



**Salem First United
Presbyterian Church is:**

Alive!

Volume 50, Version 11

July/August 2016

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Special points of interest:

- Articles for the ALIVE! Are due in no later than the AUGUST 28th.
- 4 Cents a Meal Collections July 24th, and August 28th
- VBS planned for July 18-22!!
- Adult Crafting Day July 13th

Fight or Flight

This passage is taken from the Have A Little Faith Quilt Pattern- it is very thought provoking and I wanted to share it with you.

Each day, we make dozens (sometimes hundreds) of decisions. Some small, some not-so-small, and some very big decisions. Small decisions are easy to make: Decaf or regular coffee, blue socks or black socks, walk the dog or sit on the couch- and my favorite...do something quilt related OR clean the house! (bet you can guess). We might seek our family's or friend's opinions to make other decisions. Which car to buy, which clubs to join, which job to accept. We may do a little research, or we may rely solely on our own instincts. But how can we tell when our instincts are actually gentle pushes from the Holy Spirit?

When considering a decision that makes us choose between right and wrong, we can be assured that the Holy Spirit will NEVER nudge us toward wrong, or evil.

We are so fortunate to live in a free country. Most typically, the biggest battles that we will face in our lifetime will be personal or spiritual in nature. The Bible tells us to "fight" or resist the devil, and "flee" from temptation. With each temptation we face, God gives us the strength to withstand it.

The Bible is full of stories of people who gave in to evil or temptation and were punished severely for their actions. These stories can serve as a warning to us, as well as reassurance that we are not alone as we face our own struggles. When faced with temptation, we simply need to ask ourselves, "What does the Bible say about my situation?" If the answer is not apparent, we should pray for God's guidance and ask that He send the Holy Spirit to gently nudge us in the right direction.

If and when, the evil enters our lives, God wants us to FIGHT. And yes, it will be a battle. We are supposed to "Fight the good fight of the faith", and in the words of the 19th century hymn, "Onward Christian soldiers, marching off to war...Christ the Royal Master, leads against the foe."

When you face a battle because of a problem, run to our Savior and let Him lead the fight.

Submitted by Diane Jilek

Mission Report

Mission Team Report for ALIVE - June 2016

All meetings are opened and closed with prayer.

At the recent meeting of the Mission Team several articles of business were discussed and approved.

We heard an updated report from Scout Harrison Robbins-Snizek who is making preparations to do some maintenance and updating on the Ark Playground in the church yard for his Eagle Scout Project. Included in his plans are: power washing and applying protective coat; repairing the ramp, which is loose; repair the steering wheel, which is broken; add more wood chips; and possibly adding a baby swing set and small spring type animals. He said that the frame work is solid. He is planning to have a spaghetti dinner as one fundraiser, to help defray the cost of the improvements. The date had been set for June 30, but it has since been postponed.

NOTE; for those of us (me) who are "clueless" about Eagle Scout Projects..... The project has to be approved by his Troop and the Boy Scout Council before any work can be started, and anything done before that time would not count toward his project. Harrison needs to be the one "in charge" for the entire process. He will need lots of help and advice, but the final decisions should be his own on Who, What, When, Where and How. Thank you Thane for the info!

Charlie reported that Carolyn Meub, Organizing Founder of Pure Water For the World, will be the speaker on Mission Sunday, June 26th.

Dolores was unsuccessful in an attempt to organize a joint worship and community picnic for the July 24th Mission Sunday. The following Sunday is the 5th Sunday when we will be having the informal worship service and carry-in-brunch. It was decided to cancel the picnic and obtain a speaker or a mission project instead. Any suggestions for a program replacement will be greatly appreciated!!!

A check for \$1000. was sent to the Salem Summer Lunch and Learn Program at the Community Court House. \$50 worth of gift certificates were given to Salem Senior Meal Site for special treats.

SAVE THE DATE -----SATURDAY OCTOBER 15 - ANNUAL PIG ROAST

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT THE MANY MISSION PROJECTS OF OUR CHURCH

Dolores Phaneuf, Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by Dolores Phaneuf

Worship & Music Committee Report

SOME EXPLANATIONS ON THE STRUCTURE OF OUR WORSHIP SERVICES!!!: Session, with the guidance of Michael, approved some departures from our “traditional” weekly presentation/organization. The decision was made that the **FOURTH SUNDAY** of the month was to be devoted to a theme of mission, be it our church’s efforts or mission activities in the community and beyond. We have already heard from the **Lunch, Learn and Play** program and a speaker about efforts to provide **Clean Water** in 3rd world countries. These guest speakers were **lay** persons who graciously spent their time to inform us of these mission efforts. **BUT**, as **lay** persons, they did not prepare the rest of the service and the music. This task fell to the worship committee – to prepare prayers, hymns, benedictions, etc. as well as to ask members of the congregation to lead different portions of the worship service. For the occasional **FIFTH SUNDAYS** which are scattered across the yearly calendar, a more informal worship service – breaking bread together while exploring some theme – was accepted. The few we have celebrated have included individual testimonies/accepting new members and play-acting of biblical themes. So, a standard month should include a **MISSION SUNDAY** and on an occasional month a **FIFTH SUNDAY**. If we are to continue with this format we need suggestions of speakers for mission Sundays and themes and possibly guests for Fifth Sundays (potentially requiring the worship committee to provide the structure). If you, the congregation, do not want to continue this format then you must express your opinion to the worship committee and/or the session. If there is silence, we shall attempt to maintain *status quo*.

As you know, with Michael having left June 19, we are faced with the task of trying to ensure a meaningful worship service each Sunday – not just for the summer but until we either find a transitional pastor or a more permanent pastor. In addition to using pulpit supply listings from Albany Presbytery, we are seeking input from a variety of sources (including you). It may be comfortable to have an ordained minister or CRE each Sunday but it is not likely to happen. It is probable that we will have some speakers who are not ordained. We need to be creative, flexible, patient and possibly do some nontraditional things so we can gather in worship! Perhaps we will occasionally join in a service with a sister church. This committee will be called upon to provide structure where needed. We ask God for guidance through these uncertain days.

Since this is the last issue of **ALIVE** till the fall and the worship schedule is still being worked on, communication is a concern. **Either** ask a person who has been to the last service **or** we will try to leave a message on the church answering machine on Thursdays, as to where the next service will be and if there are any special requirements (eg pot luck). (Hopefully, we can figure out how to program it). We should remember that where two gather, there can be worship. **WE ARE THE CHURCH OF GOD.**

Submitted by Sylvia Graham

Elder of the Month Message

I realized this recently laying in a trauma unit with 10 healthcare professional standing over me and numerous IV's running into my arms. We are all so much more fortunate than we give ourselves credit for. We constantly preoccupy ourselves with thoughts of things we don't have and experiences we are missing out on.

We need to learn to be appreciative and grateful for everything we have and everything we are going to receive. If we all stopped for a moment and looked around us, we would find endless things we have that others are not as fortunate to have. People complain constantly about having an outdated model of a car or phone when we should just be grateful we have these things in the first place.

“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, and confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.”
You really do not know how good you have it until it's gone. In relationships, people tend to get too comfortable and as a result become bored and complacent. This can result in infidelity and the destruction of the relationship itself. Only until after the relationship has been ruined does this person realize the terrible, irreversible mistake they have made. At this point it is too late; this person failed to realize how fortunate they were and as a result destroyed what they loved.

People get in life-altering accidents every day. Look at the Boston bombing massacre, participants had no idea their lives were about to change forever. If you take something for granted, you don't worry or think about it because you assume you will always have it. Some of these people will never have the ability to walk again, something we take for granted on a daily basis. Tragedies like this make us re-examine our lives. “Never take someone you love for granted. Hold every person close to your heart because you might wake up one day and realize that you lost a diamond while you were too busy collecting stones.”

Shouldn't we just be happy we have food on the table and a roof over our heads? So many people in the world would do anything for these things, but we still complain everyday that we do not have enough. We take advantage of the people in our lives, like our friends and family. We make the fatal mistake of assuming that these people will just be there for us without providing extra effort. A person who is not grateful toward their parents is one who has taken their love for granted.

“Learn to appreciate what you have before time makes you appreciate what you had.”
This is a natural occurrence that happens to everyone in his or her life. It is a default mode we all get into when we become complacent in different aspects of our lives. We need to regain the consciousness of the things in life we have become so accustomed to. Imagine how hard life would be if we didn't have access to the Internet or to food or to clean drinking water. When you make yourself aware of how blessed you really are, that is when you learn to appreciate the “little” things in life.

Life is too short to waste our time thinking about what we do not have. We obviously can survive without them; we have made it this far. Things do not make us happy; it is how we feel within ourselves that really matters. What you get out of life depends entirely upon your attitude. The things that truly provide happiness are usually right in front of us. What we need to do it continuously remind ourselves where we'd be without them. “Never fail to appreciate someone who cares for you. Just because they're always in your life to help in some way, never fail to give thanks or recognition. To value someone or something too lightly is a risk no one should take.”

In order to achieve wanting only the things and people that you have you need to look into the positive things you gain from having these people or things around you. The things you take for granted are the things others are praying for.

In his name

Seth M. Pitts

Scriptures

Monthly Scripture Readings

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

July 3rd	2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30:1-12 Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
July 10th	Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82:1-8 Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
July 17th	Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52 Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
July 24th	Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85:1-13 Colossians 2:6-15(16-19); Luke 11:1-13
July 31st	Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9;43 Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21
August 7th	Isaiah 1:1,10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23 Hebrew 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40
August 14th	Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2,8-19 Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56
August 21st	Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6 Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17
August 28th	Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1,10-16 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

Did you Know?

Faith Filled Fridays is done until September. Look for updates about when it will restart here and in the weekly bulletins. Thank you to ALL who help with this successful program!

SPECIAL GIFT FOR MICHAEL

Helen Simmons is collecting funds to purchase a gift from the congregation to be given to Michael Barron and his family, as a special thank you for all the time and service they gave to our family of faith. The deadline to give donations is July 15th. Please see Helen Simmons with any questions or concerns.

Session Notes

The session met for the last time with Michael Barron, CRE on June 15, since his last Sunday with us was June 19.

Approval was given to an Eagle Scout candidate to refurbish and repair the "ark" in the playground. With lots of use over the years it is in need of some attention. Work will be done over the summer after VBS. The scout is responsible to raise the necessary funds, and a dinner will be held on June 30 to begin this effort. Let's all get behind this effort and enjoy a spaghetti dinner.

The Glens Falls National Bank representatives who are involved with management of the church portfolio were present to review our investments.

Mission Committee was given permission to have a Pig Roast on October 15. It is not too early to mark your calendars for this delicious dinner.

Worship and Music committee is busy working to provide pulpit supply during the summer until a new Pastor is able to be called to our church. Please give any help that you can to assist with this task. Let Sylvian Graham know about people who may be able to help.

VBS plans are well underway. Watch for ways to help Amy with this effort. Items needed for crafts and refreshments will be posted. Consider helping during that week.

It was approved to give the Cecil Plumb Award to Nicholas Holmes, who will graduate as Salutatorian in his class and will head to Colgate University in the fall. Congratulations to Nick.

Session continues to develop a Manual of Operations for this church. This sets policy in writing, and outlines committee responsibilities. Members stepping into a committee will be better able to understand what is expected of them.

Session is in the process of updating the MIF (Mission Information Form) that will be uploaded to the Presbytery site, once it is approved by COM (Committee on Ministry) in Presbytery. This will enable ministers to see our church and consider serving here as Pastor.

Join the Session members in prayer for the person God is preparing to answer the call to serve here in Salem. In God's time-- not our time.

Clerk of Session---Marie Bell

Deacons Notes

The Deacons held their June meeting at the Church on June 20th. The main business of the meeting that day was to address how we wanted to spend some of the \$716 profit made from our recent pie fundraiser that we conducted. Following discussion a motion was made by John Rea, seconded by Alberta Murn and passed in favor, to use \$600 of the balance in our checking account to the following:

Vacation Bible School	\$150
Lunch, Learn & Play	\$150
Church Restoration Fund	\$150
Salem Firemen	\$150

The Deacons hope that the two new bulletin boards have caught your attention in the hall way, they have been set up nicely by Alberta and Nancy R. Names and phone numbers of the Deacons have been updated and enlarged. The Deacons have been making visits and phone calls. If you know of someone who may enjoy a visit, please tell a Deacon. Communion to our shut-ins has been done by David & Helen Simmons, and many times a Deacon accompany them.

We **will not** be meeting during July and August unless there is a need.

I

Jane Keys, Secretary

Christian Nurture

Christian Nurture team is gearing up for this year's "Ocean Commotion" VBS, where kids grades k-4 will explore the story of Noah and the Flood. This year we have changed the time of the program from evening back to morning due to volunteers' schedules. For 5 days, from July 18th to the 22nd, we will offer games, crafts, stories and songs from 9-11:30 every day. We have had several volunteers come forward for leading each of the rotation portions, as well as kitchen help. Our leaders for each portion of the program are Marie Bell for Bible story, Becky Potter for games, Amy Thetford (with help from Alberta Murn) for crafts, Nancy Rountree for snacks, and Jean Skellie for opening and closing. If you would like to help in any of these areas, please speak with that leader. We are still seeking help leading kids around to each rotation, as well as help setting up and cleaning up every day. As always, monetary donations are graciously accepted especially since many of the items needed for the program are ordered online. Those VBS envelopes are much needed and go a long way in supporting the program. The kids of our community thank you! Still have questions? Contact Amy Thetford.

Report from the Search Committee of Session

In May, the **Committee on Ministry (COM)** finally told session to go ahead and review/revise the **Mission Information Form (MIF)** which had originally been generated in 2014. The search committee has finished that task. The **MIF** now has to be approved at a regular meeting of the Session, which requires a moderator, and then sent on to **Presbytery COM**. With Michael gone, we must depend on a moderator assigned to us by **COM**. We hope to have said meeting by mid-July so the form can be considered at the next meeting of the **Presbytery COM**. When approved, the information will be posted online - and we wait for nibbles. There had been some immediate suggestions of individuals in the local area who might be interested. We investigated, but there was no "call".

Submitted by Sylvia Graham

Birthdays/Anniversaries

July & August Birthday's

JULY

3rd Dean Hanks
6th Helen Simmons
7th Jim Briglin,
Mary VanDeWater
11th Jean Skellie
14th Donna Holmes
16th Chris Barrett
17th Austin Keys
25th Bob Preble
26th Christopher Barrett

AUGUST

1ST Holden Keys, Evely Braymer
Chris Preble
3rd Neal Rea
6th Todd Keys
16th Irlene Mears, Ida Armstrong
Holly Hanks Keys
18th Marie Bell
20th Charlie Perry, Norma Skellie
21st Alberta Murn
22nd Amy Thetford
24th Madison Barrett

July & August Anniversaries

JULY

3rd Jim & Kay Tomasi
28th Tom & Diane Jilek

AUGUST

6th Jay & Kim Skellie
7th Neal & Carol Rea
8th Bob & Chris Preble
26th Jim & Pat Briglin

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): _____

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 of God's love for them

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

Homeless

Emergency Services Workers

Sasha Blake

Jason Conety

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.**

July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Worship in Green- wich	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	5	6 Bible Study 8:30am	7 Line Dancing 9:30am	8	9
10 Worship 10am	11	12	13 Bible Study 8:30am Adult Crafts 10 am Session 7 pm	14 Line Dancing 9:30am	15	16
17 Worship 10am	18 VBS 9:00 am	19 VBS 9:00 am	20 VBS 9:00 am	21 VBS 9:00 am	22 VBS 9:00 am	23
24 Mission Sunday Worship 10am 4 Cents a Meal	25	26	27	28 Line Dancing 9:30am	29	30
31 Worship 10am						

Church Address:
13 West Broadway
Salem, NY 12865

Church Phone Number:

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 July & August 2016

Elder of the Month: Sylvia Graham

Sunday, July 3rd

Reader: Neal Rea

Coffee Time: Mary Vandewater
Amy Thetford

Sunday, July 10th

Reader: Norma Skellie

Coffee Time: Marilyn Hanby
Donna Holmes

Sunday, July 17th

Reader: Pat Briglin

Coffee Time: Nancy Bardwell
Neal Rea

Sunday, July 24th

Reader: Deborah Borthwick

Coffee Time: Valerie Roche

Sunday, July 31st

Reader: Seth Pitts

Coffee Time: Diane Jilek & Nancy Rountree

Sunday, August 7th

Reader: David Simmons

Coffee Time: Dave & Irleen Mears
Kim Skellie

Sunday, August 14th

Reader: Sylvia Graham

Coffee Time: David & Helen Simmons
Arna Thibeau

Sunday, August 21st

HEDGES LAKE WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, August 28th

Reader: Jim Briglin

Coffee Time: Alberta Murn & Sylvia Graham