



**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

**Important Information >>>**

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February 10 - March 10, 2021 NEWSLETTER

*Ipswich United Church of Christ*

Upcoming Events

February

21: Installation of new officers, Communion

March

TBD : Council Meeting  
21: Communion  
28: "To Go" Friendly Feast

April

1: Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30 with Communion  
4: Easter

Lent Services will continue each Wednesday at 5:30pm

*Prayer of the Month*

Dear God, thank You for always being with me, loving me, and blessing me.

Amen

"But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence."

Jeremiah 17: 7

**"What a Blessing"**

Today's Bible verse says if we believe and trust in God, we are blessed. But what does it mean to be blessed? Believing and trusting in God makes us feel safe and peaceful. That's being blessed. Knowing how much God loves us and sharing His love with others gives us joy. That's being blessed. Understanding that God has a wonderful plan for our lives gives us peace. That's being blessed. No matter what happens around us, when we know that God is with us, we don't need to worry. We are blessed!

**Thought of the Month**

What are some ways God has blessed you?

Veggies Tales: God Knows Me

*Mission of the Month >>>*

**Visiting or Sending Cards**

**To shut ins and Nursing Home Residents**

*March's Mission >>>*

**One Great Hour of Sharing  
March 14**

**Article II of our Constitution >>>**

*Statement of Faith*

This church shall worship God as revealed in scripture; celebrate the sacraments of communion and baptism; develop fellowship and unity with this church and with the church the world over; give loving service toward humanity, and work toward justice, equality and peace in our community and the world.

## Council Minutes >>>

The Ipswich United Church of Christ Council met on February 10, 2021 @ 5:00pm. Those present were Pastor Tim, Moderator Twila Thorstenson, Donna Brockel, Valette Horst, Sarah Perrion, Lance Perrion, Patty Kadlec, Joan Torrence, Carol Pond, Deanne Hoyle and Judy Steen.

Twila opened the meeting and Pastor led us in prayer.

Twila stated that the next business in order was the nominations of Moderator. There were no nominations. Valette made a motion to approve the minutes as printed in January newsletter, Donna seconded. Motion carried.

### Financial Reports:

#### Treasurer's Report by Carol:

Balance 1-1-21	\$
Plate collections & donations	
Checking a/c interest	
Disbursements	
Balance 1-31-21	\$

#### Financial Secretary Report by Deanne:

Donations and Offerings
Interest
Window project donations
Total January deposits

**Memorial Report** by Judy. There was no change. Checking account is \$50.00 and savings account is \$4,052.05.

Donna motioned to approve the financial reports, Valette seconded. Motion carried.

### Committee Reports

**Diaconate:** Communion was served to 26 on January 17, 2021.

**Trustee:** Lance reported that the new furnace that heats the basement was installed by Diamond S Heating & Cooling (Lonnie Steen). They are continuing with the Stain Glass Window Restoration fund raising.

**Missions:** Patty thanked all for donations to our local food pantry. They were very pleased to receive such a generous donation. The February mission is visiting/sending cards to shut ins.

**Christian Education:** They are meeting to plan the rest of the year.

**Women's Fellowship, Men's Fellowship, Search Committee:** No report.

Joan made a motion to approve the committee reports, Lance seconded. Motion carried.

**Pastor Report:** He is working on Lenten Services. The Confirmation class has finished their book and are working on their Statement of Faith. Plans are to present their Statement of Faith and join the church after Easter.

### Old Business:

Lenten services will be at 5:30 beginning Ash Wednesday and the following Wednesdays. Maundy Thursday service will be at 6:30 with communion served. The Easter services will be decided at the March Council meeting.

The changes to our Constitution that were voted on at our Annual Meeting will be changed to our current Constitution.

### New Business:

We will have installation of our new officers on February 21 during worship service. We plan to serve a "to go" Friendly Feast on March 28, 2021. Confirmation students may meet with the Council during our April 14<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. We will have their Confirmation and 1<sup>st</sup> Communion on April 18.

Twila asked again for nominations for Moderator and Vice Moderator. After discussion, Valette nominated Deanne as Moderator and Twila as Vice-Moderator. Donna seconded. Motion carried.

Our next Council meeting is March 10, 2021 @ 5:00. All are welcome to attend.

*Judy Steen, Church Secretary*

## *The Stained-Glass Windows Project >>>*

### **The Stained-Glass Window Restoration Fundraiser is Ongoing!!**

Trustees are looking into grants available to help meet our \$50,000 goal.

They also have coloring books for the young at heart available in the narthex for \$20.

## *A Message from Kerry Steever, Placerville Camp Director >>>*

Greetings from Placerville Camp!

We are excited to send out this message to let you know that we will be opening up for summer programming! YAY!!

Obviously with COVID still in full swing, as of right now, there will be some changes from the norm and we hope that by the time summer reaches us, we can change our course of action.

First off, all campers and staff will be wearing masks while indoors, except while sleeping. Campers will receive a cloth mask once they arrive and disposable masks will also be available. Campers, however, will be encouraged to bring their own masks as well as hand sanitizer.

Second, we will be restricting the number of campers that can attend. Youth camps will have a limit of 30 campers so that we can keep a ratio of 1 counselor to 5 campers. This will allow safer sleeping arrangements in the cabins. Women's Camp will also have a limit of 30 participants. Campers will also be doing most of their activities within their family groups which includes meals times.

Third, registration will be on-line only, so a camp brochure will not be mailed out. On-line registration will allow us to keep track of the numbers as registrations are made in real time. We can keep track of numbers better this way. This can be done at **placervillecamp.net**.

On-line registration also allows us to notify campers as guidelines change where we might have the need to adjust our protocols.

We would appreciate your helping get the word out to your congregation. Please pass on the website **placervillecamp.net** so folks will know where to get their information.

More information will be coming as time goes on. With many prayers, maybe we can lift the limit on numbers as summer draws near. We look forward to seeing you at camp!

## **LENT AND LOVE**

Since we will be celebrating both the liturgical season of Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 17, and Valentine's Day on February 14, I thought we'd consider for a moment thoughts on "Lent and Love."

Lent is truly a season of love. I can hear you saying, "Pastor Tim, Lent is supposed to be a time of penitence, prayer, fasting and 'giving something up', isn't it? Where does Love figure into the equation?" (You DID ask yourself that question, didn't you?) Let me suggest that Lent actually requires Love on two levels.

First of all, we know that Lent is the 40 day season (not counting Sundays) before Palm Sunday, so it is a time in which we prepare ourselves for Holy Week, from Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, to his cleansing of the Temple, to The Lord's Supper, to Gethsemane, to Herod and Pilate, to Calvary, to the tomb, and to the Resurrection. What are we preparing for? We are preparing for the celebration of a LOVE we cannot fully comprehend. We are preparing for an event which exhibits God's Love for us, you and me, by sacrificing his Son.

Such agape (unconditional) love is almost foreign to us. I've said time and again that the closest example of human agape love is a Mother's love. Yet we know there are abusive mothers and negligent mothers, so that comparison is not perfect. But there are examples of such love around us. Just a few days ago a new article told of a mother who found out she had cancer in her 4<sup>th</sup> month of pregnancy. To undergo treatment would be to abort her child. She chose to delay treatment until her child was born. The child was born prematurely but is alive and well. The mother took treatments for a short time before the cancer overcame her and she died. She gave her life that her child would live. That's close to agape love, isn't it? But isn't quite the same as Jesus' death. To be the same, we would need to find a father or mother willing to have his or her child die to save the lives of others. We can't really relate to that because we don't even want to consider being in such a situation. As a father and grandfather I confess that I don't even want to THINK about losing one of my children or grandchildren. (For those of you who have experienced such a loss, my heart goes out to you.) But God's agape love was such that he allowed Jesus to be scourged, mocked and killed to help us understand God's love for us. That is the first and greatest level of Love as we enter Lent.

The second level of Love during Lent is OUR love. How do we respond to God's love for us?

Can we and will we celebrate Lent in the tradition of prayer, penitence, charitable giving and self-denial? Can we express our love for God by say... setting aside 5 minutes each day for prayer? Can we express our love for God by truly looking at our lives and repenting from some sin during Lent? Can we increase our giving to our church or other charity during Lent? Can we deny ourselves something we like (or isn't good for us) during Lent?

We can do nothing about the first level of love we experience during Lent. God's love for us is so great! But there is something we can do on our level. We can improve our prayer life. We can improve our charitable giving. We can give up something for those 40 days (scripture tells us that Jesus gave up food for 40 days!)

I challenge you to personally respond to God's love in a real way this Lenten season as we prepare ourselves for God's greatest gift, the gift of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

(Oh, by the way, feel free to express love on a third level by giving your loved ones a symbol of your love for them on Val(Lent)ine's Day!)

Pastor Tim

**Birthdays>>>**

1-Benjamin Hoyle  
3- Cindy Fetter, Ron Kadlec  
4- Dave Nelson  
5- Tucker Kadlec  
6- Sharron Swanson  
7- Linda Johnson  
12- Adam Kanable  
14: James Volk  
15- Gabby Hoyle  
16: Danielle Heilman  
20- Danielle Hoyle  
23- Izabella McQuarie  
24- Nichol Osborne  
25- Ryder Steen

**Anniversaries>>>**

25: Gary and Jada Saucedo

**Greeters/Ushers >>>**

Signup is available in the back pew!!  
**Volunteers are greatly appreciated.**

**Acolytes >>>**

Greeters will cover at this time.

**Liturgist Readers >>>**

7: Bobbie Kilber  
14: Carol Pond  
21: Twila Thorstenson  
28: Judy Steen

If you cannot greet or read, please find a replacement, and let Emily Volk know. If you cannot find someone, please contact me and I will gladly help you. Thank You

**Please Let us Know>>>**

If you are not getting the e-mails or know of someone not receiving the emails that we are sending out from the church, please contact Emily Volk or contact me and I will add them/you to the mailing list. Emily 605-216-1234 or eabvolk\_6411@hotmail.com

Thank You



# March 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 5:30 Lenten Service 6:00 Youth Group 6:30 Youth Activities	4	5	6
7 10:00 Worship	8	9	10 5:00 Council Meeting 5:30 Lenten Service 6:00 Youth Group 6:30 Youth Activities	11	12	13
14 10:00 Worship	15	16	17 5:30 Lenten Service 6:00 Youth Group 6:30 Youth Activities and	18	19	20
21 10:00 Worship	22	23	24 5:30 Lenten Service 6:00 Youth Group 6:30 Youth Activities	25	26	27
28 10:00 Worship	29	30	31 5:30 Lenten Service 6:00 Youth Group 6:30 Youth Activities	Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30	Good Friday	