

STEEPLE TIDINGS

JANUARY 2012

ISSUE 1-12

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Mission Statement

As followers of Jesus Christ, our mission is to make Christian

Disciples:

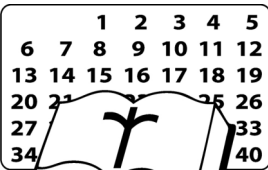
by using our spiritual gifts; by practicing the means of grace; and by living our faith.



JANUARY at HUMC

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Worship at HUMC
Sundays at 10 AM
Join us for Sunday School



New Sermon Series

Sermon Series

Islam, Judaism, and Christianity all preach that there is one, sovereign God. Does that mean that they are just variations of the same thing? Is it the same God? How should Christians view and interact with believers of the other religions that trace their roots to Abraham? And what about people of other faiths, including atheists? Beginning January 8, Rev. Dave will explore these and other questions as we ponder “**Encountering Other Faiths.**” Join us for this thought-provoking series.

Church Council Meeting—January 10

The first meeting of the Church Council is Tuesday, January 10, 7 PM, Yates. Attendance at this meeting is very important. Committee chairs and their members are encouraged to attend and participate. The meeting is also open to everyone. Your input is vital in helping to keep our church on track.



Some Thoughts from Me —Rev. Dave



Well, it's that time again.

Time when we look back at the year we've just completed, and look forward to the year to come. There is much to look at on both accounts, for 2011 was a busy year, and 2012 holds so many blessings waiting to be encountered.

For me, 2011 was a year of extremes. As with all

years, it was a time for saying goodbyes and hellos. We said goodbye to some dear friends this past year; Gloria Wages, Mercy Cote, Mildred Doreski, Eveyln Prostka, Iva Meyer and, of course, Bill Munsell and Barry Sackett. We also said hello to Liam Briggs, Brandon Sim, Kaylee Andrews and Alexander Michaud. Truly 2011 was a reminder that the circle of life remains unbroken, even when we look at the extremes.

The weather was extreme, too; perhaps more so than any other year I can remember. From the heavy snows of January to the heavy snow of October, 2011 was a year filled with weather related events. We endured tornadoes (I thought they only happened in the mid-west), hurricanes (don't they belong down around the Gulf of Mexico?), earthquakes (I thought California had the patent on those), floods, and several bouts of high winds. And each time one of these natural disasters happened, we, as the body of Christ, were given an opportunity to respond—and boy, did we do a great job! We checked in on neighbors and shut-ins to be sure that they were okay. We cut and hauled downed tree limbs. We gathered coats, and food and cleaning supplies. We reached out in ways that many of us thought we could never do, and yet reach out we did.

2011 brought other extremes, as well. Our VBS program, under the loving and guiding hand of Becky Michaud continues to grow; literally bursting at the seams. Nearly 100 kids participated this year! Our music program, under the skillful direction of Julie LaRocca continues to amaze

and bless us each Sunday, providing us with not only a truly amazing choir, but gifted individuals, duets, trios and even kids' chime choirs. The spring concert that began in 2010 has taken root, and looks to expand in the coming year into a two-concert happening surrounded by a community neighborhood festival. Sunday School continues to grow, reaching more kids with the stories of our faith, and preparing them to share the love of God with everyone they meet.

Truly this past year has been a year of extremes; extreme challenges and extreme blessings. But let's not forget that there is another year just beginning and that means new opportunities, new challenges, and new blessings just waiting to be discovered. There are Lay Speaking courses coming this month, new Lenten opportunities, that neighborhood festival (watch for more information. It should be an exciting event..), Vacation Bible School, new opportunities for our Youth Group, confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, the annual mission trip to Salem Economic Ministry (see Tracy Weisel—you don't want to miss this trip) and more. For me, personally, 2012 holds much excitement, as I will be going to England in September to experience the history of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. What a year 2012 is shaping up to be—and it is just starting!

As you prepare for all that this new year has to offer you, I hope that you will take a moment and look back at all of the blessings God has poured out on you. I hope that you will also pause to look ahead. God has so many blessings waiting for us— blessings just waiting to be

See Thoughts—page 3.

Thoughts —continued.

discovered. Take the time to enjoy them.

May this new year find you happy, healthy, and blessed. And may the love and grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, be yours every day of the year.

Dave

Lay Speaking



HUMC and the United Methodist Church of Enfield are combining to offer both Basic and Advanced Lay Speaking classes in January. Both classes are ten hours in length, and will be offered from 9-3 on two successive Saturdays, **January 14, and 21**. The Basic Course helps individuals discern and respond to God's particular call on their lives. The course encourages each person to recognize and employ his or her spiritual gifts for the Church to become what God intended it to be. This course invites participants to *consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of*

a group that holds members accountable in discipleship. It offers guidelines for optimal communication in leadership and presents numerous type of ministries in which Lay Speaking Ministers may assume roles. The Basic Course will be taught by Rev. Williams.

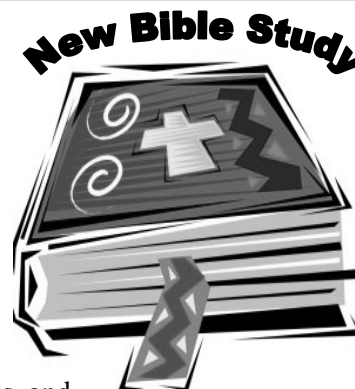
The Advanced Lay Speaking course, entitled "Lay Speakers Lead Prayer," is available to those who have already completed the Basic Course. This course is designed to teach lay speakers how to pray with and for others. The text we will use is "*Dimensions of Prayer*" by Douglas Van Steere. This course focuses on the ministry of the lay speaker who either occasionally or regularly leads congregations, organizations, classes, or groups in prayer. The Advanced Class will be taught by Rev. Morgans. Cost for basic class is \$20; cost for the advanced class will be \$30.

Registration for both classes is \$10, and you can register by contacting the church office (860-749-7098). We need to have all registrations in by January 10, so that we can be sure to have enough materials on hand. Questions? See Rev. Williams.

Beginning **January 11** we will be offering a four week Bible Study on the **Book of James**. At the heart of this short letter, written by one of those closest to Jesus, is an absolute conviction that love of one's neighbor fulfills the Law.

Join us for a wonderful look at a book that reminds us that "faith without works is dead." The study will be offered **Wednesday evenings at 7 PM and Thursday afternoons at 2 PM, beginning January 11**, and will focus on such questions as "The Mysteries of James," "What is Faith?," "The Dangers in Ourselves," and "Warnings and Instructions."

As always we are asking for a \$10 donation to cover the cost of the materials, and financial assistance is available. As an added bonus, the study book also contains a seven-week study of the Book of Galatians, which we will offer beginning sometime in February. That's like getting two studies for the price of one.



United Methodist Women — Linda Borio



NEXT MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2012
10:30 AM

VALENTINE CARE PACKAGES PROGRAM

The United Methodist Women extend heartfelt wishes for a Healthy New Year in 2012. As we have done in the past, we will not meet in January due to the probability of inclement weather.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at 10:30 AM.** Everyone is invited to bring a sack lunch to enjoy after we fill the care packages; hostesses will provide some desserts and refreshments. This is our annual “Valentine Care Packages” program in which we send packages and Valentines to college students and military personnel. We also send Valentines to those unable to get out in the snowy, icy weather.

Please see the box in the library for donations for the “Care Packages.” We have discovered that college students really appreciate snacks, especially, granola bars, snack foods, gum, etc. Since it may take some time for packages to reach military personnel, chocolate (in any shape or form) is probably not a good idea. Of course, cash donations are always appreciated to help defray the cost of shipping packages.

If you are aware of a college student or military person not already on our church list, please contact Isobel Skukowski prior to February 2 to ensure that person will receive one of our packages.

Happy New Year? See you on Tuesday, February 7 and don't forget your sack lunch!

P.S. We still need hostesses for the 2012 programs, specifically: two for March 13 at 2 PM ; two for April 10, at 7 PM; three for the May 8 Potluck Super at 6:30 PM; one more for September 11 potluck supper at 6:30 PM; two for October 9 at 7 PM and one more on November 13. Feel free to call (860-749-6727) or email me (ldb505@aol.com) with any questions or offers to hostess.

Tapes for Shut-ins. Did you know that we tape each service? We do! That means if you or a loved one can't make it to church on a given Sunday, you can borrow a cassette tape of the service to enjoy at your leisure. Simply see Rev. Dave, and he will be happy to get you the tape. Take your time. Listen to it as many times as you like and simply return it when you are finished.



The Wednesday Morning Crafters group is taking time off during the winter months.

We will gather again in early springtime to work on crafts for the **2012 Harvest Fair and Christmas Shoppe.**

Look in upcoming newsletters for the date of our first meeting of the new year.



CHRISTMAS TEA COOKIE WALK CHRISTMAS SHOPPE

Our 9th Annual Christmas Tea and Cookie Walk was held on Saturday, December 10, 2011. The past two years we have been blessed to have Colleen Williams open the HUMC Christmas Shoppe which enables folks to shop in the Christmas Shoppe, fill a box of cookies at the Cookie Walk and relax with friends at the Christmas Tea. No way can you get something this good at the Mall!

Usually Friday morning begins with preparation to clean the kitchen and prepare Fellowship Hall for the grand rush on

Saturday morning. This year, we were honored to participate in celebrating the life of a great man, Barry Sackett, along with his family with the funeral reception at 11 AM.

Therefore, the kitchen clean-up and Fellowship Hall set-up began in the early afternoon. Many thanks to all the hard workers in the kitchen and to Alice Allen for her help in labeling the cookies Friday afternoon. I would be remiss not to acknowledge our men of the church and their help in setting up tables in several rooms along with the necessary chairs. By 4:00 PM Fellowship Hall looked like a lovely Victorian Tea room, the Christmas Shoppe had a plethora of Christmas items waiting for a new home, and the bags of cookies were sitting on labeled trays awaiting the eager hands of those who would display them at 8:00 AM on Saturday morning.

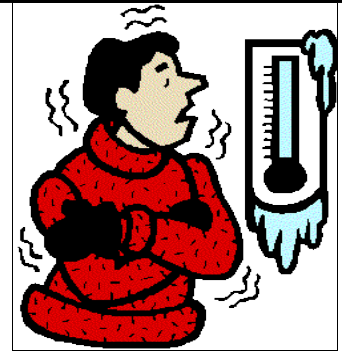
Saturday morning began at 8:00 AM for many of us. Women were bustling around in the squeaky clean kitchen and also in the Sunday School room, aka, cookie walk room. Those women who work in the “cookie walk” room are a special breed. You must understand, I tell the women “no tasting is allowed, unless it is a broken cookie”. Therefore, you can imagine my wonderment when I hear, “Oh dear, here is a broken cookie. I guess I’ll have to eat it.” followed by a giggle. If I dare question them, they appear insulted that I might infer they broke the cookie on purpose....oh well. Truthfully, we had fewer than a scattering of broken cookies amidst the hundreds of dozens of cookies baked by everyone. By 10:00 AM all cookies were displayed on labeled trays including the gluten free cookies. It appeared we might have had a tad fewer cookies than last year. Last year we sold 97 containers, and this year we sold 89 containers. I neglected to figure out how many varieties we had until the public arrived and began scoffing up all the cookies. So I asked my helpers to keep all the “labels”. I believe I may have missed a few, since my lightening quick brain didn’t come up with this idea until several of the labels had been trashed. In retrospect, I think my brain did pretty well, and now I can actually give you a list of the types of cookies we had...give or take a few. The list totals 70 varieties, and I know there were a few more, so if I didn’t list “your” cookies, please forgive me, and know that I’ll be “on the ball” next year and will be able to give a more accurate account of all cookie varieties that were baked and offered. We did have an abundance of chocolate chip cookies....not necessarily a bad thing to have, but the more chocolate chip, the fewer varieties available. As a comparison, we had 85 varieties last year.

The Christmas Tea had exquisite offerings. Personally, I always look forward to the cucumber sandwiches. In addition to the cucumber sandwiches, everyone was able to enjoy a great variety of other

See Christmas at HUMC—page 6.

Communion Offering— *Holly Fisher*

Since the need is so great, the **Communion** offering for the month of January will again go to the Enfield Fuel Fund. The monies donated will provide energy assistance to low-income families in our community. As a result of the storm in October, many of us had a glimpse of how difficult and uncomfortable it is to be in a home without heat. Thankfully we only experienced it for a relatively short time and in moderate temperatures. However, for some of our neighbors the lack of heat is a daily problem. Please be generous to help those whose needs are great during the cold winter months.



Christmas at HUMC — *continued*

sandwiches, scones and delicious sweets for every sweet tooth imaginable. I feel so pampered having someone pour my tea or punch with such a sweet smile. When was the last time you felt so pampered?? Instead of lovely CD music playing in Fellowship Hall, we were honored and blessed to enjoy the live music of Richard Prior the entire two hours. Thank you so much, Richard.

Esta, Colleen and I wish to thank everyone who cleaned, baked dozens of cookies, made sandwiches, made desserts, made craft items, searched their home for Christmas items, displayed cookies, ran errands, poured tea/punch, filled and refilled plates and trays, collected tickets, washed dishes, and the multitude of jobs associated with a successful Christmas Tea/Cookie Walk/Christmas Shoppe. I would also like to acknowledge Dot Prest and her contribution for the past eight years as the Cookie Walk Money person. Dot is unable to continue in this position, and we missed her upbeat attitude and smile.

We all, together, made this special day happen. Esta and I call this our HUMC Christmas Miracle, because we simply ask, and everyone provides. The financial report is a grand total of more than \$2700.00.

Again, heartfelt thanks to everyone....and rest up. Our **10th Annual Christmas Tea and Cookie Walk and Christmas Shoppe** is only 350 days or so away!

God's Blessings to You All,

*(Written by Linda Borio, Cookie Walk Chairperson,
for Esta Clarke, Christmas Tea Chairperson,
and Colleen Williams, Christmas Shoppe Chairperson.)*

You can find a list of the cookies made on the last page of this issue of Steeple Tidings.



Evergreen Healthcare Center, Stafford Springs, CT

Looking for a chance to make a real difference in someone's life? Join us on the fourth Tuesday morning of every month as we conduct a worship service at the Evergreen Nursing and Rehab Center (adjacent to Johnson Memorial). The service runs from 11:00 to 11:30 AM and includes old favorite hymns, prayers, scripture, a very brief message, and the sacrament of Holy Communion. We are always in need of folks to assist in the singing (no solos, don't worry) and to just generally greet the residents who come to the service. ***It's fun. It's easy. And it really does make a difference. Hope to see you there.***

Here Wee Grow!— Phyllis Phelan



We hope all had a very nice holiday and are now looking to a happy 2012

When children returned to school after the holidays we had time for sharing of holiday stories. It seems everyone enjoyed being with their family and friends but are now ready to be back with their school friends and get back in the routine of things. December was a busy time with our holiday programs and parties. Our four year old group celebrated the season by singing for their families. The sanctuary was filled with family members and friends. It was followed by a reception which gave us time to wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

The three year old program was also followed by their class party. Many family members joined us for the event. The group was made up of three years old, but they were not shy at all. They stood on the risers or on the stage, some sang, some waved, some hopped up and down, one played 'peek a boo', and some just did the motions to the music. It was a special time for the staff of HWG as well as for their parents and grandparents.

January brings three new families to HWG. Two are returning to HWG with their second child. We welcome the Burkholders, Kudas and Alfano families to our program. It's always nice to renew old friendships and make new ones too.

Members of the staff also shared stories from their holiday. Mrs. Heck and her family traveled to England to visit her ninety plus year old grandmother, her brother and aunts, uncles and cousins. I received an e-mail saying they had arrived safely. She also let me know that the first winter storm had also arrived and they were looking forward to a white Christmas. Mrs. Ryan and her family traveled to Florida to bask in the sunshine and visit family. They got a firsthand look at the resident alligator which seems to have taken up residence in her parent's back yard! The rest of the staff enjoyed being home for the holidays with family members joining them. All-in-all it was a very happy time for members of the staff.

With the arrival of a new year, we would like to say thank you to the membership of HUMC for supporting our program. As with others, the economy has taken its toll on HWG as well. Supplies and equipment costs have increased, and we have had to rethink what is purchased. The economy has also hit some of our families. With the loss of a job comes withdrawing from preschool. Unfortunately this has happened recently, and there is an ongoing threat it could happen again as the New Year begins. Not exactly the way we'd like to begin 2012.

We ask you, the congregation, to support HWG when you can and as always, continue with your prayers. Pray for our families and for our staff. Again, thank you

Until next time.....



Many thanks to all who became Christmas elves and provided gifts for deserving children in the Enfield community. Even the Grinch was moved by your generosity. When he showed up at church on Sunday, Reverend Dave and the kids were able to teach him the importance of giving to others, rather than taking.

Again, thanks for your generosity!!



Announcing ...
EARLY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING
In the Tri-State District of
The New England Annual Conference
January 7 and February 4, 2012

Early response Training (the UMCOR Basic ERT course) is scheduled to take place **from 8:30 AM– 5 PM on January 7, 2012, at the Milford UMC, 327 N. River Rd., Milford, NH 03055 and on February 4, 2012, at the Cornerstone UMC, 20 Jenkins Rd.,**

Saco, ME 04072. There is a \$25.00 registration fee to cover the cost of Basic ERT manual, ERT T-shirt, morning refreshments, and lunch. The Rev. John Blackadar and David Stackpole, UMCOR certified trainers, will conduct this UMCOR training.

2011 brought several disasters to New England, especially in Vermont. The New England Conference currently has about 100 ERTs with UMCOR badges. We are in urgent need several more ERTs to help survivors of future flood/winter storm damage in NH, ME and Vermont. Emphasis will be put on Mud-out and debris removal tasks during this training.

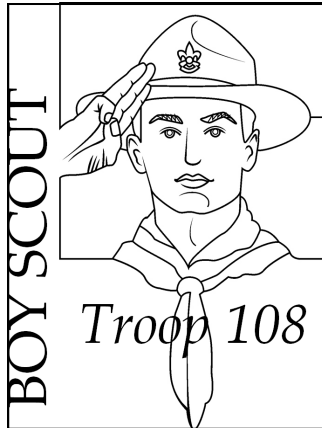
What is an ERT?

Most UMCOR teams respond to disasters in the recovery stage helping to rebuild and replace what was damaged by the disaster or removed during mud-out. Their job is to get people back into their homes. ERTs respond soon after emergency crews have completed search and rescue. ERTs remove yard debris, do mud-out (or gutting) of all water soaked and damaged goods and structures as well as clear roofs and cover them with tarps. Once walls are bared to the studding, ERTs treat the studding and other surfaces to destroy and remove mold. Then they sanitize all surfaces to help prevent future outbreaks. Their job is to make the damaged house **safe, sanitary and secure**. ERTs work when the media is still present letting the world and our churches know that The United Methodist Church is there from the beginning to the end. ERTs have to wear authorized badges or Emergency personnel will not let them in the flooded area at this early stage. The New England Conference and UMCOR will provide badges to all volunteers who take and pass this training and have had a successful background check. The New England Conference conducts and covers the cost of all ERT background checks for laity.

To be certified ERTs must have eight hours of training. Proper use of tools and proper wearing attire are discussed. At the end of the session you will be tested and if you pass, you will be eligible to receive an UMCOR ERT badge providing you also pass a Safe Sanctuary Background Check. The minimum age requirement is 18. Youth who will be 18 by June 30, 2012, can take the class and receive their certification and badge.

To register, please contact Dave Stackpole at 603-465-7885, cell 603-244-0713, or vimne-cumc@charter.net. Please provide your name, address, phone number, mobile phone number, email address and church by email to register.. When you register, Dave will send you the information to initiate your background check. Beginning the process in advance of the class will speed up the process of issuing badges – hopefully to one week after completion of the class. Also indicate which session you will be attending.

Greetings from Troop 108 — Scott Vujs



***Happy New Year to the families of HUMC
from the scouts and families of Troop 108!***

As we start a new year, Troop 108 celebrates our 74th year of existence and chartered membership with HUMC. It all started in January 1938 when six young men of Hazardville approached the Pastor at HUMC about starting a Boy Scout Troop. By May 1938, 12 scouts and leaders became the original members of Troop 108. Fast forward 74 years to 2012. The troop now has 40 scouts and 18 leaders. We have grown over the years and have served many young men in the community.

December was a great month for the troop. We started the month by delivering Poinsettia Plants and Christmas Cactuses as one of our annual fund raisers. Also we had delivery of the annual Popcorn sale as another BSA wide fundraiser.

We hosted 10 Webelos scouts from Packs 108 and 2000 of Enfield as they visited our troop to get ready to crossover into Boy Scouts. Several other Cub Scout Packs will be scheduled to visit our troop shortly. It appears to be a very good recruiting season among the town's Cub Scout Packs.

December's campout was our traditional Video Games overnigher. The scouts also participated in the Wreaths Across America Ceremony and a bowling night out as part of the campout. This campout rewards the scouts for the past year's hard work on Scouting Skills.

We ended the month with our family Holiday Party. Refreshments were served and a game involving the exchange of grab bag gifts was part of the highlights of this event. We also took a moment of silence to remember our departed scouts and scouters, as well as all departed family members this holiday season.

With the New Year's arrival, Troop 108's activities promises to be a busy year with weekly scout meetings, our annual Scout Sunday Celebration and Banquet, monthly camping trips, Pasta and Scrapbooking fundraisers, participating in the Four Chaplains Mass, Naval Ritual, Memorial Day Parade, Yawgoog Scout Reservation Summer Camp, and our annual Mystery Trip which this year is to Philadelphia Pennsylvania. Some new activities will include the snow adventure campout and a Bike Trip and Family Campout in Cape Cod.

Stay tuned for more details as these activities take place throughout the year.

Troop 108 thanks the HUMC for its continued support of our troop!



To that wonderful volunteer production staff...

Heartfelt thanks to the gracious, considerate production staff whose nimble fingers made short work of our December issue of Steeple Tidings . . .

Pat Owens and Nancy Dyer,

with special thanks to **Don Niemann** for all his support and help.

~On the Personal Side~

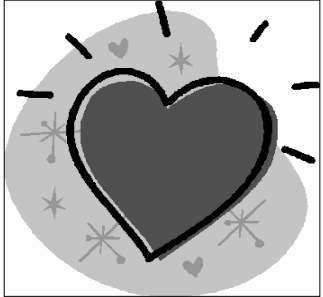


Dear Friends in Christ,
We have been so blessed by the many expressions of love that you have poured out on this Christmas season. Thank you for the cards, gifts and tidings of good will. We pray that you move into the coming year with the confidence of the children of God, knowing God's bountiful love for you and for all of his children. May you share the message of salvation with everyone you meet, and may your life be your living testimony.

Rev. Dave & Colleen

It is with grateful hearts that we send our thanks to each of you who sustained us with your prayers, notes, visits and cards during Barry's illness and his passing. A huge thank you to our UMW for the beautiful buffet after his service; you ladies are amazing! To our extended choir, thank you, thank you, thank you!!! What a gift your music was to us!!!!

Bob, Chris, Doug and Barbara Sackett.



After years of dedicated service and leadership in our kitchen, Pat Owens has decided to step aside. We cannot thank Pat enough for everything she has done to keep up with all the duties involved with our kitchen. It's really no small task but she lovingly kept us in order. A testament to the work that she did is the fact that we need to replace her with a **big** committee. We are in the process of forming this committee and volunteers are welcome. One of the first tasks will be to eliminate a lot of the clutter so we can do a major cleaning. So, if you happen to be missing a dish or a container, check the church kitchen or you may not find it again. And, in the future, please remember to put your name on your property and take it home promptly.

Again, we thank Pat for all her hard work, dedication and unselfish time spent in our kitchen.

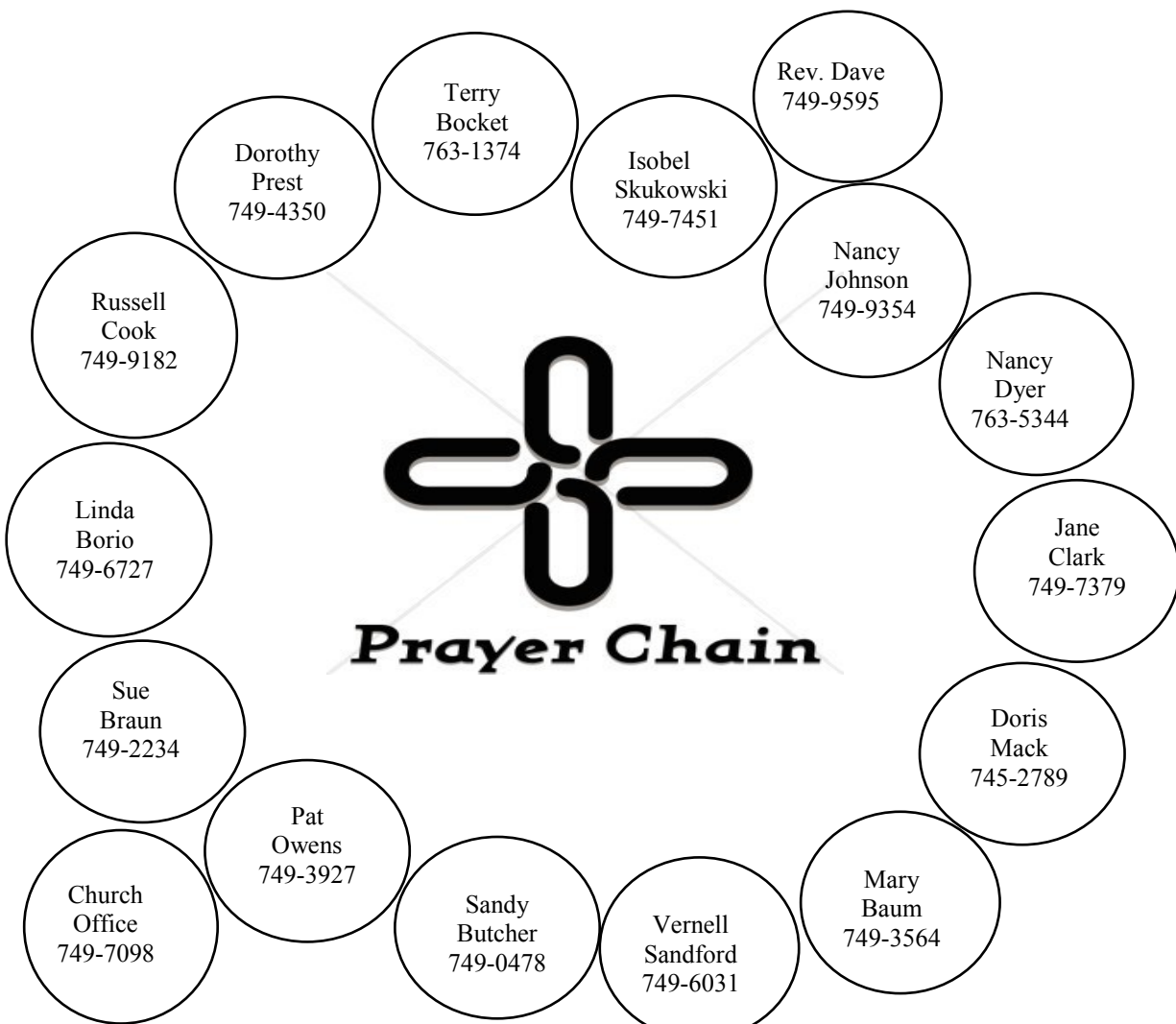


January Birthdays

Happy Birthday!

1	Marie Prior Jackie Michaud
6	Jennifer Baker
8	Chick Comparetto
12	Cathy Schultz
15	Janice Holmes
16	Linda Versteeg
19	Janette Young
27	Bertha Somero
29	Doris Mack

Call the church office at 860-749-7098 to have your name included on our birthday lists!!



Please keep the following in your prayers

John Allen, Gerald Benard, Jane Clark,
Esta Clarke, Berta Clawson, Molly Johnson, Nancy Johnson,
Betty Mientus, Rev. Dale Neuffer, Mary Nickerson,
Peg Smith, Peg Steintert, Ron Uricchio, Janet Wyatt, David Weatherby

Pray also for these Members

Babs Baker, Redstone Rehab Facility, 135 Benton Dr, E.Longmeadow, MA
Asa and Hildegard Waller, Suffield House, 1 Canal Road, Suffield, CT
Bertha Somero, Parkway Healthcare, 1157 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT

In Christian Sympathy

To Barbara Sackett and her three sons and family members of
Barry Sackett who went home to the Lord on December 3.

*If you have a name to add or notice a name that is missing,
please contact Isobel Skukowski or the church office.*

