendall, can move to Newport. James is a student pastor and will be working with Janet, our lay pastor, to serve you, our church family, for the next year as we strive to be “United Hands for God’s Work” in our church and our community.

Dear Friends of UCN,

I had no idea what to expect when I first visited your church back in September. Really, I didn't even know what to expect of Newport generally since it had been nearly ten years since I'd last visited the south shore of

Memphremagog, and, as generations of children will attest: things look pretty different through the window of a big, yellow school bus.

Of course, I'd been trying to embrace the unexpected for months, it's a big part of the pulpit supply I'd been providing off and on for three years in Vermont and California. Every new church is a new community of believers and strivers in the ways of Christ with new things to see and do and learn.

There was more than the usual when I first came to Newport, and I couldn't initially explain the feeling. With time, and as I came to know and learn about this community some part of it dawned on me. I was born in the Northeast Kingdom, in St. Johnsbury to be specific, and there is something fundamentally familiar that I can't seem to find anywhere else.

I am immensely grateful for my California education and experience, but to begin my profession, my calling in life, in among the hills and valleys, lakes and fields where I first learned to walk

and to run and play. It was as many have expressed but I think Marcel Proust said it best "The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes". I would add also that companions in trekking makes all the difference in the world, and I am so blessed and excited to be returning to the Northeast Kingdom now with my wife Kendall, together, on our journey.

We are taking a break and will be taking the honeymoon we had just been putting off for scheduling reasons. We'll be in Eastern European for a few weeks, journeying for rest and refreshment before returning to this great journey with all of you and in time to plan for holy week. It is a blessing to travel, and a blessing to return home.

I'll see you all very soon, may the peace of Christ keep you and guide you, now and in all of the days of your life.

-James

UCC & UMC DELEGATES

Patty Beckwith has had to change her commitment to attend. **We are looking for volunteers to represent and attend the UCC conference in April.**

Valerie Rittershausen volunteered to attend the Methodist Conference in June. Janet Wiseman hopes to be able to attend at least one of the conferences. Being a representative is a great way to learn and understand how the wider church operates; what missions they support, what are the hot topics that churches across the country (or at least our region) are dealing with.

THE CHRIS ED UMBRELLA

In February the ChrisEd Team organized a “Valentine Making Day” Some were taken home but many were made and taken to Bel-Aire and the Newport Health Care & Rehab Center along with Valentine cookies made and decorated by youth and Valerie Rittershausen. The cookies and valentines were well received and appreciated. See the Thank

You note on page 3.

The ChrisEd Team is excited to welcome Jeremiah Schuyler and Jill Chaffee to the team. Both come to us with years of experience dealing with youth programs and children. We look forward to brainstorming with them and their fresh ideas.

HANDBELL CHOIR

The Bell Choir is excited about performing with the newly refurbished bells. We plan to play for you on Palm Sunday and are currently working to on scheduling a concert in the near future to really showcase them. Thank you so much for supporting us.

On Saturday, April 23rd the Bell Choir will be playing at the Annual Spring Ring in West Rutland. After a day of practices and classes there will be a concert open to the public at 4PM where nearly 200 ringers will join together to perform 3 musical pieces concert will also include performances by individual handbell choirs.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

COMMITTEE

Vern Hurd has stepped up to the plate to replace Jean Condon as Chair of Building and Grounds Committee. Thank you Vern!

The Elevator has been given a new look, scrubbed, sanded, and varnished. Just in time to be inspected. ☺

There will be a Vintage Tractor Show at Magoon Park again this summer.

MISSION AND HOSPITALITY

The Mardi Gras Luncheon went well. Those who stayed enjoyed delish foods of New Orleans. Worth experiencing again!

The Red Cross Blood Drive went well after a slow snowy start. (Their equipment bus just didn't want to make the trip in the bad weather.) But in the end the Red Cross felt it was worth the trip and would like to come again.

Judy reports that their MUSH (mittens, underwear, socks, hats) drive brought in 37 hats, 16 pairs of mittens, 1 scarf, 1 pair of ear muffs, 48 pairs of underwear, and 32 pairs of socks. That were then

United Church Herald

Winter

March 2016

Special points of interest:

- ◇ Pastoral Coverage
- ◇ Monthly celebrations
- ◇ Organ Concert
- ◇ “United hands for God’s Work”
- ◇ Relay for Life—UCN Team
- ◇ Search Committee Update

Office Hours & Staffing

Normal office hours are from 9-12 Mon, Tues, Thurs., and Fri. with additional hours before or after dependent on scheduling requests.

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

Special NOTE: Valerie will be out of the office

Mar 1—Mar 15.

A HEALTHY CHURCH

I was helping the Red Cross people set up the blood drive in our Fellowship Hall when I walked Merle Chilcott. He was checking on something for the food shelf. A few minutes later another church member came in and we started talking about the warming shelter. On the bulletin board was an update of things that had been in the paper concerning our church members. In my car were boxes of hats and mittens that I had to deliver later that day to the Newport Elementary School. It dawned on me that we really are quite an active church. A church that cares. A church that reaches out. Membership in churches throughout the United States is down and we suffer from that also. We may be down but we are certainly not dead. Any church that continues to fulfill its mission by spreading Christianity through good work, reaching

out to those in need, and supporting one another is a live church, not a dead one, not even a dying one. They say that success breeds success. If we continue to successfully reach out to others I know that we will continue to grow. Way to go UCN!!!

-Judy Hurd

THOUGHTS FOR THE SEASON

We are in the midst of Lent, the 40 days leading us into the season of Easter.

Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River and confirmed by God, *a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son whom I love, with him I am well pleased.” Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (Matthew 3:16-4:1)*

Jesus was tempted with:
Self-satisfaction – *tell these stones to become bread;*
Self-destruction – *throw yourself down;*

Power and greed - *all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. All this I will give you.*

Jesus spent 40 days in prayer and supplication with his Father intentionally intensifying his relationship with His God.

In our world today, we face the same temptations and we have the same opportunity to spend these 40 days of lent in prayer and supplication with our God. We have the opportunity to look at all situations differently.

Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ in them.

Fast from wanting more; feast on being thankful.

Fast from anger; feast on patience.

Fast from worry; feast on trust.

Fast from complaining; feast on enjoyment

Fast from negatives; feast on positives.

Fast from stress; feast on prayer

Fast from anger; feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.

Fast from fear; feast on truth.

Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.

Fast from gossip; feast on silence.

Fast from fighting; feast on peace

Adapted from *A Lenten Prayer* by William Arthur Ward

As we spend this time during lent intentionally intensifying our relationship with our God we will prepare our hearts to enjoy the wonder and splendor of Easter morning when we celebrate..... Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed!

Our God is a God of promise!

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise; butter flies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Hymn of Promise by Natalie Sleeth

The reassurance of God’s presence, and the



glorious hope of heaven!
So much to look forward to!

-Janet Wiseman

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Our Lenten Bible Study this year is visitation. A group of us meet at the church at 5:30 for a short prayer and then head out for a prearranged visit. We met back at the church at 6:30 for soup and bread. If you would like to join us on visits, please call the church office by noon on Monday and let us know. If you would welcome a visit from our visitation team, please call the church office and let us know so we include you in our schedule.

THE SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that James