



**Salem First United
Presbyterian Church is:**

Alive!

Volume 50, Version 11

March 2016

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Special points of interest:

- Articles for the ALIVE! Are due in no later than the 27th of the month.
- Easter Plant Sales (order form p.9)
- Bible Study Resumes March 2nd
- Schedule of Events for the Season of Lent on page 5
- 4 Cents a Meal Collection March 27th
- Turn Clocks Ahead March 13th

My Christmas Gift To All Of You ~ 2015 <3 I Can Do ALL Things Through CHRIST Who Strengthens Me! ~ Phil. 4:13

It began a long time ago, as I was sitting in the chapel at work, praying, as I usually do on my break, when all of a sudden I just said, "God-how much more? How much more do I have to take...to endure? I can't do it anymore God...UNCLE! Enough already!" Well, wouldn't you know, it was right after that that I got my answer, in that ever so still small Voice, saying to me, "I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me". Yep! Real simple answer, huh?!? "OK, God ... keep going", I pleaded, wanting more information than that! ... "You can do ALL things through ME Donna...those are the words I want you to declare, to remember, to hold on to, and to share with others this Christmas! ... ALL things...not just some things, not pick and choose which things, no...ALL things through ME, the One who strengthens you!" "But God!..." I pleaded...or tried to plead! ... "You see what is happening!" ... "Yes, I do Donna...and I've got this! YOU just need to do YOUR part, which is to BELIEVE that YES, you CAN do ALL things through ME...You can't do it alone, but with ME, you CAN do ALL things...BELIEVE ME!"

Feeling quite humbled and blessed, I lifted up my head, my eyes meeting those of Jesus on the Cross in the chapel, and I said, "OK God---Let's do this!" It was then that I decided that I was going to pick up my cross, heavy as it may be, and press through this! Even though I felt as if my load was far too much for this little city girl to carry alone, I was determined! You see, there is that stubborn, determined side of me that keeps whispering, sometimes shouting, "Don't you dare give up now Donna!"

It was time to take back all that had been taken from me. Time to say, "NO MORE!" ... not to God, but to the burdens of the world. It was time to turn defeat into VICTORY! Time to press on towards the prize...and I WANTED IT!!! So watch out world...I was on a mission...to persevere...to press through...to be the woman of Faith that God created me to be! To overcome. A girl on a mission. I liked that!! Because with God, I knew I could do ALL things!!

As many of you know, the burdens I was carrying were more than weighing me down, they were crushing me, consuming me, debilitating me, devouring me. It was then that I decided to let GOD carry the burdens for me, with me, and it was THEN that I knew God was indeed carrying me through perhaps the most difficult season of my life...a dry time...a valley...a low. BUT...I knew in my Spirit that HE would be the One to carry me THROUGH--to carry those burdens for me---to be my Burden Bearer...and all I had to do was press on in FAITH!

"I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me." "I can do ALL things through Christ Who strengthens me." "I can and WILL do ALL things through CHRIST Who strengthens me!!!"

Health concerns...I can do ALL things... Financial problems...I can do ALL things... Relational problems...I CAN do ALL things... Car problems...I can, and WILL do ALL things through CHRIST Who strengthens me!

It was if I was in the midst of a huge snowball fight, and the snowballs were coming at me from every angle, faster than I could handle, but then I found the courage to take up my shield of FAITH and one by one I began dodging those nasty snowballs!!

God took me, a little girl from Queens, who the world seemed to have chewed up and spit out, and re-built me, re-programmed me. I was stripped down to zero confidence in myself to the point of not even knowing who I was anymore. But, I was right where God wanted me, because it was THEN that I knew my confidence in myself did not come from the world, (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

From the Pastor

Greetings: sisters and brothers in Christ. We have seen some real crazy things so far in 2016. We have a presidential campaign, in my opinion, is the strangest thing we've seen in a long time; a variety of choices with and even more variety of mudslinging, accusations, and nastiness. Our winter has been blessed(?) this year; we will need to wait and see. Easter comes in the month of March. None of these are out of the ordinary – just a little odd.

We are all on different journeys that make it personal with our God. But one thing holds true no matter how much weirdness or craziness enters our lives – the truth that Christ died for you and me. That Christ walks with us on this journey we have started. I believe the greatest part about being a Christian is Christ will at times be the one who carries us along the journey.

Lent and Easter are always a HUGE reflection time for me. My own journey always has me reflect on the loss of my father, my mother-in-law, and yes even my pets. It helps prepare me for new things, new challenges, and sometimes a new way to look at how Christ is a part of my life with the help of those who have gone before me to the Kingdom. It is this time of year that I believe God helps us to recognize changes. Spring will soon come and we will see new life emerging.

With new life, comes:

Hope

Confirmation that God is always with us no matter how weird or odd the world around us gets.

New understanding of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit

We always see new life and new beginnings in the Spring. My hope for you this Lenten and Easter season is that you find a new way the Holy Trinity is a part of your life, a part of your journey, and gives you a renewal of the love God has for all of us and our world.

Michael Barron, CRE

Front Cover Continued ...

But instead from my Creator. God picked me up, dusted me off, and said, “Donna...you are MY creation. I made you, and I do NOT make mistakes!! I created you for a purpose. So pick up your cross and KEEP GOING...I'm not finished with you yet!!”

Little by little, God began to turn things around for me. The more I declared Phil. 4:13, the more I began to see WHY God had given me that scripture as the one to write my annual Christmas letter about! The tables began to turn...

I went from working 29.5 hrs. a week to working 40 hrs. a week, from Assistant to Lead Toddler Teacher!...PRAISE GOD! This is the BEST job I could EVER ask for!!! Thank You God!!

The provision to go to school and get my CDA was there!...PRAISE GOD!!

My faithful 1996 Subaru needed more repairs than I could handle...the provision was there...PRAISE, PRAISE, PRAISE GOD!! Two more months car...hang in there!!

The more I declared Phil. 4:13, the easier it got. Don't get me wrong, the snowballs still came at me, as they will, trying to defeat me, but the more you hold up your shield of FAITH, and declare GOD'S Word over your life, those snowballs don't stand a chance!!

So, the next time life starts throwing those nasty little snowballs at you, remember this...you TOO can do ALL things through CHRIST who strengthens you...not just some things, not pick and choose which things, but ALL things!!! This is God's Word to you!! May you and your loved ones be blessed abundantly this Christmas and in the year ahead!!

Merry CHRISTmas to all of you!!...we love you to the moon and back!! God Bless.

Donna, Nicholas, and Nathanael

Scriptures

Monthly Scripture Readings

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

March 6th	Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32 2Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
March 13th	Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8
March 20th	PALM SUNDAY Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2,19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56
March 27th	EASTER SUNDAY Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18

Did you Know?

Don't forget to turn your clocks **AHEAD** on March 13th!

Bible Study Resumes March 2nd at 8:30 am

Easter Plant Order form on page 8. Orders **DUE** by March 13th.

Newsletter Articles

Deadline for Alive! articles is the 27th of the month!

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

FFF collecting fleece to make tug toys for Second Chance Animal Shelter in Arlington, VT

Deacons Report

Deacon's Fundraiser Salem First United Presbyterian Church
Smith's Orchard Bake Shop Frozen Pies

We encourage you to think about ordering these delicious pies, they will come frozen with easy baking instructions. Having a frozen pie tucked away in your freezer is great comfort when company stops by!

The cost of a pie is **\$12**. Orders will arrive on **April 16th**. We will be taking orders for this fundraiser until **March 31st**.

The following pies will be offered:

Apple Pie (Regular Top) _____ Apple Pie (Crumb Top) _____

Cherry Pie _____ Blueberry Pie (Regular Top) _____

Blueberry Pie (Crumb Top) _____ Pecan Pie _____

Raspberry Pie _____ Strawberry Rhubarb Pie _____

Very Berry Pie _____ Pumpkin Pie _____

Chocolate Peanut Butter Brownie _____

Thank you for your order.

PAID: _____

DUE: _____

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Orders for pies will be at the Salem UP Church 11:30am to 12pm April 16th. Please mark your calendar when you get home.

My Order was:

Christian Nurture Report

Faith Filled Fridays has come back from Christmas break and, boy, have we been busy. In January we once again warmed up the kitchen making cookies for the free community dinner held on Martin Luther King Day. We had a wonderful lesson on tolerance and acceptance and what it means to serve. We not only looked to Martin Luther King as an example but also our own Cal and Millie Chapman. The children created beautiful centerpieces for the dinner as well, featuring colorful paper children holding hands forming a ring into which we set a vase of flowers. The paper children rested atop a triangle featuring quotes on serving others from Martin Luther King and a memorial to Millie Chapman. In February, we focused on bullying, appropriate/inappropriate behavior, and acceptable/unacceptable language, after a not-so-nice incident on our playground. We talked about how negative behaviors can create/sustain negative stereotypes about kids. We compared that to negative stereotypes about the elderly. The conversation flowed into a lesson on stereotypes and being labeled and what that feels like. How do we change possible negative stereotypes about ourselves or others? One way we came up with was through conversation and getting to know someone, learning from someone. It was from this that we introduced our kids to a new pen pal project we are initiating. We came up with a list of people the children could write to from names supplied by the deacons and some others. The kids were not given any information about the person, other than they were much older than the kids themselves. They had to tell a little about themselves and ask questions. The letters have been sent with a note about the project. The kids are eagerly awaiting return letters. They loved this project! The kids also made valentines cards and gifts for their parents and loved ones along with some paper heart decorations for the sanctuary. A couple other projects we will be looking into for March deal with our 4 legged friends and also pediatric cancer patients. We are looking for donations of fleece to make tug toys for a local animal shelter. A note will go out on other donations for the cancer unit when we focus on that topic. Thank you to all who support our kids!

Submitted by Amy Thetford

Bible Study Resumes

Bible study was paused after February 9th and will now resume with the Lenten focus, materials from Adam Hamilton. We will be especially concerned with the last 40% of the Fourth Gospel, John. Anyone who wants to add to their Lenten preparation is welcome and will be perfectly able to pick up as this study continues. The study group will meet Wednesday mornings, 8:30 a.m., in Mackenzie Chapel (March 2nd, 9th and 16th).

Session Notes

Session did not meet in the month of February. Next months issue of ALIVE will contain information for both the months of February and March as they were discussed at the March meeting.

Lenten Programs for 2016

March 3 - Lenten Luncheon - First United Presbyterian Church

March 10 - Lenten Luncheon - Salem United Methodist Church

March 13 - St. Paul's Ecumenical Passion Service - 4 PM

March 17 - Lenten Luncheon - Shushan United Church

March 24 - Lenten Luncheon - East Hebron United Presbyterian

Holy Week March 21-27

Monday - Friday - 6 AM - 9 PM

West Hebron United Presbyterian sanctuary open for personal prayer and reflection.

A printed daily devotion will be provided.

Monday - Thursday - 7 AM

Breakfast at Salem United Methodist Church

Maundy Thursday

West Hebron United Presbyterian Church

6 PM Dinner

7 PM Tenebrae Communion Service

Good Friday

First United Presbyterian Church 7 PM service

Easter Sunday

Sunrise service at Linda Bischoff's home - Time TBD

Easter morning breakfast - Mackenzie Chapel 8 AM

Easter Celebration Service - 10 AM

Mission Team

FEBRUARY 2016 REPORT FROM MISSION TEAM

The Mission Team met on Monday, Feb. 8 at Dolores Phaneuf's, and was called to order by the Moderator, Neal Rea at 7:00. Others attending were Marilyn Hanby, Charles Perry, Helen and Rev. David Simmons, Amy Thetford, Steven Burgess and Dolores Phaneuf. Arna Thibeau was absent. The meeting was opened with prayer and the Feb. 8 reading, "On Me Alone" from the book, God Calling. The following business was addressed.

- * The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were approved as presented.
- * Dawn Rea is willing to make a plaque to go with the Nativity Set.
- * Amy gave a report on the Free Community Dinner and said that \$135 was collected for the family that was burned out in a fire
- * A motion was made and carried to join with the Shushan Grange on a project, Operation Adopt A Soldier. Items will be collected during the month of March and then taken to Saratoga to be packed and shipped. Dolores will make posters and prepare a list of suggested items.
- * There was a discussion on the War On Drugs and could be a possible topic for a future Mission Sunday
- * We are planning a corned beef and cabbage dinner on Saturday, March 12 to benefit the Salem/Shushan Heat Fund
- * David gave a report on the Syrian Refugee crisis. Presbytery said that projects have established safe homes for Christian Refugees in Home, Syria as well as rebuilding schools in Lebanon.
- * Many items were donated to the Giving Tree and taken to the school nurse for distribution.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 4.
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

March Birthday's

3rd Roberta Moore
8th Nathanael Holmes
 Tauno Wirkki
17th Thane Rea
24th Laurel Keys
27th Jane Hanks

March Anniversaries

Non Recorded

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

OPERATION ADOPT A SOLDIER

Joint project of Shushan Grange and Salem First United Presbyterian Church.

Items will be collected through **MARCH 26, 2016**

Personal Care Items

Snacks and Treats

Journals

Zip Lock Bags

Paperback Books
Stationary/Pens

COLLECTION PLACES:

Yushack's Store - Shushan

United Methodist Church - Shushan

Grange Hall - Shushan

First United Presbyterian Church - Salem

For detailed list or more information please contact:

Medrick Christman 832-3316

Matthew Hannibal 854-9223

Dorothy Smith 854-3668

Marilyn Hanby 854-7521

Dolores Phaneuf 854-7275

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 MARCH 13th**. 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) \$ 9.25 _____ 6" 1ppp (7-8 bud) \$11.75 _____
8" 2ppp (10-12 bud) \$22.75 _____ 10" 3ppp (15-18 bud) \$32.75 _____

Tulips

6" \$ 8.15 _____
8" \$17.95 _____
10" \$23.25 _____

Daffodil

6" \$ 8.15 _____
8" \$17.95 _____

Hyacinth

6" \$ 8.15 _____
8" \$17.95 _____
10" \$23.25 _____

Gardenia 6"(may not flower)\$17.95 _____ Calla Lilly 6"\$19.50 _____ Cyclamen 6"\$12.95 _____

Hydrangea

6" \$25.95 _____
8" \$35.95 _____

Azalea

6" \$19.00 _____
8" \$29.95 _____

Kalanchoe 6" \$12.95 _____

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

Gloxinia 6" \$14.00 _____

Martha Washington Geranium 6" \$16.75 _____

Mixed Garden (tulip, hyacinth, daff)

6" \$14.95 _____ 8" \$19.25 _____ 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":

Given By:

Prayers & Concerns

Those in our prayers during the last month:

Paul Loding	Lenny Austin
Sylvia Graham	Charlie Bailey
Sunny James	Brie & Devon
Shirley (Dolores' Sister)	Christ the King who suffered a fire

For the Families of:

Cloyd Kerchener	Those trying to mend and rebuild relationships
Steve Harrington	
Carol Elliott	
Edna Anderson	
Charlie Sherman	

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
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Those who suffer in silence

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.**

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Choir Rehearsal 9 am	2	3 Lenten Lunch 12pm First United Presbyterian	4 FFF 2:30 pm	5
6 Worship 10 am	7 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	8 Choir Rehearsal 9 am	9	10 Line Dancing 9:30 am Lenten Lunch 12pm	11 FFF 2:30 pm	12
13 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Worship 10 am Ecumenical Lenten Service 4pm	14 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	15 Choir Rehearsal 9 am WIC Clinic 9am-3 pm	16 Soup & Sandwich Luncheon 11:30-2 Session 7 pm	17 Line Dancing 9:30 am Lenten Lunch 12 pm Shushan Presbyterian	18 FFF 2:30pm	19
20 PALM SUNDAY Worship 10 am Worship & Music 11:30	21 Holy Week Breakfast 7am Methodist Church	22 Holy Week Breakfast 7am Methodist Church	23 Holy Week Breakfast 7am Methodist Church	24 Holy Week Breakfast 7am Methodist Church Line Dancing 9:30 am Lenten Lunch 12 pm Maundy Dinner 6 pm Tenebrae Service 7 pm	25 GOOD FRIDAY Holy Week Breakfast 7am Methodist Church FFF 2:30 pm Good Friday Service 7 pm First United Presbyterian	26
27 EASTER SUNDAY 4 Cents a Meal Sunrise Service Easter Breakfast 8am Worship 10 am	28 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	29 Choir Rehearsal 9 am	30	31 Line Dancing 9:30 am	<p>PLEASE LOOK AT THE LIST OF LENTEN PROGRAMS ON PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS ON LOCATIONS AND TIMES FOR ACTIVITIES DURING HOLY WEEK.</p>	

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

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

Service Schedule for March 2016

Elder of the Month: Dave Mears

Sunday, March 6th

Reader: Neal Rea

Coffee Time: Ruth Ihne
Marie Bell

Sunday, March 20th (Palm Sunday)

Reader: Kim Skellie

Coffee Time: Dolores Phaneuf
Jean & Norma Skellie

Sunday, March 13th

Reader: Sylvia Graham

Coffee Time: Valerie Roche

Sunday, March 27th (Easter Sunday)

Reader: Nancy Bardwell

Coffee Time: Kay Tomasi
Jane & Tom Keys