

## EASTER SUNDAY

- **Ecumenical Easter Son-Rise Worship** will be at 7:00 AM at Pinti Field
- **Easter Worship** with Holy Communion at 10am. Our Coffee Break will be in the Dining Hall so we can enjoy the **Easter Egg Hunt** for our children. Please invite family and friends to join us for the special and holy occasion. Thank you to Gail Tucker & CE for heading up the festivities after Worship
- **One Great Hour of Sharing** and Fish Bank Collection

**thirty-one**  
**BINGO**  
**Party!**  
**wednesday**  
**april 18**  
**RAFFLES!**  
**OVER \$800 OF THIRTY-ONE PRIZES!**  
**gone coastal**  
**5345 lee center taberg rd. lee center**  
**Doors Open at 5pm / Bingo Begins at 6pm**  
**\$15 Admission Fee**  
\* Includes Light Munchies & 10-Pack Bingo Cards  
\* Limited Seating  
\* Advance Ticket Sales Preferred – Only a Few Available at the Door  
\* Additional 10-Pack Cards - \$10  
\* Bring Markers & We'll Have a Few Daubers On Hand  
\* Extra Game for those who Place an Order  
**Hosted by Relay for Life Teams**  
**Rainbow of Hope & Faith First Pres Rome & Woods Valley**  
**All Profits to American Cancer Society/Relay for Life**  
Questions or More Info? Contact Sue Hanson (336-6251)  
Tickets Available at 1<sup>st</sup> Pres Church (108 W Court) - Woods Valley - Gone Coastal  
Can't Make the Party ?? - Place An Order Online at:  
[www.mythirtyone.com/6126](http://www.mythirtyone.com/6126), click My Scheduled Parties, then Relay for Life BINGO

## AROUND THE CONGREGATION

### Birthdays

Edmund Kolb .....04/01  
 Emily Turner .....04/01  
 Skip Briggs .....04/02  
 Paul Berger .....04/03  
 Patty Dunham.....04/03  
 Samantha Roush.....04/03  
 Sam Pendergrast .....04/06  
 Jim Furney .....04/06  
 Erin Kennedy .....04/07  
 Gerry Storms .....04/08  
 Ron Owens .....04/11  
 Brian Burke .....04/14  
 Monica Taylor.....04/14  
 Brenden Hatzinger.....04/14  
 Larry Reyes .....04/15  
 Amy Garcia .....04/15  
 Adrian Flanders .....04/16  
 Sonepith Keoviengsamay .....04/16  
 Nancy Hester .....04/17  
 Donna Needham .....04/18  
 Emily Lewis .....04/18  
 Roberta Bert .....04/19  
 Don Davidson .....04/19  
 Isabelle Turner.....04/19

### Birthdays Continued

John Nethaway.....04/20  
 Olga Woodhouse.....04/21  
 Doug Davidson.....04/22  
 Erik O'Meara.....04/23  
 Brian Hickernell .....04/24  
 Shirley Brownnewell.....04/25  
 Mary Wrege.....04/25  
 Dasey Rizzo .....04/27  
 Kerry Furney .....04/28  
 Charlie Sexton.....04/28  
 Cooper Engelbert.....04/29  
 Mike Little.....04/30

### Anniversaries

Skip & Lenora Merithew.....04/16  
 Dave & Muffy Engelbert.....04/17  
 Mike & Amy Garcia.....04/20  
 Paul & Suzie Abreu .....04/20  
 Dan & Marcie Ferens.....04/28

**Rome-Area Hunger Walk**  
RAHW  
**Join Us on April 03rd**  
**Wendy's Night**  
401 Erie Blvd W, Rome  
From 5pm to 8pm  
Wendy's Restaurant will donate 10% of all proceeds to the Hunger Walk

### STUDENT LOAN ANNOUNCEMENT

Student loans are available for members of First Presbyterian Church who desire further education in graduate school, college, junior college, trade school or a technical training program. The amount of each loan is determined by the need of the student and is not to exceed \$2,000 to any person in any year. Repayment of the loan is to begin six months after termination of the applicant's higher education. Applications are available through the Church Financial Secretary Susan Hatzinger or Student Loan Chair Keith Butters. Please submit your completed application to the Church Office as soon as possible as it can take some time to process an application. Please contact Keith Butters (315 725-6063) if you have any questions concerning the Student Loan Program.

## FROM PASTOR SAM

### **“Gathered & Scattered”**

There's an old song by Avery & Marsh about the church. The first verse is: “The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple; the church is not a resting place; the church is a people.” The refrain says: “I am the church; you are the church; we are the church together. All who follow Jesus, all around the world – yes, we're the church together!”

Sometimes the church is a resting place, because one of the purposes of the church is to be, as stated in the Great Ends of the Church, a community that provides “shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship” for the children of God. The main point of the song, though, is that we are the church together. The church is a people, not a building, a place or an institution.

One way to think of the life of the church is in terms of phases or movements. When we think about the life of the church, we can think about the church gathered and the church scattered. Sometimes we're together, in order to be strengthened and supported, nurtured for the rest of our life when we're scattered, when we're separate from the rest of the church and are living our lives in the world to let our light shine and bear witness to the new life in us.

Every congregation lives its life in those phases of being gathered and scattered. Who we are and what our community is like, what the needs around us are and what the gifts within us are – all of this shapes how we express the life of the church. From time to time every congregation needs to engage in a time of prayer and discernment as we seek the guidance of the Spirit in directing our life together.

Through this time of discernment and planning we are seeking God's guidance to shape the life of this part of the church in its gathered life and its scattered life. You are preparing to search for a new pastor who will take my place. The goals you are setting and the priorities you identify are yours, not mine. My work is to guide you and support you for your life as the church, to continue my pastoral and teaching work, and to get ready to leave when you find your new pastor. I can't say it often enough: you are the church, and only you can discern what's next. It's not my vision or plan, but yours.

Five groups of people are working on goals that have been identified over the last few months of planning. Their main work is to gather information and set priorities for ministry. They should be talking to you, involving as many people as possible in the conversation to shape the future of the church. The five work areas are organized by phrases from the church mission statement: we gather as God's people; to deepen our understanding of Christ; to spread his word and teachings; to reach out to our church family; to reach out to our community and world.

*Continued....*

## FROM PASTOR SAM CONTINUED

The work that is being done is for the purpose of discerning God's work and call in those areas of the life of the church. Some of it has to do with how we gather to nurture and support each other. Some of it has to do with what we do to serve others. It's all about being the church.

There is a sixth group called the transition team. Its work is that of coordination and administration for the overall process.

So, please be ready to get involved and add your voice. You are the church.

Faithfully, Sam

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS FROM JULIE DENTON

In March we met with Church Librarian Barb Steagall, who shared details of her work maintaining the library's collection. **Did you know we have over 1300 items in the library, including fiction, non-fiction and children's materials?** Barb has donated countless hours in preparing records of what we have and what we no longer need. The library is a **FREE RESOURCE** for your use and enjoyment. It is located in between the parlor and the chapel. Please stop by at your convenience to see what you may like to borrow.

The committee also discussed individual events such as Heritage Sunday held in February and how to celebrate Easter after the worship service. What we have come to discover is that organizing such events as a committee of the whole can be difficult due to varying attendance at monthly meetings, limited time at meetings to coordinate details, busy and ever-changing schedules, etc. **We would like to explore the idea of finding a "host" for each of these kinds of events -- someone who would take the lead, with the resources, support and guidance of the committee available to him or her.** Heritage Sunday, the Easter Egg Hunt and Advent Day readily come to mind. Perhaps you have an idea for a new event that you would like to initiate. We welcome any and all input! You would not be expected to work alone, but rather serve as a point person for organizational purposes. No long-term commitment required!

If you feel called/inspired to lead an event, please contact Pastor Sam, Kari in the church office, or any of the committee members (Julie Denton; Michelle Dolan; Amy Garcia; Carrie Scaccia; Charlie Sexton; or Mary Yates) to let us know. The CE committee wants to provide opportunities to help you reach your full potential, but **congregational involvement is the key.**

Finally, please note the Save the Date announcements for events being held this summer. It is never too early to incorporate Christian educational opportunities into your summer plans. Our church will be hosting Vacation Bible School this July. We will be recruiting volunteers in the near future.

## CE NEWS CONTINUED

As the cold of winter begins to release its grasp on the earth, and thoughts of spring and new growth excite our hearts and minds, how might you encourage and experience growth on a personal level? How might you learn and help others to learn what it means to live life in the ways God intended?

*"Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his going forth is as sure as the dawn; he has come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth." -- Hosea 6:3*

## JOY (Jesus Organized Youth) NEWS

The JOY Youth Group will serve lunch at Loaves and Fishes on Sunday, April 22. We'll walk over to arrive at noon and be back at the church at about 2:15. Guys, remember to bring a baseball cap so you don't have to wear a hairnet.

## SAVE THESE DATES

- Delaware Work Camp for Incoming 9th graders through Graduating Seniors -- July 8-14
- Vacation Bible School for Adult Volunteers & Children Attendees -- July 23-27

## SERENITY CIRCLE FROM MICHELLE DOLAN

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-21 says: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt, but test them all; hold on to what is good."*

As we consider this notion, we may meditate upon the meaning and value of Spiritual Discernment. Spiritual discernment is calling on the Holy Spirit to lead or give direction on a matter. It is how the Spirit shows people what God wants them to do and be. There is discernment of: gifts, spirits, actions, intents, perceptions, and the course of the times we live in. Discernment is more than just a skill. Discernment is a gift from God before it is anything else.

Jesus didn't call us to love ideas he called us to love people.

Discernment means asking God to help clarify and sort things out in your life, whether it be getting to the root cause of your problems, or gaining spiritual insight into your situation, or seeing more clearly what's going on in your relationships. It's more about finding the truth. Ask yourself, "If I raise this issue, how am I pointing people to Christ? How am I helping them grow in the Spirit? In what way am I loving them?" Seeking discernment assists us in finding clarity – of thought, of choices, of action.

*Continued*

## SERENITY CIRCLE CONTINUED

A decision empowers you to act. When you don't decide, you give power to someone or something else to make the decision. So if there is not a clear sense of direction from the Spirit, it could be a hint that God didn't want you to decide anything. If you find this is so, then let things happen as they will, leaving it in the hands of others whom God is calling forward. In praying for discernment we ask "why?" Why am I feeling so angry right now over such a little thing? Why isn't this working out? Why do I keep making bad choices? Why do I feel so alone and fearful? Why do I feel like I'm not getting anywhere when I pray?



At times when things don't feel right in your life, take it as a sign that it's time to pray for discernment. Be mindful of your true intentions. Ask yourself: Is this sacred or selfish? Good or bad? God-serving or self-serving? Freeing or limiting? True or false? Helpful or hurtful? Unifying or polarizing?

I encourage you to utilize our prayer space in the sanctuary to make time with God and the Holy Spirit. Have a conversation with our Lord, take time to quiet your mind and open your heart.

I hope it helps you to find clarity and inspiration.

*~ Michelle*

resources: spirithome.com, prayerideas.org

**Spring Serenity Circle Group Dinner:** please join us on Tues Apr 17 at 6PM; tentative destination DiCastro's Brick Oven on Erie Blvd. Hope you can join us! Kindly RSVP with Kari (firstpresrome@gmail.com) or Carol (berger.cm@gmail.com) at your earliest convenience. We would like a head count no later than Apr 10th. Thank you! Michelle

**The Memorial Service for Susan Dove** is slated for Saturday, Jun 02 at 11am. If you'd like to write a remembrance (for a designated reader to share or to read yourself) please contact the church office

## APRIL NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

We'll be talking about spring changes including the weather!! Our classes will be planting seeds and celebrating Earth Day by learning about how to keep our earth clean! There's special excitement for our 4-year old class who will travel to the MOST in Syracuse on April 18! Thank you for your support of our programs and we're now accepting registrations for the Fall 2018 Semester!

APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS & MORE

**Worship Recorders:**

- Apr 01 – Jay Fish
- Apr 08 – Valerie Wood
- Apr 15 – Katrina Schell
- Apr 22 – John Nethaway
- Apr 29 - Shari Fish

**Layreaders**

- Apr 01 – Keith Butters
- Apr 08 – Julie Denton
- Apr 15 – Gail Tucker
- Apr 22 – Liz Clough
- Apr 29 – Jack Grow

**Ushers/Greeters/Acolyte**

- Apr 01 – Dave Scaccia
- Apr 08 – Carl Longley
- Apr 15 – Jim Henderson
- Apr 22 – Don Hanson
- Apr 29 - Dave Scaccia

**Deacon at the Ramp**

- Apr 01 – Mary Lou Talley
- Apr 08 – Candy Warner
- Apr 15 – Kiki Hinman
- Apr 22 – Amy Garcia
- Apr 29 – Bonnie Herter

**Children’s Talk**

- Apr 08 – Mary Grow
- Apr 22 – Julie Denton

**Rescue Mission Cook Captains**

- Apr 17 at TBA Bruce Warcup Captain
- Apr 24 at 2p Kari Captain

**Utica Presbytery Prayer Chain**

- Apr 01 - The Micah Committee of the Presbytery of Utica
- Apr 08 - First Presbyterian Church, Ilion
- Apr 15 - Church of the Lakes, Inlet
- April 22 - First United Presbyterian Church, Little Falls
- April 29 – First Presbyterian Church, Lowville

**Holy Communion**

**Servers:**

- Helen Adsit, Paul Adsit, Roberta Bert, Candy Fay, Vi Head and Carl Longley

**Setup:**

- Sue Hollenbeck

**A Space for Prayer and Meditation** has been set aside at the front of the sanctuary. You are invited to come to the sanctuary any time the church is open and use this space. There are materials available including Bibles, devotional books, paper for journaling and coloring books for meditation. Our hope is that people will find the space to be a place apart where they can pray, meditate and listen for God.



**April 20th Rockin’ the Spirit with Pastor Jeff  
7PM in the Chapel**

**PLEASE RESPOND**

*Our church’s long range planning group is interested in your feedback and input on the following questions:*

If you could change anything about worship, what would it be? Any Suggestions?

Please identify your age range: \_\_\_ 0-19, \_\_\_ 20-39  
\_\_\_ 40-59, \_\_\_ 60-79, \_\_\_ 80 and above

Please return this brief questionnaire to the Church Office by leaving it on Kari’s desk or placing in Sunday’s offering plate. **Questionnaires may also be obtained from the ushers so you don’t have to tear your bulletin apart 😊**

APRIL MUSIC NOTES

- Bell Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 6:30
- Senior Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 7:30
- Youth Choir rehearses Sundays at 12:00 (no rehearsal April 1)

**Westminster Moriah Oliver Spring Tea** – Sunday May 06 from 2-4p - \$15/person: teas scones, sandwiches & Desserts – 714 Washington St Utica 732-6518. Reservations & \$\$ by Apr 23

**Standing Strong in the Storms** – Apr 13 & 14. Spring Ladies Conference – Delta Lake Bible Study. Guest Speaker Eileen Banks of Immanuel Baptist in Rome “Living the Walk with Jesus”. Reg Fri from 3-5p / Dinner & Program on Fri eve plus Sat from 8a to 3p. Teens Welcome – Full & Partial Attendance Scholarships available – Contact Julie Rosati @julie@carenetcny.org

**Salvation Army Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Auction:** 410 West Dominick St, Fri Apr 20 from 5-7pm. \$10 Adult \$5 children 12 & under & seniors. All proceeds to Salvation Army Youth Programs. Tickets on sale at 1<sup>st</sup> Pres Office

**Grief Survivors:** Meets every other Tuesday from 5:30-7:30 pm at The Good News Center, 10475 Cosby Manor Rd., Utica. Upcoming meetings will be April 17th, May 8th and May 22nd. Drop-ins welcome. This is a non-denominational support group. For more information contact The Good News Center at 315-735-6210, info@thegoodnewscenter.org, or visit us online www.thegoodnewscenter.org

FINANCIAL NEWS FROM SUSAN HATZINGER

	2018 Year-to-Date		2018	
	Feb Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
<b>Operating Budget:</b>				
Receipts	23239.94	49215.20	54471.92	328081.72
Expenditures	-24077.30	-49170.73	-51217.52	-328081.72
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>-837.36</b>	<b>44.47</b>	<b>3254.40</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Feb Collections:</b>				
Capital Improvement Fund:	186.00			
Blanket	415.00			
Memorials: Joyce Caswell, Mary Mowry				

NEWS FROM OUR MISSION COMMITTEE

**We need cook helpers** for the Rescue Mission cooking on the 3rd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Look for the signup sheets in the hall across from the parlor.

**Food Pantry Food & Paper Collection:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month - Salvation Army

**OGHS:** Lent is the time of year that we collect for One Great Hour of Sharing. Our youth have their fish box "piggy banks" to collect money on their own. OGHS envelopes are in the pews. We will collect Fish Banks and OGHS offerings on Easter Sunday. Thank you for your generosity with all of our Mission Projects.

**Church World Hygiene Kits:** The Mission Committee is collecting hygiene kits (and other kits) for disaster relief through CWS. From now through mid-April we invite you to make up a kit and drop it in the plastic bin under the table in the hallway outside the choir room. Or make a contribution to purchase kit ingredients and pay for shipping. The deadline for the spring drive is approaching.

**To assemble a Hygiene Kit you will need:**

One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels); One washcloth ; One wide-tooth comb ; One nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards); One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper) ; One toothbrush (in original packaging) ; Six Band-Aids

**Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.**

CWS also needs School Kits, Baby Kits and Emergency Cleanup Buckets. You can find out more about the kits and how to put them together at <http://www.cwsglobal.org/get-involved/kits/>

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

The Evening Circle will meet April 24 at Hester Jager's at 7:30. The Bible Lesson is 6 & 7. Newcomers are welcome. Contact Mary Grow for more info 337-8854

HERE AT FIRST PRES

**Support Relay for Life at a Pampered Chef** fundraiser on Monday, April 30 at 6:30 in the parlor. We'll find out how to make salads-in-a-jar as we learn about Pampered Chef products. You can support Relay for Life and shop for birthday, graduation and other gifts at the same time. If you can't make it to the fundraiser, catalogs will be available for your order from April 22 - May 6. See Sue Hanson or Cynthia with questions



*Alliance Classical Players  
Featuring Jewel Winds*  
Janelle Bookhout, Cornelia Brewster, Judy Marchione,  
Claire McKenney, Colleen O'Neil  
Special Guest Gregory Unangst, piano  
**Saturday, April 21 - 7:00 PM**  
Admission is free and open to the public

**Daniel Gutmann**, a popular bass-baritone from Vienna, Austria, will perform a mix of opera and classical music by Mozart and Schumann, as well as some Broadway favorites on Friday, April 6, 2018 at 7:30 pm here at 1<sup>st</sup> Pres Rome. The concert is free and open to the public, but a free-will offering will be taken to help defray expenses and Daniel's CD's are also available

**UNITY IN OUR COMMUNITY**

**Saturday, April 28 / 10:30 - Noon**

**"Follow the Money - PACs and Campaign Finance"**

Guest Speaker: Philip Klinkner, Ph.D, Professor at Hamilton College: Teaching and research focuses on American politics, especially political parties and elections, race and American politics, and American political history

Potluck Luncheon Follows – Bring a Vegetarian Dish or Appetizer to Share

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 EASTER SUNDAY</b> 7am Sunrise Service 10am Worship Holy Communion Easter Egg Hunt Coffee Break, Church School, Youth Choir	<b>2</b> <i>Church Office Closed for the Holiday</i>	<b>3</b> 10am Prayer Shawl 10am Mom's Club 5pm Wendy's Night 7 pm Serenity 7pm Nursery School Board	<b>4</b> 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	<b>5</b> 3pm Bible Study 3pm BIB Packing	<b>6</b> 7:30p Daniel Gutmann concert	<b>7</b> <h1 style="text-align: center;">April 2018</h1>
<b>8</b> 10am Worship <b>Fair Trade Sales</b> Coffee Break, Church School	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10am Prayer Shawl 7 pm Serenity	<b>11</b> 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	<b>12 WPG</b> 3pm Bible Study 3pm BIB Packing	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 11am Sis Markham Memorial Service
<b>15</b> Pantry Collection Coffee Break	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Rescue Mission Cook 10am Prayer Shawl 7 pm Serenity 7pm Trustees	<b>18</b> 5pm Relay for Life 31 Bingo Party 4:20pm Rescue Mission Serve 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	<b>19</b> 3pm Bible Study 3pm BIB Packing 6pm Mission 7pm CE Committee	<b>20</b> Copperspire deadline	<b>21</b> 7pm Alliance Classical Players
<b>22</b> 10am Worship Coffee Break, Church School, Youth Choir  12:30p JOY serves at Loaves & Fishes	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10am Prayer Shawl 2pm Rescue Mission Cook 7 pm Serenity 7:30pm Evening Circle at Hester Jager's	<b>25</b> 4:20pm Rescue Mission Serve 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	<b>26 WPG</b> 3pm Bible Study 3pm BIB Packing 7pm Session meets	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Unity Day "Follow the \$\$\$" 10:30am
<b>29</b> 10am Worship Coffee Break, Church School, Youth Choir	<b>30</b> 6:30p Pampered Chef Relay Fundraiser		<b>Save These Dates:</b>  Book Talk May 5: <u>Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis</u> , by Jimmy Carter. Book talk led by Helen Adsit  Choir Recognition on May 13			