



**Salem First United  
Presbyterian Church is:**

# Alive!

Volume 50, Version 11

January 2016

## God's New Thing This Year

As we begin a new year together, take God's word and turn with me to Isaiah 43. As we enter into this New Year, it's only natural to want to reflect back over the previous year and consider what all was accomplished. That's true in our professional life as well as our personal life. It's also true in our spiritual life.

How much time did I spend in God's Word? How consist was I in my prayer life? Did my witness help bring anybody to Jesus? Did my giving reflect my heart for God? Was Sunday School/Worship a priority?

So, how was your spiritual life last year? And what changes are necessary to take it to the next level this year? And consider this: what did you see God do this year? And not only in you and through you, but around you? I don't know about you, but I saw God do some things in me and through me last year ... but oh ... the things I saw Him do around me!

I saw Him restore broken marriages. I saw Him save the souls of many including: children, convicts, Muslims, attempted suicide victims, teenagers and adults. I saw Him give hope to the hopeless. I saw Him give forgiveness to the fallen. I saw Him transform lives.

What all did you see God do around you this past year? Not just in you and through you, but around you? What a mighty God we serve!

Well .. as wonderful as all those things were last year, what would you say if I told you that God has "a new thing" for you in 2016? A "new thing" that's better, that's bigger, that's greater, and that's mightier than what you saw Him do last year in you, through you and around you?

And let me say that if you continue dwelling on the old things God has done, you're not going to see the new things God has planned for 2016. Focusing on the past, as good and great as it was, tends to blur our focus on today. In other words, it's hard to see in front of you when you're constantly looking behind you!

That's what Paul was talking about in Philippians 3.13-14, "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended (attained); but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Well .. as great as God has been in the past in us and through us and around us, God has "a new thing" for us in 2016 that will surpass what He did in 2015. In other words, if you think God did some incredible things last year and yes, He did; you haven't seen anything yet!

That's what we find Him telling the children of Israel in Isaiah 43. Let's pick up the account beginning in verse 18 and read down through verse 21 as we consider on this first Sunday of the year: God's New Thing This Year Isaiah 43.18-21, "Do not remember the former things,? Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing,? Now it shall spring forth;? Shall you not know it?I will even...

Submitted by Seth Pitts

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### Special points of interest:

- Articles for the ALIVE! Are due in no later than the 20th of the month.
- Blood Drive Wednesday, January 13th 1-6pm
- Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 24th after fellowship
- Fifth Sunday Fellowship January 31st.
- Give Back Community Dinner January 18th

## From the Pastor

Greetings sisters and brothers in Christ may God's grace and peace to you and continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to you in this time of Christmas and Epiphany.

We recounted the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ and now enter the time with the first manifestation of Christ to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi and we will see our Lord baptized. All these remind me of the birth of my own children. Many people came up to congratulate and visit. My wife and I came to the realization that we were now parents. There are challenges we face, along with joy and celebrations we share. Just like we realized we were parents, there are people today that need to hear the story of Jesus Christ.

As you approach this time when we are all winding down from a hectic, possibly stress ridden, joyful time of celebration, we continue preparing. Being a new year we start preparing for new things we would like to do to better ourselves. We make resolutions. Let this year be no different.

With this year's resolutions, include becoming closer to the One who helps you, guides you, and has saved you. Find something new you can do to bring you closer to God. It can be as simple as praying every day or maybe trying to read the Scriptures more regularly. Maybe this is the year you find something that the church should be seeking or assisting for the community. When you start to stray away from that resolution, remember the Holy Spirit is ready, willing, and able to help keep you on the path. Rely on the Spirit to help you through the bumps on the path. I believe we will grow closer to God this year if we ask God for help. Let this be the year that God leads the way and we can celebrate all God has to offer.

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:

January 3rd	Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9)10-18
January 10th	Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17,21-22
January 17th	Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11
January 24th	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21
January 31st	Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

### Did you Know?

The date for the Annual Congregational Meeting has been set for January 24th. Please have all reports submitted to Holly NO LATER than January 10th! This will allow time to get all reports in and the final copy of the annual report prepared for the meeting. You can email them to holly.keys@aol.com or leave them in her box in the business office. Thank you in advance for your timeliness.

### Newsletter Articles

**Deadline for Alive! articles is the 20th of the month!**

### **FIFTH SUNDAY SERVICE**

**Join in fellowship on January 31st in the chapel as we celebrate our first Fifth Sunday of 2016.**

This  
Christmas  
end a quarrel.  
Seek out a forgotten  
friend. Dismiss suspicion,  
and replace it with trust.  
Write a love letter. Share some  
treasure. Give a soft answer. Keep  
a promise. Find the time. Forgo a grudge.  
Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you  
were wrong. Try to understand. Examine your  
demands on others. Think first of someone else.  
Be kind; be gentle. Appreciate. Laugh a little. Laugh a  
little more. Express your gratitude. Gladden the heart of a  
child. Welcome a stranger. Take pleasure in the beauty and the  
wonder of Earth.  
Speak your love.  
Speak it again.  
Speak it yet  
Once again.

## Session Notes

The Session of the First United Presbyterian Church of Salem held a regular meeting Wednesday evening, December 16, 2015 at the church chapel.

Michael Barron, CRE called the meeting to order at 7:00 and opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the November meeting were approved

	<b>For November</b>	<b>Year-to-Date</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	\$	\$
<b>Expenses for October</b>	\$	\$

Treasurer's Report was Approved as presented.  
Clerk had several items of communication.

Clerk report: Delores has officially retired, at the close of 2015, from Clerk of Session and Marie Bell has graciously accepted the call to fill the position of Clerk of Session starting in January.

Meeting was focused on finalizing the by-laws to be presented to the congregation for approval at the Annual Congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, January 24th, immediately following services. There will be no luncheon after, just our normal fellowship time. The following Sunday will be our first Fifth Sunday of 2016. The Session finalized and approved the annual budget. A big thanks to Diane Jilek and Seth Pitts, Treasurer for crunching all the numbers.

## Mission Team

The Mission Team met at 7:00 Monday evening, Dec. 7 for a regular meeting at the home of Dolores Phaneuf. The meeting opened with prayer and the Dec. 7 selection "Food of Life" from the book, GOD CALLING. The Nativity Set purchased with money given in memory of Beverly McMorris Lloyd, has arrived and is on the front lawn of the church. We are planning to have the annual Give Back Community Dinner on MLK day, January 18, 2016. Plans will be finalized at the January 4 meeting. David gave a report on the Syrian Refugee situation, which becomes complicated with so many people involved. The RADA order will be sent Dec. 8 and a motion was made and approved to purchase up to \$60.00 in RADA cutlery for the church kitchen, using the profits from this order. Communication was received from Shelter Box. Amy was looking for volunteers to participate in the play, "The Christmas Window", for the following Sunday, several members volunteered. A motion was made and approved to give \$100 to the school cafeteria for lunches for children who need it. The next meeting is Jan. 4 at 7:00 at Dolores' house. The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by the Rev. Dr. David Simmons. Members of the Mission Team are: Neal Rea; Moderator, Marilyn Hanby, Charlie Perry, Helen Simmons, David Simmons, Amy Thetford, Arna Thibeau and Dolores Phaneuf, and unofficial member Steve Burgess.

Submitted by: Dolores Phaneuf

## 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

### January Birthday's

2nd Jane Keys  
19th Nancy Bardwell  
David Moore  
26th Christopher Barrett, Jr

### January Anniversaries

3rd Tom & Jane Keys  
5th Seth & Diane Pitts

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

Mug sales still continue. There is a blue sheet to complete and give to Amy Thetford or Marie Bell.

Give Back Community Dinner planned for January 18th. The time will be set at the Jan. 4th meeting of the Mission Committee. Please see Dolores with any questions.

Red Cross Blood Drive being held in the chapel on Wednesday, January 13th from 1-6pm. Walk-ins are welcome. All blood types needed!

# Prayers & Concerns

## Those in our prayers during the last month:

Helen Simmons	Tom Keys
Tom Ruffing & Family	Arna Theiavarge
Family of David Vilmar	Joyce
Janet McGee	(Amy Thetford's mother)
Donna Holmes	Emmy
Jonathan	Nick Holmes & Salem Drama
David & Irlene Mears and	Those who suffer in silence
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

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	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.**

# January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Worship 10 am	4 Mission Committee Mtg @ Dolores House 7pm	5 Choir Rehearsal 9 am	6	7 Line Dancing 9:30 am	8 FFF 2:30 pm	9
10 Worship 10 am	11	12 Choir Rehearsal 9 am	13 Blood Drive 1-6 pm	14 Line Dancing 9:30 am	15 FFF 2:30 pm	16
17 Worship 10 am	18 Martin Luther King Day Give Back Community Dinner time TBD	19 Choir Rehearsal 9 am	20 Soup & Sandwich Luncheon 11:30-2	21 Line Dancing 9:30 am	22 FFF 2:30 pm	23
24 Worship 10 am Annual Meeting following fellowship	25	26 Choir Rehearsal 9 am	27 Session 7pm	28 Line Dancing 9:30 am	29 FFF 2:30 pm	30
31 Fifth Sunday Worship 10 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: Dolores Phaneuf  
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 January 2016**

**Elder of the Month: Seth Pitts**

Sunday, January 3rd

Reader: Jane Keys

Coffee Time: Mary VandeWater and  
Amy Thetford

Sunday, January 17th

Reader: Nick Holmes

Coffee Time: Marilyn Hanby and  
Donna Holmes

Sunday, January 10th

Reader: Seth Pitts

Coffee Time: Nancy Bardwell & Neal Rea

Sunday, January 24th

Reader: David Simmons

Coffee Time: Diane Jilek & Nancy Rountree

Sunday, January 31st

Worshiping in new Fifth Sunday tradition  
Brunch