



Brewerton United Methodist Church Weekly Update, April 6, 2011

Greetings!

"Patience is a virtue." I was reminded of this often unpleasant but true proverb recently when talking with a family member (not Allison!). They were desirous of the coming of an event, or rather outcome of an event, and had achieved that squirmy, angst-ridden "this-really-has-to-happen-soon-or-I-will-explode" stage of waiting and were venting their discontent at having to be patient to me.

We all have had this experience before, where we so dearly want for something to happen that it can be physically and emotionally uncomfortable to wait for it to come to pass. I sometimes find myself wishing for things to speed up, or occur sooner rather than later. And ask any Christian you know who has prayed for God to give them patience and prepare to hear quite a tale of how that might have been answered.

These things are brought to mind because of our current hunt for a new Child Care director. The SPRC in general and Craig Allen in particular have been doing a stand-out job of organizing, running and investing plenty of time into the search for the person God has for this important job. And, as these kinds of things go, the search has been relatively quick and positive. We have had plenty of quality applicants, the team has put a substantial investment of time into interviews, and there have been few hitches in the process.

And yet we are still searching...

There are a number of things that bear on the anticipation of welcoming the new director. The knowledge that the program needs one to run properly; the need to take some of the pressure off the current staff (who have been performing their duties flawlessly and gamely through all of this); and the anticipation of moving forward in fully realizing the amazing potential that the program has are but a few of them. The desire is there to fill the position, roll up our shirt (or blouse) sleeves and get to work building a great program that serves the community and glorifies God.

Ultimately, like many women and men in the bible, we have to be patient and wait on the Lord for the solution to the need. God always provides for the work he wants done. It is for us to ask him for it (and keep asking until we get an answer) and to believe that he will indeed provide what we need as he has promised. These are very basic, tried and true premises about prayer and our relationship with God, but their elementary nature does not mean that we do not forget, or that we do not attempt to move heaven and earth on our own in our eagerness to arrive at a destination we cannot wait to get to.

God provides in his own time, and in ways that glorify him. Whether this matches up well with our expectations or schedule is of little concern to God. As part of the character building aspect of our time here on earth, we are expected to pray for what we want/need, expect God to provide, and then - yes- wait for him to do so. This does not mean that we take no action where appropriate. It simply means that we need to ask, expect and be patient. It is helpful to me to know that God has always provided in the past, so I can apply experience to my current situation. Even when it is not always comfortable or enjoyable to do so...

Here are some things that are going on around Church:

1) Our **Roast Beef Dinner Fundraiser is this Saturday**, April 9th. Serving will begin at 4 and will last until the beef is sold out, which happened early last year. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to this fun and delicious event. If you would like to help out by supplying items for the dinner and/or by helping set up, prepare, serve, or clean up there are signup sheets at church near the sanctuary. I will be serving beverages/food and cleaning up. I hope to see all of you there!

2) **Please be in prayer** about the work the SPRC is doing to interview for and fill the Child Care Director opening. There have been some good candidates and second interviews will begin next week. God has someone out there that is a perfect fit for the work that awaits in this mission program of our church, and prayers that the SPRC would clearly see God's direction in this process would be most appropriate and much appreciated.

3) Why not invite some friends to join us the following **Holy Week worship services at the church:**

Sunday, April 17 - 10:00 AM Palm Sunday (Bread for the World) followed by:
11:30 AM Easter Cantata

Thursday, April 21 - 6:30 PM Holy Thursday
Christian Seder and Chicken & Biscuit Dinner

Friday, April 22 - 6:30 PM Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 24- 10:00 AM Resurrection (Easter) Sunday!!

4) **This Sunday** (April 10) we will be taking a collection to support the **"One Great Hour of Sharing."** This collection will go solely to support UMCOR's administrative costs, so that all other donations given to them from any source throughout the year will be 100 percent placed with the need which it is collected for. Because of "One Great Hour of Sharing" UMCOR can continue to be the lean, effective disaster relief program it has become. We all can be proud of UMCOR, and we will have the opportunity to be a big part of what they do next Sunday. If you are donating by check, please make the check out to BUMC and be sure to write "One Great Hour" on the memo line so that we can properly process the check.

5) **Easter Food Baskets - Adopt a Family:** This important information comes from Deb Lombard:

Plans are currently underway to provide Easter food baskets to Brewerton families in need. We will be partnering with our friends at Cavalry Baptist church in this community effort again this year. If you are interested in helping grocery bags with suggested food items/quantities are available in the

narthex. Simply fill the bag with some or all of the food items and leave it in the pantry on or before 4/14. Freezer space is available for turkeys & hams.

Baskets will be assembled on Thursday, April 14th with the help of Boy Scout Troop #3112. A portion of the baskets will be delivered on Sunday, April 17th following the Cantata. The remaining baskets will be picked up during pantry hours on Tuesday, 4/19 and Thursday, 4/21. If you are interested in assisting with deliveries, please see Deb Lombard or call 676-7276. Thank you for your continued support of our food pantry mission.

6) **April 17** (Palm Sunday) is the deadline to place your **orders for spring flowers** to dress up the sanctuary for Easter. The order forms are available at church on the table just outside the sanctuary. There are a number of options available so look the order form over carefully and help make our church spectacular for the holiday! Any questions, please contact Lois Groginski

7) April 17 is ALSO "**Bread for the World**" Sunday. Our United Methodist Women's group will be selling fresh bread (and other baked goods) to raise money for the missions projects which they support. If you enjoy baking, they are accepting donations of bread and baked goods to sell. If you do not enjoy baking, be sure to pick up a few items to enjoy after church.

8) **Its Garden Time!** Spring is coming and once again the Sunday school and Child Care programs will be learning about God's creation and good stewardship of the earth by planting a garden behind the church. They can use help in the form of volunteers to provide muscle power to improve the garden area and also in the form of soil amendments and other garden necessities. Donations of lumber, soil, fencing materials or money to purchase them are gratefully accepted as well as tax deductible. Contact Cheryl Camp or Pastor Roger to donate or volunteer.

9) There will be a **Finance Team meeting** next Tuesday (April 12) at 6:30 PM, and a **Trustees Meeting** the same night at 7:00 PM.

10) **All bulletin announcements should** go directly to Lois Groginski, our dedicated and excellent bulletin producer/editor. Unless she receives them, they will not make it into the bulletin. Please try to get bulletin items to her by Wednesday for inclusion the following Sunday. Items submitted later than that may not make the bulletin that week.

11) **Have I missed anything?** Feel free to drop me a line with items that should be a part of OUR weekly update. Suggestions, corrections and other (constructive) comments may be emailed to me at Garred98@aol.com. Please have it to me by Sunday morning for inclusion in the next week's update.

See you at Church, and around the Kingdom!

Pastor Roger, Lead Servant and "patience exercising" child of God.