



Salem First United
Presbyterian Church is:

Alive!

Volume 50, Version 11

April 2016

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Special points of interest:

- Articles for the ALIVE! Are due in no later than the 24th of the month.
- Pie Orders ready for pick up April 16th!!!
- 4 Cents a Meal Collection March 24th
- Congregational Meeting April 10th following worship.

I would like to share a bit of experience from when I am at my lowest and feeling pain (March 23, 2015):

I have been reading an inspirational, daily resource form *Dayspring*.

"I will fight for you. You need only to be still ... I know how weary you are my child. You have been struggling just to keep your head above water and your strength is running low."

So, Sarah Young writes, "Now is time to stop striving and let me fight for you. I know this is not easy for you to do

...

Be still and know I am God.

"In your striving you have relied upon your own thinking ... a struggle to be in control. "You need the intervention of the Holy Spirit. Take time to rest in the shadow of the Almighty while I fight for you."

Here is what sticks most in my mind, rely more on the Holy Spirit than you rely upon yourself. Pray. Anytime of day or night. I am learning to do this and I feel better.

I handed my problems to God. I actually feel better physically, mentally. Times I say, "Blah". Something comes up (I think the Holy Spirit breaks through to me), and I stop and ask God's help and find guidance, calming, reassurances. I make it through the hard times and looking back, I feel such gratitude, such changes in my life. Getting through pain isn't easy, but it becomes possible when I relax as Sarah Young advises, and let God help.

"The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." - Exodus 14:14

Submitted by Helen Simmons

From the Pastor

What a crazy winter. We've seen warmer than usual temperatures and an absence of snow. This is good in one aspect - no shoveling. However, it could also present some challenges for us this spring and summer - with no snow, water tables will be down and we may go through a drought. It's funny how we can rationalize good and bad. We can always try and find a silver lining and God present in anything we see.

Easter season is always a great sign of new life. We go from the dead trees to seeing buds return to bring back the life of a story. We start to see our flowers wake from a long slumber and peek their new beginnings from the cold wet soil. More and more activities that have been completed indoors during winter now start to move out into God's creation. New things are emerging.

Over this past year I've looked back at how much First United has become whole again. We are communicating better. We are completing many tasks and goals that needed to be done. We are seeing new faces from time to time. Upon Session approval, we will be having a baptism within this month. New things are happening. New things show new life.

This Easter season bring to life the new things that you do and share them with our sisters and brothers. Maybe share how to plant or arrange flowers. Maybe invite them to service or the Wednesday Soup Luncheon held every month. Maybe join a neighbor out for a walk or hike, maybe take pictures or just share a cup of coffee.

Christ charged us to share the Good News as his disciples. What can we share as a church with the community? What can we share as individuals with the people that we meet? What can we show a changing community that we are Alive and present, willing to share the good news in a new and exciting atmosphere?

In grace and peace,
Michael Barron, CRE

Scriptures

Monthly Scripture Readings

The Scripture readings you will hear in December will come from the following readings:

April 3rd	Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29 Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31
April 10th	Acts 9:1-6(7-20); Psalm 30 Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19
April 17th	Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23:1-6 Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30
April 24th	Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148:1-14 Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

Did you Know?

Pie Orders are ready for pick up April 16th!! Pies will be available from 11:30 am—Noon in the Chapel. Don't forget to mark your calendar!!

Marie Bell will represent our church at Presbytery on April 6th in Schenectady.

Newsletter Articles

Deadline for Alive! articles is the 24th of the month!

Pat Laslo collecting unwanted/unused yarn for lap blankets for vets and nursing homes. Contact her with questions 854-3924

Session Notes

Session met for their regular meeting on Wednesday, March 16.

A meeting with representatives from the Albany Presbytery regarding the status and condition of our congregation will be held on Saturday March 19. The finding will be reported to the Committee on Ministry at their meeting on March 30.

A meeting of the congregation will be held on April 10 to consider the By-Laws and Terms of Call. These will be the only items to be discussed.

Session members continue to work on establishing a Manual of Operations for this church. This will include information on committee responsibilities and policies that Session adopts.

Presbytery will be on April 6 from 4:30 to 8 PM in Schenectady. Marie Bell will represent this church. Michael Barron, CRE will be unable to attend due to his work schedule that will take him away for the month of April.

Craft day will begin to meet again this spring. Watch for dates and time.

Discussion was held about the need to replace our signs due to wear.

Session renewed its decision to discontinue the use of foam products (coffee cups etc.) in order to eliminate products that do not biodegrade. Alternate products are being considered.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 18-22.

The next building issue that will be addressed is the diversion of water away from the foundation of the sanctuary. This will include any repairs that may be necessary and will keep the foundation safe from any potential water erosion.

New guidelines for the Cecil Plumb Award are being established.

Submitted by Marie Bell
Clerk of Session

Mission Team

The Mission Team of the First United Presbyterian Church of Salem held a regular meeting Wednesday evening March 9, 2016 at the home of Dolores Phaneuf.

There was a quorum. Those in attendance included, Moderator Neal Rea; Marilyn Hanby, Helen Simmons, Rev. Dr. David Simmons, HR; Charles Perry, Amy Thetford, Arna Thibeau, Steven Burgess, and Dolores Phaneuf.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Moderator Rea and was opened with Prayer, including an update on the emergency situation in Syria, and the Middle East by David Simmons.

Neal read the March 9th selection from the book, "God Calling".

The Secretary's Report was APPROVED as presented.

The Treasurer's Report was ACCEPTED as presented.

Some suggestions for speakers for the 4th Sunday were given:

Salem/Shushan Fuel Fund	Debbie Earthrowl,
Pure Water For The World	Charlie will call
Guatamala	Kate
Thrift Shop on Broadway	
Operation Adopt A Soldier	Cliff
Rotary Exchange Student	Charlie
Court House Reader Program	
Shelter Box	June 26

A motion was made and APPROVED to give \$100.00 to the school nurse to purchase leggings or small sweat pants for distribution to the school children when needed. Finalized the plans for the Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner set for Sat. March 12. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday evening April 11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by - Dolores Phaneuf, Secretary/Treasurer

Prayer Requests

If you need a prayer or wish to place someone on the prayer list, please complete this form, or one found in the Narthex, and give it to an usher or deacon.

Name of Prayer recipient: _____

Cause for joy or concern: _____

You name (optional): _____

Birthdays/Anniversaries

April Birthday's

1st Robin Hanks
7th Pat Briglin
16th Scott Thetford
25th Zoe Cary Boucher

April Anniversaries

23rd Todd & Laurel Keys

If you would like a birthday or anniversary published in the Alive!, Please contact the church office at 854-9471 or holly.keys@aol.com.

Announcements

Spring Break for Salem Central School is the last week of April. April 23rd—May 1st, with a bonus day of April 22nd added for not using any "snow days". No FFF on either April 22nd or April 29th.

Special Congregational Meeting following worship on Sunday, April 10th to consider the By Laws and Terms of Call.

Prayers & Concerns

Those in our prayers during the last month:

Each month we will list all of the people that we have had in our prayers for the past month. If you should have anyone you would like to add to our weekly list please place their names in the offering plate during Sunday worship or call the church office, 854-9471, by Friday at 3 PM. **Please notify when name is to be removed.**

Those trying to mend and rebuild relationships

For those who help us and for those that are lonely, depressed, and are in need

All those that are struggling with financial, health, and personal challenges

Those who suffer in silence

Long Term Prayer Consideration

Donna Holmes

Hanna Goldman

David Fleming

Elsie Jackson

For those battling addictions

Homeless

Emergency Services Workers

Sasha Blake

Jordan Bardwell

All the Armed Forces

In Nursing homes:

Roberta "Bert" Moore

Cards/messages can be sent to:

Bert Moore @ The Orchard, Room #17, 10421 State Route 40, Granville, NY 12832

Hospital Admittance Update

Due to HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) the Salem First United Presbyterian Church will not be notified if you, or a loved one, are hospitalized. **Please call a deacon or leave a message on the church phone (854-9471) to let us know that you, or a loved one, have been hospitalized.**

When admitted, be sure to list Salem United Presbyterian Church as your affiliate and give permission to release the information so that Rev. Simmons, Michael, or a Deacon can visit. **Otherwise, your admittance and room number may not be available.**

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Choir Rehearsal 9 am	Presbytery Mtg 4:30pm-8pm in Schenectady	Line Dancing 9:30 am	FFF 2:30 pm	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship 10 am Congregational Mtg following Worship	Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm Mission 7 pm @ Dolores' Home	Choir Rehearsal 9 am		Line Dancing 9:30 am	FFF 2:30pm	Pie Pick-Up 11:30am
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship 10 am Worship & Music 11:30	Deacon's Mtg 12:30 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7 pm	Choir Rehearsal 9 am	Soup & Sandwich Luncheon 11:30-2 Session 7pm	Line Dancing 9:30 am		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
4 Cents a Meal Worship 10 am	Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	Choir Rehearsal 9 am		Line Dancing 9:30 am		

Church Address:
13 West Broadway
Salem, NY 12865

Church Phone Number:
854-9471

Worship Leader: Michael Barron, CRE
518-338-9492

Pastoral Care: Rev. David Simmons, HR
Phone #

Clerk of Session: Marie Bell
Phone #

At First United Presbyterian Church:

We believe that God calls everyone to serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ!

Join us on Sunday's for worship, music, and fellowship!
Service begins at 10 AM

We're on the Web!
www.salemnyfirstupchurch.com

"This Newsletter is made possible through our giving to
First United Presbyterian Church"

Service Schedule for April 2016

Elder of the Month: Dave Mears

Sunday, April 3rd

Reader: Ruth Ihne

Coffee Time: Mary VanDeWater
Amy Thetford

Sunday, April 10th

Reader: David Borthwick

Coffee Time: Marilyn Hanby
Donna Holmes

Sunday, April 17th

Reader: Diane Jilek

Coffee Time: Nancy Bardwell
Neal Rea

Sunday, April 24th

Reader: Nancy Rountree

Coffee Time: Diane Jilek
Nancy Rountree