

THIRD AVENUE UNITED CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2024



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD ~ Brian Welford

I trust everyone had a great holiday season and were able to enjoy the special family times associated with the Christmas season. It may have been "brown "outside in December, but I hope the spirit of Christmas allowed for lives to be thankful, joyous, and healthy. No one knows what the next year will bring, but with all our work and dedication to the life in Third Avenue, hope abounds.

With all the unrest and turmoil in our country and throughout the world, it is important to again appreciate the many blessings of being where we are and how we live. We strive to make our community a better place, and our church is the base for that work. While the expense of our large building presents challenges, we continue to look at ways to ensure that we can continue to provide the services our community needs.

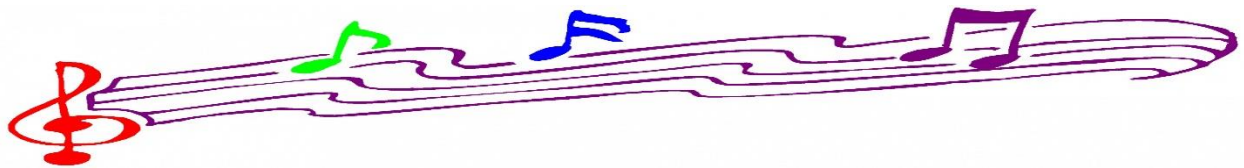
We depend on you, our members, for your continued support of Third Avenue, both by your regular giving and by attending our fundraising efforts. Whether you are a regular attendee at church or only able to attend sporadically, getting set up on E-Transfers or PAR (pre authorized withdrawals) are safe and efficient ways to support our church throughout the year. Our church family and the community have always shown strong support for the different events we have, and we humbly ask for you to continue by attending and volunteering at functions in the future. Working together, we can make a difference.

After some delays, our AED machine has been obtained and is located in the lower landing in the church. We are fortunate to have a qualified instructor who is willing to provide some first aid training to interested people at no charge. Time is critical if someone is having a medical emergency, and anyone can help in that time of need. Please contact the office to sign up for a training session. Again, we can make a difference.

Our winter weather is with us now, but we hope that, if able, you can join us for our Sunday services. See you in church. 😊

The Stewardship Team ~ Kathleen Link

The Stewardship team would like you to 'save the date' for the next "Sweeping the Dust out of the Soul" concert 🎵 Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 1:30 pm featuring: Sarah and Kanndece, the NBCK Jazz Band, Dianne Jones, Greg Corcoran and others. The free will offering collected at this concert supports the United Church Mission and Service fund. "This fund represents our collective way to be God's presence in the world. It is who we are and what we do."



One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of his older deacons to lead in the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was totally perplexed. The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour. But after you mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits."



"Lord, help us to realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After You get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits. Amen."

Now, this is not to say there won't be times for honest, broken-hearted mourning. We've all been alive long enough to know that such days will come. That said, the words of this wise deacon's prayer ring true because in the work of Christ, everything resolves into resurrection.

I pray that when things aren't going your way, you'll find the hopeful resolve to wait for, and even expect, the biscuits.

Peace and joy - Pastor Jim ~ Submitted by Ken Holliday

Christian Education Committee ~ Lorna Reimer

Third Avenue Sunday School has weekly classes on Sunday morning. The only Sunday when there will be no class is February 18th which is the beginning of the February school break.

Our most consistent class is the Intermediate group (Grades 2 to 5). The children enjoy a Learning Time with Rev. Hills at the beginning of the Service. It is a great way to relate Bible stories to the everyday lives of our children.

Rev. Hills also has the children involved in special services such as the upcoming Candle Ritual during the season of Lent. The first Sunday of Lent is February 18, 2024.

The Youth Activity Club continues to meet on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 throughout the winter. Ken Holliday and Graeme Hoover supervise.

WORSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP – Lorenzo Bacchetto

Welcome friends to the latest installment of Third Avenue's Newsletter. Our committee is looking for some additional members. Lately we've been meeting every second month on Mondays at 4 pm in the church. If you have any questions or are interested, don't hesitate to contact one of us. By the way, we are Lorenzo Bacchetto, Ilene Wettergreen, Bob MacKay, Val FitzGerald, Peg Maunula, Wayne Schlapkohl, Sarah Wood, and Rev. Jo-Ann Hills.

Do You Need a Ride to Church on Sundays? Right now we are exploring the amount of interest in a pick-up service for our congregation members. If you might be interested in such a service, please contact the church office to indicate this. If there is enough interest, we will begin looking into options.



Coffee Time before church has been suspended. Unfortunately, there hasn't been enough interest. Keep an eye on the bulletin. Perhaps we will surprise you with special coffee and muffin services on the occasional Sunday. Just an idea.

Mark Your Calendar

February 13 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

February 14 - Ash Wednesday. Lenten Lunch with Imposition of Ashes.

February 18 - 1st Sunday of Lent with communion.

February 25 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

March 1 - World Day of Prayer.

March 3 - 3rd Sunday of Lent

March 10 - 4th Sunday of Lent

March 17 - 5th Sunday of Lent

March 24 - Palm Sunday with Sunday School involvement.

March 28 - Maundy Thursday with Pot Luck supper representing the Last Supper.

March 29 - Good Friday service.

March 31 - Easter Sunday with communion.

Please check bulletins and/or the church website for timings and any changes.

A Christian guy named Bill saw an ad online for a Christian horse, so he went to check it out. The horse's owner said, "It's easy to ride him. Just say 'Praise the Lord!' to make him go and 'Amen!' to make him stop." Bill got on the horse and said, "Praise the Lord!" Sure enough, the horse started to walk. "Praise the Lord!" he said again, and the horse began to trot. "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" he yelled, and the horse broke into a gallop. Bill was enjoying his ride so much that he almost didn't notice the cliff he and the horse were about to go over. Bill shouted "AMEN!" at the top of his lungs, and the

horse stopped right at the edge of the cliff. Relieved, Bill said, "Phew! Praise the Lord!"



Administrative Support Committee Spring 2024 ~ Ray Humenny

Committee Members: Raymond Humenny – Chairperson/Board Member; Merv Zulynik, Ray Hoover, Ken Holiday – Committee Members; Karen Wharington – Treasurer; Barb Truemner/Valorie Higgs - Office Coordinators

The purpose of the Administrative Support Committee is to provide necessary Administrative Support to the life and work of Third Avenue United Church. This shall include fiscal management, maintenance of the church and property and utilization of the church building. Hopefully our cold part of winter is over and we can enjoy warmer times. I think that we can all agree that snow is needed to provide the much needed moisture for our farmer and lake friends. Utility costs are always rising. That I know. We can't seem to get a break from those costs. We did have an issue with one of our seven furnaces that are required to heat our building. It was relatively minor and we were able to have it repaired quite quickly.

Many of the groups are back in our building making use of our different areas which is great to see again. With the messy conditions outside please help our cleaning staff by trying to leave the mess in the entrance if possible.

Sunday brunches are continuing with some good numbers in attendance. It is very nice to see the support. Remember to invite some friends to come join you for a good meal and fill the dinning hall. Many thanks again to all for the support that continues to come in. With out your help it would be a very hard battle. We continue to work steadily on regular maintenance of our church building that is always required. Thank you for supporting us in this endeavor.

