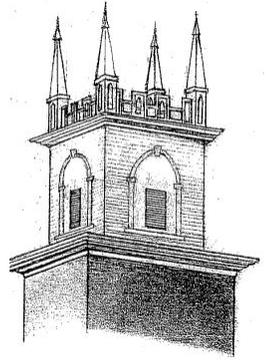


+ **N.E.W.S. CONNECTION**
Pittsford Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
121 Village Green
Pittsford, VT 05763

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Message from the Pastor

*Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!*

Many of you will recognize this poem from the once-popular Henry Van Dyke whose verses used to be committed to memory back in the time when children did recitation as a required part of their education. These words are usually sung with the “Ode to Joy” tune from Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony. In recent weeks, with the end of many social distance restrictions, we all have experienced the joy in returning to so many simple things that we took for granted before the start of the pandemic.

Now that masks are no longer a requirement in most situations, we can sing, we can breathe more easily, we can see smiles! We can invite friends and family to gather with us without the fear that existed before vaccination. On occasion, I only recognized some masked people after they started speaking.

In returning to our important rhythms of church and community life, there are some gatherings we put on hold but now must move forward—chief of which is our Annual Meeting, usually held on the last Sunday of January. Earlier this year, when Council set the postponement date, they had no idea of when social distance restrictions would be lifted. Hence, as posted on our church sign, published in the newsletter, and announced during church, **Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, July 25, after service.** All those who worship with us, friends old and new, are encouraged to attend. We must, however, have a quorum of twenty (20) church members in order to conduct business.

Let us be grateful for how we as a church community have emerged from this crisis. Please take seriously your presence with us to validate the business we need to conclude and keep us moving forward.

*Always giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our Brother,
Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.*

Yes, we will sing this hymn in days ahead!

Yours in faith,
Michael F. Dwyer, Interim Pastor