

## Inside this edition

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## Dates & Meetings

Feb. 3 - Noon Confirmation Class  
Feb. 5 - Book Club/Discussion Noon & 6:30 pm  
Feb. 5 - 6:30 pm Membership Committee Mtg  
Feb. 6 - 6:30 pm Outreach Committee Mtg  
Feb. 7 - Communion (Taylors)  
Feb. 8 - 1:00 Communications Team Mtg  
Feb. 10 - 11:00 am Wills & Trusts  
3:00 pm MLK Day  
Feb. 12 - 7:00 pm Property & Finance Committee Mtg  
Feb. 13 - 6:30 pm Deacons Mtg  
Feb. 19- Book Club/Discussion Noon & 6:30 pm  
Feb. 20 - 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg  
  
Stitches of Love meets every Tuesday at 7 pm  
Choir practice is every Thursday 7 pm  
Bell Choir practices every Sunday 10:45 am

**Mark your calendars for Rummage Sale: Apr. 11-13**

# Tower Tidings



February 1, 2019

## Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

*"Failures, repeated failures, are finger posts on the road to achievement. One fails forward toward success."* - C.S. Lewis

*"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'" - The Gospel of Matthew 18: 21-22*

Did you hear the story about a certain selfish man who suffers the consequences of having a cold heart and finds happiness only when he begins to serve others? It's a story about second chances, or in his case, third, fourth and maybe even more than 70 times seven opportunities for a new beginning. No, it is not a story from the Old Testament or a parable of Jesus nor is it from a 19<sup>th</sup> century novel by Charles Dickens and the like. It is the movie "Ground Hogs Day" starring Bill Murray and Andie McDowell! (I'm sorry, now you can't get the Sonny and Cher song out of your head!)

What was originally considered just a light romantic comedy has now become a classic seasonal movie. Even the term "Groundhog day" as entered our common lexicon to mean "something that keeps repeating itself." In 2006, the movie was given the honor of being selected for preservation in the Library of Congress. Its lessons are simple but timeless. In the movie's main character we can see perhaps our own inherent selfish nature. Yet, we are

shown that, through time, we can learn what is important and gives life meaning and value. It's a story of self-redemption that gives us all hope and motivation to pursue our better selves. The movie has a gentle and universal spiritual message of the journey from self-centeredness to enlightenment that has lauded by Christians, Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim and humanists alike.

So if you find yourself snowed in sometime in February you might want to find a friend who has a copy or rent it. (Unfortunately it is not available on Netflix right now.) Look beyond the light comedy and romantic themes to see the message of redemption and second, third, fourth seventh chances and beyond and give thanks that as followers of the one we call Christ, we are a forgiven *and forgiving* people. And as Paul said "God can work good in all things" and I would add even our mistakes!

Enjoy a snow day!

*Pastor Neil Wilson*

## Change for the Church

Submitted by Diane Tinkham In Faith Formation we are continuing to collect coins. We're donating the \$400 we've collected so far to World Service to help provide CLEAN AND CLOSE WATER to families in need. The kids really enjoyed counting the coins and are thrilled that there are lots of adults enthusiastically participating! We appreciate all the coin containers from Church members that are turned-in each week. Keep them coming! A

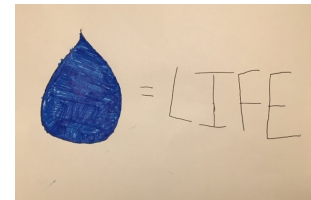


Lyllah and Grace

special thanks to Faith Formation helper, Matt Fink for donating all the coins that he has been saving for many years! Thanks Matt, for helping with Faith Formation and for your great generosity!



Matt with his nieces, Jennah and Ellen



Water = Life!

## Book Discussion ~ Add Dates to Your Calendar



There's still room to join this book-club discussion — *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territories* by Tod Bolding

This group is being lead by Martha Clement and sure to be interesting and lively. The discussion starts on **Tuesday, February 5, and continues for two more days — February 19 and March 5** and there will be two sessions on those days: **one at noon and again at 6:30 p.m.** Reservations not necessary but greatly appreciated. Call Martha 603.520.8219 or email [Martha@metrocast.net](mailto:Martha@metrocast.net) if you need to know more.

## Stitches of Love sent Love and Warmth to India

Submitted by Sandy Ballier Eleven sweaters of different sizes and color patterns were completed by the Stitches of Love Group and mailed to Vermont. The sweaters made the journey to India on January 8 with Ann Peck for the children involved with Kids Health India. This is an annual project for our group and we welcome any interested folks to join our group in the church parlor Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30 PM. We have plenty of needles, yarn and a pattern to get you started.



Congratulations to the  
 Recipients of the 2018  
 Church Service Award  
 LuAnn Mussari & Brad Geltz



*We sat stunned and confused on hearing our names called as the recipients of this year's Church Service Award. We've been members of this church for over 30 years, and have--frankly--only done those things we have felt able to do. But I guess, that's Paul's point in Corinthians when he says: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. Ours are not fancy gifts, but the gifts of a seriously introverted former teacher and a decidedly impish guy with a calm and measured manner. Thank you for recognizing the value of sharing what there is within us all to share. We are honored and humbled by your appreciation.* LuAnn Mussari and Brad Geltz

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## Note from Paula

I don't think it was planned this way but Membership held a "Pot Luck -White Elephant gift exchanged on Saturday night - the night before the Annual Meeting. My count was 52 people in attendance. It was an evening of fellowship, fun and lots of laughter. Ask those who attended about the "hats".

Sunday morning worship was followed by a special video "Sharing Our Stories" which shared stories shared by some members of the congregation about what makes this church special, what the strength of the church is, about our outreach and stewardship. It was a touching example of COMMUNITY at its best. Immediately after that we had our Annual Meeting. The meeting was thoughtfully and graciously led by our Moderator, John Kreidler and Vice Moderator, Sandy Brallier. Don Clark did a great job at presenting the new budget and before we knew it the meeting was over.

At the close of the weekend as I pondered all that happened one of my favorite hymns came to mind. "Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers". (In the New Century Hymnal its # 397 and is listed in the Christian Unity section of the hymnal.) The first line of the hymn begins; "Thank our God for sister, brothers, one by grace, in harmony, joining heart to heart with others, making strong community." And the second line begins; "Praise to God for congregations, keeping faith with Christ as guide; many tongues of many nations, song and service unified."

That was us this weekend, unified. We don't all think the same, belong to the same political party or have the same passions; but we all do try to be faithful people following Christ's teachings as our guide. It is such a joy to serve alongside so many gifted, talented and passionate people - sharing Christ's light and love in the world. As I write this I am feeling so very grateful to be a part of this church and community. So many differences all united as one in Christ - Praise GOD!



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When you can't get out  
to shop, did you know  
that you can order  
(online) non-perishable  
groceries from Target  
free shipping?

Camille's back in the  
office!

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## Important Volunteer Opportunity Calling All



Our greeters serve to extend a warm welcome to all who enter our sanctuary to attend our Sunday worship. This is an important part of our church's ministry. The Membership Committee is looking to reach more of our members who are willing and able to greet on Sunday mornings.

Please consider participating one Sunday or many Sundays. Please contact Ruth Gill 603.528.6608 for more information. This is so important and much appreciated.

## Sharing a Legacy Planning Series

We plan for many events: weddings, births, even Super Bowl parties. However, many of us postpone planning for the one event that we cannot avoid: our passing, and ensuring our legacy. A legacy is highly individual. It can include our contributions through committee work, a program we initiated, a quilt that we created. It can be a financial legacy as well. Leaving part of one's financial legacy for a favorite charity has immediate and long term benefits. A bequest to your church has the long term benefit of ensuring that the faith community you value will go forward in strength.



The Stewardship Committee has organized a series of three information sessions which address important components of legacy planning and sharing. These information sessions will be held on the second Sunday of the months of February, March, and April. The talks will be held in the library at 11:00 am, immediately following coffee hour. Each session will last about one hour. We invite you to attend. Reservations not needed.

## Sharing a Legacy Schedule

### **February 10** Wills and Trusts with Pat Wood

Come learn what Planned Giving is all about and how you can begin the legacy process for you, your loved ones, and your favorite charities.

### **March 10** Funeral Planning with Craig Beane

Learn how to ask your loved ones about their personal wishes and how to inform them about your own preferences.

### **April 14** Medical Planning with Oriana Filiault

Oriana Filiault, Social Worker in Care Management at LRGH, will offer a presentation about Advance Care Directives and DNRs. Participants may request help completing these forms after the presentation.