

Chepachet Union Church

Our Church Life

Volume 62 Issue I

February 2020



All Church By-Laws and Constitution Revision Meeting

Over this past year the By-Laws Committee has been working on revisions to our church's existing By-Laws and Constitution. These by-laws were first adopted in 1990 and last amended in 2006.

For the last fourteen years, from time to time, it has become apparent that our By-Laws and Constitution are in need of revision and updating. Many people have provided suggested improvements to them during that time and the By-Laws Committee has been collecting them. This past November and December the Council members and the various Board members have provided review and input to the proposed draft of the revisions.

It is now time for the church congregation to be briefed on them. The revisions, as you would expect, are quite extensive and as a result it is not possible to provide a printed copy showing all the changes and comments to each individual church member. In order to provide each member with an opportunity to see the revisions the Committee has been working on a PowerPoint presentation. **We are planning to hold a church meeting* on Sunday February 23, 2020** for the purpose of going over the proposed changes and revisions, answer questions, and receive input from the general congregation before a final draft is completed and submitted for a formal church vote.

It is currently anticipated the meeting will be late in the afternoon at 4:00 pm. Better details about the meeting will be forthcoming in February through the weekly church bulletin. All church members should plan to attend this important meeting. Please mark this date on your calendar.

*This meeting is a review and discussion of the proposed changes



We would like to recognize and thank the many donations from individuals and groups in 2019 to our Food Pantry.

Ferrell Gas made a very big donation in 2019 before Thanksgiving. They were extremely generous bringing us a pickup truck full of food. Child Outreach donated 5 boxes of food as a thank you for the use of our building. The Teamsters Horsemen Motorcycle Association donated hams, and the Boy Scouts made a donation after their annual food drive. Many individuals and families donated throughout the year. Thank you to all these groups and all the individuals who make donations each year.



Prayer Time

Pastor John invites everyone to join together on Sunday mornings for a united time of prayer each week.

All are welcome to join us in praying to the Lord God for the many blessings and needs of our church family and community. We will gather in the Pastor's study for 15 minutes each Sunday morning at 8 am and 11:45 am. Come for one or both times.

LOOKING AHEAD



- Feb 1 Men's Fellowship
- Feb 2 Fellowship Brunch
- Feb 11 Rho Delta
- Feb 13 Trustees
- Feb 14 **Valentine's Day**
- Feb 17 **Presidents Day**
- Feb 18 Deacons
- Feb 22 Men's Breakfast
- Feb 23 By-Laws Review
- Feb 26 **Ash Wednesday**

LOOKING WAY AHEAD

- March 8 Daylight Savings Time
- April 5 **Palm Sunday**
- April 12 **Easter**



ADULT BIBLE CLASS

So there it was, the little wooden cross on the front steps of the church in the midst of our Christmas decorations. It had to be moved because it presented a hazard by obstructing the emergency egress (no that is not a kind of bird) from the building. So it was moved to the edge of the sidewalk in front of the building. However, some were not satisfied that it had been merely moved and wanted it removed. It is not appropriate at Christmas time to display the cross they said. Sadly, they missed the whole point of Christmas (and Easter too). The cross is God's Christmas tree and on it He hung the most precious present any man, woman, or child could ever receive. You cannot find such a valuable gift in any of the big box stores, small box stores, on the internet, at the mall, at candle night shopping, or under any Christmas tree. In fact a careful study of the gospels like Matthew show us that the cross was the whole purpose of the birth of Christ Jesus. The Gospel of Matthew tells us that we have, as with any present, the choice to accept or reject it. The religious leaders of Jesus' day did not want the present God gave. They did not want it merely set aside, but removed. After all, just like many today they knew better about what should be. We see in Matthew and the other gospels that what we think should be is not what God thinks should be. So that little wooden cross

is not as inappropriate at Christmas time as some would think. It reminds us of the gift God gave to mankind and the whole purpose of His coming. It is an ornament of reminder for the entire New Year.

Our study through the Book of Matthew continues through chapters 10 and 11. This next month we will be looking at such questions as:

- Have we developed the same attitude as the people of Jesus' day (see Isaiah 65:5, Matthew 11:16-17)?
- What does God say about the attitude of indifference about the things of God?
- What is this personal discipleship stuff all about?
- What is in the present God offers to us? (I dare you to unwrap it.)
- What are the consequences of rejecting a gift or present, especially one from God?

There is still a lot of Matthew to cover, you can join our study at any time. January tends to be a cold snowy month with not much going on. What would it hurt to take that quiet time and stop in to the adult class to see what is going on (but go to the church service first)?

Those who attend the class are just ordinary folks trying their best to understand the present God has given us. Adult class meets Sunday morning 10:30 am to 11:30 am in the Adult class room. Everyone is invited and welcome.

Rho Delta News

Rho Delta had their meeting on January 14... there were 9 ladies present. Devotions were read by Brenda Rene from Joshua 1: 9 Encouragement for a New Year.

- The Thrift Shop made \$950 from November and December.
- Our biggest expense was the Pezza Farm bill for the poinsettias at Christmas.
- Our expenses for the year were \$9,500 and we made \$8,033

We received a Christmas card from Nutcha, our girl in Thailand.

We voted to purchase a new Christmas tree for next year for the sanctuary. The old one has several lights out and it is just too big and heavy for the older people to put up and decorate.

The May Breakfast is May 2nd.



We had our elections of officers:
Stephanie Kain – President
Barbara Cady – Vice President
Cindy Chace – Treasurer
Jan Steere – Secretary

The evening was hosted by Barbara Cady and Nancy Boucher. We had candy and popcorn, pretzels and dip with apple cider during the meeting. Cherry cupcakes and coffee or tea for dessert.

Our next meeting is **Feb 11th at 7 pm** in the All-Purpose Room. Hope to see you ladies there!



Our Annual Meeting was held Monday January 20th. All reports were submitted (thank you) from our boards and committees. Our expenses and new budget were discussed. Our new slate of officers and board members were voted in. A few Annual Reports are still available in the church office.

The Church Officers and Board Members are:

Chepachet Union Church Officers 2020

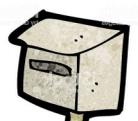
President – Eugene Pepper
 Vice President – David Lohr
 Church Clerk- Debra Servello
 Treasurer –Nancy Boucher
 Financial Secretary – Pat Svansson
 Representative-at-large – Jo-Anne Barrows
 Representative-at-large – George Kain
 Youth Representative –

2020	2021	2022
	<u>Board of Deacons</u>	
Stephanie Kain* Peter Sprague	Rebecca Boss* Cindy Baumann Heather Barnes	Villi Svansson* Richard Barrows Lou Tomolonis
<hr/>		
	<u>Board of Trustees</u>	
Phil Fortes Bruce Rylah*	Cindy Chace Dave Palumbo	Alan Gustafson
<hr/>		
	<u>Board of Finance</u>	
Peter Schuyler*	George Kain	
<hr/>		
	<u>Board of Christian Education</u>	
Brenda Rene* Jean Carlson Julie DeMello	Joy Schuyler* <hr/> <hr/>	Alison Brown* Barbara Cady* Jan Steere
<hr/>		
	<u>Board of Missions</u>	
Gail Creque Ruth Goode	Ann Breton	Pat Tomolonis*

*indicates second term



New Message Deposit Box



The Trustees are pleased to inform everyone that there is a new drop box located outside in the entryway on the office end of the building. You may safely deposit messages, bills, receipts, etc. for Kathy, the Pastor, or any church officer, inside the box at any time. The box is white and hanging on the side wall.

Chepachet Union Church
1138 Putnam Pike
PO Box E
Chepachet, RI 02814

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 2
Harrisville, RI
02830



CHEPACHET UNION CHURCH
CHEPACHET, RHODE ISLAND 02814

*Our Vision: Chepachet Union Church
brings glory to God in worship as we
welcome, witness, and nurture each other.
We share the joy of God's love as one
family in Christ.*

Phone: 401-568-2518
Fax: 401-568-8398
Email: chepunion@yahoo.com
Web Page : chepachetunionchurch.org
Office Hours: Mon—Fri, 9 am—12:00

Snow Shovelers Needed

A big thank you to the few people who shoveled the church steps and walkways during December. Unfortunately, our church went unshoveled during one storm and the Trustees have received complaints about that lapse.

The fact is that our last appeal for shoveling volunteers yielded nothing so we are putting this out there again! If anyone has a strong, healthy body and would like to volunteer for snow shoveling, please see Cindy Chace.

Also, there are snow shovels and Ice Melt located at two of the church entrances – if you see a need, please feel free to pitch in and help!



Sunday Mornings at
9:00 a Traditional Service
10:30 a Contemporary
Service
10:30 Our Children's

PUZZLE

A friend in Jesus

In the Bible, Jesus shares what it means to be a true friend.

Directions: Use the heart key to fill in the missing vowels from John 15:14, 17, NIV.

“Y _ _ r _ my fr _ _ nds _ f
y _ _ d _ wh _ t _ c _ mm _ nd. ...
Th _ s _ s my c _ mm _ nd:
L _ v _ _ ch _ th _ r.”

JOHN 15:14, 17, NIV

Answer: “You are my friends if you do what I command. ... This is my command: Love each other.” John 15:14, 17, NIV