

The Messenger

A Newsletter of the
Genesee 1st Congregational, United Church of Christ, Inc.



September – October, 2020

Volume 15, Number 3

From the Pastor



How Do You Get Back In?

I was 14 years old at the time, and I was new to instrument playing. I had recently gone against St. Martin family tradition and crossed over from being in the school choir to playing in the band. They needed a timpanist and a tuba player. I

was an awkward teenage who just didn't have the coordination to play the drums. So, tuba it was! In order to help me get up to speed, the director sent me home with one of the band's old sousaphones as a loaner.

Now that just about sets the stage for the drama I wish to share. I want to take you to a family gathering at our house. The adults were on the main floor chatting and preparing food. The cousins and brothers and sisters were all downstairs in the basement, where the tuba was stored! Naturally I wanted to show them I could play the thing!

You might guess two things here, and you'd be right. First, the cousins were not near as interested in hearing me belt out notes from the tuba as I was to play them. Second, knowing my personality as you do, you would be correct in assuming that I don't always know when to quit!

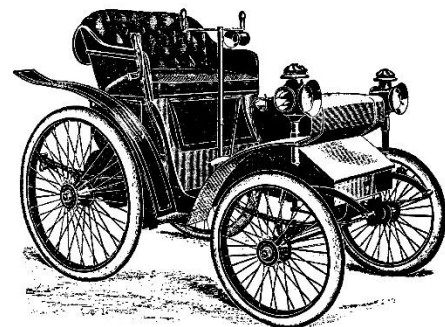
Long story short, I was blatting out loud, notes, the kind that a new tuba player plays before he develops the lip for it. Surprise of surprises, I was annoying them all and making it impossible to play anything else. One of the elder statesmen of the group, Cousin Steve, approached me, expressing the sentiment of everyone in the basement. He grabbed the tuba and pulled it away from my mouth. He told me to stop with a forcefulness that he rarely exhibited.

There I was with all eyes upon me, singled out for being obnoxious. I am sure I wept a bit as I stomped out of the basement and went upstairs to my room. I am also sure that I knew deep down that I had gone too far and that I deserved the confrontation. Mostly I felt embarrassed.

Continued on Page 3

9TH Annual GENESEE CHURCH CAR SHOW

Saturday, September 12
8 AM – 2 PM



**Genesee Church Education Center
W306 S5075 Church St., Genesee, Wisconsin**

**\$8.00 Donation per car
HUGH DRAWINGS, MUSIC**

- **FOOD ON SITE**
- **Brats / Hot dogs**
- **Sweet corn**
- **Music**
- **Dash plaques for first 100 show cars**

**Sponsored by: S/S Automotive
Contact: 262-968-3324 ssautomotive.pro**

Welcome to the September-October, 2020 edition of the Messenger. Restrictions, due to Covid-19, are still not allowing us to have in-person services inside our church building. In lieu of “normal” Sunday morning worship an online “Zoom” gathering has been set up. Here are the details.

SUNDAY, 9:30 AM (VIRTUAL SERVICE) Join us as early as 9 AM.

To Join the group via Computer or tablet or smartphone, click on the following link or copy into your browser. <https://zoom.us/j/396301165> Password = 365422

You may also join by going to <https://zoom.us> and click on the “JOIN A MEETING” heading at the top of the webpage.

- When prompted, enter:
- Meeting ID: 396 301 165
 - Password: 365422

To join meeting by phone (Audio only)

- Call 1-312-626-6799
- and enter when prompted:
 - o Meeting ID: 396 301 165
 - o Password: 365422

Communion returned to the 1st Sunday of the month – on July 5.

As our Lord told the disciples on the *first* Last Supper, “Do this in remembrance of me,” we have returned to the regular observance of the Sacrament of Communion on the first Sunday of the Month during the 9:30 AM “zoom” service. Yes, it is quite a different experience, as we cannot share the elements. We encourage you to do what you need to do to make the experience meaningful to you. You may want to have elements (grape juice or wine / bread) with you to partake along with Pastor Peter as he breaks the bread, pours the cup and partakes on behalf of us all.

In-Person Devotional Opportunity began Sunday, July 19.

In addition to the 9:30 AM “Zoom” service, an in-person devotional opportunity began on Sunday, July 19. Though the pandemic still dictates significantly what we can do in terms of gathering for worship or other events, we began making our way to some kind of normalcy. Our first In-Person Devotional Gathering was at 11 AM on the grounds of the church on July 19. [The devotional is scheduled for every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.](#) As the Board discussed in their June meeting, we plan to meet under the safest circumstances. It is an outdoor service that include the most basic elements of worship. Scripture reading, a meditation, and time for prayer and response. [In case of inclement weather, we will gather indoors practicing proper sanitation and dis-](#)

[tancing protocols – BRING A MASK.](#) The service is brief, between 15 and 30 minutes, and has minimal embellishments. We hope it will start to address the need for the personal interaction that is unmet in the setting of shelter-in-place online worship. We feel that the main worship event will have to be the joint worship “Zoom” service held at 9:30 on Sunday mornings for both Hartland and Genesee congregations. But the Board recognizes that there are a number of members of the church family who do not find online worship fulfilling enough. Our goal is to reach those who have been missing from our pandemic Sunday routine as well as keep the ones who have been picked up through the Zoom worship experience. Indeed, though we have missed some of our regular attendees, we have also found that the online service has made some of our church family “more regular” in attendance. Perhaps, going forward, we will find a way to keep both new groups until the time we can return to the worship space and beyond. The 9:30 Zoom worship and the In-Person Devotional are distinct from each other so that those who might want to take part in both will not be faced with repetition. Our 1st and 3rd Sunday schedule dovetails with what the Hartland Congregation will be doing. Hartland is also holding In-Person Devotionals every 2nd and 4th Sunday.

Lectionary Bible Study

This is your opportunity to learn about the Bible scripture for the upcoming Sunday. It is held every Thursday, at 10 AM. Like our “zoom” services, it is a “virtual” event. To Join the group via Computer or tablet or smartphone, click on the following link or copy into your browser. <https://zoom.us/j/324446460>

You may also join by going to <https://zoom.us> and click on the “JOIN A MEETING” heading at the top of the webpage.

- When prompted, enter:
- Meeting ID: 324 446 460
 - Password: 789656

To join meeting by phone (Audio only)

- Call 1-312-626-6799
 - and enter when prompted:
 - o Meeting ID: 324 446 460
 - o Password: 789656
-

EXPLORE GOD’S WORD DAILY

Copies of the devotional booklet: *“The Upper Room”* for September-October, 2020 are available. Call the church office at **262-968-3849** to get your copy. On every page is an inspirational reading and accompanying Bible verse for each day.

From the Pastor (from Page 1)

But, I also felt alienated. The burning question for me, whether I knew it or not, is the reason I walked you through this story of my childhood. The question: How do I get myself back in? After I had made a spectacle of myself and left in anger promising in action and word NEVER to return, how do I return?!

In the course of the day, I made my way back downstairs and played with my cousins, first at a distance and then inching closer to the group until I was a full participant in whatever it was we were all playing.

How to get back in; isn't that the question that bugs many of us? We need not be juvenile cousins to be obnoxious and to make rash statements. We all can and do make absolute statements that should have never been said and that we have to take back to be in communion with our neighbors, colleagues, family members, fellow citizens and fellow church members.

The challenges for us in these exceptionally divisive times are twofold. (1) When we are the obnoxious one, how do we take back what we have said or done and ask to reenter in community? (2) When we are the victims of obnoxiousness, how do we make it easy for the ostracized to return? Paul writes of God, who has given us models to emulate. In 2 Corinthians he states, "...in Christ God was reconciling the world to [God's] self, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us." (5:19)

It is part of the discipline of faith that needs to be displayed in our world – I want to say – now more than ever! This is a hard thing and central to getting past the adversarial spirit that pervades human interaction now. It will not do for us to perpetuate division. We have all found ourselves both the victim and the wrongdoer. It appears that we reward divisiveness. I just wanted to say. That we are compelled by the Good News to abandon divisiveness and embrace reconciliation. God is right! (Duh!) The better path is to encourage our reunion and the setting aside of differences. We have to be willing to ask to be put back in the circle, and we have to find ways to make it easier for outsiders to be welcomed back. It is not just a nice thing to do. It is a matter of faith! It is a critical set of skills that require our attention to develop them. It is the only way we will get through these contentious times.

Pastor Peter

e-mail:

smartpb@msn.com

(c) 262-720-6939; (h) 262-201-4033

Notes from a Ball of Twine

"... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us..."

Hebrews 12: 1 - RSV

Many of us have a hobby of collecting things: stamps, plates, matchbox cars, ... For most of us, these things are a passing fancy. We delight in these things. They fill our moments with leisure. For a few of us, our hobby has become an obsession.

Several years ago, I was staying a few days in Ashland, Wisconsin. One sunny afternoon I traveled to Lake Nebagamon to view the collection of Jim Kotera. Jim's hobby is collecting twine, the kind of tough string many of us have used to bail old newspapers. Jim has a very large ball of twine; and, when I arrived, Jim was adding more twine. Jim started collecting twine over 40 years ago (1979). He has a ball of twine that is seven feet tall and is estimated – by Jim – to weigh 20,545 pounds! (2013 update) The twine ball has become too heavy to roll and has flattened into a potato-shape some 35 feet around. Jim adds twine by working the angles. Depending on the manufacturer, there is the common brown color, but there is also twine that is red, green, yellow and other colors. Jim's twine ball is the largest twine ball assembled by one person. Another twine ball, in Darwin, Minnesota, weighs a mere 17,400 pounds and is some 12 feet tall. An 11-footer in Cawker City, Kansas, estimated at 17,980 pounds, claims the world record, and is bigger, but it was a group project.

Jim noted that a local farmer helped him begin his collection by providing twine. Now he receives twine contributions from others – including visitors like myself. He built a pole shed over the ball, for protection from the winter weather.

If you met Jim on the street, you would find him to be a friendly, and yet quite ordinary middle-aged, man. So, what drove Jim to do something record breaking? Jim noted that he never intended to get all the publicity he is getting. "One day you start collecting twine, and the next thing you know..."

There are some key lessons to be learned here. First, begin with an overwhelming desire. Do what you love to do and have a vision of where it will lead you. Second, have in mind a goal. In 1979, Jim first learned about other twine balls. He asked the question: "How much twine can one person collect?" Third, and most important, "work" toward the fulfillment of your goal. Someone once commented that the person who loves what they are doing will never "work" a day in their lives. Jim noted that few visitors who arrive will ever have to ring his bell. If he is not gone into town, he will be outside adding on more twine.

Although he has met some obstacles, the biggest being that he can no longer roll the massive twine ball and he had to build a shed to protect it, Jim has continued to persevere. Whatever goals you set in life, never give up! Persevere! Run the race that you have set before you! Run toward victory! Now, where did I put that ball of twine?

Scott W. Burdette, Lake Nebagamon, Wisconsin

MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS in a "VIRTUAL" world

We can't pass the collection plate like in a normal church service. But you can still take advantage of your great, God given, opportunity to make an offering. Make checks out to "Genesee 1st Congregational, United Church of Christ" OR, if you prefer, just "Genesee Church." Send them to the church office – GENESEE CHURCH / W306 S5075 Church St. / Mukwonago, WI 53149-9732. Our treasurer, Angela, picks them up on a weekly basis. OR You can mail your check direct to Angela: Angela Williams / W956 Miramar Rd. / East Troy, WI. 53120.

Note: The next three articles are for events planned for October. Whether or not they actually happen will depend on the success, or failure, of our ability – as a state and nation - to cope with Covid-19 in a safe (masks, social distancing, etc.) manner.

RUMMAGE SALE

A church rummage sale is tentatively scheduled for early October. In light of the current (Covid-19) situation, no date has been set yet. Begin gathering your stuff together, but keep it at home until further notice.

SERVING AT HOPE CENTER

Genesee Church will (?) serve the meal at Hope Center on Friday, October 16. Up to eight volunteers will be needed. Trays with brownies, cakes, etc. are served for dessert and are always welcome. To volunteer call Scott at **262-968-3830**. Hope Center is located at 502 N. East Av., in Waukesha. Please note this date on your calendar, and be there by 5 PM.

HALLOWEEN SAFE SPOT

"Trick of Treating," in the Town of Genesee, is scheduled for Sunday, October 25, 4 – 7 PM. During this time, our Ed. Center will become a "safe spot" for children in the community. We will provide special treats for the children and we are looking for a few people – of any age – to hand out those treats (costumes encouraged but not required) for one hour or all three.

."So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom."

- Psalms 90:12

Events Calendar

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

events

Listed here are the dates of meetings, holidays and events in September, October and early November. All dates are correct at the time of publication. All events are at the Ed. Center, unless otherwise noted. Virtual "Zoom" worship Services are 9:30 AM each Sunday morning. Lectionary Bible study (via "Zoom") is each Thursday, 10 AM. For "zoom" LINKS see Page 2.

SEPTEMBER

- SU 6** 9:30 AM – Communion during "Zoom" service
11 AM – In Person Devotional Opportunity (Church Grounds / inside Ed. Center if rain)
- MO 7** **LABOR DAY**
- FR 11** **PATRIOT DAY**
- SA 12** 9th Annual Car Show: 8 AM – 2 PM
Prize Drawing at 1 PM
- SU 20** 11 AM – In Person Devotional Opportunity (Church Grounds / inside Ed. Center if rain)
- TU 22** Autumnal Equinox: 8:30 AM CDT (Fall Begins)
Executive Board: 5 PM – (Virtual)

OCTOBER

- SU 4** **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**
9:30 AM – Communion during "Zoom" service
11 AM – In Person Devotional Opportunity (Church Grounds / inside Ed. Center if rain)
Neighbors in Need - offering
- FR 16** Serve meal at Hope Center: 5 PM
- SU 18** 11 AM – In Person Devotional Opportunity (Church Grounds / inside Ed. Center if rain)
- TU 20** Executive Board: 5 PM – (Virtual)
- SU 25** Newsletter Copy due
"Trick-or-Treat" SAFE SPOT - 4 – 7 PM
- SA 31** **HALLOWEEN**

NOVEMBER

- SU 1** **ALL SAINTS DAY**
9:30 AM – Communion during "Zoom" service
11 AM – In Person Devotional Opportunity (Church Grounds / inside Ed. Center if rain)

**Daylight Saving Time ends
(set clocks back 1 Hour.)**

NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN)

Sunday, October 4 is World Communion Sunday. That Sunday our church will have the opportunity to share communion with a multitude of brothers and sisters in denominations worldwide. On October 4, **YOU** will also have the opportunity to participate in a special offering, one that will make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate than us. "Neighbors in Need" is a special offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Mark Sunday, October 4 on your calendar and have your special offering ready for this great cause.

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

October is "Pastor Appreciation Month."

**2....4....6....8, who do we appreciate?
Pastor Peter St. Martin!**

"Once in a 'Blue Moon'"

You've heard the expression. What is a "Blue Moon?" A Blue Moon is nothing more than a second full moon in the same month. The moon orbits the earth in roughly 29 ½ days. So, if a full moon occurs on the 1st or 2nd of the month, it will again occur at the end of the month. Thus, all months, except February – even when it has 29 days – can have a "Blue Moon." It is dust in the atmosphere that gives a full moon its bluish tinge. Any full moon, not just a "blue" one, can have this color.

A full moon occurs on Friday, October 2, 2020. There will be a second full moon on Saturday, October 31, 2020 – just in time for this year's Halloween!

MESSENGER AVAILABLE VIA E-MAIL

If you are not receiving your newsletter via e-mail, and you have an e-mail address, send an e-mail to LTLBURD@aol.com and the secretary will get you on the e-mail list. Also, let us know if your e-mail address changes by sending an e-mail using your new e-mail address. Thank you for helping us save mailing costs.

A FINAL NOTE 🎵

The deadline for the November-December, 2020 edition is Sunday, October 25. To submit an article, event information, or to receive your newsletter via e-mail, send e-mail to: LTLBURD@aol.com. Articles submitted in person need to be typed or written legibly.

Scott W. Burdette



Puzzle Changers

Genesee Church Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Swiss peak
- 4 Possesses
- 8 Boutique
- 12 Golf device
- 13 Summit
- 14 Sit for a painting
- 15 Tire filler
- 16 Recommended
- 18 Mexican sauce
- 20 Scout unit
- 21 Dog's name
- 23 Southern general
- 25 Fiesta item
- 28 Tom Brokaw, e.g.
- 33 Type style
- 34 Skin abrasion
- 35 Skill
- 36 "_____ something about Mary"
- 37 Vane dir.
- 39 Breathe rapidly
- 40 Old-fashioned
- 44 Roof edges
- 47 Go back and forth
- 49 Take to court
- 52 Watch face
- 53 Bard of _____
- 54 Manchester's country (abbr.)
- 55 Went underwater
- 56 Cried
- 57 Snoopy, e.g.

DOWN

- 1 _____ standstill (2 wds.)
- 2 Island garland
- 3 Private
- 4 Semiprecious stone
- 5 Unites
- 6 Marine
- 7 Go downhill
- 8 Ship's pole
- 9 Tramp
- 10 Scandinavian capital
- 11 Quick look
- 17 Foul smell
- 19 Dicken's title beginning (2 wds.)
- 21 Barbecue rod
- 22 Pocket bread
- 24 Bridge seat
- 26 Christmas glitter
- 27 Pretends
- 29 Thin pancake
- 30 Pestered
- 31 Ajar
- 32 Coffee break
- 38 Make cloth
- 40 Pea shells
- 41 Korea's continent
- 42 Glance over
- 43 Fine fabric
- 45 Over
- 46 Dryer outlet
- 48 Statute
- 50 One (sp.)
- 51 Hen product

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16				17				
		18	19					20				
21	22					23	24					
25				26	27		28		29	30	31	32
33							34					
35							36					
				37		38		39				
40	41	42	43			44	45	46				
47						48				49	50	51
52					53					54		
55					56					57		

Answers to previous puzzles In July-August Messenger

B	A	H		O	N	A		S	W	E	A	R	
R	I	O		N	O	V		A	O	R	T	A	
A	R	M		E	V	E	R	G	R	E	E	N	
D	Y	E	D		A	R	E	A	S				
		P	R	O		S	A	N	T	A	F	E	
E	N	L	A	R	G	E	D			G	A	Y	
G	O	A	T	E	E			E	N	T	I	C	E
G	E	T			N	A	R	R	A	T	E	D	
S	L	E	E	P	E	R		A	K	A			
				N	A	V	A	L		E	T	C	H
I	N	I	T	I	A	T	E	D			I	O	U
R	A	V	E	N			H	E	E		O	R	G
E	B	E	R	T			A	R	C		N	E	E

Answer to: "4TH OF JULY" SUDOKU

T	F	4	L	Y	U	J	O	H
Y	U	L	J	H	O	F	4	T
H	O	J	4	T	F	L	Y	U
U	J	Y	H	L	4	O	T	F
4	T	H	O	F	J	U	L	Y
F	L	O	Y	U	T	4	H	J
O	H	U	F	4	Y	T	J	L
J	Y	T	U	O	L	H	F	4
L	4	F	T	J	H	Y	U	O

"PUMPKIN" SEARCH

In the letter grid below, the word "PUMPKIN" can be found 17 times – vertically horizontally, diagonally; forward or backwards. Circle the individual letters as you find each "PUMPKIN." The remaining letters spell out a message.

P	U	M	P	K	I	N		P	T	R	P	
U	U	N	N	I	K	P	M	U	P	I	U	
M	P	M	I	N	I	K	P	M	U	P	M	
P	U	P	P	K	N	I	K	P	M	U	P	
K	M	U	U	K	P	C	U	K	P	M	K	
I	P	M	M		I	M	K	I	K	P	I	
N	K	P	P	O	P	N	U	N	I	K	N	
		I	K	K	K	R		T	P	N	I	R
E	N	I	I	P	U	M	P	K	I	N		
		A	N	N	I	K	P	M	U	P		T

Message: _____!

GENESEE 1ST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, INC.
W306 S5075 CHURCH ST.
MUKWONAGO (GENESEE), WI 53149-9732
262-968-3849 www.geneseechurch.org

NEWSLETTER SEP/OCT 2020

TIME VALUE MAIL
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



9:30 AM
Sunday
Virtual Worship
(see Page 2 for LINK)

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OUR TOP STORY

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Sunday, September 12
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