



THE SPIRE

February 2019

GUEST MINISTER

Rev. Lisa Gustafson

ORGANIST

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CHURCH SCHOOL

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COORDINATOR

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Chair of Deacons: Merrill French

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PASTOR'S WORD

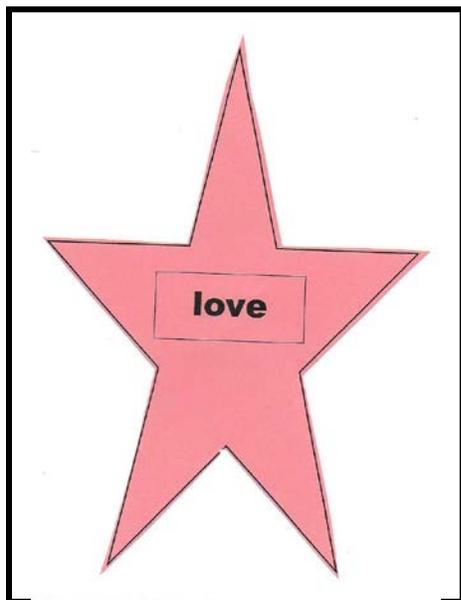
Welcome to A Season of Receiving

Christmas has come and gone, and the new year has begun. We are entering what is fast becoming one of my favorite seasons of the year: The Season of Receiving! If you're like me, receiving gifts and compliments is not easy. I was raised with the adage that it is better to give than receive. Then came along those Magi, following a star in the night sky, carrying those incredible gifts to the baby Jesus, and it changed for me.

It all began a whole bunch of years ago when a member of my clergy support group brought in a basket of paper stars to share. "Take one," she said. "It's a Star Gift. Let it guide your days in the coming year like that star guided the Wise Men to the manger." That day began a journey I take every year from January to December and has shaped my spiritual life.

A Star Gift is simply a star-shaped piece of brightly colored paper with a word printed on it. Every person who comes to church on Epiphany Sunday receives a star gift and is asked to reflect on that word for the coming year. That is what I

Pastor's Word Continued



offered on January 6th at the conclusion of our Epiphany worship celebration. I extended the invitation to pick a star at random from my star basket and to ponder what significance this word might have in your lives. How might God be speaking to through that one word?

Many of you accepted the invitation and selected a star. Now what? I encourage you to hang it up where you can regularly see it: bathroom mirror, computer screen, refrigerator door. Some people keep it in their wallet or Bible or other more private place.

I have mine on a memo board by my front door, so I see it every time I leave my apartment. Where you put the word is up to you. Let your word speak to you. You may start by looking the word up in the dictionary so you are clear on its meaning. For example, we hear the word *grace* all the time, but what exactly does it mean? Find where it occurs in the Bible. A word that seemed unclear at the beginning may gain new meaning as the year goes on.

The Magi who traveled great distances to offer their gifts to the baby Jesus were responding to the gift first given to them. They received God's gift, then offered their gifts to God. As we celebrate the arrival of the Magi and remember their offerings, this paper star is a reminder of God's guiding presence in our lives. What message does God offer to us this year? *(By the way, my word this year is COURAGE.)*

If you didn't get a Star Gift, the basket will be in church so you can select one.

Rev. Lisa Gustafson

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY GO OUT TO THE RICE FAMILY

Sherrie Rice, formerly of Harwinton, passed away suddenly on Sunday, January 27th. She was on her way to choir practice and apparently suffered a heart attack. Sherrie and husband Bob were very active in the Harwinton Congregational Church and in other Harwinton organizations. Sherrie sang in the choir, served as a deacon and was on many church committees. The memorial service for Sherrie will be later on in the spring.

Bob's Address: Robert Rice, PO Box 684, Bondville, VT 05340

HCC NEWSLETTE ESTABLISHED

A new regular HCC newsletter more or less on a weekly basis covering in a timely manner current and planned events that should be disseminated before the monthly issue of the SPIRE. Hopefully it will serve the membership with timely information that may require more prompt reaction than is afforded by the SPIRE.

If any member has an item of importance or of general interest that should be distributed, please email the copy to the office at harwintonchurch@sbcglobal.net or to the editor at ptsjhs@snet.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
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| Saturday, February 2 - | Groundhog Day
Deacons' Retreat |
| Wednesday, February 13 - | Church Council Meeting |
| Thursday/Friday February 21/22 - | Chicken BBQ Preparation |
| Saturday, February 23 - | Chicken BBQ |

ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, January 27 immediately after Church services, the Annual meeting was held. Under the skilled moderation of Dr. David French and the superb preparation by the Church Council, the Board of Finance, the Nominating Committee, and the Office Coordinator, the business was completed in record time.

Copies of the Annual Report were distributed to all members via email before the meeting. Those wishing additional documents please contact the Office.

A copy of the meeting minutes is attached.



57th. ANNUAL
CHICKEN BARBECUE
SATURDAY FEB. 23th, 2019



As most of you all know this is **OUR BIG FUNDRAISER FOR THE CHURCH!** It has a lot of history, from its starting with plans to make enough money for new choir robes to being the highlight of the year. Not only is it a major source of income for the support of the Church, but it brings all our members and friends together to have an old fashioned good time as our ancestors did 57 years ago.

There is some way for everyone to participate - from donating a bag of charcoal, buying a great chicken dinner or helping clean up at the end of the day. **JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THE SIGN UP SHEETS TO FIND SOMETHING THAT FITS YOUR TALENTS.**

If you are unable to attend but would like to help, monetary donations are always welcome and very much appreciated to offset the many expenses.

We will have sign-up sheets in Upper Fellowship Hall at coffee hour until all needs are filled. Besides the basics to make our dinner we need HOME BAKED PIES, BROWNIES & CAKES that can be cut to fit in the boxes. BUT HOMEBAKED PIES ARE PREFERRED.

We will be asking for help for our "Donated dinners program", a program to donate dinners to those in need. This may be done either by donating money or tickets. Ticket books are available at coffee hour, or a member of the Fund Raising committee will get them to you. Dinners are \$14 for adults and \$8 for children under 12. **For any questions call or ask Margaret Arigoni @ 860-485-1318.**

We will be sending out more information regularly by email and update you every Sunday. Just remember, your help in any way possible will make this a successful event and we will all have a great time doing it! **If YOU CAN, PLEASE PRINT OUT THE ATTACHED POSTER AND POST IT SOMEWHERE APPROPRIATE.**

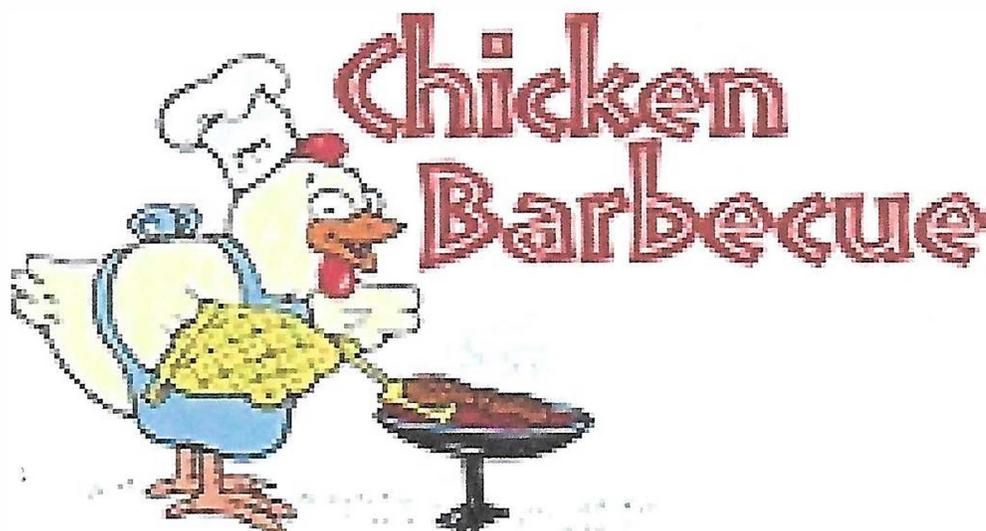


February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Deacon's Retreat Groundhog Day
3 10 am Worship Service & Sunday School Deacons Mtg 11:15	4 7 pm AA	5 Chinese New Year	6	7 7 pm BSA #55	8	9
10 10 am Worship Service & Sunday School	11 7 pm AA	12 Lincoln's Birthday 7 pm BSA #55 Council Mtg	13 7pm HCC Council Meeting	14 St. Valentine's Day 7 pm BSA #55	15	16
17 10 am Worship Service & Sunday School 7 pm AA	18 President's Day 7 pm AA	19	20	21 7 pm BSA #55	22 BBQ PREP	23 57 th Annual Chicken BBQ
24 10 am Worship Service & Sunday School	25 7 pm AA	26	27	28 7 pm BSA #55		

HARWINTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

57th ANNUAL CLASSIC



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2019

AT HARWINTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

- RT. 4 AND NORTH ROAD SEATINGS @ 4:45 pm

& 6 pm

TAKE OUT FROM 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm

ADULTS -\$14

CHILDREN (UNDER 12) - \$8

FOR INFORMATION CALL

860-485-1318