

The Church Chat Room

Newsletter of the Westmoreland United Church

Books Books Books

Puzzles and CD's

Looking for a new, used book, puzzle or CD for the long winter night?

There are a variety of books, puzzles and CD's on a table in the Brick Church on the Common

Westmoreland United Church

New items will be added regularly

The church is always open

Please wear a mask

Virtual Yard Sale

Check out our new items on our Facebook page at

"Virtual Yard Sale Westmoreland United Church"

Items are pick up only

Cash or check to "Westmoreland United Church"

Please wear a mask

The New Year 2021 Begins

by Carol Austin, Moderator

The church's Sunday, January 24, 2021 Annual Meeting was held via WebEx rather than on Zoom. Once the technological glitches were resolved, the reports printed in the 2020 WUC Annual Report were approved. The proposed budget for 2021 was approved with two changes. A 2021 Governing Board, a Pastoral Relations Committee, and Church Representatives were elected.

The Governing Board met on February 4th, via Zoom. Reports were given and accepted, planning for new projects was discussed and approved, and six Ministry Group chairpersons were appointed.

Listed below are your 2021 church leaders who diligently and conscientiously represent church members and promote a wider community ministry. Thank-you to all of them.

2021 Governing Board

Pastor Lynn Wickberg
 Carol Austin, Moderator
 Sally Albrecht, Vice Moderator
 Jim Hillier, Clerk
 Ashley Morse, Treasurer
 JoAnn LaBarre, Financial Secretary
 Cathy Laine
 Kim Shonbeck

2021 Ministry Group Chairpersons

Judy Rancourt, Missions Ministry
 Carrie Staples, Outreach Ministry
 Flossie Gray, Upreach Ministry
 Karen LeDuc, Inreach Ministry
 Jeanie Sy, Property Ministry
 Gary Gray, Finance Ministry

Please join us for one of our Friendly Zoom gatherings

1. "Fellowship Hour" on Sundays at 9:15 am
Enjoy your morning coffee or tea with friends
2. "Prayer Shawls and More" alternate Mondays at 1:00pm
Knit, crochet, sew, or other crafts or just come to visit.
3. "Coffee Chat" alternate Thursdays at 6:30 pm
Stimulating after dinner conversation
Maybe a Book Study

To receive a link for Zoom Fellowship times or a church service please contact Pastor Lynn at pastorlynnw@gmail.com

Ken Walker

by Judy Rancourt

Ken Walker, 93 passed away 1/29/21.

Ken was a master craftsman, building kayaks, wooden strip canoes and carving miniature sculptures. He loved to read and they knew him well at the Westmoreland Town library. He was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather and a true friend.

He was brought up by his grandparents on the farm on Butterfield Hill Rd. He joined the Navy at 17 and got out after a year and then joined the Air Force during the Korean conflict and served his country for 21 years.

He took up running at age 50 and completed the NY Marathon. He won a 5 K in Florida.

He was an avid maple syrup maker. Anyone who knew Ken knew he loved the outdoors.

If you rode by his barn you would often see him working away at his latest project. He was his happiest when he was working around the farm getting wood stacked, mowing the lawn with a push mower, working the flower gardens and watching Ted's animals.

He had been a member of the Westmoreland United Church since 2005.

He will be greatly missed by all his friends and family.

CHURCH WEBSITE..and NOW FACEBOOK

We are now on Facebook. Just click on the Facebook symbol at the bottom of the Church's home page to go to the Facebook page.

Our church website is www.westmorelandunitedchurch.org

Reggie Goodnow

by Flossie and Gary Gray

The Westmoreland community lost a true icon with the recent passing of Reggie Goodnow. Reggie was a "townie" who was friends with everyone, very charismatic and always willing to help with any project or need. A tireless worker, always up and going before dawn to tackle one of his numerous projects (many of those for others in town). He was a strong and determined person who was also kind and gentle.

Reggie was proud to be a local farmer and over the years sold vegetables (Reggie's Veggies), raised numerous pigs, cows and draft horses. He was happiest when providing sleigh or wagon rides as he could be with his horses while entertaining friends and family.

The Westmoreland United Church held a place in Reggie's heart as he was always willing to assist with Church projects such as moving furniture, lawn mowing, snow removal and the annual Christmas manger set-up. He occasionally attended services which always brought a smile to his mother, Jane Goodnow who is a Church member.

We will all carry fond memories of Reggie's infectious laugh, stories and willingness to help others.

Please keep Reggie's wife Shannon, his mother Jane and all his family and friends in our prayers.

Basement Treasures

Yard Sale items for sale

By appointment only

Email Jeanie at jeaniesy@gmail.com or call 352-8032

Small appliance, dishes, linens, books, small furniture puzzles, games lots more

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENT EMAIL LIST

If you would like to be on the church email list to receive important church announcements, please email tinafletch55@gmail.com and I will add you to the list.

THANK YOU! *Tina Fletcher*

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Newsletter of Westmoreland United Church

Reaching out to members and friends of

Westmoreland United Church

9 South Village Common

Westmoreland, NH 03467

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Scripture readings of the Revised Common Lectionary for Lent, Year B, which you may also find at <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/> where the text is included.

Ash Wednesday, 2/17/2021

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58: 1-12

Psalms 51: 1-17

II Corinthians 5: 20b – 6:10

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

February 21, 1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9: 8-17

Psalms 25: 1-10

I Peter 3: 18-22

Mark 1: 9-15

February 28, 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22: 23-31

Romans 4: 13-25

Mark 8: 31-38 or Mark 9: 2-9

March 7, 3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20: 1-17

Psalms 19

I Corinthians 1: 18-25

John 2: 13-22

March 14, 4th Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21: 4-9

Psalms 107: 1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2: 1-10

John 3: 14-21

March 21, 5th Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Psalms 51: 1-12 or Psalm 119: 9-16

Hebrews 5: 5-10

John 12: 20-33

Congratulations on the birth of your new baby

To celebrate we have a handmade blanket and books for your family

Please email Carrie at 4492berner@gmail.com

You can meet us at Fellowship Hall or we will deliver to you

Masks and social distance of course!

Pastoral Ponderings, February 10, 2021

Dear beloved community of Westmoreland United Church,

Last month I wrote of how “our aching hearts” resonate “with God’s aching heart that holds us and offers to us and to all love, mercy, and compassion greater than we can ask or imagine.” In these past weeks as sorrows grow including with the deaths of members of our community and families, God continues to hold us. And the good news continues to abound - God will not weary even when we do, for as spoke the prophet:

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the God, the Creator of the ends of the earth, who does not faint or grow weary; whose understanding is unsearchable.” Isaiah 40: 28 (NRSV)

The One who makes us knows us and our frailties and strong places, our tears and smiles, our nightmares and hope-filled visions.

Holding on to this good news, as we approach the Lenten season in 2021, we are encouraged to lengthen/increase our time of seeking and communing with God in any of a variety of ways including praying, reading, study, setting aside some earthly pleasures, meditating, and sharing our selves and resources with others as acts of love reflecting God’s love. The focus is on being present to and with God who abides with us and whose faithful love isn’t for sale or earned by such activities.

And through this day and all your days, may you know God’s merciful presence in every fiber of your being as God continues inscribing God’s teachings in our hearts that are compassionately enfolded in unfailing love.

Shalom,

Pastor Lynn

Fasting for God’s Creation Lenten Challenge

The Environmental Justice Mission Group invites everyone to participate in our Fasting for God’s Creation Lenten Challenge. During each of the six weeks of Lent, there will be a new focus starting on Ash Wednesday. The first week’s challenge from February 17 to 23 is avoid eating red meat. This means no beef, pork, bison and ham(bacon, too). Because meat from wild animals doesn’t impact the environment the way commercially-raised meat does, it is allowed. At the end of the week, participants in each congregation are invited to talk about the experience with each other. How difficult was it to meet the challenge? Why is it important? Could you continue beyond one week? ·
Week 2 focus, 2/24 to 3/2—Buy Nothing New; ·
Week 3 focus, 3/3 to 3/9—Avoid Plastic; ·
Week 4 focus, 3/10 to 3/16—Attend an Environmentally-themed Webinar or view an Environmentally-themed movie; ·
Week 5, 3/17 to 3/23—Spend Time Outside Everyday; ·
Week 6, 3/24 to 3/30—Plant Seeds for New Growth. Check the NHCUC The Weekly News each week for details of that week’s focus.

http://www.ucc.org/worship_liturgies_liturgical-colors

“The traditions of Lent are derived from the season’s origin as a time when the church prepared candidates, or “catechumens,” for their baptism into the Body of Christ. It eventually became a season of preparation not only for catechumens but also for the whole congregation. Self-examination, study, fasting, prayer and works of love are disciplines historically associated with Lent. Conversion—literally, the “turning around” or reorientation of our lives towards God—is the theme of Lent. Both as individuals and as a community, we look inward and reflect on our readiness to follow Jesus in his journey towards the cross. The forty days of Lent correspond to the forty-day temptation of Jesus in the wilderness and the forty-year journey of Israel from slavery to a new community. On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed on the foreheads of the congregation as a symbol that we have come from dust and one day will return to dust. It is one of many Lenten and Easter customs that remind us of our historical connection with Jewish tradition. With this sobering reminder of life’s fragility, we begin a spiritual quest that continues until the Easter Vigil, when new members of the church are often baptised and the entire congregation joins in a reaffirmation of baptismal vows. Most of this time of preparation is symbolized by the color Violet, though the season is bracketed by the mourning Black of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. As an alternative to Violet, some churches have begun to use brown, beige or gray (the colors of rough unbleached cloth like burlap) to reflect the season’s mood of penitence and simplicity. The somber colors are a reminder of the unbleached “sackcloth” worn by mourners and penitents in the Jewish tradition.”

Ash Wednesday

Throughout the day on Ash Wednesday, February 17 in the Brick Church, there will be “do-it-yourself” ashes with written prayers for folk to use on their own. (Please wear a mask while inside the Brick Church.)