

May Newsletter 2021

Greetings Lake and River Parish



This last month has been busy at the United Church. Sunday School has started back up and Our children have made greeting cards to send out to our members in Nursing homes and to those who are shut-in at home.

June Walker celebrated her 91st birthday and the church went to her house to sing hymns June picked out herself. It was so inspirational seeing June sitting outside with us all singing the hymns she loves so much. It was a bit chilly but she would not go in she was enjoying it so much. Robin played the keyboard and many of us sang the wonderful hymns. For me I felt like God was there with us. I have not felt so inspired as I did that hour we spent with June. Then we had cupcakes and beverages after.

Our Sister Sharon Connell has gone to be with the Lord. 4/30/2021. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends and her church family. She was a light that shined in this world and she was the true meaning of Christian by her actions which were many. God bless you, Sharon.



I don't know if I mentioned in last letter we have a new treasurer Fran Oliver. She is doing a wonderful job. We are so thankful to her. Debbie Suller did that job for more than 20 years and hopefully Fran will stay that long.

Three Mile Bay has started up the chicken and biscuit dinner again.

Some of our summer people are returning to Cape. Praise the Lord, we have missed you all.

Lee Page Outreach Committee

In the February newsletter, Lee Page inspired me with her witness of what the United Church meant to her in her faith journey and invited others to share theirs. This evening, preparing for Holy Week, I am moved to share a bit of what this church means to me. I didn't grow up in Cape Vincent, don't have generations of ancestors in the cemeteries, but that is not what belonging is based on. I loved the people of this parish long before becoming a member in 2014. Don and Tina, Nicholas and Jamie St. Onge, Don and Mary Jane Brown, Irma Hammond, Ada Pierce, June Walker, Deb Suller were all part of that. Pastor Mark Pierce was known to me better as my friend and fellow Poets and Writers group member. These were people who lived their faith to their neighbors and in the community. When we were looking for a spiritual home, we came to church one Sunday in January and were welcomed without question by Pastor Mark. He just said we were welcome. It spoke volumes that Christians everywhere recognize church family and welcome them in, blood spiritual, legal family, all united in Christ. When we were first invited to participate more fully in the life of this parish, we prayed about it and answered God's invitation extended through Don Brown. I was predisposed to Don's invitation to serve because I was so appreciative of his father Seldon's mentoring in Christian service in previous years. I also had worked with Deb Suller on a Christian coffee house at Rec. Park Center and it ministered to this community for several years. That's where I met Sharon Connell and was introduced to her wonderful group, the Hims and Hers. Sharon blessed me and us on so many musical occasions. So we felt blessed to be in this church family with these wonderful people. Lee Page and others are a real inspiration. Too many to name individually. That blessing continues to today and with God's help will continue to grow as I hope to be just like June Walker when I grow up into Christ.

Linda Rowe

Pastor Chris' Message

A blessed Season of Resurrection to you, my Friends! A Happy Easter to you! As I write to you this month, we are all still celebrating the glorious Resurrection of our Lord and I greet you in his Name! I am still hearing the strains of “Hallelujah” of the hymn “Christ the Lord is Risen today” that we sang on Resurrection Day. And I must thank both Robin Booth and Tammy Beerman for their excellent musical ministry as Organists in our Lake and River Parish over many many years!

We had a glorious Resurrection Day in our Parish Churches and later that afternoon, not only did I visit most of our homebound Parishioners, but I had the great privilege of sharing the entire worship with our beloved Sharon Connell who sang her heart out that day. We joined with the angels that day. What a blessed time of sweet communion and fellowship with Sharon and those present. She has served her Lord well and we praise God for her life and all that she meant to so many.

Resurrection for us is not a “one time” event but continues to take place where we feel as if we and our circumstances need some light. So, the light keeps on triumphing over darkness. The Season of Resurrection leads to PENTECOST. The Church was born on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon all the disciples, One Hundred and Twenty of them in the Upper Room. Each one was invested with peculiar gifts and graces for the carrying on the work of the Risen and Ascended Lord here on earth. They kept his Resurrection REAL and fully in evidence in their own lives and work and in the communities in which they ministered.

RESURRECTION brings about RENAISSANCE. That literally means REBIRTH! Jesus told Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews who came to Jesus by night because he wanted their meeting to remain a secret, and who was groping in the dark for TRUTH, that he “...must be born again...” Let us pray and work for that spiritual rebirth, which, with Jesus and us, will transform our communities, nation and the world!

We are observing Pentecost on May 23 this year. So, I am already wishing Happy Pentecost to each and every one of you! Come and celebrate with us and wear RED that day, because Pentecost is the birthday of the church, and we will also celebrate the anniversary of the conversion of Charles and John Wesley. Here's what happens in Acts 2: The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly, a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. God gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit to go and do things that they had never done before. God continues to give us, the children of God, the Holy Spirit and we should celebrate in the receiving of this great gift.

Happy Pentecost to you all! Let us rejoice together in all that God is doing in our lives, and may God bless us all as we wait for Pentecostal Fire!

Happy Anniversary!

We congratulate Bill & Karen Stumpf on the celebration of their 54th Wedding Anniversary and wish for them God's continued blessings upon their union.

***Happy Birthday* to all who celebrate a birthday and/or a wedding anniversary in May. God bless you all!**

Calling All Graduates

High School and College & all Recipients of professional awards

We are proud of you and congratulate you heartily!

PRAYERS FOR:

Sharon Connell's son, Joseph, daughter Cathy, and all of their relatives and friends in your prayers.

The Wahl Family on the anniversary of Hans' passing.

The Sterling and Cuppernell Families

All our bereaved families.

All who are facing health challenges, those who are recuperating from surgeries and struggling with other issues.

Peace, be still... The Lord is with you!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Every Wednesday, our Prayer Group meets at 6:00 AM – *Free Call* 1-425-436-6304. Use access code 639723#**
- **5/16, 8:00 am Worship Services resume at the *Little White Church* in Point Peninsula**
- **5/19, 4:00 pm-till – Three Mile Bay Chicken and Biscuit drive up meal**
- **Our Upper New York Annual Conference takes place virtually on June 17-19. Feel free to visit the website: unyumc.org**

UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL GUIDES

The May-June issue of the Upper Room is available at the churches.