



Salem First United
Presbyterian Church is:

Alive!

Volume 50, Version 11

First Quarter 2019

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Lent IS A TIME TO



CLOSER TO JESUS

Special points of interest:

- Adult Crafts April 6th 10 am—2pm
- Easter Plant Orders DUE April 7th
- 4 Cents a Meal Collection April 28th
- One Great Hour of Sharing Collection April 14th & 21st
- Session Mtg April 9th
- Easter Sunday April 21st
- Tax Day April 15th
- Adopt A Soldier Collection ALL Month

Session Update

SESSION NOTES—FIRST QUARTER 2019

MINISTRY

Donna's contract was completed the end of January. Session worked with COMAC (Committee on Ministers and Congregations) and we agreed to a new contract with The Rev. Richard Hoffman, to serve from March 6, Ash Wednesday, until May 5. This gives us continuity during the Lent and Easter season, and we can get to know each other during that time. The contract can be renewed or canceled at the end, by either our church or Rich.

We have also had some preliminary communication with COMAC regarding a new program that may work for us. Pathways to Renewal is a program available to churches with fewer than 150 members, who have not had an installed Pastor for two years. Under this program there is a substantial subsidy for the benefits portion of the salary package. We will continue conversations about this possibility.

It may be possible to have some sort of shared ministry with another church in our area. At this time there is no specific information about this.

BUILDING

With the mid March hint of spring weather, Kathan Dupuis (Dupuis Masonry) was able to return to the church to finish a job started last fall, when work was done to seal the foundation of the sanctuary. He has now removed siding along the north and south walls of the sanctuary and installed flashing to prevent water penetration of the sill from rain/snow. There was an area of the sill that had rotted where the stairs had been built and that has been repaired.

The donors have chosen a contractor for the painting job. The estimate needs updating and that is underway now. There are some options within the estimate that will need decisions, but this is good progress. Unfortunately, the contractor is already booked for 2019, but we are on the schedule for 2020. This may truly be a blessing.

We have begun conversations with an architect to develop a "long term" plan to bring the kitchen and bath areas to current code requirements. The plan may require changes to some window and door locations that would be good to accomplish before the painting job is started. We are not anticipating anything more with this area other than items that may affect the envelope of the building at this time.

COMMUNICATION

We have had to cancel services twice this past winter and realize that we need to update the ability to communicate this kind of information more efficiently, using e mail and phone calls as needed.

The ALIVE will be distributed quarterly this year as a trial. So many in the congregation are busy with all sorts of church work, that is has been difficult to give Holly enough material to create the ALIVE with enough information. Quarterly news from committees, Deacons and Session will also provide a good basis for the reports for the annual meeting packet.

Submitted by

Marie Bell

Clerk of Session

One Great Hour of Sharing

Once again our church will be participating in the One Great Hour of Sharing collection for PCU-SA. Collection of this envelope donation will be Palm and Easter Sundays (Apr. 14th & 21st). One Great Hour of Sharing supports the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Self-Development of People program. For more information on One Great Hour of Sharing, go to www.presbyterianmission.org/oghs.

Submitted by,

Amy Thetford

Operation Adopt a Soldier

April is Operation Adopt A Soldier Month

Mission Team will once again be collecting items for Operation Adopt A Soldier in Saratoga Springs during the month of April. As many of you know, this wonderful program sends packages to our regional soldiers stationed all over the globe. Cliff and his group of volunteers take a little break over the winter months, but as soon as those temperatures start to climb, the packages start moving once again and the shelves need filling. Church members will once again be hanging bags on doors across our town with a list of items suitable for donation. A bin will be placed on the chapel steps and checked regularly by mission members. Donations will be accepted through the month of April, then sorted and delivered to Saratoga during the first few days of May. Be sure to check the list here in the ALIVE for items to donate. Monetary donations can also be accepted to cover costs of shipping. As always, Mission Team thanks you for all your support.

The Cool 2 B Kind Club will be joining forces with our church for our Operation Adopt A Soldier Drive for the month of April. They will be creating posters and setting up donation bins around the school. As you may know, Cool 2 B Kind was set up as a club to teach kids (grades 3-6) to focus on showing kindness, not only to each other, but outwardly to the community as well. I'm thrilled this is happening!

Submitted by -

Amy Thetford

Operation Adopt a Soldier is in most need of NON PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS. Below is a list of suggested food items, along with some other odds and ends that could be sent as well.

Toothpaste	Antibacterial Soap	Bar Soap	Canned Meals
Chapstick	Wet Wipes	Ramen Noodles	Hostess Cupcakes
Toothbrushes	Shampoo	Instant Coffee & Tea	Deodorant M/F
Cookies	Soup	Microwave Meals	Candy
Spaghetti O's	Cup of Soup	Baby Wipes	Hard Candy
Beef Jerky	Chips	Little Debbie Snacks	Tuna
Dry Snacks	Girl Scout Cookies	Trail Mix	Lotion
Eye Drops	Hand Cream	Dries Fruit/Nuts	Maxi Pads/Tampons
Gum	Energy Bars	Pringles	

Just a Friendly Reminder

I've noticed something. I've been forgetful lately. And by lately, I mean more like the past year or so. Sometimes it's silly little things, like where I set my keys down, or leaving a bag behind at a Mission meeting at Dolores' house. Other times, it's more important things, like an appointment at school to help my son plot out his last couple years of high school, or a bill that REALLY needed to be paid.

I don't like the anxiousness this forgetfulness is causing. The almost constant underlying queasiness caused by the question that is always in the back of my head is growing tiring (Ok, what did I forget about today??). It's making me cranky, irritable, annoyed with myself. As a result, it's making me irritable with others and with life as a whole. Guess what? I don't like it. I don't like the irritability, that negativity, that constant drain on my spirit. It's tiring and I'm feeling tapped out.

All this busy-ness in my life – the paperwork that has to be done (for our business, college financial aid, my teaching assistant certification, taxes...), keeping everyone's schedules straight, working 2 jobs, keeping dates of when bills are due, appointments are scheduled, practices/games are scheduled, school concerts on the calendar, exams that are coming up, church meetings, church reports, fundraisers, collection drives, and it just keeps coming- it all leads to a cluttered mind, and for me at least, a grumpy attitude. I don't like the constant feeling of being overwhelmed.

Well, God used His hands and feet of Christ to reach me yet again the other day. An angel in the form of a church member reminded me of a few things that I had lost sight of, that had gotten buried in the clutter of my overwhelmed brain. This person reminded me to find a quiet space – a bedroom, bathroom, closet, my car- and PRAY. Yep, PRAY. Talk to God, tell him all about it just for 5 minutes. Remember to open my Bible, find a devotional, read His Word. Remember time for fellowship (strength in numbers people!). Put these things first. You'll find strength when you reach for His hand. Trust Him to guide you.

When I got home and really pondered this conversation, I looked back at the year or so of noticeable forgetfulness and irritability, and I realized something. I had slowly filled my quiet times, my moments for God and church family, with the busy-ness of life. I had neglected to put God on my calendar too.

I'm writing this because I got to thinking about all our other church members who are just as busy (if not more so) with crazy things the world has thrown into their laps. I thought, maybe, in this season of Lent, maybe we could all use this little chunk of wisdom given to me by a sweet and caring angel. It's hard, so hard sometimes, to find 5 minutes. But for my own sanity, I need this, I need to walk more with God. I need to find His Spirit ALIVE in me again, not buried in all the clutter. And, I think others might need it too. In this season of Lent, may God bless each and every one of you with 5 minutes.

Amy Thetford



Mission Team

With the relative quiet of the winter months, the battles of illness and weather, we managed to have 2 meetings in January and February. Both meetings centered on our Free Community Dinner. Due to a snowstorm followed by frigid temperatures, we postponed our annual dinner from MLK Day to February 18th. We were a little concerned when once again snow and cold weather were forecasted. By the grace of God we plowed ahead and are so glad we did. We had close to 40 people come and partake of ham, mac-n-cheese, baked beans, goulash, squash, corn casserole and so much more. A wonderful selection of desserts sure pleased everyone's palette with just enough sweets leftover for the Boy Scouts to enjoy at their meeting that followed the dinner. Clean up was a breeze with everyone chipping in to make light work of it. So grateful to Pat Laslo and Marilyn Hanby who worked tirelessly on those dishes. Can't thank them enough! And Neal and Charlie for staying to help pick up as well. Mary Vandewater, the Simmons', and Nancy Bardwell, thanks for pitching in! And a special thank you to all the congregation for the delicious dishes they donated! I can't tell you how many times I heard how wonderful the food was!!

Among other mission news, we were made aware of a need for kids and adults sized socks at the school, and we allotted \$100 to be used to purchase socks. By shopping the clearance sales at Kmart, we were able to purchase 16 packs of socks (10 pairs each). That's 160 pairs of socks!! The school was thrilled. We also were able to supply a portion of funding for the Girls' AAU basketball team to travel to Syracuse. Thank you to all who donate to mission. Between fundraisers and donations we are able to fill needs right here in our community.

Submitted by -

Amy Thetford

Adult Crafts

After a more than long winter, Spring is finally on the way! Please mark your calendars for crafting on the First Saturdays of the month- (through Dec 2019), and come and join us for some relaxation, good company and crafting at the church from 10-2. Sometimes we even run over the time because we are so into what's going on. The day is open for any adult in our community and any craft that can be transported. If you don't have a craft or are between projects and you'd like to just come and visit you are also welcome. You can bring a lunch or snack if you'd like. People arrive and depart when they choose so the door is open. Come and join us.

Submitted by -

Diane Jilek

Library Highlights

The bookcase, off the hallway, in the room before the bathrooms, has a good size selection of books that are good reading. The topics range from some light, easy reading selections, to some that are more studious. Lots of books fall somewhere in between.

There is a loose leaf binder with books listed in alphabetical order according to the author's name. Some authors have several titles available. There is a sign-out sheet to sign when you borrow a book, just so we know where the books are. There is no time limit to keep the book/s. Try one or two and enjoy them.

If anyone has a book at home to donate to the library, please put it in the basket on the desk and it will be entered into the inventory, which can be updated periodically. If you have heard of a book that you think should be in the collection, please leave a note in the book basket.

From time to time a book or two will be highlighted in the ALIVE to hopefully make you curious to read it. We will expand the book selections to include some films and DVDs.

Submitted by

Marie Bell

Lenten Lunch Schedule

Lenten Lunch Schedule ... (always on Thursday)

April 4- Shushan Churches at PC, Laura Mitchell

April 11- First United Presbyterian Salem- Harold Wheat



Bible Study

More Than Promises and Lent 2019

Members of the Bible study were using 70 Hebrew Words Every Christian Should Know, by Matthew Richard Schlimm, 2018. We came across the word, “berit”. I can’t write it out in Hebrew for you here because my laptop doesn’t have the Hebrew characters. Just the same, read berit, which roughly means, covenant. Matthew Schlimm says it means more—the Bible uses berit, in two clear “senses”. The first field or sense of covenant is of an *oath* or *commitment*. A second field or sense of covenant is seen in terms of love and friendship. Two parties create an agreement between themselves, which is conditioned by good will or in some kind of mutual understanding which actually enables their agreement. Not too far a step forward is the covenant between God and nature or nations and even persons of the covenant (I shall be your God and you shall be my people.) Covenant comes to us wrapped like a gift with terms like ‘grace,’ ‘brotherhood,’ ‘peace,’ ‘love,’ and friendship—berit.

Sometime earlier, our group had studied materials with Adam Hamilton, a Methodist pastor of a church in Texas. During a presentation, he spoke about the covenant we as Christian have through Our Lord, Jesus. Adam presented something from his own Methodist background and tradition, the Covenant Prayer associated with John Wesley. (I think the prayer actually appears before the time of John Wesley.) We were impressed by Hamilton’s presentation and never forgot the particular, Covenant Prayer. Imagine our surprise and satisfaction when the Jewish author, Matthew Schlimm included it in his book as an illustration of Christian use for the Hebrew term, berit--that exact prayer. We would like to pass those word on to you:

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

May your Lenten season bring you closer to the one we follow—closer to his cross and also to his resurrection. Peace and Joy.

Submitted by--
The Bible Study Group

Easter Plant Sale

EASTER PLANT SALE

We will again be ordering flowers from **Laura's Garden** (854-3833). Submit your order to Jane Keys or Holly Keys as soon as possible, but **NOT LATER THAN APRIL 7th**. Orders will not be accepted after this date. If you order through the church and include payment, the florist delivers them. Make checks payable to the church. Write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line. If you buy a plant elsewhere and deliver it yourself, fill in the bottom portion of this form for the bulletin listing.

TO ORDER THROUGH THE CHURCH:

Easter Lily

6" 1ppp (5-6 bud) \$ 9.75 _____

6" 1ppp (7-8 bud) \$12.25 _____

8" 2ppp (10-12 bud) \$23.75 _____

10" 3ppp (15-18 bud) \$33.95 _____

Tulips

6" \$ 9.00 _____

Daffodil

6" \$ 9.00 _____

Hyacinth

6" \$ 9.00 _____

8" \$18.75 _____

8" \$18.75 _____

8" \$18.75 _____

10" \$24.95 _____

10" \$24.95 _____

Cyclamen 6" \$14.95 _____

Martha Washington Geranium 6" \$16.95 _____

Hydrangea

6" \$25.95 _____

Azalea

6" \$19.00 _____

8" \$35.95 _____

8" \$29.95 _____

Kalanchoe 6" \$14.95 _____

Reiger Begonia 6" \$14.95 _____ Mum 6" \$10.95 _____

Mixed Garden (tulip, hyacinth, daff)

6" \$14.95 _____

8" \$19.95 _____

10" \$29.95 _____

_____ I will purchase my plant elsewhere and my bulletin information is listed below.

(PLEASE SPECIFY) "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of":

Birthdays/Anniversaries

April Birthday's

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

May Birthday's

2 David Mears, Dawn Rea
11 Dolores Phaneuf
13 Marilyn Hanby, Tom Keys
15 Kim Skellie

June Birthday's

7 Tom Jilek
10 James Tomasi
25 Arna Thibeau

April Anniversaries

23 Todd & Laural Keys

May Anniversaries

1 Dean & Robin Hanks
5 Travis & Karen Rea
29 Thane & Dawn Rea

June Anniversaries

11 Michael & Jane Thibeau

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.

Giving Update

MARCH 2019: Income: \$ 2,350.00 Expenses: \$ 8,046.82 **DEFICIT: \$ 5,696.82**

Year To Date: Income: \$14,032.78 Expenses: \$26,024.82 **DEFICIT: \$11,992.04**

So far this year we have transferred \$5,000.00 from our portfolio account to help cover expenses.

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): _____

Scriptures

April/May/June Scripture Readings

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

April 7th	5th Sunday of Lent Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8
April 14th	Palm Sunday Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56
April 21st	Easter Sunday Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18
April 28th	Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29 Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31
May 5th	Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Psalm 30 Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19
May 12th	Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23:1-6 Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30
May 19th	Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148:1-14 Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35
May 26th	Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67:1-7 Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5; John 14:23-29
June 2nd	Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97:1-12 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26
June 9th	Day of Pentecost Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17 (25-27)
June 16th	Trinity Sunday Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8:1-9 Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15
June 23rd	1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7) 8-15a; Psalms 42 and 43 Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39
June 30th	2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	2 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	3 Bible Study 8:30 am	4 Line Dancing 9:30am Lenten Lunch Shushan Churches 12:00 pm	5 First Friday Noontime Prayer St Paul's	6 Adult Crafts 10 am	
7 Worship 10am Lenten Ecumenical Even- tide Service St Paul's 4pm	8 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	9 Session 6:30 pm	10 Bible Study 8:30 am	11 Line Dancing 9:30am Lenten Lunch First United	12	13
14 PALM SUNDAY Worship 10am	15 TAX DAY Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	16	17 Bible Study 8:30 am	18 Line Dancing 9:30am	19 GOOD FRIDAY	20
21 EASTER SUNDAY Worship 10 am Worship & Music 11:30am	22 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	23	24 Bible Study 8:30 am	25 Line Dancing 9:30am	26	27
28 Worship 10 am 4 Cents a Meal Collection	29 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	30				

Church Address:
13 West Broadway
PO Box 606

Church Phone Number:
518/854-9471

Pastoral Care: Pastor Rich Hoffman
E-mail: chaprich56@gmail.com

Clerk of Session: Marie Bell
Phone # 518-677-3020
E-mail: tmbellz@aol.com

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

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

Service Schedule for April/May/June 2019

Sunday, April 7th

Reader: Jean Skellie
Coffee Time: Kay Tomasi
Jane & Tom Keys

Sunday, May 5th

Reader: David Simmons
Coffee Time: Diane Jilek
Nancy Rountree

Sunday, June 2nd

Reader: Sylvia Graham
Coffee Time:
Ruth Ihne, Marie Bell

Sunday, April 14th

Reader: Marie Bell
Coffee Time: Mary VanDeWater
Amy Thetford

Sunday, May 12th

Reader: Nancy Rountree
Coffee Time: Kim Skellie
Dave & Irlene Mears

Sunday, June 9th

Reader: Kim Skellie
Coffee Time:
Valerie Roche

Sunday, April 21st

Reader: Ruth Ihne
Coffee Time: Marilyn Hanby
David & Helen Simmons

Sunday, May 19

Reader: Jane Keys
Coffee Time: Valerie Roche
???????

Sunday, June 16th

Reader: Nancy Bardwell
Coffee Time:
Dolores Phaneuf
Jean & Norma Skellie

Sunday, April 28th

Reader: Jane Keys
Coffee Time: Nancy Bardwell
Neal Rea

Sunday, May 26th

Reader: Norma Skellie
Coffee Time: Alberta Murn
Sylvia Graham

Sunday, June 23rd

Reader: Nancy Rountree
Coffee Time:
Kay Tomasi
Jane & Tom Keys