



First
Presbyterian
Church
of Waynesboro, Virginia

The Columns *Online*

February 9, 2022 | Waynesboro, Virginia | *a newsletter supplement*



Liturgist this week: Warner Sandquist

Scripture lessons: Psalm 1
Luke 6:17-26
Sermon: Blessed.

COVID average Incidence Rate per 100,000
from the Virginia Dept of Health.

Augusta County:	120
Harrisonburg	73
Rockingham	59
Staunton	26
<u>Waynesboro</u>	<u>20</u>
Average/100K	60

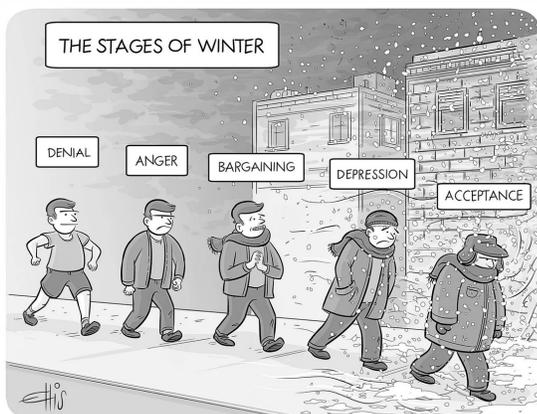
Level of Community Transmission

High

Substantial

Moderate

Low



Music Notes

This week's anthem is based on a portion verses of Sunday's New Testament reading, Luke 6: 20-23.

This musical arrangement of the Beatitudes was first heard in the Russian Orthodox church back in the 10th century, part of the Orthodox Divine Liturgy. In 1983, Richard Proulx (1937-2010) created the setting that will be heard on Sunday. It is one of more than 300 pieces composed or arranged by Proulx. Although most of his compositions are sacred, particularly choral, music, he wrote quite a few secular pieces, including two operas and a theme song for Union Pacific Railroad in 1971.



Proulx.



Our Worship Channels

click on the logos



Ordinance limiting Oregon church meal services violates religious freedom, lawsuit says

(Religion News Service) — An Oregon church is suing the coastal city of Brookings, arguing that an ordinance restricting the church’s meal program for the unhoused violates its right to religious freedom. St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon filed the lawsuit against the city on Friday, January 28 in Oregon’s U.S. District Court.

“We’ve been serving our community here for decades and picking up the slack where the need exists and no one else is stepping in,” said the Rev. James Bernard Lindley, vicar of St. Timothy’s, in a statement from the diocese. “We have no intention of stopping now and we’re prepared to hold fast to our beliefs. We won’t abandon the people of Brookings who need our help, even when we’re being threatened.”

It claims that the ordinance — which limits the church to offering free meals just twice a week — interferes with the church’s fundamental beliefs of “feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, and sheltering the houseless.” St. Timothy’s has been serving meals four days a week, Friday through Monday, so that in conjunction with other nearby churches offering food, people can “have access to at least one hot, nutritious meal every day of the week,” according to the lawsuit. Limiting its meal service would impede that, the lawsuit states.

By adopting the measure, the city violated the First and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution, the lawsuit claims, “because it prevents them from expressing their Christian faith through the meal program, and from offering Christian fellowship to diners who attend, more than two days per week.” The diocese and the church are asking the federal court to declare the ordinance invalid and are seeking a permanent injunction to stop the city from enforcing the measure, which went into effect Wednesday. Brookings City Manager Janell Howard

said she has not seen the lawsuit, but added that the city does not comment on pending or active lawsuits. The Brookings City Council approved the ordinance in October after complaints from residents who live near churches that have meal ministries, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported.

For decades, St. Timothy’s has offered health clinics, administered vaccines, offered shower and internet access and created a space for a food bank to provide free meals to neighbors, according to the lawsuit. The need intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic and the church grew its meal program when other churches in the area suspended theirs, the lawsuit said. The church also offered its parking lot to residents who needed a safe place to sleep in their vehicles.

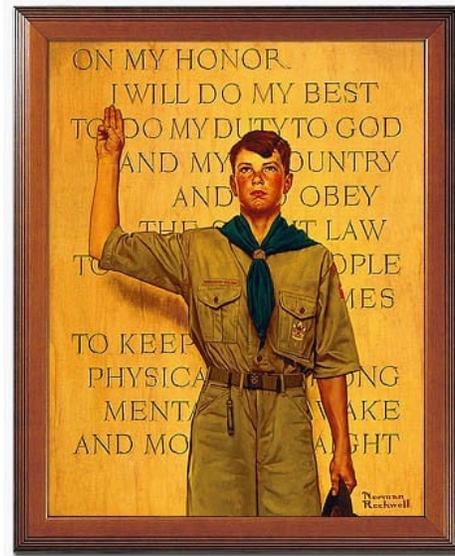
The lawsuit notes that the city received a petition in April 2021 from about 30 residents saying the free meals drew “vagrants or undesirables.” The city responded by requiring local churches to apply for a conditional use permit to provide “benevolent meal service,” stipulating that the permits would only allow two meal times per week. Charitable meal services are treated like restaurants when granted licensing from the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported. Restaurants are not allowed to operate in residential zones, according to the Brookings Municipal Code, and churches in Brookings are in residential zones, according to the news agency. However, the church and diocese are standing their ground.

“The parishioners of St. Timothy’s are obeying the teachings of Jesus when they provide food and medical care to their community,” said the Rt. Rev. Diana Akiyama, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, in the statement. “Providing hospitality to all who enter St. Timothy’s in search of help is integral to our beliefs.”

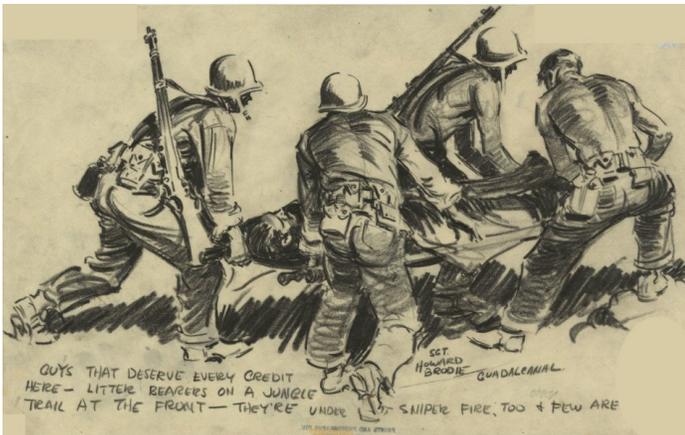
This Week in History



King George VI of England dies
February 6, 1952



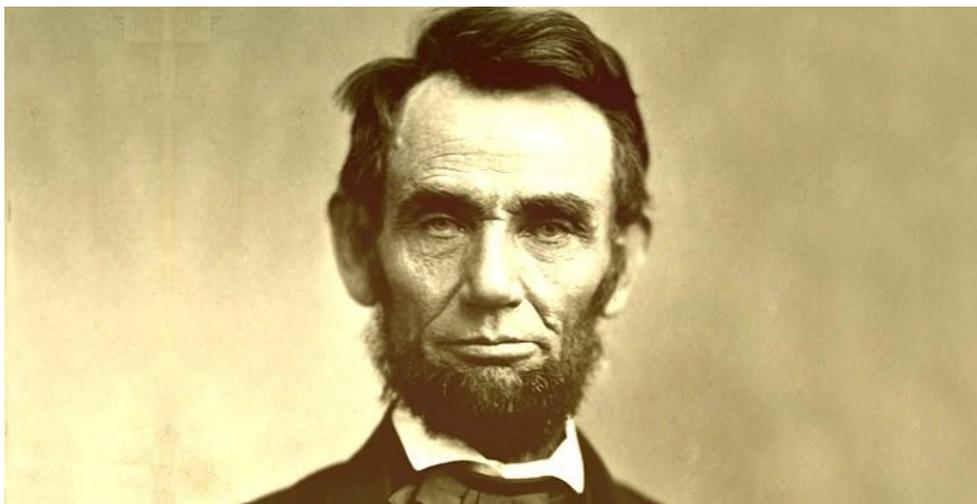
Boy Scouts of America founded by William D. Boyce,
following the British model created by Lord Robert Baden-Powell
February 8, 1919



U.S. forces capture Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands
after six months of fighting.
February 9, 1943



Nelson Mandela freed
after 27 years in South African prisons.
11 February, 1990



Abraham Lincoln born in Hardin County Kentucky
February 12, 1809