

The Messenger



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

January – February, 2021

Volume 15, Number 5

From the Pastor



"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me... to bring Good News!"

Isaiah 61:1

Only in Dad's last few years had he failed to keep a regular stream of correspondence with his little brother Steve. Speaking at Dad's Memorial, Uncle Steve reported that this routine began back in the 1940's when Dad was stationed in England for the war. He invited Steve to play a game of chess through the mail. To hear Uncle Steve tell it, Dad lost the first two games they played, but Dad was a competitor whose will to win intensified in defeat. So, after each loss, Steve received Dad's response, "Again." So, they played again... and again... and again... for well over 50 years. To hear Dad tell it, he would agree that his younger brother was the better chess player, they played on none the less.

Growing up, I could expect to see a postcard for Dad in the daily pile of mail with a record of two previous moves plus the next move from Uncle Steve. In addition, it would include the briefest statement of the news that sender would think receiver would appreciate knowing you see on this page. It would be something like the illustration, although the handwriting would have been far less legible.

27. P - KB5 N - KR4 ch

28. K - R6

My tomato blossoms beginning to set.

Joe

Continued on page 3



Official call-to-order...

178th Annual Meeting

of the

Genesee 1st Congregational
United Church of Christ

Sunday, January 31

Following the

9:30 AM "zoom" worship

The official call-to-order for the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Genesee 1st Congregational, United Church of Christ will take place following the 9:30 AM "zoom" worship service on Sunday, January 31. Our church government is one of the purest forms of representative democracy. The meeting is a great opportunity for everyone in the congregation to have a voice and make important contributions to the life of the church. Annual reports from the pastor, moderator, secretary and church boards and committees will be reviewed. You will also have an opportunity to vote on the slate of officers who will represent your church in 2021. Perhaps you have a calling to fill one of the empty slots and serve your church! The all-important 2021 Church Budget will also be reviewed.

A special notice to those committee and board members who must submit reports: all reports are due in the office on, or before, Sunday, January 10. Thank you!

Please highlight the date of Sunday, January 31 on your personal calendar.

Welcome to the January / February, 2021 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.

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 on the 1st Sunday of the month

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.

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

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.

Events Calendar

JANUARY - FEBRUARY events

Listed here are the dates of meetings, holidays and events in January and February. 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. (February meeting dates have not been decided yet.)

JANUARY

- FR 1** **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
- SU 3** 9:30 AM – Communion during “Zoom” service
- WE 6** **EPIPHANY**
- SU 10** Annual Reports due
- TU 12** Executive Board – 5 PM (virtual)
- MO 18** **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**
- SU 24** Deadline for February special edition Hartland Annual Meeting (following “zoom” service)
- SU 31** Genesee Annual Meeting (following “zoom” service)

FEBRUARY

- TU 2** **GROUND HOG DAY**
- SU 7** 9:30 AM – Communion during “Zoom” service
- MO 15** **PRESIDENTS' DAY**
- WE 17** **ASH WEDNESDAY**
- SU 21** Deadline for March – April newsletter
- SU 28** Rev. Peter St. Martin's LAST SUNDAY with us

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

Psalms 90:12

From the Pastor (from page 1)

Another feature of this communication was that they each addressed their postcard to “Joe St. Martin” and, if they signed it, it would be signed “Joe.” As far as I know there is no Joe St. Martin in our family line, another story for another time!

I recently realized that my brother has picked up this tradition of communication, though not with a chess game in the backdrop. The sign of our times is that Andy will report the daily number of new coronavirus cases in his Northern California county and then make an observation about family, work, or his evaluation of a breaking news story.

Our past year is memorable for a number of reasons, but a key reason is isolation. We have stopped kissing and hugging and visiting and touching. We have also found it challenging to keep in touch! Some families and friends have risen to the occasion, and many are thankful for technology, for Zoom and social media. We may be weary of this kind of meeting as well, but when all else is stripped away, maintaining communication is critical. Through the decades after their childhood togetherness, Dad and Uncle Steve lived in separate locations, but kept the chess game going.

As we enter 2021, the virus rages and the isolation continue, but there has been good news of a great joy, a sign that could portend the ending of this current trouble. We are not there yet, but the news is precious. I wonder if news is of greater value than the deliverance. Clearly, since we must wait for the fulfillment of the news to be realized. The news is precious to us now. If the journey of hardship for us and for so many others will go on for a while, it sure is good that we have news! News, like the word of God “is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path!”

We rejoice that God will bring all trouble to an end in due time. In the meantime, when perhaps most of life is lived, there is news! May we all remember to keep the lines open, by whatever means we can deliver it. We have good news to tell and people who need to hear it!

Pastor Peter

e-mail: stmartpb@msn.com

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

EXPLORE GOD’S WORD DAILY

Copies of the devotional booklet: *“The Upper Room”* for January-February, 2021 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.

The Weight of a Snowflake

- A parable for peace



Let me tell you a story.¹

On a cold, clear night, when the moon shone down, melting into a river of light upon the crystalline ground, setting fire to each individual snowflake in its path, a tiny sparrow landed next to a dove on a bare tree branch.

They sat together in silence for a while, as was their usual way, these two feathered friends. Peace fell upon them, and upon the rest of the inhabitants of the forest around them.

They knew that Brother Bear was sleeping, dreaming of summer berries. And that the beavers had hunkered down, safe and warm, in their island lodge of logs and branches. And, a squirrel family had tucked themselves away in a slumbering mound of furry bodies and warm hearts in their den in a hole in the tree trunk, just beneath the birds.

The sparrow turned to the dove and asked, “Dear friend, what is the weight of a single snowflake?” The dove thought for a moment. “Well nothing,” he answered after a while. “A snowflake weighs almost nothing.”

The sparrow said, “I have a story for you then. I was flying in a great snowfall the other day, and took shelter in a fir tree, upon a branch protected from the wind by larger branches all around. And I decided to count the snowflakes as they landed on my branch. *One, two, three, four. One hundred and two, one hundred and three. Ten thousand and four. Three hundred thousand and seven.*

And, do you know what happened when the three hundred thousandth and eighth snowflake landed on my branch?” The dove looked at the sparrow, a question in his eyes. “The branch broke,” said the sparrow. “*From the weight of all of those nothings combined.*”

The dove pondered this for a while, then said, “Perhaps all it takes is one more voice to be heard for peace to reign in the world.”

Scott Burdette,

December 2020

¹This is one of my favorite stories and several versions are on the internet. This is the one by Erika Berkhalter.

<https://medium.com/mindfully-speaking/the-weight-of-a-snowflake-ec8fe8039046>



CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

A special **THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Fund offering throughout the month of December.

Annual “Adopt-a-Family” through the Christmas Clearing Council (CCC) of Waukesha County:

Due to Covid-19 we could not participate in “Adopt-a-Family” in 2020. Instead, we collected \$25 Walmart and Target gift cards. A special **THANK YOU** to Sue Fleming who coordinated the program and everyone who contributed. We collected 24 cards for a final contribution of \$600! They were distributed through the Christmas Clearing Council. Your generosity made a big difference, this holiday season, in the lives of less fortunate people in the Waukesha area.

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: geneseechurch@wi.twcbc.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 February special edition is Sunday, January 24. The deadline for the March-April, 2021 edition is Sunday, February 21. To submit an article, event information, or to receive your newsletter via e-mail, send e-mail to:

geneseechurch@wi.twcbc.com

Articles submitted in person need to be typed or written legibly.

Scott W. Burdette



Puzzle Changers

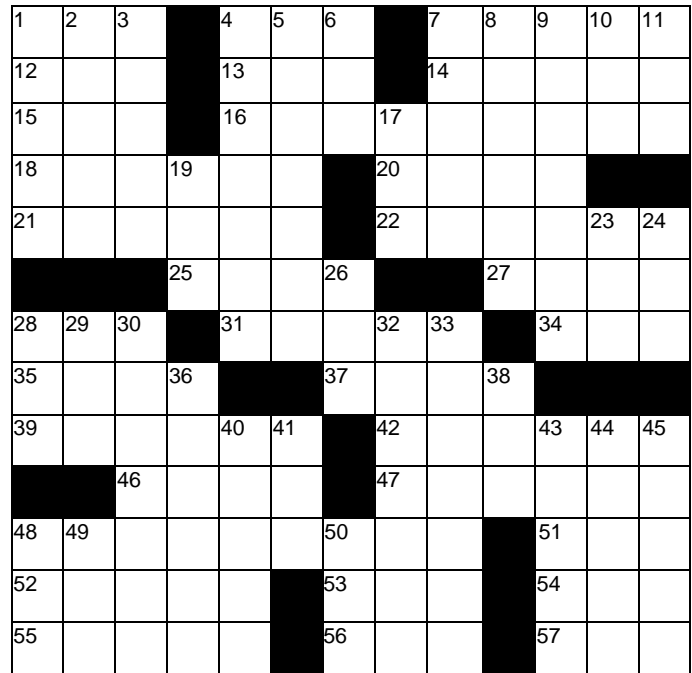
ACROSS

- 1 Car fuel
- 4 Shoe front
- 7 Bible song
- 12 Elbow's locale
- 13 King Kong, e.g.
- 14 Juliet's beloved
- 15 Island garland
- 16 Make coffee
- 18 Deer's horn
- 20 Not up yet
- 21 Largest desert
- 22 Dishonor
- 25 Singer _____ Seeger
- 27 Undressed
- 28 Be indebted
- 31 Jean's fabric
- 34 Comprehend
- 35 Traffic barrier
- 37 Con game
- 39 Until now (2 wds.)
- 42 Most frigid
- 46 Mine product
- 47 Morally pure
- 48 Subway gate, e.g.
- 51 Ocean
- 52 Resource
- 53 Animal doc
- 54 Cup handle
- 55 In want
- 56 Wind dir.
- 57 Cunning

DOWN

- 1 Festive events
- 2 Sports building
- 3 Will _____ of "Men in Black"
- 4 Narrowed gradually
- 5 Perform surgery
- 6 Eternally, in verse
- 7 Investigate
- 8 Serious
- 9 Wolfgang _____ Mozart
- 10 Permit
- 11 A Stooze
- 17 Rogue
- 19 Lick up
- 23 Lemon drink
- 24 Formerly called
- 26 Printing measures
- 28 Nov. preceder
- 29 Court
- 30 Support
- 32 Winter eave hangers
- 33 Large knife
- 36 Merited
- 38 Woody's ex
- 40 Grouchy
- 41 Washington, D.C. time Zone
- 43 19th letters
- 44 Swipe
- 45 Weepy
- 48 Summer shade
- 49 Employ
- 50 _____ had it!

Genesee Church Crossword Puzzle



Answers to previous puzzles In November-December Messenger

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

THE THREE SNOWMEN

Once upon a time there were three(3) snowmen, Amos, Benjamin and Charlie. Using a forklift they were put, two at a time, onto a platform to be weighed. We know the following facts. The combined weight of Amos and Benjamin is 163 pounds. The combined weight of Amos and Charlie is 145 pounds. The combined weight of Benjamin and Charlie is 152 pounds. What are the individual weights of Amos, Benjamin and Charlie?



Amos Benjamin Charlie

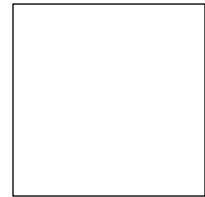
Answer to:
ADVENT
SUDOKU

T	A	V	E	D	N
D	N	E	V	T	A
V	D	A	T	N	E
E	T	N	D	A	V
A	V	D	N	E	T
N	E	T	A	V	D

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MUKWONAGO (GENESEE), WI 53149-9732
262-968-3849 www.geneseechurch.org

NEWSLETTER JAN / FEB 2021

TIME VALUE MAIL
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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

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