



First United Methodist Church

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TIDINGS

MARCH 2020

**First United Methodist Church
of Hamilton**

Pastor Rev. Larry Wimmer

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Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Lent is, of all the things it is, the season of prayer. It is not the prayer found in books but in every breath that we take. It needs not words only attention to the holiness of all life. Once attained we see in all we meet something to place in the presence of God. It is as if each step we take draws us nearer to the heart of God though the steps we take are not obviously any different than the steps we have always taken. Indeed, it is the same steps, the same life, the ordinary way of our every day, but consciously and intentionally in the presence of God. God is and was always present but it is our acknowledgement of this reality that changes everything for us. Lent is the season for paying attention to what is holy. It is a season of prayer, the prayer of being in the presence of God. Kathleen Norris put it this way: *Prayer is not doing, but being. It is not words but the beyond-words experience of coming into the presence of something much greater than oneself. It is an invitation to recognize holiness, and to utter simple words – “Holy, Holy, Holy” – in response. Attentiveness is all; I sometimes think of prayer as a certain quality of attention that comes upon me when I’m busy doing something else. . . . Prayer does not “want.” It is ordinary experience lived with gratitude and wonder, a wonder that makes us know the smallness of oneself in an enormous and various universe.* The words of the Psalmist (Psalm 122) speak of the blessing that abides in our hearts when the Spirit of the living God resides there and prayer becomes the breath of life:

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”
For the sake of my relatives and
Friends
I will say, “Peace be within
You.”
For the sake of the house of the
Lord our God, I will seek your good.

May the season of Lent find you in the presence of all that is holy.

God Moves in Interesting Ways

We will have 2 special sales along with the thrift shop on March 21 and March 28, 2020. We have had a donation of children's toys, many still in original boxes, and new clothing. We are not looking for donations, just shoppers and helpers.

Set up in the Fireside Room on the 20th and 27th. I will be there both weekends to assist with this new venture. More details to follow. Questions, please ask Winnie.

We Live by Faith

What does that mean, I spent most of my formative years trying to answer that question. I, and my eight siblings grew up on a large farm in New Hampshire; large gardens, Dad growing chickens and an Uncle raising Cattle. Food was plentiful but no pay check ever came in the mail. When we asked why we were told we live by faith and God will provide. We were poor as church mice and didn't even know it. Oh yes, we were living in a church community and the word faith was used frequently, but I didn't know what it really meant.

I have spent time reading "The Message", the bible in contemporary language. {Hebrews 11:1-3}; "The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith is the firm foundation under everything, that makes life worth living. It is our handle on what we can't see..." In studying that I began to see what it was that my parents were teaching us, money was not all that mattered. Have you ever wondered what the world would be like if we didn't have so many things? Where would we be if we had to depend on God for the supplying of our needs?

Faith, trust, belief and loyalty, they all tie in together. Lately, my faith has been shaken and my prayers seem to go unanswered. It would be easy to cry and ask God "where are you, why don't you answer me?" Then I settle down and remember that there are many kinds of answers and I must slow down and give God a chance to answer in His way. The results of faith are seen in the radical changes that people experience when they place their trust in Jesus. It was heartening to read the words of Jesus when he told his skeptical disciples that power is available to all who have faith. The gospel of {Luke 17:6} states "To place one's trust in Jesus is to open the door for radical change in the meaning of life itself" Another way of stating faith in God is clarified as "belief in the Lord".

It has been a long journey from the farm in New Hampshire to where I am today. There have been times when my faith was sorely tempted and I was ready to throw in the towel but that still small voice kept calling me back. That is where the trust came in and my faith struggled to the top. I must confess that faith for healing of dear and close friends is where I have the most problems. I realize that my profession gets in the way sometimes as I know too much, that is when my faith is really put to the test. I do know what it means to live and walk by faith and I am glad I do

*Keep the Date – Maundy
Thursday, April 9th at
7:00PM.*

(Sorry, these were not in the last Tidings)

January Flowers	In Memory of	Given By
January 5	Epiphany Sunday	Sandy Barton
January 12	Arthur Washburn	Eleanor Washburn
January 19	Greg and Joseph Sweeney Abby and Henry Ryder	The Sweeney Family
January 26	Feodor Teshko	Charlotte Teshko

March Flowers	In Memory of	Given By
March 1	Henry Tobyne	Barbara Tobyne
March 8	Mary Chute and in Honor of Hazel Schrock	Carol and Jerry Schrock
March 15	Andy Teshko	Charlotte Teshko
March 22	Kay and Jack Turner	Diana and Jim Campbell
March 29	Gen and Les Butt Bea and Bob Campbell	Diane and Jim Campbell

2020 Easter Lilies and Tulips

Lilies and Tulips will be placed in the sanctuary on **Easter Sunday, April 12th**. If you wish to place a flower in honor or memory of someone, please fill out this form and return it to **Sandy Barton** with a check for **\$11.00 per plant**. You may give these to Sandy directly or return them to the church office. Please make the check payable to **The FUMC Flower Fund**, and write "Easter Flowers" in the memo. **The deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 29th**. Flowers may be picked up after the Easter Worship Service on **April 12th**. Additional order forms may be found in the outer Narthex or in the church office. **Please print:**

of Tulips:_____ # of Lilies:_____ Given by:_____

In Memory of:_____ In Honor of:_____

In Memory of:_____ In Honor of:_____

Check one: Plants will be picked up_____ Deliver plants to shut- ins_____

March Birthday Wishes Go To:

2 Michaela Begonis, Robby Hambelton

11 Millie Davis

15 Laura Wallick

17 Jim Campbell, Silvia Koch-Brown

22 Chuck Barton

23 Winnie Martin

31 Richard Walsh