

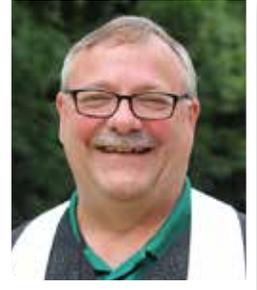
PHOTO BY ALAN BARBOUR

# Rectortown Reporter

January 2018

## From the Pastor

### Back to Basics



*Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ!*

**H**appy New Year! As 2017 is being wrapped up and relegated to the history books, 2018 looms large before us! For some, the new year will bring more of the same old... same old... same old.... For others, however, the new year brings something entirely different — it brings new possibilities and new opportunities! Since we talked about the history of the "New Year's Resolution" last January, I won't go through all of that again this year! Suffice it to say, that there is a long-standing tradition of making vows at the beginning of the year that are intended to make the coming new year *better* than the last one was.

As the New Year begins, it's time for us to make some resolutions for changes in our lives and in our church. It's time for us to make promises to God for ways through which we will become better people as we become better disciples of Jesus Christ. The question is — how will we be part of the 10% that succeed rather than the 90% that fail every year in their New Year's Resolutions? I believe we do that *together*. We succeed by loving and supporting one another — by building one another up in our failures even as we celebrate one another's successes. I believe that we succeed by believing that in God all things are possible!

I'm reminded of the time Alice [*in Wonderland*] got to a place where the road she was traveling split into many different roads. She stood wondering — and worrying — about which road she should take to continue her journey. The Cheshire Cat appeared, and Alice asked him which road to take. The cat asked her where she was going and she replied, "I don't know." So, the cat said, "Take anyone of them. They'll all get you there." The point of this is that if we're to know where we're going — then we need to know how we're going to get there.

So, this year, it's time to get "*Back to Basics*". Thus, on Saturday, January 27th, we'll come together at a Strategic Planning Session to *re-member* and honor our past as we *re-claim* who we are in our present in the midst of much change and turmoil in our lives, communities, and nation so we can *re-vision* who we will be in our tomorrows. I sincerely hope that each and every one of you will plan to attend this very important church event.

Grace and peace to each and everyone of you!

*Pastor Steve*

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## Prayer for the New Year

Creative God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth. We come to you in a new year with new desires and old fears, new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses. Because you are a God of hope, we know that you create all the possibilities of the future. Because you are a God of love, we know that you accept all the mistakes of the past. Because you are the God of our faith, we enter your gates with thanksgiving and praise. We come into your presence with gladness and a joyful noise, and we serve and bless you. Amen.

# The 1st Annual Rectortown Community Christmas Tree Decoration and Celebration Weekend



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## Rectortown Community Celebration Weekend **The Menorah Lighting**



### January Birthdays

- Kristen Hylton . . . 1/9
- Mac Kirkpatrick . . 1/29
- Paris Wegdam . . 1/31



### Top 5 New Year's Resolutions\*

1. Enjoy Life to the Fullest
2. Stay Fit and Healthy
3. Spend Less/Save More
4. Spend More Time with Family/Friends
5. Get More Organized

These were from 2017, what will yours be in 2018?

\*Poll by [www.statista.com](http://www.statista.com)

Left: Pastor Weedling, Hank Lavine (Friends of Rectortown) and Rabbi Rose Jacob kicked off the Community Celebration. Right: In the same area as the Rectortown Community Tree, stands the Community Menorah where Jewish celebration verses were spoken/sung, lead by Rabbi Jacob.

## RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

*Wed – Jan 3	7:30pm	Choir Practice
Thur – Jan 4	7:00pm	Admin Council
Mon – Jan 8	7:00pm	Trustees Meeting
Mon – Jan 15	7:00pm	Worship Meeting
Sat – Jan 27	8:00am-2:00pm	Strategic Planning Session

NOTE: \*Meets weekly

## Every Week at RUMC

### Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

Worship for Adults and Children.  
Nursery provided.

### Sunday School

Adults: 8:45-9:45 a.m.

Children: 9-9:45 a.m.

## RUMC Wants to know...

If you have any photos from our events, news or recipes you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you. Please e-mail Laura at [Laura@NatsukoGraphicDesign.com](mailto:Laura@NatsukoGraphicDesign.com). Article submissions are **due by the 15th of the month**.



### Our Mission Statement

To be a *catalyst* for Jesus Christ, with a proactive, visible, and transforming *presence*, creating an emerging *fellowship*.

Happy New Year!!

Rectortown United Methodist Church  
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