



His Mansion

A newsletter from
First United Methodist Church
of Southbridge

"In my Father's House, there are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you..."

NOVEMBER 2019



*"This is love: to fly
toward a secret sky,
to cause a hundred
veils to fall each
moment. First to let
go of life. Finally, to
take a step
without feet.
Rumi*

Reminder:

We meet for worship
at 9 am and enjoy
fellowship, coffee and
treats afterwards



FROM PASTOR SABINA'S DESK

Dear friends in Christ,

Wow, December and January were a roller-coaster! No newsletter but plenty happening!

First, I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and would like to wish you a very happy new year, praying that God will continue pouring his blessings on you and yours in 2020.

- In November, we were honored to welcome well-known organist Glen Campbell for a beautiful organ concert. Glen chose a wide variety of pieces that spanned from old hymns to contemporary music.
- We also hosted a free community Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day. We were able to offer an amazing spread, thanks to the many donations we received (8 turkeys!!!). We served about 45 people and even used the church's china which had not been used in years!
- In December, we invited the community to a Christmas praise concert. The praise band "Hunt for Christ" once again joined us for an evening of carols, hymns, sweets and fellowship! The church was beautifully adorned for Christmas and it made our time there even more special.
- During the season of Advent, we switched from our usual "Bible 101" study on Mondays to "Discovering the Symbols of Advent". You already know about the Advent wreath and the candles we light every Sunday. But what do they actually mean and why do we do that? As usual with our study group, we had a great, fun and instructive time together!
- We gathered on the Town Common on Christmas Eve at 6pm for a short candlelight service and were able to meet a few people from the community.
- Last but not least, we celebrated Christmas both on the Sunday before Christmas and the Sunday after with an inspiring "Lessons and Carols" service.

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

And He said to him,
 “ ‘You shall Love the Lord your
 God with all your heart, and
 with all your soul,
 and with all your mind.’
 Matthew 22:37

February

We pray, Lord that we can
 forgive and be forgiving
 of others as we would wish
 them to be forgiving of us
 when we make mistakes.

Prayer of the month

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner



February 25, 2020, 6pm

I love the Lord,
 for he heard my voice;
 he heard my cry for mercy.
 Because he turned his ear to me,
 I will call on him as long as I live.
Psalm 116:1-2



JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY



"Come out of the clutter and clanging of our culture and discover the peace of meeting the God of the Bible in the pages of His Word. Engage Bible Studies take you verse by verse into the richness of the Scriptures in ways that impact your heart and illumine your mind."

"Bible 101" every Monday at 6pm

(dinner will be served)

Come and learn the basics of the Word of God!

FROM PASTOR SABINA'S DESK

(continued)

- On Sunday, January 26, we welcomed two new members to our church, Astrid Leake and Carol Filmer. What a blessing!!

I am looking forward to a new and exciting year! We have lots planned including an open-door event to celebrate our church (exhibit with old membership books, etc., organ demonstration...), a craft fair, and more! Of course, we will also continue our free meals (Mondays and Fridays at 5pm) and our Bible study (Mondays at 6:30pm).\

Last but not least, Ash Wednesday is on February 26. We will be having a community Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner on the 25th, last day of feast before Lent!

Abba, Father, I lift up our church and family asking for your blessing, strength, hope and peace. Amen.

With peace, grace and gratitude,

Sabina



Prayer of the Month

Dear God,
Thank you that you are a loving, gracious God.
Thank you that you've offered us forgiveness
and the gift of new life in you.

Thank you that your love is perfect,
it never fails, and that nothing can separate
us from your love.

We pray that our lives would be filled
and overflowing with the power of your love
so we can make a difference in this world
and bring honor to you.

We ask for your help in reminding us
that the most important things are not
what we do outwardly, it's not based on any
talent or gift, but the most significant thing
we can do in this life is simply to love you
and to choose to love others.

Amen.



Need a ride to
church?

No problem!

Call Sabina at the of-
fice and we will come pick you up to
bring you to our meals, Bible Study or
worship service!

You are *Beautiful*
For you are *Fearfully*
And *Wonderfully* made.
Psalms 139:4

Oh Yes! IT'S
FREE

Hungry?
Lonely?

Please join us for
our free weekly
meals

Please note the new days and times!

Mondays—5 pm
Followed by Bible Study

Fridays—5 pm

On the menu (examples):
Soups, chili, spaghetti and meat sauce, casseroles, BBQ,
salads, bread, fruits, ice cream and other desserts.



Candlelight Christmas Eve service at the Town Common



*Reception of new two members!
Congratulations,
Astrid and Carol!*



*Our Thanksgiving dinner with volunteers extraordinaire
Astrid and Carl!*

Bob Briere's son, Jim, singing "Holy Night" during one of our Christmas services.

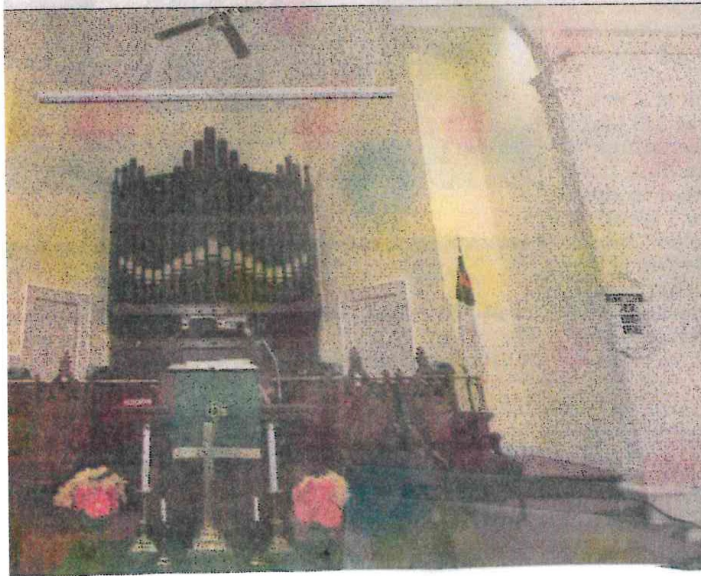


Send your news and pics
ews@Stonebridgepress.news

STONEBRIDGE NEWS

Thursday, November 7, 2019

Newsstand: 50 cents



FUMC to host organ recital

SOUTHBRIDGE — First United Church (FUMC) of Southbridge will be hosting a free organ recital on Sunday, Nov. 17 at 4 p.m. Renown New England organist, Glen Campbell will present a program of music by J.S. Bach, Buxtehude, Rheinberger, Vierne and more, on the church beautiful 1834 organ.

This free recital is open to all and will be followed by a reception. A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the church's growing ministry to

the homeless and the needy. FUMC continues to offer free meals twice a week. The word has been spreading quickly, resulting in an always increasing number of guests, a diverse bunch including homeless people, people on food stamps trying to extend their resources, and also people who are lonely and would love some company. FUMC started asking for donations of food, clothes (especially socks and underwear) and hygiene

Please Read RECITAL, page A13

RECITAL

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products. Winter is here and the homeless community is in desperate need. The church always welcomes donations of clothes, shoes, hand-warmers, blankets and other winter items.

FUMC is a no judgement zone. FUMC believes in living the Christian Faith, not only on Sundays but all week long. Each person is valued, no matter social status, sexual orientation,

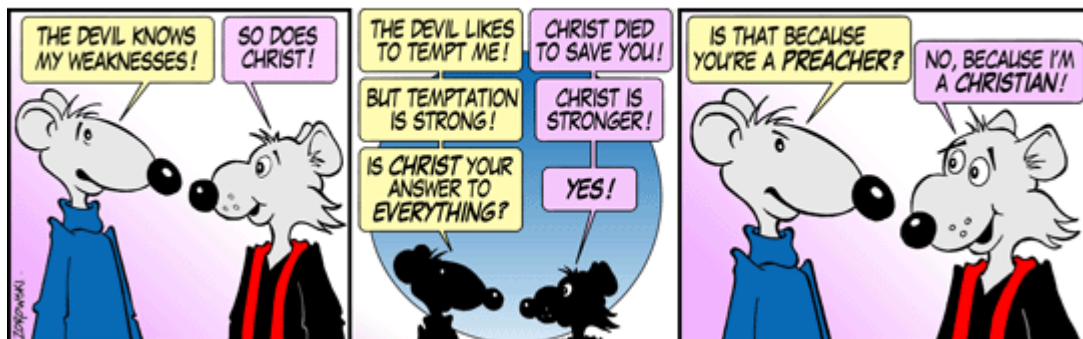
cultural background, etc.

Other events will be coming up including a free Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 28 at 4 p.m., a free Christmas Praise Concert on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m., including refreshments.

FUMC is also thrilled to announce we will be participating in the Holiday Vision parade with a "Living Nativity" float.

FUMC was founded in 1834 and has been going through major decline during the last

decades. Pastor Sabina decided to start something new (instead of "reviving something already dead"). New people are welcome to give their input and "take charge". There has also been changes to worship (including more modern music). New community events are being organized and the church is becoming an active part of the community, also planning on participating in this year's AutumnFest.





Guest organist, Glen Campbell



Christmas Day Dinner



Thanks to all the volunteers that make these events happen!!

Christmas Concert





Coffee with Pastor Sabina

First United Methodist Church

Let's talk about life, God, concerns, stories,

Whatever rocks your boat!

Coffee is on the Pastor!!

(the basic one, not one of these designer coffees!)

Dunkin' Donuts next the Church!



**Open First United Methodist Church
of Southbridge**

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Happy Valentine's Day



*Three things will last forever
Faith, Hope, and Love*



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02/25: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
02/26: Ash Wednesday Service