



**Salem First United  
Presbyterian Church is:**

# Alive!

Volume 50, Version 11

February 2016

## The Important Role of Women

Women have played important roles spreading the Good News of Jesus for many years. As we approach Lent and Easter here is a short story on Joanna, one of Jesus' followers, and one of the first women to become an apostle of the Good News.

Joanna was born into one of the prominent and wealthy Jewish families of Galilee. Her husband was the Nabatean nobleman Chuza, who had come to Herod's court in the entourage of the young Nabatean princess who became Herod's wife. Herod soon promoted him to finance minister of his realm.

Joanna lived in an impressive house in the new city of Tiberias. She became part of the Romanized culture of the Tiberian aristocracy.

She first became aware of Jesus because he was a popular sensation- extraordinary tales of healing were circulating. She went to Jesus because she herself needed healing, and her encounter with him changed the whole course of her life.

She came to know Jesus of Nazareth better than most people. For two years or so she was in constant contact with him-though she always traveled in the group of women who supported Jesus.

She was profoundly impressed by his religious ideas: that repentance was necessary to enter the coming kingdom of God, and that the way to God demanded renunciation of wealth and power. As a devout Jewish woman, Joanna had always given generously to the poor, but Jesus required a more radical step. She sold some of her property and gave it to the needy. Then she channeled her income into the common fund which Jesus and his disciples needed to live on.

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem for what was to be his last visit, Joanna knew the danger he was in. She knew the Jewish and Roman political world well, and she was terrified. A few days later she heard the news that Jesus had been arrested, then sentenced to death by crucifixion- she still had contacts in high places and so was able to find out what was happening.

When the time came, she and some of the other women made their way to the place of crucifixion and watched Jesus die his agonizing death. There was nothing she could do except try to live through the nightmare.

After waiting for the Sabbath to pass, she and some other women went with spices and ointments to the tomb, to follow the proper burial rituals. What she saw and heard there, on Easter morning, stayed with her as long as she lived. She told everyone she knew about that morning- first the disciples, then anyone she met. She was one of the first apostles, spreading the Good News.

We don't need to be aristocrats to have a way to help others, and we all can do something to help our neighbors when there is the need. Just as Joanna we can be apostles and help spread the Good News.

Submitted by Diane Jilek

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### Special points of interest:

- Articles for the ALIVE! Are due in no later than the 20th of the month.
- Boy Scout Sunday February 7th
- Rotary Fuel Fund Dinner Feb. 11th
- Season of Lent begins Wednesday, February 10th
- 4 Cents a Meal Collection Feb. 28th
- Join us for Mission Sunday Feb. 28th

## From the Pastor

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ! Grace and Peace be with you this day and every day with the hope that the Spirit guides you through your journey we call life.

I remember growing up in Hudson Falls on a street the consisted of Catholics, Presbyterians (we had the most presence), some Methodist, and a couple of Baptists. There were about 4 households we either didn't know if they went to church or because of whatever, they didn't want to share. We were a diverse group of people on E. La Claire St. This time of year, Lent, was always interesting.

Our friends who were Catholic, it seemed, were always going to church. They had times during the week they went, not because of confirmation class or alter boy duties, but to go and sit in church. For us Protestants we were like, "that has got to stink." But our friends went because they felt the sense of duty and respect for something larger than themselves and it wasn't considered a burden.

As I grew older, and of course the Catholic Church also became a little more open to Protestants, I often wondered what exactly we were missing out on during those years. What did they receive that we didn't?

During this time of Lent it is Jesus who goes into the wilderness for 40 days. Jesus takes time for prayer, for fasting, and to build his relationship with the Father and Creator of all. It is also during this time Satan tries desperately to persuade Jesus with temptations. During our Lenten season as a church we also walk with Christ during his ministry that leads us to the Holiest Week of celebration.

Lent is a time of reflection; although, I remember having a meal with a friend on Friday and all they served was fish. As I reflected on my past and reflected over the ministry here in Salem, we still have things to think about over the upcoming year. What I would ask each of you this Lenten season to do is reflect on two questions:

What can I do to bring myself closer to God? And, what can I do to bring the church, as a whole, closer to God?

As we prepare for the beginning of Lent on February 10<sup>th</sup>, our Ash Wednesday service will be shared at West Hebron Presbyterian Church. I invite you all to come not as Protestants or Presbyterians, but as believers and followers of Christ. Let us now all begin our reflections of ourselves and allow the Spirit to the light and the resurrection of the glorious day of Easter morning when we can shout for joy the Christ has Risen! He has Risen indeed!

Grace and Peace,  
Michael Barron, CRE

# Scriptures

## Monthly Scripture Readings

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

February 7th	Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99 2Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-39(37-43)
February 10th	ASH WEDNESDAY Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17 2Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
February 14th	Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
February 21st	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:13-35
February 28th	Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8 1Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

## Did you Know?

The Deacons are once again selling pies from Smith's Orchard. Orders are due by April 3rd. Pies will be delivered and ready for pick up from the chapel on Saturday, April 16th. Don't let the yumminess pass you by!!

## Newsletter Articles

**Deadline for Alive! articles is the 21st of the month!**

**Boy Scout Sunday is the first Sunday of the month, February 7th**

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

## Deacons Report

The Deacons met on Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, with 6 members present. Nancy Roundtree reported on cards sent and she asked anyone going to AC Moore or Hobby Lobby to please pick up a box or two of cards. It was discussed that we need to come up with a plan on how to take care of and the eventual disposal of plants from Christmas and Easter. We are once again selling pies from Smith's Orchard. Orders are due by April 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be at the church for pick on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. We visited shut-ins and seniors during the month. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm.

Submitted by Nancy Bardwell

## Worship & Music Committee Report

The Music and Worship Committee met on January 24, 2016. At that time it was discussed that on the last Sunday of the month, February 28<sup>th</sup>, the pastor will be off. This will be the first month of several in which the pastor will be taking some much needed time. The Mission Team will team with the Music and Worship Committee to provide worship leadership. Charles Perry, from the Mission Committee has invited Herb Perkins, past school superintendent, to come and talk with us about a very successful, local youth outreach program, "Lunch, Learn and Play".

Some may have overheard CRE, Michael Barron commenting about his Sunday away, "Don't everybody stay home and take the day off". Although Michael is taking a Presbytery mandated day off, Music and Worship will be tasked with planning the worship leadership. We ask for your support by attending worship, and also giving your help by responding if you are able, to any specific requests that are made. Together we will still have a wonderful day of worship and inspiration.

Submitted by David Simmons

## Session Notes

Session met on Wednesday 1/20. It was reported that there were repairs needed to one furnace, and all are now on automatic delivery schedules. With the mold project behind us, attention will turn to

	For December	Year-to-Date
Revenue	Refer to Annual Report	Refer to Annual Report
Expenses for October	Refer to Annual Report	Refer to Annual Report

the elimination of drainage issues and repair of the sanctuary foundation in the spring.

In response to a request for assistance with funding the After Prom activities in May, Session voted to contribute \$ 100.

Michael Barron has met with the Ecumenical Pastor's group. Plans have been made for the upcoming Lenten season. Ash Wednesday services will be held in the West Hebron Pres. Church on 2/10. Our church will host the March 3 luncheon.

There will be a Fuel Fund Dinner sponsored by the Salem Rotary held in our church on 2/11.

A church manual of operations will be developed for our congregation at future Session meetings.

Clerk of Session--Marie Bell

## Mission Team

The Mission Team met on January 4 and finalized plans for the annual Free Give Back to Community Dinner January 18th in memory of Cal & Millie Chapman. Members of the Mission Team will provide two hams, baked beans, scalloped potatoes, macaroni and cheese, cake, goulash, rice, chicken & vegetable casserole and chocolate milk. FFF will make cookies. The congregation will be asked to furnish the remaining food.

A new Refugee Fund, has been started with a \$500 donation to help in aiding the refugee situation. All monies collected for special offerings for Presbytery will be sent in this month, including half of the money collected in 4 cents a meal.

The Nativity Set will be dismantled and stored in the basement. We are planning to have a plaque made to put with the Nativity Set. Ash Wednesday is February 10, and The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be collected on Easter.

There was a discussion on the Children's Christmas Shoebox project that goes to Samaritans Purse and a suggestion was made to have the same type of items put in stockings and given to local or regional organizations for distribution.

Session has approved a change in Michael's Terms of Call but needs congregation approval at the annual meeting. He will take the 4th Sunday off from preaching, and it will become a Mission Sunday. The Worship & Music Committee will provide the scripture and music based on Mission; and the Mission Team will provide a "Mission Speaker". Several suggestions were given. Herb Perkins will be the speaker February 28 and will talk about the Summer Lunch, Learn and Play Program at the Salem Courthouse.

NOTE: The Free Give Back to the Community Dinner was a success. About 45 people attended and there was plenty of delicious food provided. It was good to see many from outside of our church family in attendance, and enjoying the fellowship.

Dolores Phaneuf, Secretary

## 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

### February Birthday's

13th      Nicholas Holmes  
15th      Travis Rea  
25th      Diana Pitts

### February Anniversaries

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

### NOTE FROM EDITOR

As many of you know I have newly taken over the role of editor for the ALIVE Newsletter. It is one of MANY hats I wear. I am a mother of a 13 year old, 3year old and 6 month old. I do the books for my husbands company and another client in town, as well as running my own cleaning business. I am also the part time secretary for the church. I enjoy each role but find the need for deadlines. Please note any deadlines that are in the ALIVE and weekly bulletins. I have time set aside for each task but not lots of undivided attention to give otherwise. Kids will be kids and family life definitely takes most of it and trumps all. I can be reached at holly.keys@aol.com or call my home 854-3975 before 8pm or leave a note in my box in the business office at church. Thank you in advance for keeping with any future deadlines.

Respectfully — Holly Keys

Ash Wednesday Service will be held at West Hebron Presbyterian church on February 10th 7pm.

Lenten Lunches begin February 10th at the Salem Community Fellowship 12pm. Please look at event calendar in chapel or here for upcoming lunches and locations.

Fuel Fund Dinner being held by the Salem Rotary on February 11th, 5pm. Come enjoy some wonderful food and support a worthy cause.



# Prayers & Concerns

## Those in our prayers during the last month:

Helen Simmons	Tom Keys
Nick Holmes	Colin St. Dennis
Lenny Austin & family Janet McGee	Alexander & Victoria (Dave Mears Grandchildren)
MaKayla Barrett Jordan Bardwell Oliver Leigh	Sharon Ortepio Laurie Little
Choudhry Family Christen	Nate Holmes Rich (Dolores' son)
Bert Moore Megan Richardson	Those who suffer in silence
For those who help us and for those that are lonely, depressed, and are in need of God's love for them	All those that are struggling with financial, health, and personal challenges

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.**

## 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.**

# February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	2 Choir Rehearsal 9 am	3	4 Line Dancing 9:30 am	5 FFF 2:30 pm	6
7 Boy Scout Sunday Worship 10 am	8 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	9 Choir Rehearsal 9 am	10 Ash Wednesday Lenten Lunch 12pm Salem Comm. Fellowship	11 Line Dancing 9:30 am Fuel Fund Dinner 5pm	12 FFF 2:30 pm	13
14 Valentines Day Worship 10 am	15 Presidents Day Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	16 Choir Rehearsal 9 am	17 Soup & Sandwich Luncheon 11:30-2 Session 7pm	18 Line Dancing 9:30 am Lenten Lunch 12 pm	19	20
21 Worship 10 am Worship & Music 11:30	22 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	23 Choir Rehearsal 9 am	24	25 Line Dancing 9:30 am Lenten Lunch 12 pm West Hebron Presby.	26 FFF 2:30 pm	27
28 Worship 10 am Mission Sunday 4 Cents a Meal	29 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm					

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](http://www.salemnyfirstupchurch.com)

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

**Service Schedule for February 2016**

**Elder of the Month: Diane Jilek**

Sunday, February 7th

Reader: Boy Scout Sunday

Coffee Time: Dave & Irleen Mears  
Kim Skellie

Sunday, February 21st

Reader: David Borthwick

Coffee Time: David & Helen Simmons  
Arna Thibeau

Sunday, Februray 14th

Reader: Jean Skellie

Coffee Time: Valerie Roche

Sunday, February 28th

Reader: Nancy Rountree

Coffee Time: Alberta Murn  
Sylvia Graham