



Salem First United  
Presbyterian Church is:

# Alive!

Volume 50, Version 11

May 2016

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## Special points of interest:

- Articles for the ALIVE! Are due in no later than the 29th of the month.
- 4 Cents a Meal Collection April 22nd

## Hark, hark the lark at heaven's gate sings.....

These are words I recall from a song that the students in my grade school sang in auditorium during springtime. It was the time of dark skirts and white middie blouses.... But now, a series of thoughts from a contemporary springtime.... One of the most notable features of spring into summer is light – both the increasing day length and the intensity of light. But, have you ever considered that **WE CANNOT SEE LIGHT** – only the effect of light when it encounters matter! The same can be said of love. Love is only manifest when it is bestowed upon others and upon God. So, love and light share an important characteristic, they must be given to be evident. In human terms we often use the concepts interchangeably. *..The light of love.....* We can light up (affect) other people's lives with love, expressed in oh so many ways. And, not surprisingly, the giver of love, freely given, is affected as well as the recipient. Let us look into ourselves and not only be donors, but also grateful recipients of the constant illumination of the light of God's love. The reality of this light is shown in our everyday lives and in the gift of Jesus Christ, born of human substance.

Sylvia Graham, elder of the month

## From the Pastor

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

May is one of those wonky months. The way the weather has been in April, I'm sure this month will be no different. This month we will start to look at what we have accomplished in the past year and look at what we can do and where we can go in the future.

It was this month's newsletter, last year, which we announced a new way to worship using the fifth Sunday's as the platform to keep everyone informed about what was going on with the building repairs, why a search was stopped, etc. I believe this was the start of new things that have come forth from this church.

We have completed some major work with the remediation of the basement and we will be completing our foundational work within the next few months. This is the foundational work that needed to be done in order for us to move forward. The church has worked on and adopted new By-Laws. I am happy to say we are continuing this move forward.

Over the next couple of months we will continue our journey together; envisioning where God has this church moving forward to. We will see some new things and hear some new things. We will walk together with Christ by our side.

Grace and Peace,  
Michael

# Scriptures

## Monthly Scripture Readings

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

May 1st	Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67:1-7 Revelation 21:10,21-22-22:5; John 14:23-29
May 8th	Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97:1-12 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26
May 15th Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17(25-27)
May 22nd Trinity Sunday	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8:1-9 Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15
May 29th	1Kings 18:20-21 (22-29) 30-39; Psalm 96:1-13 Galatians 1:1-12; Luke 7:1-10

## Did you Know?

On Sunday, May 29th we will hold fellowship in our "new" 5th Sunday Worship manner. Brunch and service together in an informal setting around tables in the Mackenzie Chapel. Please bring a dish to pass and an open heart.

## Newsletter Articles

**Deadline for Alive articles is the 29th of the month!**

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

## Session Notes

Session met on April 27 with all members present. Much of the meeting was routine, but a few items are important to note.

We are all to be reminded that activities and events need to be entered onto the church calendar in the Chapel. Bible study, Scouts, dinners, special events are all important to schedule. This avoids potential conflicts and enables the scheduling of cleaning.

It was noted that at the last Presbytery meeting there were presentations by a Rabbi and an Imam, who serve their local congregations and also serve as college chaplains in the Albany area. Each expressed thanks that this opportunity to share thoughts and fellowship with Presbytery was offered. Their messages were well received.

The next building project to accomplish some regrading along the sanctuary foundation will be scheduled as contractors are available to work.

As part of an ongoing effort to create an Operations Manual for this church, the duties of Elders was revised. Committee responsibilities will be the next to be revised and updated.

There will be a meeting with a representative from the Committee on Ministry on May 5, to discuss how this church will move forward with ministry.

Submitted by Marie Bell  
Clerk of Session

## Christian Nurture

March and April were once again busy months for the kids at FFF, although very short! With vacations, superintendent's day and 'snow' days we only had 2 days in March and 3 days in April! During March the kids made beautiful paper flowers to use as centerpieces when our church hosted the first Lenten Lunch. We tied in a beautiful lesson around the making of these flowers. I forwarded this brief copy to Rev. Debbie Earthrowl who shared it with those gathered and I would love to share it here:

"I had the kids gathered round me and I put a flower together as they watched and listened and questioned. I started by telling them that this flower was going to start with layers of tissue paper, some dark colors, some light. Just like when we look at ourselves, our lives, we see some bright happy moments and some dark, not-so-happy moments. We see some things we love about ourselves and some darker things about ourselves that we'd rather hide between the layers. Once you have your tissue paper layers you'll fold it accordion style flipping the paper up and down, just as in life when we fall and get back up, when we make mistakes and have to correct them. Life is constantly ups and downs, mistakes and corrections and through it all we pray, prayers of thanks and prayers of forgiveness. Once we're done folding, we place a staple right in the center. The staple is like God, right in the center of our heart holding all our layers together, keeping us from falling completely apart. Then we take our chenille stem and we wrap it around the staple to form the stem. Just like when we embrace God, He helps us stand all on our own. Then we look at the ends of our folded paper and trim off the edges, neaten them up. When we take a deep look at ourselves, we can see where there is room to improve. We can trim away the bad habits. "I don't like how I've called other kids nasty names. I'm going to trim that habit away." Then when we're done with all the hard work, we can start peeling apart the layers and lifting them up. Once we take a good look at ourselves and lift it up before God, only then we can see the true beauty that God has created in us and He is in the center of it all, in our heart. We are his creation and we are beautiful."

The kids enjoyed this lesson so much they wanted to make more, so we made some for the Irish Dinner as well, incorporating green, white and orange tissue paper to mimic the colors of the Irish flag. And, as always, the kids got to take the flowers home for their families to enjoy. The kids also created the flowers for the new bulletin board in the hall when they finished their bullying stories.

We also got back into the kitchen and made some pretzels, which we've done with the kids before. They really love that lesson and being we had just been in the season of Lent it seemed appropriate.

The kids created beautiful packets for the Adopt-a-Soldier collection. Each packet contained candy, energy bars, gum and other goodies along with a picture the child drew, a letter to the soldier and an information sheet telling a little bit about the child (what state the child is from, favorite movies, favorite books, hobbies, etc). By the end of the session we had put together 12 packets.

We ended April with a visitor who is currently putting together a book on bullying and wanted the kids to share anonymous stories they had of bullying experiences they had either been a part of or witnessed. So off the kids went to find quiet places to write and reflect.

We have had to put the tug toys for the animal shelter on hold, as we haven't received enough donations of fleece. We are looking for the polartec-type, blanket material. Bolts of it are typically 45" wide, so we would need that length, but each strip only has to be 3-4" wide. We will then be braiding these strips together. So if you have scrap that meets these specs, we'll take it off your hands! Please don't worry about cutting material into strips, as that's what our children can be busy doing! The children also made banners, 'Hosanna', for Palm Sunday services and 'He Is Risen', for Easter services. It was a very busy few weeks!!

Thanks and Happy Spring everyone!

Submitted by Amy Thetford

## Birthdays/Anniversaries

### May Birthday's

2nd David Mears  
Dawn Rea  
11th Dolores Phaneuf  
13th Marilyn Hanby  
Tom Keys  
15th Kim (Keys) Skellie

### May Anniversaries

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

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 addictions

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.**

# May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 10am	2 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	3 Choir Rehearsal 9 am	4 Bible Study 8:30am	5 Line Dancing 9:30am Comm. On Ministry Mtg	6 FFF 2:30pm	7
8 Worship 10am	9 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	10 Choir Rehearsal 9 am	11 Bible Study 8:30am	12 Line Dancing 9:30am	13 FFF 2:30 pm	14
15 PENTECOST Worship 10am	16 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	17 Choir Rehearsal 9 am	18 Bible Study 8:30am Soup & Sandwich Luncheon 11:30am Session 7pm	19 Line Dancing 9:30am	20 FFF 2:30pm	21
22 TRINITY SUNDAY Worship 10am 4 Cents a Meal	23 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	24 Choir Rehearsal 9 am	25 Bible Study 8:30am	26 Line Dancing 9:30am	27 FFF 2:30pm	28
29 5th Sunday Wor- ship 10am	30 Cub Scouts 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm	31 Choir Rehearsal 9 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: 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](http://www.salemnyfirstupchurch.com)

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

**Service Schedule for  
May 2016**

**Elder of the Month: Sylvia Graham**

Sunday, May 1st

Reader: David Simmons

Coffee Time: Dave & Irlene Mears  
Kim Skellie

Sunday, May 8th

Reader: Deborah Borthwick

Coffee Time: Valerie Roche

Sunday, May 15th

Reader: Seth Pitts

Coffee Time: David & Helen Simmons  
Arna Thibeau

Sunday, May 22nd

Reader: Norma Skellie

Coffee Time: Alberta Murn  
Sylvia Graham

Sunday, May 29th

Reader: Jane Barron

Coffee Time: Brunch