

Have a little fun, put your thinking caps on and take:

The Bible Brain Twister Challenge

Only two people submitted their findings. No one found them all. So here are the answers:

BIBLE Brain Twister

I once made a **remark** about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a **lulu**, **kept** people **looking** so hard for **facts**, and for others it was a **revelation**. Some were in a **jam**, especially since the name of the books are not capitalized, but the **truth** finally struck home to **numbers** of readers. To others, it was a real **job**. We want it to be a **most** fascinating few moments for you. **Yes**, **there** will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require **judges** to help them. I will quickly admit **it** usually takes a minister to find one of the 17, and there will be loud **lamentations** when it is found. A little lady says **she brews** a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can **compete**. Relax now, for there really are the names of 17 books of the Bible in these sentences. (One preacher found 16 books in 20 minutes. It took him three weeks to find the seventeenth one.)

However the 17th has not been found.
Can you find it????

The United Church of Newport welcomes:
Dr. John Weaver as he performs an Organ Concert
Sunday April 24th at 3:00 pm
Mark your calendars now!

SPECIAL DATES

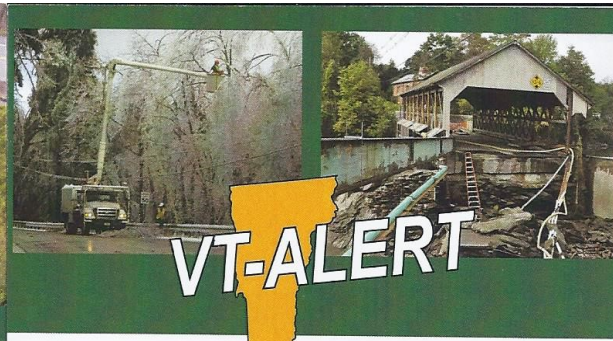
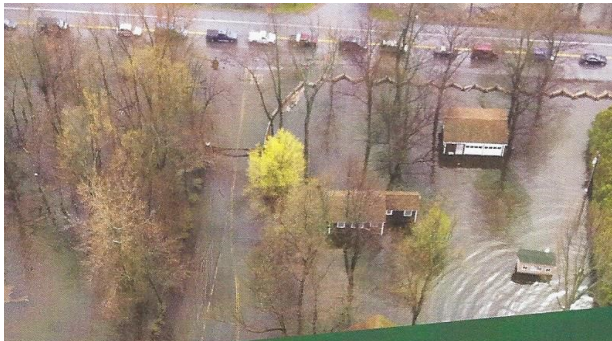
- Ash Wednesday February 10
- Blood Drawing February 12
- Palm Sunday March 20
- Easter March 27
- UCN Organ Concert April 24
- Mother’s Day May 8
- Northsong May 15
- NACO June 5
- Relay for Life June 25

Every morning you choose your attitude for the day....
Choose wisely

United Church of Newport
63 Third Street
Newport, VT 05855

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YOUTH ACTIVITIES FOR 2016

Feb 14th Valentine Party Location tbd

Mar 20th Bowling or Sledding Party

Apr 10th visit Jedd's Sugar House

May 7th Participate in "VT Green Up Day",

9-12 with lunch

Jun 12th Hike and picnic at Valerie's,

4-8pm pot luck

**MORE DETAILS AS WE GET CLOSER TO
THE DATES**



Happy Birthday to You! And You! And You!

We are going to have a Birthday Party!

Not just one party-one each month.

Come join the fun!

The Last Sunday of each month.



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF NEWPORT IS
ORGANIZING A TEAM FOR THE
NEK RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT**



**THERE ARE MANY SURVIVORS AMONG US.
LET'S CELEBRATE THEIR SURVIVAL AND REMEMBER
THOSE WHO LOST THE FIGHT.**

**PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE TEAM, MAKING A
DONATION, AND OR SPONSORING A LUMINARY BAG.
MORE INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW IN NEWSLETTER, SUNDAY BULLETINS,
AND BULLETIN BOARD AT CHURCH.**

**UNITED ANGELS AGAINST CANCER
CURRENT TEAM MEMBERS ARE:**



**THE OFFICIAL SPONSOR
OF BIRTHDAYS!**

**SUSAN KUZMA, VALERIE
RITTERSHAUSEN, JUDY
HURD, SHERRY BRADLEY,
KATHY AIKEN.**



February– March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 WL –Peg SL mtg	1 FEBRUARY	2	3 B&G mtg	4	5	6
7 WL—Janet Mardi Gras luncheon & Valentine making after service	8	9	10 WL—Janet ASH WED—7pm Fin & Exec Bd mtgs	11	12 Red Cross Blood Drawing—10-3	13
14 WL—Janet M&H mtg Youth Event	15	16	17 ChrisEd mtg	18	19	20
21 WL-Peg	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 WL—James	29	1 MARCH	2 B&G mtg	3	4	5
6 WL—	7	8	9 Fin & Exec Bd mtgs	10	11	12
13 WL—	14	15	16 ChrisEd mtg	17	18	19

collecting hats, mittens, underwear and socks for local school children in need. Donations boxes will be set out at the “Church Life Tables”.

On February 7th the Mission & Hospitality Committee will be hosting a *a taste of MARDI GRAS* Luncheon. Mark your calendars and plan to attend for a taste of New Orleans. ~Plan to stick around after the luncheon because the ChrisEd Team is inviting everyone to make a ‘Valentine’ for their sweetheart. More information about that is elsewhere in this newsletter.

There is a move afoot to print t-shirts for our volunteers, to let the community know who we are when volunteering at events like Town Meeting Day and Kingdom Swim events and others. We want to let all the community know we are: “United hands for God’s Work” We are looking for design ideas. Please contact Valerie in the office.

Friendship Circle
Cookie Fare Success! The



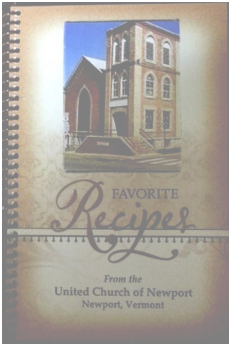
United Church of Newport held their Annual Cookie Fare on Saturday Dec. 12th. Over 12,000 cookies were sold individually, or on 150 pre-arranged trays. The church wished to thank businesses and individuals for making this a successful fundraiser for our Outreach programs:

- King Arthur Flour donated ALL the flour—over 150 lbs.
- Cabot Creamery donated a lot of butter—over 25 lbs.
- Derby Village Store generously helped to provide a lot of butter as well.
- Anonymous local individuals who gave in different ways
- All the faithful “cookie buyers” who continue to support us



Special thanks goes to Faith Olsen, who made many many of these 12,000 cookies and made up the beautiful arranged trays. The new Church Cookbooks

are selling well but we still have a fair amount to sell. One of the key selling points is that the recipes in this cook book are easy ,with basic ingredients. Talk to Nancy Newton or Valerie if you would like to buy or sell some. Asking price is \$10.



KEEP ALL OF THE BELOW COMING!

- CAMPBELL’S SOUP LABELS FOR EDUCATION
- CAN TABS FOR SHRINER’S HOSPITAL
- GENERAL MILLS BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION\
- LARGE GROCERY BAGS – PAPER AND PLASTIC
- ♦ CHILDREN’S BOOKS



Pulpit Supply:

- January 31** Peg Jordan
February 7 Janet Wiseman
February 10—Ash Wednesday
Janet Wiseman
February 14 Janet Wiseman

- February 21** Peg Jordan
February 28 James Merriam
March 6
March 13
March 20— Palm Sunday
March 27—EASTER

2016 UCN Committee Members
New members are in *Italics*

Executive Board
(meets 2nd Wed @ month)

Benita Benson
Ron Benson
Jean Condon
Alan Franklin
Chuck Newton
Paul Rittershausen
Doug Spates
Pat Vana
Janet Wiseman

Finance Committee
(meets 2nd Wed @ month)

David Barlow
Alan Franklin
Bill Graham
Jim Johnson
Brian McNeal
Keith Richards
Patty Thomas

Pastor & Staff Relations
(meets 1st Wed @ month)

Kathleen Ahearn
Alan Aiken
Andrew Beals
Sherry Bradley
Peg Jordan
Susan Kuzma

Building & Grounds
(meets 1st Wed @ month)

Frank Goad
Vern Hurd
Corey Marqis
Chuck Newton
Ed Newton
Dan Pickering

Spiritual Leadership
(meets as necessary—generally after church)

Alan Aiken
Kathy Beals
Ron Benson
Wendy Franklin
Carolyn Lyster

Amy Newton
Judy Szych

Christian Education
(meets 3rd Wed @ month)

Jill Chaffee
Connie Johnson
Nancy Newton
Amy Pickering
Valerie Rittershausen
Jeremiah Schyler

Mission & Hospitality
(meets as necessary—generally after church)

Cynthia Adams
Kathy Aiken
Patty Beckwith
Karen Chitambar
Judy Hurd
Susan Kuzma
Jocelyn Laber
Kelley Meunier
Marvelene Richards

WORDS OF GREETING

I am both honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve as your part time lay pastor of the United Church of Newport. Beginning in February I will be in the church office on Fridays, however, if you should need to reach me during the week Valerie has my email and contact information.

Our church has an incredible array of talent. I am continually amazed at the many members of our congregation working together to be God's hands serving the needs of our community.

As we approach the season of Lent may our hearts be in tune with God. When we seek God we will find more than we ever dreamed possible. God's nature is to bless, our nature is to receive with thanksgiving. This is a true fit designed before the foundation of the world. Glorify God by receiving His blessings gratefully. God's light shines on every situation we will ever face. Let nothing dampen our search for Him.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope

and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

~Jeremiah 29:11-13

Grace and peace to you
Janet Wiseman



UCC & UMC DELEGATES

The UCN church is affiliated with both UCC.... And UMC ... with that affiliation comes responsibilities to provide them with information about our congregation as a whole. How many people does the church serve? How many attend on regular basis? Number of Baptisms, weddings, deaths? This information also helps in figuring out two things: our dues (so to speak) that we pay annually and how much the conferences can support us.

Patty Beckwith has volunteered to represent and attend the UCC conference in April. Valerie Rittershausen

volunteered to do the same for the Methodist Conference in June. Janet Wiseman hopes to be able to attend at least one of the conferences. Being a representative is a great way to learn and understand how the wider church operates; what missions they support, what are the hot topics that churches across the country (or at least our region) are dealing with.

Because our records are a bit out dated we will be sending out information forms in the upcoming weeks letting you know the information we do have and asking for corrections and updates. If you would like to help Valerie with this project please contact her at the office. 334-6033 or email. office@unitedchurchnewport.org

THE SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Results of Pastor Priority Survey.... TOP Priority is Preaching, Second is Leading & designing worship, third is Vision– Leading the congregation. From the thirty surveys we received the top priorities were all about worship. There was a jump for third and a bigger jump to

fourth, being evangelism. The rest of the results are posted on the upstairs bulletin board outside the library.

STEWARDSHIP

2016 Offering Envelopes are ready to be picked up. They can be found on a table in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not wish to use the envelopes please contact the office so that we can cut down the number of boxes ordered in the future.

THE CHRIS ED UMBRELLA

SUNDAY SCHOOL - The Sunday School Children raised over \$125 towards... *Tune in next newsletter to find out how they plan to use this money.*

ADVENT NIGHT -
Saturday Dec 5th
Enjoyed by all who attended.

The next ChrisEd Event: “Valentines for your Sweethearts” Sunday, February 7th after church and the Mardi Gras luncheon. Come to make / decorate cookies. Create Valentine cards for your sweetheart and ones for those who might not

have a sweetheart and for those who live at Bel-Aire and Derby Green. The cookies and valentines will be delivered during the following week.



HANDBELL CHOIR

The bells have been refurbished and are home!

A concert is in the planning stages as a thank you to all who donated and made it possible to have them repaired and refurbished.

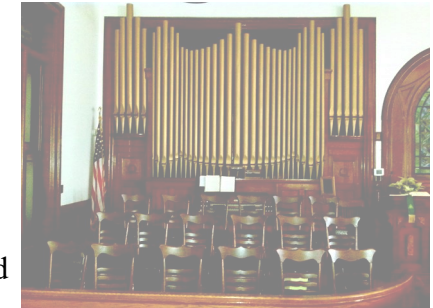
Handbell practice is now being held on Sundays following worship service. Join us, we welcome all new members with zero to expert experience.



BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Updates:
Organ completion:
Concert April 24th
Sunday, organist John Weaver will perform a concert ‘showing off’ our updated-refurbished organ. Dr. Weaver was Head of the

Organ Departments at both Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and Juilliard in New York City. The concert will be followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall hosted by the Friendship Circle Ladies.



Winterizing and “air sealing” our building: is finally completed.

Magoon Park: A Board of Directors has been setup for Magoon Park. Frank Goad, Raymond and Linda Verge will be the co-chairs and will handle the schedule of work and events for the property. Already the local boy scout troop will both be using and helping to maintain the property. One wedding will be held there this summer as well as a vintage tractor show.

MISSION AND HOSPITALITY

The M&H Committee is

United Church Herald

Winter

January 2016

Special points of interest:

- ◇ Pastoral Coverage
- ◇ Monthly celebrations
- ◇ Organ Concert
- ◇ Warming Shelter
- ◇ “United hands for God’s Work”
- ◇ VT-ALERT
- ◇ Relay for Life—UCN Team
- ◇ Youth event pictures

Office Hours & Staffing

Valerie has committed to open office hours from 9-12 Mon, Tues, Thurs., and Fri. with additional hours before or after dependent on scheduling requests.

802-334-6033 office
802-324-0659 cell

Peace ~

Back in November one of my sisters, Heather, was the guest speaker at the Williamstown Veteran’s Park dedication. I did not get to attend but did get to read her speech and heard from others how poignant it was. One month later my other sister, Karen, retired from the Vermont Air National Guard after 30 plus years. In her farewell speech she repeated an excerpt from Heather’s speech. I was so taken by the message that I asked both if I could share it with you.

“Peace is everyone’s responsibility...Every day we face overwhelming evidence that our world, our nation, even our towns are not peaceful places. At times, it seems that we go out of our way to find conflict, or if we cannot find it, then we create it... The internet is full of anonymous hate messages; the media tends to focus on confrontation. Our politicians seem to spend time creating division rather than seeking accord. Even in small towns, we have more conflict than there should be... Peace

starts with every individual, every man, woman, and child. In our families, in our jobs, in our schools, in our politics. We have to find ways to live in peace... I am an ordinary person, living in a small town. What I do, in my daily life, is important. What you do in your daily life is important as well. We all have a duty to our families, our communities our country and our world. The duty to do whatever we can to end the deafening noise of hostility and bring silence,, the silence of peace.”

So please... talk to each other... say hello, it is amazing what you can find out by just checking in with each other. Especially if there is something bothering you. Go to the source.... Not the grapevine.

I will admit that I had hoped to get this newsletter out a few weeks ago as a reminder to all especially during the holidays that Peace begins with you, each and everyone of you. And if you are so blessed that there is peace in your life look around and help your neighbor to find that same peace.

May Peace be with you all through this new year and the years to come.
~Valerie

FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

I want to wish you all the best of health and blessed New Year ever. May God be kept in your hearts and minds as our world and our church is going through so many changes.

At our annual meeting this year we presented some news that many consider quite wonderful. Janet Wiseman is now our interim pastor and will be doing 1 ½ days per week plus 2 or 3 Sundays per month. Her plan is to guide us with the grace, guidance, and help from God and all of us as part of our United Church. Janet plans to do visits to shut-ins, people who are feeling confused and/or left out from Christianity today and what our church can do to help those in this time of need and questioning. Janet will be a big help with us going forward and being an organizer for what our church needs and wants going into the New Year and the search for a full time pastor.

Our search committee will

still be going forward in the search for a new pastor while Janet is filling in as the interim pastor. I personally want to thank everyone that is on this committee as it is not an easy job and they all deserve a big thank you from all of us for taking this endeavor on.

Nothing is ever easy in life and that includes our church as well. However, God only gives us what He knows we can handle and He knows we have the strength and the committee members to do His good work within our church and the community outside our church. I know there has been lots of talk about our warming shelter, which is another area for our church to give and receive as He would have us do or He would do. We are in the process of getting our church up to code for this and once repairs have been made and another state inspection has been completed we will be ready to help the needy with warmth for their bodies and their hearts on these cold Vermont winter nights. Thank you everyone for your support with this and it makes me proud to know that I am part of such a warm giving and helping Church.

This is my last year on the executive board so starting with the Feb meeting you will

be informed as to who will be the new chair and your new contact person. I will however be staying on the Pastor Staff relations committee. So we never go far when willing to give our all to help and the betterment of our church.

So with that I wish you all the best New Year, stay happy, healthy, warm, and above all keep love in your heart for one another and even yourself because YOU DESERVE IT!

Peace and Joy to you all,

Sherry Bradley

Speak to Valerie if you are interested in a part time job as NECKA for a warming shelter coordinator. She has the information you need and a copy of the application. Please pass on to others that you might know of that might be looking for a good part time job.

Thank you for all your help and

Sherry

You can also contact:

Tammy Lamoureux

Outreach Supervisor/NEKCA

70 Main Street

Newport Vt 05855

802-334-7316 ext 208

e-mail: tpatten@nekavt.org