



**Salem First United  
Presbyterian Church is:**

*Alive!*

Volume 50, Version 11

February 2018

The  
Season  
of  
Lent



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**Special points of interest:**

- Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 11th following service
- Ashes & Art in the Sanctuary on Ash Wednesday 6am-7pm
- Articles for the ALIVE! Are due in no later than February 25th
- Don't Forget to Order a Pie from the Deacon's Pie Fundraiser. Orders DUE March 1st!!
- Carri-In Dinner after Annual Congregational Meeting
- 4 Cents a Meal Collection February 25th
- Fuel Fund Dinner February 15th

## A Note From The Pastor

I have a strange habit of starting at churches just as the year is coming to end, thus, making the writing of the pastor's note in the annual report an interesting exercise indeed. What can I possibly have to say? A lot. As always.

I came to you as your new pastor in December 2007. I remember then staring at my computer screen wondering what to write. With only one month to report on, I eventually decided to use that space to share the hopes and dreams of ministry together and to invite you to hold in prayer the new things God would show us.

Ten years later, I stepped upon the chancel in November to be your pastor once again. I walked back into the sanctuary that has been home to me in so many ways knowing all too well how long and hard this road back had been for not just my husband, PJ, and myself, but for you as well. The time spent away might be called a "hiatus" by some. I view it, however, as my time of exile — a time in which I made mistakes, learned a lot, was challenged and stretched, and realized a little bit more the "who" it was God was calling me to be — a rural pastor. You, as a church, also learned a lot and what I have read in the reports presented, you have grown in faith and in your understanding of servanthood. The hardest times are the ones that can teach and bless us. God has indeed blessed us.

I stepped back into the role of your pastor with awe and trepidation. In awe, as to what God is up to. And with trepidation, as to what God is up to. For make no mistake about it, God IS up to something. And so, as I write the 2018 annual report with only two months of 2017 under my belt, I am not going to list my dreams and hopes for First United Presbyterian Church. It's not that I don't have them. I do. You do as well. We all come to church with ideas as to what the church should be.

Rather, I am going to redirect our eyes toward God. For what matters the most are the plans God has for us. These are the plans that will bring vibrancy back to the church. These are the plans that will make us instruments in healing hurting communities. These are the plans that will make our lights shine brightly to those outside the church, the ones the church needs to reach.

God has set a plan into motion for First United. It is a plan that is not very traditional. For this time, around, I am not your full-time, installed pastor. I am on a yearly contract for 16 hours a week to be, for lack of a better word, a "transformational" pastor. That is, a pastor who will walk with you into the new ways God is asking the church to be a church.

Times are changing. They always will. And we in the church are not alone in our wondering what the future will hold. Other churches as well as school boards and volunteer organizations, even corporations, are wondering. Amid an ever-changing society, the church is now more than ever being called to be that witness of great faith and to illustrate that faith by not fearing change, but rather, by embracing it.

Greater things are yet to come for First United, but we need the faith to embrace these new and greater things. We need to remember that this journey we are on, will not be easy—it never is. But God has called us back together again. And the God who calls is the same God who gives us everything we will need for the journey.

Yes, you are called to be part of the new thing God is doing here at First United. What exactly is it, though, God is asking of you? My colleague, Jerry Van Marter, at *Presbyterians Today* magazine, where I serve as editor (talk about new things God is up to), explains the concept of call in the way we Presbyterians know how to explain best, with a citation from *The Book of Order*. I found it to be a great reminder.

*Christ alone rules, calls, teaches and uses the Church as he wills, exercising his authority by the ministry of women and men for the establishment and extension of God's new creation.*

—G-2.0101

Van Marter says, "THAT's the 'call' to which we are all invited, to be used by God to bring God's will for creation to life in the world. That call is extended to each of us, but to each of us differently."

And so, as we journey these days of 2018 together, ask how it is God is using you to bring creation to life in the world—to bring ministry to life here in First United? Be prepared though to be uncomfortable. For God's call is one into the unknown. God's call led Abram to leave his home; led Moses to lead the children out of Israel; led Mary to a new role as Mother of God; led Jonah to (not willingly) to preach redemption to Nineveh. Do you see the pattern?

God's call always leads you to do something new, something different, something scary, something crazy, something countercultural, something not churchy, something like bringing a pastor (me) home again (to you) to serve in a new way (part time) to focus on the new ways God is leading us to be the body of Christ (yet to be revealed).

To that I say, "Thanks be to God!"

*The Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson  
Respectfully submitted January 30, 2018*

# Scriptures

## Monthly Scripture Readings

The Scripture readings you will hear February will come from the following readings:

February 4th	Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
February 11th	2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
February 14th	ASH WEDNESDAY Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
February 18th	Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
February 25th	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31 Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

## Deacon's Pie Fundraiser

It's that time of year once again to place your orders for a beautiful pie from Smith's Orchard Bakery. You can find a copy of this years updated order form attached.

Please note, monies are due upon ordering and pick date is March 17th at 11am.

Hurry don't miss out.

**Orders due by March 1st!!!!**

## NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Please get the information for any and all of the exciting activities that will occur the month of February to Holly Keys ([holly.keys@aol.com](mailto:holly.keys@aol.com) or call 854-3975 before 8 pm or drop something in her box in the business office at the church (just let her know its there)) by Sunday, February 25th Thank you!!!

## Season of Lent Activities

### Ashes and Art Ash Wednesday February 14

First United Presbyterian invites you to a different kind of Ash Wednesday by experiencing the spiritual practice of *Visio divina*, which simply means "divine seeing."

*Visio divina* is an ancient practice inviting one to pray with and encounter the divine through images. The historic sanctuary will be set up with art station. There, one will be able to gaze and reflect at each station at their own pace. *Visio divina* can be practiced individually or with a group. Scripture will be paired with the image for the viewer to reflect on the scripture through the art. At the end of the "art gallery" walk, ashes and healing prayer will be available in the historic sanctuary.

"Ashes and Art" will be held, February 14, at:

**6 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

Perfect for those to center themselves before heading to work or for parents just dropping their children off at Salem Central School. Coffee and donuts will be available.

**Noon to 4 p.m.**

Come on your lunch break for a time of renewal and reflection; or parents, bring your children after school to learn more about the importance of Ash Wednesday.

**5:30 to 7 p.m.**

Come after work or before taking your sweetheart out to dinner for Valentine's Day.

Coffee and light refreshments will be available. A free Lenten Devotional featuring the artwork of Steve Burgess, produced by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will be available while supplies last.

### Lenten Lunches Schedule

*Be part of a wonderful Salem tradition which brings the community together for a time of devotion, song and fellowship. Lenten Lunches are held each Thursday at noon in Lent, beginning February 15. Bring your own sandwich to accompany the delicious homemade soups that will be served at each host church.*

February 15—Salem Community Fellowship, Pastor Herb Arnold speaking

February 22—Salem United Methodist Church, Jeff Peck speaking

March 1—Holy Cross Catholic Church, Rev. Laura Mitchell speaking

March 8—Hebron United Presbyterian Church, Rev. Debbie Earthrowl speaking

March 15—Salem First United Presbyterian Church, Carol Fink speaking

March 22—Shushan Presbyterian Church, Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson speaking

## Birthdays/Anniversaries

### February Birthday's

13th      Nicholas Holmes  
15th      Travis Rea  
25th      Dianna 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.

## 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): \_\_\_\_\_



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**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 2018**

**Elder of the Month:**

Sunday, February 4th

Reader: BOY SCOUT SUNDAY

Coffee Time: Dave & Irlene Mears  
Kim Skellie

Sunday, February 11th

Reader: Ruth Ihne

Coffee Time: Valerie Roche

Sunday, February 18th

Reader: Mary Vandewater

Coffee Time: Ruth Ihne  
Marie Bell

Sunday, February 25th

Reader: Nancy Rountree

Coffee Time: Ruth Ihne  
Marie Bell