

The Methodist

Burnt Hills United Methodist Church News

September 2020

Greetings to all and welcome to September! Can you believe the summer is already coming to a close!

The recent Party Conventions got me thinking that perhaps this would be a good time to consider the relationship between faith and voting. To start, it looks as if we will be able to return to being a polling place for the November elections – though with some appropriate protocols (masking, social distance, etc.). If you plan to vote in person, be sure to check your location in advance, as not everywhere may be ready yet. Early voting is also available in some locations.

A “bigger picture” issue that pastors often face is the question that is often asked: “How does a person’s faith influence their vote?” This question reflects a real consideration of how Christianity fits with our political, economic and social realities, and consideration of the role of religion and faith in politics. As the last General Election (2016) approached, someone asked me to look at a document titled “*Religion in Political Campaigns – An Interfaith Statement of Principles.*” It was compiled as an interfaith effort and I thought it was a very appropriate statement. It is still available online and I would encourage everyone to take a look for yourself at: <http://www.adl.org/education-outreach/interfaith-affairs/c/religion-in-political-campaigns-an-interfaith-statement.html>. Among its most salient points is the reminder that Freedom of Religion is a foundational concept of the United States. The document lays out a number of provisions that should be considered when considering candidates from a faith perspective.

A few years ago, I found a piece written by Melanie Tubbs in her blog, “A Southern Pastor,” that is simply-stated yet powerful, and remains relevant today. I share with you portions of that blog, entitled “*I Am Not Political,*” which address the problem we all face as Christians with trying to keep our politics and our faith in separate containers. In the following, she responds to the concern by looking at what scripture calls us to:

1. I am supposed to stand up for the immigrants among us. - **Leviticus 19:34** “*The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.*”
2. I am supposed to care for and protect the earth. - **Genesis 2:15** “*The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*”
3. I am to care for all creatures - **Proverbs 12:10** “*Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel.*”

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You may have already seen Pete Farrell’s letter about the Lords Acre Fair cancellation. It includes an invitation to consider your usual contributions to the Fair’s efforts. Because LAF is budgeted to give \$25,000 to the church, we asked that you consider giving funds to help make up the difference.

Thank you to all who have given. If you have not, please writes checks to LAF or Lord’s Acre Fair (rather than BHUMC, for simpler bookkeeping) and send to the church. After we have met our commitment to the budget, the committee will consider donations to the community in keeping with that time-honored tradition.

4. I am supposed to advocate for charity for those in need. - **Leviticus 19:9-10** *“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.”*
5. I am supposed to seek justice for those who are oppressed. - **Isaiah 1:17** *“Learn to do good. Seek justice: help the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow.”*
6. I am supposed to treat each human being as if they were Christ. - **Matthew 25: 42-46** *“I was hungry and you didn’t give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn’t give me anything to drink. ⁴³ I was a stranger and you didn’t welcome me. I was naked and you didn’t give me clothes to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’ ... ⁴⁵ Then he will answer, ‘I assure you that when you haven’t done it for one of the least of these, you haven’t done it for me.’*
7. And I am supposed to invite all to the table of fellowship and love, without creating categories of who I think deserves it and who doesn’t. - **Matthew 7:1-3** *“Don’t judge, so that you won’t be judged. ² You’ll receive the same judgment you give. Whatever you deal out will be dealt out to you. ³Why do you see the splinter that’s in your brother’s or sister’s eye, but don’t notice the log in your own eye?”*

She concludes: “If doing those things has become political, there is a much deeper problem which we as a society desperately need to address.” For me, her logic rings very true, and will certainly help me as I consider how to cast my votes in ways that reflect my faith. I hope you find them helpful as well.

Pastor Doug

Lords Acre Fair News

Hi Everyone!!

We are sorry to announce that the Lord’s Acre Fair will not be able to take place this year. It’s going to be a historic loss to all of us in terms of community outreach, fellowship, food, and fun. But there’s just no way to make it safe for all our workers and guests, so we’ll have to look ahead to next year to make up for the fun we’ve postponed from this year.

We are having a place-holder event for the Fair weekend, by hosting a Brooks Barbecue on Saturday, September 12th. See page six for details.

So that brings us to a consequence of postponement, and that is, we will not have generated any of the usual funds from holding the Fair that we use to operate the church and to give away to the community. And this, in a time of greatest need for many vulnerable families that live in our neighborhoods. So here is our request for each family and member of our church. Can you, instead of making your donations to the Fair in time spent, purchases made, food eaten and donations gifted: can you add them all up and consider a cash donation this year? Please give as you are moved to do, and don’t think of it as your pledge, but as what you probably would have spent at the Fair. Perhaps then we will still have ways to support our church and share with those in need in our community. And you can think of it as a bridge to next year’s Fair, and as a way to express your gratefulness for all the joy and fellowship of those previous years. Many thanks and blessings to any of you who can find a way to make that happen! You can use our new electronic giving method thru Vanco, or the usual, a check in the mail... Please make sure to make the check out to LAF, rather than BHUMC.

Hear the words of the Lord: 1st John 4:16, 19. “And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in us... We love because God first loved us.” Please know that God loves us, each and every one. We will get through this!!

Love to All —Pete Farrell, for the Lord’s Acre Fair Committee

What is New from the Re-Opening Committee

- **Outdoor worship** is being offered while the weather holds. Reservations are required, as the state limits gatherings to 50 people total. Please call the church office at 399-5144 or email burnthillumc@gmail.com before Thursday of each week by noon.
- **Outdoor meetings**, bring your own chair, continue to be permitted. Please schedule with the church office, take attendance, and follow practices as previously outlined. The courtyard space can accommodate up to 12 people under the tent – any more than that, and proper distancing (and hearing one another) becomes impossible.
- **Indoor meetings** will be possible, with 6 feet between attendees, in Knight Hall. If your team, group or committee wishes to schedule any meetings for this fall, please contact Cindy in the church office to get them on the calendar before we entertain any requests from outside groups. The plan is to have no more than one group meeting at a time, to avoid overlapping traffic. Knight Hall is limited to 30 people if using half the space; 50 for the whole room.

If you haven't been to our "live" outdoor Sunday Worship service yet, we'd like to encourage you to consider coming! The feedback from those who have attended has been that it is wonderful to be back together in person, the service is uplifting, the weather is cool and comfortable, and it is lovely to be outdoors on the beautiful grounds.

We still have space available!



Please welcome our new custodian, Joseph Tangrady! He is doing a great job keeping the building clean. If you have reason to be upstairs in the building, you may see doorknob hangers on classroom doors – these are to signal that the room is unused since its last cleaning. If you have reason to enter/use a closed room (remember, groups are to meet downstairs in Knight Hall!), please flip the door hanger to signal that the room should be re-cleaned.

**Sunday worship and sermons
are still accessible online
every week.**



**Worship goes "live" on Sundays
at 10:30 AM
on our website at:**

nybhumc.com/sermons.html

**Current Church Office Hours
are now 10 AM—2 PM
Monday though Friday.**



Trustee News



Kitchen Renovation The Kitchen project is nearing completion, thanks to a lot of help from many. Funding for this project came from the Endowment Committee, the Dinner Committee and the United Methodist Women. The Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Womens Club, who hold their meetings at our church, donated funds to help defray the cost of the new sink. Memorials also contributed to this effort, using funds from the memorials for Elsie Novotny, Sandy Gardner and Rev. and Mrs. Norm Jones.

A new ceiling has been installed, which is fire-rated for two hours, and nine new LED light fixtures were also installed, which really provides significantly improved lighting for the kitchen. Schrader Construction built new wall and base cabinets, and they have been installed. We are now ready for the new counter to be put in.

Thanks go to the many people who have helped to make this project possible. John Rogers installed all of the new lighting and assisted in running a new dedicated line for the freezer and refrigerator. Terry Bikowicz assisted with the plumbing and will be running the new water lines to the sink. Nancy and Greg Adams painted two of the walls that had not been painted last year. Dale Delano, Dan Richardson, Al Predmore, Greg Adams & Mike Ormsby have all provided invaluable help to do the hard work of taking out the old and installing the new.

Kathy Pirigy and Linda Noonan helped by emptying all of the cabinets when we started, and will be overseeing putting all of the kitchen supplies back into the new cabinets.

It has been pleasure to work with so many who helped make this project possible. Thank you to all!!! Bert Longbotham

New Water Fountain A new water fountain will soon be installed in the hallway to replace the one that is currently there. Funds for this new handicapped-accessible water fountain were provided from the Rev. and Mrs. Norm Jones Memorial.



Flowers Hopefully, if you have been to the church lately, you have noticed the flowers in front of Knight Hall. In the spring, Maryann Snell volunteered to plant those flowers, and has been watering them all summer long. We really appreciate her efforts and those of Cindy Peterson, who leaves her office daily to water the plants in the planters by the rear doors.

Caregiver Support Group - Caregiver Support Group will not meet in September since our meeting date falls on Labor Day weekend. However, I am going to try and meet on October 3rd in our large meeting room where we can distance ourselves 6 feet apart while wearing our masks. Some of you may not feel comfortable attending even with these precautions. I will understand if you choose not to attend. In the meantime, If you have any caregiver issues or questions, I am available by phone (399-8838) or email (hlchristie@aol.com). — Lynn Christie

Lunch Bunch – Lunch Bunch will not be meeting in September. Some of us are not comfortable eating inside yet and we are a large group. It may be awhile before we will be able to have lunch together again.

The Community Lunch team continues to miss seeing you all for socialization at our monthly luncheons. The social distancing and food service restrictions have made us decide to postpone again but work towards a luncheon in November for Thanksgiving. As we get closer to November 19, we will let you know what we hope this meal will look like, how to make reservations, what restrictions there are on number of attendees, etc. In the meantime, please let the church office know of food or other needs; we are happy to help.

Sunday School— Due to continued concerns for health and safety and to give families time to find comfort in their new schooling schedules, there will not be Sunday School this fall for Nursery School through Grade 5. Katie Bikowicz will continue virtual Sunday School this fall for middle school and high school children. We will miss the children and our church family this fall and look forward to when we can gather in person once again.

Preschool has a lot of fun activities planned this school year. We will be starting the fall off virtually. Mrs. Herbage and Mrs. Tope are looking forward to welcoming the preschool families back together in the classroom come January. There are limited spots open in our 3's program. Please contact Stephanie Tope with any questions regarding registration: Bhumpreschool@gmail.com.

Our **Annual Church Conference** has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m. Presiding will be our new District Superintendent, Pastor Debbie Earthrowl, who is now covering the Adirondack and Albany Districts. We will be fortunate to have the presence of her grace filled spirit with us! Please be prepared to participate in the Charge Conference wherein we will have an opportunity to elect Trustees, as well as nominees for important roles such as Church Council Chairperson, Staff Parish Relations Committee and Chairperson, and more.

Our Annual Report will be presented to everyone on that date. In preparation, all committees/teams are invited to submit 2020 news articles for our published Annual Report by October 15.

You are encouraged to attend this important gathering. Information about the format of the meeting will be shared as it develops.



Brooks Barbecue

Saturday, September 12

4:30 PM till sold out

Tickets: \$13 for a whole chicken dinner

\$9 for half-chicken dinner

Includes cole slaw, baked potato,

roll/butter and dessert

No ticket pre-sales

Take-out only