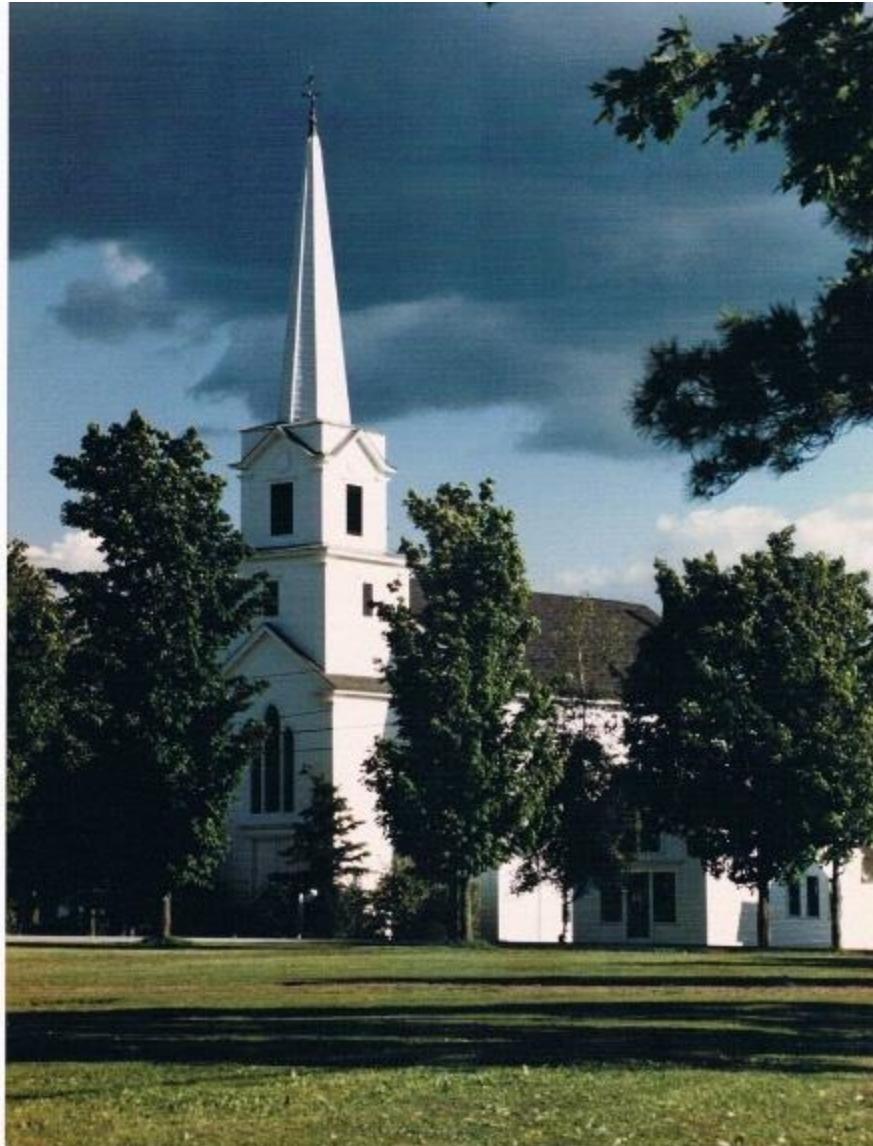


The Irasburg United Church Newsletter



Irasburg United Church

MARCH-APRIL 2020

Pastors Corner



As we head into March and April it is a reminder of how season's change once again. I know for me the winter has been rough especially the past 2 months I have been overwhelmed by the D's -- death, disease, divorce, disaster, defeat, deception, demagoguery, discrimination.....all leading to the doldrums! Winters in our life can sometimes seem like that. And all those overwhelming events in the lives of those we love and care about can weigh us down...it becomes mud-season in our soul.

It is so important during times like this to look for the brightness of other D's -- daylight, delight, dependability, diplomacy, determination, divinity, discovery and let's not forget dancing and dessert! There is always the promise of spring, of resurrection and new growth. This is the promise of Easter: that all is not lost, that death does not win, and that God lives within each of us. What a beautiful faith we have, a mighty God we serve, a precious Savior in Jesus, and the promise of the glorious infilling of the Holy Spirit to power our lives.

As we see bulbs blooming, trees budding, and birds starting to sing again let us remember that our souls always will come out of our own mud seasons as well. It usually takes longer than we like, more work than we think, and maybe even tears and frustration but it will come. Hope springs eternal. I will leave you with another D --

Dickenson, Emily

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all - ...

All my hopes and prayers In Christ, Pastor Avril

CONDENSED EXECUTIVE BOARD AND DEACONS JANUARY & FEBRUARY MEETINGS

JANUARY ITEMS DISCUSSED:

THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING WAS SET FOR FEBRUARY 16TH. WARNINGS WERE TO BE IN THE BULLETIN THE WEEKS OF JANUARY 26TH; FEBRUARY 2ND AND 9TH. MICKEY AGREED TO GET THE COMMITTEE REPORTS PUT TOGETHER AND PRINTED AT FRONT DESK BY FEBRUARY 9TH. THE DEADLINE FOR COMMITTEES TO GET THEIR REPORTS TO HER WAS SET FOR FEBRUARY 2ND.

AVRIL PRESENTED THE SUGGESTION THAT WE CONSIDER COMBINING THE DEACONS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS. THE BOARD FELT THIS WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT SUGGESTION.

ALSO DISCUSSED WAS THE POSSIBLE NEED TO MAKE SOME CHANGES IN THE BY-LAWS. AVRIL GAVE US AN OUTLINE OF THESE CHANGES WHICH WE WILL READ OVER AND DISCUSS AT THE NEXT MONTH'S BOARD MEETING.

SOME USES OF THE COMFORT FUND AND SHEPHERD'S FUND FOR THIS MONTH WAS DISCUSSED.

IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT WE DESIGNATE THE LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AS "BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH" DAY. MICHELLE WILL ADD THAT NOTICE TO THE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE WEEKLY BULLETINS.

FEBRUARY ITEMS DISCUSSED:

THE MAJORITY OF THE MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO THE NEW BUDGET FOR 2020 THAT WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE CONGREGATION AT THE ANNUAL

BONNIE LOCKE AGREED TO TAKE OVER THE POSITION OF CHURCH CLERK WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY HELD BY EVELYN KENNISON, FOR THIS YEAR, BEGINNING WITH THE ANNUAL MEETING ON THE 16TH.

DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE COMFORT FUND FOR FEBRUARY WAS DISCUSSED.

Irasburg United Church
Annual Meeting
February 16, 2020

The following were present: Pastor Avril Cochran, Ken & Bev Johnson, Adam Johnson, Angelique Thomas, Shawn Woods, Mark Buckley, Mickey & Bob Richards, Dani Dudley, Jane Fisher, Michelle Wilson, Pam Downer, Mona Piette and Bonnie Locke.

The meeting was held after Sunday Service. Bonnie Locke had previously been asked to service as the clerk because our beloved clerk, Evelyn Kennison had passed. The meeting was called to order. First item on the agenda was to elect a moderator. Ken Johnson was nominated from the floor to service, nominations seized and Kenny was re-elected. Bonnie Locke was then nominated by Mickey Richards to officially be the clerk. Nominations seized and Bonnie was elected.

Item # 2 o the agenda was to accept the Annual Report. The congregation spent a few minutes looking over the 2019 Annual report. Mickey made a motion to accept the report. Motion was seconded and passed.

Item # 3 was the election of officers for 2020. Which was approved as printed except we needed another Deacon to fill an open space. Bonnie Locke nominated Jane Fisher, nominations seized and Jane was elected to finish out the term for Evelyn Kennison till 2021. Motion for treasurer was made, Bev Johnson was nominated, seconded and accepted. The slate of new officers are: moderator -Ken Johnson, clerk -Bonnie Locke, treasurer- Bev Johnson, executive board-Gary Johnson, Ken Johnson, and Bonnie Locke, Deacons -Deb Johnson , Cheryl Stelter, and Jane Fisher. For the Nominating committee, Mona Piette mentioned that she would serve again but if anyone wanted the position she would decline. No one offered, Mona agreed to serve. our Statement of Purpose. Pastor Avril mentioned having a Bible Study in the spring suggested to her by Sherry Baylee.

The #4 agenda item was to discuss the coming years goals in relation to our Statement of Purpose. Pastor Avril mentioned having a Bible Study in the spring suggested to her by Sherry Baylee.

Kenny also mentioned the entrance way and moving forward on the work that needs to be done. He is going to get in touch with the prison and discuss that with the person in charge.

Item # 5 The Budget was discussed. Discussion about the monies from the parsonage mortgage was going to be up in Oct. That amounted to an additional income of approx. \$290 in the operating budget and the balance went to the 24 month CD . To also generate income the steeple lights were brought up. They can be in remembrance of a loved ones and the amount to donate is whatever you choose. More than one family can be honored per month. Mona Piette mentioned the copyright dues. She was told that could be purchased at a lesser cost. She is going to check into that. There being no other discussion, a motion was made to approve the budget, it was seconded and passed.

Item # 6 on the agenda was other business. Mickey mentioned that she has invited 19 more Craft vendors to exhibit at the Church Fair. She also wanted the congregation to be aware that she is working on a church directory. When that is completed she will pass out to all the congregation.

Pastor Avril mentioned a possible by-law change. Per Pastor Avril,

“In recognition of our church’s size and need for open communication and understanding we have moved to having one overarching committee that encompasses the work of the executive board and the deacons. It is important for the executive board to not be absent while conversations take place about the worship, education, and the stewardship of the body of Christ. It is equally important that the deacons not be absent while conversation takes place about the nurture, outreach, and witness ministries of the church and its temporal affairs. We recognize that it takes a mix of gifts and services to meet the needs of a congregation.”

This by-law change was printed out for the board and congregation.

Being no other business, a motion was made that the meeting be adjourned. That motion was Seconded and passed.
A delicious Pot luck lunch was enjoyed by all following the meeting.
Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Locke,
Clerk

STORY SENT TO ME FROM A FRIEND.....

A BOY ASKED HIS FATHER — “DAD WHAT IS THE SIZE OF GOD?”

THEN HIS FATHER LOOKED TO THE SKY AND SAW A PLANE — AND ASKED “WHAT SIZE IS THAT PLANE?”

THE BOY REPLIED —“IT’S VERY SMALL...I CAN HARDLY SEE IT.”

THEN THE FATHER TOOK THE BOY TO A NEARBY AIRPORT AND AS THEY APPROACHED A PLANE THE FATHER SAID, “NOW SON, HOW BIG IS THIS PLANE?”

“WOW! DAD THIS PLANE IS HUGE!”

THEN HIS FATHER SAID “SON, LIKE THE TWO PLANES, GOD’S SIZE DEPENDS ON HOW CLOSE OR HOW FAR AWAY YOU ARE TO HIM. THE CLOSER YOU ARE TO HIM THE GREATER AND GREATER HE WILL BE IN YOUR LIFE.

MICHELLE WILSON

Greetings to you all at the Irasburg United Church and those who receive this Newsletter. May the God of Peace and Comfort bless you today and everyday as you continue to do his work and will.

First, I am so sorry that I missed getting an article into the last newsletter to let you all know how we are doing. I know that this is the only way that some of you are able to keep us with you.

We had a wonderful Christmas visiting with our daughter Monika, our Son Justin, our daughter-in-law Leah, our grandson Morgan, and Patty's sisters family, John, Jane, Paige, Jacob and Kayley. We rented a big Air B&B in Long Beach Ca and had a wonderful time. God kept us all safe as we and they traveled around. Pat and I attended a Christmas Eve service at Branch of Hope church in Torrance, Ca. It was a simple, yet beautiful service. It certainly reminded of my home church, but without Mona's beautiful voice.



One thing that we can be sure of is change and Pat and I are living it for sure. Our son has accepted a job in Portland Oregon and he, his dear wife Leah, and their son Morgan, have all moved to Portland. They headed up on Dec 28 and arrived the next day. Of course the reason that we bought a house on wheels was to go where they went. Pat and I had already made plans to be in San Diego from Jan 1-3, and then at Pismo Beach from Jan 5-12. So we kept our plans and headed for Portland on Jan 12. We took a week to get there and we chose a route that brought us through the Redwood forest. It was just beautiful and those trees are so big. But the scary part was that they made the road around the trees. It was real curvy and in some places

you could see on the trees where a car or truck had scrapped up against them. We took our time and as you might know, went from Palm trees to Pine trees; from desert to lush green fields and trees! Trees everywhere. We are appreciating that. This area at time reminds us of Vermont and at other times Maine, with the tall pine trees. It is not as busy here as it was in LA, that is for sure.

And we have other news that is joyous to us, but needs your prayers. Leah is pregnant again and she is near 12 weeks. This is a great thing because she is prone to miscarriages in the first 6 weeks or so. But she needs our prayers to be sure that she has a healthy baby about the end of August or early September. We are so looking forward to this and pray for God to grant them all the physical energy that another little one will take. Pat and I will be headed for Denver at the end of April, but will be back here the end of September or the beginning of October. We will be ready to provide whatever help we can.

As many of you know, Pat and I wanted to make this change so that we could be closer to our children. As we are getting close to the first year of doing that, we are grateful for how God is working in our lives and in the lives of our children. Pray for us that God will give us the strength, both physically and spiritually, to show forth the power of Christ in our lives.

We are headed for Colorado on April 21 and will be there for the summer. But we are also planning a trip to New England and will be in Vermont from about July 30 – Aug 4. We will be attending church in Irasburg that Sunday so looking forward to seeing as many of you as we can. As always, we miss you all and love you all and are looking forward to our trip back east. May God Bless you all mightily as you continue to do his work and will.

Rick and Pat



**MAY FLOWERS ALWAYS LINE YOUR PATH
AND SUNSHINE LIGHT YOUR DAY.**

**MAY EVERY SONGBIRD SERENADE YOU
EACH STEP ALONG THE WAY.**

**MAY A RAINBOW RUN BESIDE YOU
IN A SKY THAT'S ALWAYS BLUE.**

**AND MAY HAPPINESS FILL YOUR HEART EACH DAY
AND LAST YOUR WHOLE LIFE THROUGH.**

AN OLD IRISH BLESSING

A Dog's Purpose

Robert W. Hoppe, DVM. Saint Johnsbury Animal Hospital in St. Johnsbury, VT

*B*eing a Veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolf hound named Belker. The Dog's owners, Ron and Lisa, along with their little boy Shane, were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away.

The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any diffi-



culty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."

Startled we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation.

He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life - Like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The six-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

Robert W. Hoppe DVM operates Saint Johnsbury Animal Hospital in St. Johnsbury, VT

SUBMITTED BY CORI AND BRAD DUDLEY



**THE IRASBURG UNITED CHURCH
ANNUAL CORN BEEF & CABBAGE
DINNER**

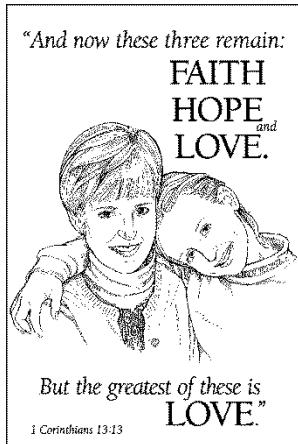
SATURDAY MARCH 21ST

TWO SETTINGS: 5:00 AND 6:00 PM.

**PRICE: ADULTS \$12.00
CHILDREN UNDER 5 YRS. \$5.00**

**RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED
(To AVOID BEING DISAPPOINTED)**

754-2281 OR 754-2087

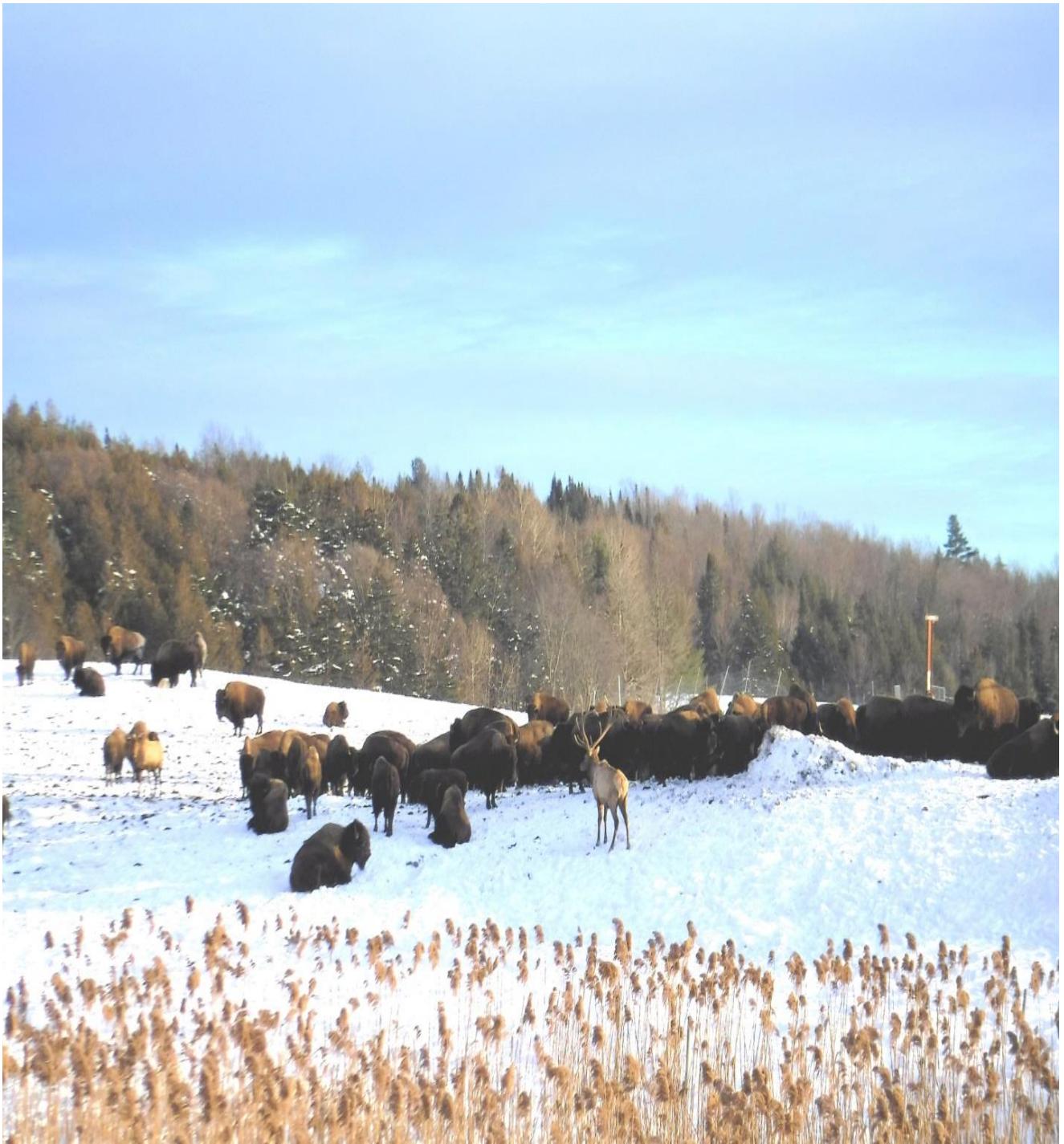


A mother was teaching her three year old daughter, Caitlin the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime she would repeat the lines from the prayer after her mother. Finally she decided to go solo. The mother listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed. "but deliver us from E-mail."

A CLEVER IDEA WORTH KNOWING

When the heating unit on my clothes dryer went out the repair man told us he wanted to show us something. He went over to the dryer and pulled out the lint filter and took it over to the sink and ran the hot water on it. Well....the hot water just sat on the top of the mesh, it didn't go through. He told us dryer sheets cause a film over the mesh and that's what burns out the heating unit. You can't see the film but it is there. It's what makes your clothes soft and static free. You know how they feel a little waxy when you take them out of the box.... Well this stuff builds up on your clothes and your lint screen. This is also what causes dryers to burn your house down with it. He told us the best way to keep your dryer working for a long time (and to keep your electric bill lower) is to take the filter out and wash it in hot soapy water and an old toothbrush at least every six months. He said that makes the life of the dryer last at least twice as long. (and your house a little safer.)

From "Helpful Hints for the Homemaker "



WHOA!! Where did all you guys come from? Did I walk into the wrong field?

(Taken on Rt. 14 by the Nelson Farm on February 20th 2020)

ORANGE CITRUS COOKIES

**1/3 Cup unsalted Butter
2/3 Cup Sugar
1 Egg
6 Tbsp. Orange Marmalade
2 Tsp. Lemon Zest
1/2 Cup chopped nuts (optional)
1 1/2 Cups Flour
1 1/2 tsp. Baking Soda**

Preheat oven to 375.

Lightly grease 2 baking sheets or line with parchment paper.

- 1. In a large bowl combine butter and sugar.**
- 2. Add egg, marmalade, lemon zest and nuts. Mix until thoroughly blended.**
- 3. In another bowl whisk flour and baking soda.**
- 4. Slowly add the rest of the ingredients.**
- 5. Drop by spoonful's on baking sheet leaving 1 ½-2 apart.**
- 6. Bake 10-12 minutes until edges begin to brown.**

Cool on sheets for 5 minutes before moving. Cookies can be served as is or glazed with an orange glaze for a special treat.

ORANGE GLAZE

**2 Cups Confectioner Sugar
3 Tblsp. milk
1/4 tsp. Orange Juice
1/3 Cup Orange Zest**

Combine well and drizzle over cookies (great for cakes as well)

MARCH - APRIL CALENDAR

MARCH

- 1 – Communion Sunday**
- 3 – Town Meeting**
 - Vt. Primary Election – Don’t Forget to Vote**
- 4 – Erika Johnson – B**
- 8 – DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS**
- 10 – Board/Deacons Mtg.**
 - Bob Richards – B**
- 16 – Mona Piette –B**
- 20 – Kitchen help needed to prep dinner (call Bev- 754-2087 eves.)**
- 21 – CORN BEEF DINNER**

APRIL

- 5 – Communion Sunday**
 - PALM SUNDAY**
- 6 – Annie Bradley –B**
- 7 – Board/Deacons Mtg.**
- 8 – Lee Walker – B**
- 9 – Jessie Buckley –B**
- 12 – EASTER SUNDAY**
- 29 – Dani Dudley – B**
- 30 – Sherwood Beatty - B**

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STEEPLE LIGHTS

If anyone would like to make a donation (any amount) to the steeple light fund in memory of a loved one just send it to Bev Johnson or put it in the collection plate on Sunday. Just be sure to mark it donation and who it is in memory of and the week you want them lit.

