

## AROUND THE CONGREGATION

### Birthdays

|                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| Muffy Engelbert.....   | 03/01 |
| Dea Dlugolecki.....    | 03/03 |
| Jack Grow.....         | 03/04 |
| Cheryl Sexton.....     | 03/05 |
| Missy Graves.....      | 03/06 |
| Joanie Lewis.....      | 03/07 |
| Don Hanson.....        | 03/09 |
| Harold Barry.....      | 03/10 |
| Candy Fay.....         | 03/10 |
| Patty Sutter.....      | 03/13 |
| Aiden Proper.....      | 03/14 |
| Ryan Fish.....         | 03/15 |
| Clay Mowry.....        | 03/18 |
| Alex Yates.....        | 03/18 |
| Cara Yates.....        | 03/18 |
| Ellen Kennedy.....     | 03/18 |
| Sarah Briggs.....      | 03/19 |
| Julie Denton.....      | 03/19 |
| Steve Townsend.....    | 03/19 |
| Alex Furney.....       | 03/20 |
| Mary Griffith.....     | 03/22 |
| Dick Simons.....       | 03/23 |
| Star Haney.....        | 03/23 |
| Mary Conover (94)..... | 03/26 |
| Mehdi Tayefeh.....     | 03/26 |
| Ray Tucker.....        | 03/26 |

### Anniversaries

Jack Shirley Brownell .....

**94<sup>th</sup> Bday Cards** may be addressed to Mary Conover at 6605 State Route 46, Durhamville, 13054

### A Note from Tom McGibbon

*I would like to thank you, all the members of the Church and the staff, for a wonderful retirement party and gifts. I felt so honored that so many of you came to the party. Although I shouldn't have been surprised, as over the last 30 years you have all been so supportive of the bells. I love the windchimes that you gave me - I will be listening to them all spring and summer (if winter ever ends). Your cash gift is way too generous.*

*As I stated at the party, I can never say thank you enough for the investments that the church has made in the handbell program; from support of the 2 handbell festivals we had, refurbishing older 4-octaves of bells, purchasing a new 5th octave of bells, purchasing 5 octaves of choir-chimes, plus numerous other music purchases.*

*Directing and playing the bells has been one of the most satisfying, spiritual and challenging activities that I have done in my life. The quality of the musicians playing in the bell choir is extraordinary. They have inspired me to be a better director and to work to improve the choirs overall experience of bell ringing. I strived to provide fresh, spiritual and exciting bell music for both the ringers and listeners.*

*With much appreciation,  
Tom*

**Please Look for** current Issues of the Presbyterians Today, The Upper Room and Presbyterian Outlook magazines throughout our church buildings. Feel free to read and return

**Remember Brittney Cataldo's surgery is March 20**

## MARCH SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS & MORE

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 11

### PALM SUNDAY – MARCH 25

**March Communion Setup:** Sue Hollenbeck

**March Communion Serve:** Harold Barry, Keith Butters, Mary Davis, Jay Fish  
June Sperlik, Candy Warner

#### **Ushers/Greeter/Acolyte**

Mar 04 – Carl Longley  
Mar 11 – Jim Henderson  
Mar 18 – Youth Sunday  
Mar 25 – Don Hanson

Coffee Break is held each Sunday in the parlor except when noted. Please volunteer to help pick up afterward. **Coffee Break will be held in the Dining Hall on Mar 04**

#### **Worship Recorders**

Mar 04 – John Nethaway  
Mar 11 – Shari Fish  
Mar 18 – Valerie Wood  
Mar 25 – Sue Davidson

#### **Layreaders**

Mar 04 – Helen Adsit  
Mar 11 – Gail Tucker  
Mar 18 – Youth Sunday  
Mar 25 – Helen Adsit

#### **Deacon at the Ramp**

Mar 04 – Sue Hanson  
Mar 11 – Gail Tucker  
Mar 18 – Bruce Warcup  
Mar 25 – Carol Drumluk

#### **Rescue Mission Cook Captains**

Mar 20– Liz Clough  
Mar 27– Cynthia Pendergrast

#### **Children's Talk**

Mar 11 – Julie Denton  
Mar 25 – Carrie Scaccia

#### **Utica Presbytery Prayer Chain**

March 04 ..... Forestport Presbyterian Church, Forestport  
March 11..... First Presbyterian Church, Holland Patent  
March 18..... Vanderkamp Center, Cleveland, NY  
March 25..... Seminary Students

**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 some materials available in the pews including Bibles, devotional books, paper for journaling and coloring books for meditation. In addition, there are some prayer shawls (it is cool in the sanctuary during the winter) and electric candles.

Our hope is that people will find the space to be a place apart where they can pray, meditate and listen for God.

## FROM THE PASTOR - "PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE"

### "Abraham Laughed"

The Old Testament reading in the lectionary for this coming Sunday (the Second Sunday in Lent) is one of the several times in Genesis when God speaks to Abraham to make a promise that seems absurd. Abraham is 99 years old when God says to him that he will have a son and become the ancestor of a multitude. God's promise seemed more than unlikely. Abraham laughed. In fact, Abraham did not just laugh. The storyteller says, "Abraham fell on his face and laughed." What God said was so ridiculous, so comic, such a joke, that Abraham laughed so hard he couldn't stand up!

God's promise to Abraham introduces a theme that runs through many of the stories of the Jewish people, and continues through the entire Bible. God makes a way for new life when all seems lost, when Abraham and Sarah are as good as dead, when the people are lost in exile, when the older son is tricked by the younger, when there is a famine and Ruth's husband is dead, when the tomb has been sealed and all hope is lost. God makes a way when there is no way.

There's a catch, though. The people to whom the promise is given are invited to live by faith, with no guarantee, with no evidence that the promise will come true. Because of this, Abraham and Sarah are held up as models of faith by those who wrote to the early church. Abraham hoped when there was no reason to hope. About Abraham and others, the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews says, "All of these died in faith without having received the promises...." But they lived in hope anyway. God's people are invited to live by faith, to act on the promise, *even though they will never see the result in their lifetime*, even though their children may not see it either.

Some of you have wondered, "Why are we remodeling the chapel, installing new doors, addressing accessibility issues, planning for the future – if the church is dying? Or, if it is as good as dead?" Abraham asked the same questions. He probably texted his family back in Haran: "God just here. Promised heir. LMAO!" But he went on, trusting God.

We may only have two choices. We can go on, trusting God, living by faith, taking the next step even when we can't see where we're going and may not even get there. Or we can turn inward, focus on self-preservation, give up and wait to die.

If we choose life, we will laugh a lot! We won't be able to help it, because our situation will often seem so absurd. People who might prefer to spend the day in a rocking chair on the porch will be rocking babies. People with bad knees will be on the floor playing with children, singing lullabies with cracked voices.

God just here.  
Promised heir.  
LMAO

## FROM THE PASTOR - "PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE"

The present form of the church may be dying. The current institution may have run its course. But the Body of Christ will live on in new forms. We don't know what those new forms will be. We may never see them. The new church may only rise out of the ashes of the old one. But we have a promise that the church is eternal. In the words of an old hymn we hardly sing any more, "Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane, but the church of Jesus constant will remain; gates of Hell can never 'gainst that church prevail; we have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail." ("Onward, Christian Soldiers")

So, keep hoping. Keep moving. Commit yourselves to something that maybe your great-great-grandchildren will see. And, above all, keep laughing.

Faithfully, Sam

### HAM & SCALLOPED POTATO DINNER

Sunday March 04 after Worship – Free Will Offering – RSVP by Friday!

Brought to you by Our Fellowship Committee

**Bicentennial Quilt:** Have you wondered where the quilt has gone that used to hang in the hall? The quilt has been given to the Rome Historical Society for preservation, safe-keeping and display. It was sagging, fading and beginning to deteriorate. It was made for the US Bicentennial as a community project. Darlene Fielding won it in a raffle, and then donated it to the church where it had hung for several decades. The Session consulted with Darlene and Russ and with the Historical Society, and all agreed in February to have the quilt taken down & preserved as part of Rome heritage.

### LENTEN NEWS

**Rome Clergy Association** is planning a series of worship events for Holy Week at First United Methodist Church, 400 N George St. Worship is at Noon. A Simple lunch follows. Churches will take turns leading worship and providing lunch. Schedule TBA.

**Maundy Thursday & Good Friday at 1<sup>st</sup> Pres:** Worship & Music Committee will meet March 1 and will decide on details of our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship.

**It's Never Too Late to Make Your Lent a Meaningful One!**

The 2018 Presbyterians Today Lenten Devotional, Jesus and the Prophets, is available from Information racks throughout our Church. The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and contemplation of the power and promise of the paschal mystery. Perhaps there are no better models of how to live Lent than the prophets.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWSFROM JULIE DENTON

In February we said good-bye and thanks to outgoing members Kim Nethaway, Jackie Nee and Mikki Taylor. Remaining members Michelle Dolan, Patty Dunham, Charlie Sexton and Mary Yates welcomed Amy Garcia and Carrie Scaccia as new members, along with Julie Denton as the new chair from Session. Our first meeting was meaningful as we discussed ideas and programs that work well, that may need some change, and that may need to become part of our cherished past. We hope to collaborate with other Session committees to find ways that can involve more people in nurturing and being nurtured through church programs. It is no small task, and we encourage input from congregation members. We are never too old to learn or too young to teach! May we always remain eager to understand better how God is speaking to us during our journey through this gift of life.

*"Lent is the Autumn of the spiritual life during which we gather fruit to keep us going for the rest of the year." -- St. Francis de Sales*

**Next Adult Church School Class:** Starting on March 4, the adult church school class will begin a 6-week study titled "Learning Forgiveness." The author of the study is Marjorie Thompson, author of the book, Soul Feast, An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life.

**Book Talk March 10** – All the Light We Cannot See, by Anthony Doerr; led by Pastor Sam; \$10 copies outside of Sam's office / An imaginative and intricate novel inspired by the horrors of World War II and written in short, elegant chapters that explore human nature and the contradictory power of technology. It's about a about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II

### *Bombers*

*They cross the Channel at midnight. There are twelve and they are named for songs: Stardust and Stormy Weather and In the Mood and Pistol-Packin' Mama. The sea glides along far below, spattered with the countless chevrons of whitecaps. Soon enough, the navigators can discern the low moonlit lumps of islands ranged along the horizon.*

*France.*

*Intercoms crackle. Deliberately, almost lazily, the bombers shed altitude. Threads of red light ascend from anti-air emplacements up and down the coast. Dark, ruined ships appear, scuttled or destroyed, one with its bow shorn away, a second flickering as it burns. On an outermost island, panicked sheep run zigzagging between rocks.*

## JOY (Jesus Organized Youth) News

**The JOY Youth Group** will serve lunch at Loaves and Fishes on Sunday, March 25. We'll walk over to arrive at noon (they've changed the time they serve!) 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.

**Our Relay for Life team** will hold a **Buy-A-Pie Sale** on Palm Sunday, March 25. Stop by the music hallway after worship that day to pick up a home-baked pie or two and support the Rainbows of Faith and Hope teams. Relay for Life will be held on June 2 and 3 at the School for the Deaf in Rome. Plan to join the fun!

## SERENITY MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE

### **WHAT ARE YOU GIVING FOR LENT?**

*As Christians, the season of Lent inspires us to give up some pleasures, or give up a favorite hobby to create space in our lives to communicate with God. These acts are intended to help us better identify with Christ's time in the wilderness, to purify ourselves, and "empty our cup." What a great opportunity to break bad habits, or eliminate cravings, and to use our time more productively so we can sincerely invite God's Word into our hearts. All this is good and blessed.*

*Now, let us consider another path to spiritual renewal. What if, instead of – or in addition to – giving up something for forty days, you give something for 40 days? Challenge yourself to give in a way that is not easy, that requires effort, time, energy, perhaps even discomfort. Give of yourself. Mother Theresa said "there are many people who can do the big things, but there are very few people who will do the small things – what you may consider a small thing God always sees as great." This kind of giving requires us to be mindful, vigilant, and committed. Here is an example (borrowed from *The Secret Daily Teachings* by Rhonda Byrne): "Choose a specific day of the week and decide that you are going to verbally express at least one thing of appreciation to every person you come in contact with that day. The more people you see, the better." Or go through your home, car and office and choose at least one item every day to give away to someone in need. Is there something you would like to do for someone, but, for some reason, you are afraid to? What is it that makes you hesitate? Ask God for assistance in overcoming your discomfort.*

*You may discover that in giving we truly are better able to receive. Our beloved God put us here to serve one another, to find blessings in every challenge, to see the divine spark within every person we encounter – when we give, it creates space in our hearts, frees us from material attachments and gives us the opportunity to shine God's light in the world.*

## MUSIC NOTES

- Bell Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 6:30 (no rehearsal March 7)
- Senior Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 7:30
- Youth Choir rehearses Sundays at 12:00 (no rehearsal March 25)

**The Oneida Area Civic Chorale** presents “For Us the Living” on Mar 11 at 4PM at St. Patrick’s Church, 347 Main Street, Oneida. The 95-member community chorus; director Kimberly Nethaway, performs the title work “For Us the Living: A Requiem”, by Alfred V. Fedak. Mr. Fedak will accompany the Chorale on organ and piano, and will perform some of his own organ compositions. The concert’s selections will focus on expressing grateful affirmation of the gift of life, as well as expressing comfort, consolation and hope to all who have suffered loss. \$10 Tickets available from Chorale members, at W.J. Hinman Jewelers, 115 Main St., Oneida, and by calling 315-655-3007. First Pres singers are John Nethaway, Jim and Pam Henderson and Cynthia Pendergrast.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

- Rome PW Coordinating Team in the Parlor, Monday, March 5 at eleven. Please make an effort to attend.
- Evening Circle will meet at 7:30pm on Tuesday, March 27. Hostess TBA

**March meeting of Utica PW Coordinating Team:** A very nice meeting of the Utica Presbytery PW was held at Verona Pres Church. The weather was perfect on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> & the “ladies” had wonderful snacks and an excellent lunch. At least thirty or more attended. The afternoon program on “Tiny Houses” was canceled because the presenter was in an accident on 690. Hopefully this can be rescheduled.

**The Crayon Initiative:** Help PW support this wonderful new collection project by contributing used crayons!! More than a half-million pounds of crayons are discarded every year, turning into a waxy sludge that clogs our landfills and never biodegrades. The Crayon Initiative collects donated crayons from restaurants, schools and homes across the country, then melts them down and remanufactures them, reducing waste. Better yet, the recycled crayons are distributed to art programs at children’s hospitals across the U.S., brightening the lives of young patients during their stay. Collection container in CE Hallway

## MARCH NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

- Pet Week / Morning 4s visit the Humane Society on March 21
- Parent-Teacher Conferences March 16 (4s AM only) / NO SCHOOL
- Now accepting registrations for the fall – 339-PLAY
- Dental Health – Rhyming – Weather Changes

## MISSION NEWS CONTINUED

**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE SPRING KIT DRIVE:** Mission Committee is collecting hygiene kits for disaster relief through CWS. From now through April 15 we invite you to make a kit and drop it in the plastic bin in the hallway outside the choir room. The Mission Committee will put kits together at their meeting on the 3rd Thursday of March. If you wish to contribute ingredients for kits, please leave them at church prior to March 15. We pay \$2 per kit for shipping. Your financial contributions for buying kit items and for shipping are welcome. Make checks payable to the church or give cash to Sam Pendergrast or Sarah Briggs.

To assemble a Hygiene Kit you will need:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels) and 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.



## FINANCIAL NEWS FROM SUSAN HATZINGER

|   | <u>2018 Year-to-Date</u> |                | <u>2018</u>   |               |
|---|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
|   | <u>Jan Actual</u>        | <u>Actual</u>  | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Budget</u> |
| <b>Operating Budget:</b>                    |                          |                |               |               |
| Receipts                                    | 25,975.26                | 5,975.26       | 7,230.94      | 328,081.72    |
| Expenditures                                | (25,093.43)              | \$ (25,093.43) | (27,028.60)   | (328,081.72)  |
| <b>Change in Net Assets</b>                 | <b>881.83 \$</b>         | <b>881.83</b>  | <b>202.34</b> |               |
| <b>Jan Collections:</b>                     |                          |                |               |               |
| Capital Improvement Fund:                   | 343.60                   |                |               |               |
| Christmas JOY:                              | 10.00                    |                |               |               |
| Memorials: Isabelle Walter, Mary Mowry Fund |                          |                |               |               |

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue   | Wed   | Thu  | Fri                                    | Sat  |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| <b>MARCH 2018</b>  |   |   |   | <b>1</b><br>3pm Bible Study<br>3pm BIB Packing<br>7pm W&M meets                              | <b>2</b>                               | <b>3</b>   |
| <b>4</b> 10am Worship<br><b>Holy Communion</b><br>Fair Trade Sales<br>Coffee Break, Church School, Youth Choir<br><b>Ham &amp; Scalloped Potato Dinner</b> | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b><br>10am Prayer<br>Shawl/Crafty Ladies<br>7pm Serenity  | <b>7</b><br>6:30pm Bell Choir<br>7:30pm Senior Choir                                      | <b>8</b> Pastor Grp<br>3pm Bible Study<br>3pm BIB Packing                                    | <b>9</b>                               | <b>10</b><br>10:30am Book Talk in Parlor             |
| <b>11</b> 10am Worship<br><b>Daylight Savings</b><br>Coffee Break<br>Church School<br>Youth Choir  | <b>12</b><br>11am PW<br>Coordinating Team in parlor | <b>13</b><br>10am Prayer<br>Shawl/Crafty Ladies<br>7 pm Serenity  | <b>14</b><br>6:30pm Bell Choir<br>7:30pm Senior Choir                                     | <b>15</b><br>3pm Bible Study<br>3pm BIB Packing<br>6pm Mission/Spring Kit Deadline<br>7pm CE | <b>16</b><br>No Nursery School Classes | <b>17</b><br>Happy St. Pat's Day<br>St Patrick's Day |
| <b>18</b> 10am Worship<br><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Mission Collection</b><br>Coffee Break, Church School, Youth Choir                                      | <b>19</b>   | <b>20</b><br>Copperspire Deadline<br>10am Prayer<br>Shawl/Crafty Ladies<br>TBA Mission Cook<br>7pm Serenity<br>7pm Trustees | <b>21</b><br>4:20 Mission Serve<br>6:30pm Bell Choir<br>7:30pm Senior Choir               | <b>22</b> Pastor Grp<br>3pm Bible Study<br>3pm BIB Packing<br>7pm Session                    | <b>23</b>                              | <b>24</b><br>Memorial Service for Joan Kahler        |
| <b>25</b> 10am Worship<br><b>Palm Sunday</b><br>Coffee Break<br>Church School<br>No Youth Choir<br>12:30p JOY serves at Loaves & Fishes                    | <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b> TBA Mission Cook<br>10am Prayer<br>Shawl/Crafty Ladies<br>7 pm Serenity<br>7:30 pm Evening Circle                 | <b>28</b><br>Mom's Club<br>4:20 Mission Serve<br>6:30pm Bell Choir<br>7:30pm Senior Choir | <b>29</b><br>3pm Bible Study<br>3pm BIB Packing<br><b>Maundy Thursday</b>                    | <b>30</b><br><b>Good Friday</b>        | <b>31</b>  |