

Pastor's Corner

Dear Disciples,

New year, new you? It is the time of year where we get bombarded with advertising campaigns trying to tell us that we need to change everything about ourselves; a time when self-help books go flying off the shelves as the latest trend. Only for us to arrive in the next few months with the same self that ended 2017 and feeling a bit more disappointed at the lack of a lasting resolution. For many, this time of year can be a struggle with everything geared towards “improving” ourselves while some are merely trying to love themselves just as they are. Here are four truths I hope you take into 2018 with you:

You have been created by a God who made zero mistakes when crafting every loving inch of you.

You are beautifully and wonderfully made by a God who knows your most intimate pieces.

You are precious in the eyes of Christ who looks at you and sees somebody worth dying for.

You are worthy of love in the heart of the Holy Spirit who knew you before you were born.

Yes, there is something to be said about taking care of ourselves, about setting goals we want to achieve for our own health and happiness. However, this year I encourage you to set goals that are faith-based. It can require a change in our thought pattern, so maybe instead of setting an arbitrary weight loss goal, you set a goal to love yourself and your body as much as God does? Instead of setting a goal to spend less and save more, you increase your pledge or offering to the church and our ministries? Instead of promising to be less busy, you could make a commitment to be present in worship that allows you to rest and be fulfilled?

Whatever goals you set, or in whatever ways you mark this new year, remember that you are loved entirely by our Creator God who is always making things new. I hope that this year, you continue to grow in faith, to know that you are worthy, and try new ways of being a disciple in the world!

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Continued→→→↑

→Daily Text Message: For the month of January, I will be happy to send you a personalized text message each morning to offer a brief note of encouragement for whatever challenges lie ahead. If you want to participate, simply text the word “HOPE” to 508-439-0439.

† In Peace,

Pastor Niki

Annual Meeting - Announcements

Annual Congregational meeting, scheduled for January 28, 2018.

Council will be proposing revisions to our Constitution and By-laws. A summary highlighting the significant changes was distributed in November. Copies are available from the Church Office.

Council will be proposing a revised Safe Church Policy. We expect to finalize it at our next Council meeting on January 16. Final version will be available at that time.

Provide Council with any Resolutions you wish to propose at the Annual Meeting by the next Council meeting, Jan 16.

Seymour United Methodist Church

20th Annual

Soup & Book Sale.

January 13th

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Enjoy homemade soup and baked goods.

Immanuel's Blessings!

"As in the past 27 years gone by, thank you again for all the support for another wonderful cantata. So many hands pitch in to make an occasion the magnitude of the cantata come to fruition. Special appreciation goes to the members of the choir who worked extra hard and devoted much of their time mastering the music, Lee Burton for his weekly set-up of equipment, Mauree Ward for the beautiful programs, Julie Cormack and Beth Alves who managed the kitchen for the reception, Pastor Niki for her support, and all others who helped out in any way. Noel

And thanks to Judy Adcox, Sue Borchert, Jan Cormack and Deb Steckert for their help with assembling the programs for the cantata. Mauree

The Food Bank Corner

Chunky or hearty soups

**Spooner House Meal
Tuesday, January 23rd**

*Thank you,
Karin Schidat
for this month's meal.*

Happy Anniversaries

2 Anne & Robert Dow 29 Barbara & Eugene Andes

Happy Birthdays

1 Elizabeth Loughlin	19 Evan Meady
Jeanmarie Mullen	20 Thomas Lovell
Patrick Burton	Rich Alves
2 Michelle Schreyer	23 David Haight
3 Isabella Fassbender	Dillon Bye
7 Victor Diaz	24 Joey Diaz
10 Peter Wright	27 Walter Hupprich
12 Allison Ahearn	Alaina Richards
15 Teri Mazza	Chloe Richards
Caitlyn Lynch	28 Barbara Lovell
Caleb Lynch	29 Carla Diaz
16 Teresa Mentgen	31 Barbara Enquist
18 Emma Jean Florin	Victoria Alves

Pastor Niki's Hours

**Mon: 9am- 1p m
Sat: @ Starbucks 9am-2pm
(Or by appointment)**

For Pastoral care, please call
508.439.0439

New baby? Let Karin Schidat know so a rose can be placed on the font in their honor. 203.888.5976

Prayers: Deb Steckert (203.888.1218) Please take a look and let me know how they are doing. Thank you.

Aaron & Jessica	Ruth Edgren	Ernest Isberg	Olivia Rose	Margo Steckert
Joe Abate	Sebastian Estrada	Kevin Johnson	Nanci Patchofsky	Dorothy Stockman
Amy	Arleen Flach	Linda Kunecki	Florence Pawlak	Ed Stockman
Ann Marie Lisa	Francis	Sarah Leventhol	Pat Ploch	Pete Thompson
Helen Ahearn	Gloria	Wilma Luft	Dorothy Prillip	Paul Wislocki
Bob Ancefsy	Louise	Ava Nebbia	Chandra & Chris Proch	Ann Virag
Marge Bailey	Art Gillette	Tacia Neumann	Charlie Ricco	JoAnn Virag
Shirley Bernardo	Gary Grabowski	Chuck O'Neil	Joanna Rooney & children	Dee Voccola
Alan Burton	Millie Grele	Dila Ostertag	Rose	
Kathy Corrigan	Todd Hollis	Tyler Otis	Lynne Ross	
Mary Ann Croves	Illiana	Olivia Grace	Joyce Sauer	

Immanuel Lutheran Church

25 Great Hill Road, Oxford, 06478

203.888.4713

Church Council Meeting Highlights – December 19, 2017

1. Prayer Bear Ministry has collected over \$600. Contact Jeanmarie Mullen or Pastor Niki with your ideas for ways to expand this ministry into the community.
2. German Dinner raised \$1140, of which \$500 went to the Boiler Fund, \$500 went to the General Fund and \$140 was donated to Spooner House.
3. 2018 Envelopes are available in the Narthex. We encourage electronic donations. Contact the Church Office if you are interested in setting up an on-line account.
4. Council met with our Financial Advisor, Bob Taylor, of Ameriprise Financial, to discuss our investments and trends. We have a moderate risk investment profile and our investments gained over 13% so far, this year. We concurred that a change was not needed at this time.
5. Council Nominations –. We are looking for 6 candidates to fill the 6 positions that are opening up in January.
7. Social Ministry reported that 10 Stockings and \$335 in gift carts were collected for Christmas donations to Birmingham Health Care.
8. Youth Group is planning the Pet Food Drive in January.
9. Upcoming activities for February include the SuperBowl, Bake Sale, Cupcake Challenge and Scout Sunday.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Kaeser, Council President

January Ministry						
		Ushers	Assisting Minister	Lector	Acolyte	Coffee Hour
7	8:15	<i>Diane & Dale Peters</i>	<i>Wendy Cegelka</i>	<i>Julie Cormack</i>	<i>Jayden Urbanowicz & Tori Alves</i>	<i>Diane & Dale Peters</i>
	10:30	<i>Ellen & Chuck O'Neil</i>	<i>Ellen Fritz</i>	<i>Beth Alves</i>	<i>Stephanie Alves & Sophia Bogle</i>	<i>Sue Borchert & Charlotte Tottenham</i>
14	8:15	<i>Betty & Jerry Lower</i>	<i>Lillian Thompson</i>	<i>Lars Edgren</i>	<i>Avry & Jainna Marcinczyk</i>	<i>The Solomon family & Marie Kuntz</i>
	10:30	<i>Beth & Rich Alves</i>	<i>Andrew Napomiceno</i>	<i>Teresa Mentgen</i>	<i>Lauren Burton & Samantha Seres</i>	<i>Terry Mazza & Linda Laudano</i>
21	8:15	<i>Sandra & Dave Andes</i>	<i>Jeananne Urbanowicz</i>	<i>Julie Cormack</i>	<i>Ethan Andes & Jayden Urbanowicz</i>	<i>Peter Wright</i>
	10:30	<i>Kim Tupper & Rick Kaeser</i>	<i>Teresa Mentgen</i>	<i>Beth Alves</i>	<i>Brando Fletter & Vanessa Bogle</i>	<i>Kim Tupper</i>
28	10:30a	<i>Christina Campion & Charlie Rippel</i>	<i>Julie Cormack</i>	<i>Julie Cormack</i>	<i>Tori Alves & Jack Mullen</i>	<i>Annual Meeting & Potluck Luncheon</i>
		Altar Guild: <i>Kim Burton & Alicia Belinsky</i>				

January 2018