



**Salem First United
Presbyterian Church is:**

Alive!

Volume 50, Version 10

November 2015

Inside this issue:

From our CRE	2
Scriptures for the Month & Mission Statement	3
Session Notes	4
Committee Reports	5
Birthday's & Anniversaries, Fifth Sunday	7
Prayer List	8
Calendar of Events	9
Service Schedule	10

Special points of interest:

- Articles for the ALIVE! Are due in no later than the 20th of the month.
- Last Adult Crafting Day November 4th
- Daylight Savings Ends November 1st Turn clocks back and change batteries in smoke and CO detectors
- Advent begins November 29th

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Joshua 24:15b).

We were exploring Hobby Lobby in Glens Falls. It didn't look like one of those small Christian book stores. It was bigger, more like a cross between K Mart and A C Moore. The music softly playing had you consciously make the effort not to sing along with the familiar Sunday morning hymns and anthems. There were crosses and table lamps, rolls of fabric and Icons of the Archangel Michael. It felt like a very different kind of store. We felt at home. Then I spotted a sign for hanging—it was made of vinyl, could go anywhere, inside, outside the house. It read simply, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15b).

That sign presently, hangs just outside our living room entry. It is a soft, bronze color that blends perfectly with cedar shingles. So, Moses was about to cross the Jordan with Israel and he sent men to spy out the land Israel was to inhabit. Yet, along with wonderful stories, some returned with fearful reports saying the inhabitants were an enormous people, by comparison Israel was as grasshoppers. The Lord may have promised us the place but something might go wrong (Nu. 14). Israel demurred ...and for another generation they wandered the wilderness. In time, Joshua brought Israel back and made his own statement of faith. This time, Israel agreed, "All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go" (Joshua 1:16).

So, David and I watched changes that were coming slowly at first. But during the past 10 years it is simply hard to take in how much our world and country has changed. Sometimes, the pushback against our Judeo-Christian faith seems unstoppable, even huge (I imagine the giants that might occupy Canaan). But as we go out and return home by way of the living room door, and as we read the words of Joshua to Israel, we remember that a very long time ago people were afraid, felt confronted—but the real need was need of faith and courage. Now, both David and I straighten a bit and feel strength that comes at declaring, "As for the two of us, we will serve the Lord."

-- Helen Simmons

Elder of the Month



From the CRE

November is the time of year when I always look at fresh beginnings and a reflection of what we are thankful for. Fall has started and some of the beauty is fading away amongst the rain and wind...at least so far this year I can't say snow.

This is the month when we look to our future (Election Day,) honor those who have served us and our country (Veteran's Day,) we remember all the things we are thankful for (Thanksgiving,) and finally we start our waiting for the newborn babe to be born in Bethlehem (Advent.)

So many things happen this month we sometimes become so inundated with our tasks, schedules, to-do-lists we forget why we are all here. We sometimes forget to stop and say a simple prayer to our Lord who gives us all that we need.

This month, I ask as we prepare for the upcoming holiday season, try to take a moment out of each day and say a small thanksgiving prayer. If it doesn't fit in your schedule, if I just don't have the time, if it is simply I forgot; do not despair.

For the one that will come to us again in flesh, will come. For the one we have heard about for centuries as we tell the story, has a plan. We wait with anticipation, we wait with faith, we wait to see that glorious day when we are joined together with the One.

Let us join together as a community of believers in prayer as we worship, as we serve, as we sing and dance, as we work, as we spend time in rest. Many events will fill our calendars. Let us always take time to be with God in prayer; it only takes a minute. For God has done and still does so much for us, we can all afford at least a minute for God.

Michael Barron, CRE

Scriptures

Monthly Scripture Readings

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

- Nov 1st - Isaiah 25: 6-9; Psalm 24: 1-10
Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11: 32-44
- Nov. 8th - Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Psalm 127:1-5
Hebrews 9: 24-28; Mark 12: 38-44
- Nov. 15th - 1 Samuel 1: 4-20; 1 Samuel 2: 1-10
Hebrews 10: 11-14 (15-18) 19-25; Mark 13:1-8
- Nov. 22nd - 2 Samuel 23: 1-7; Psalm 132: 1-12(13-18)
Revelation 1: 4b-8; John 18: 33-37
- Nov. 29th - Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Psalm 25: 1-10
1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13; Luke 21: 25-36

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**Foundational in Community,
Foundational in Faith, and
Foundational in God's Love.**

First United Presbyterian Church was founded and this community built around our church. When times change, the people change and new faces emerge. We have been a foundation for the community by never wavering, always present, and ready to serve our sisters and brothers.

First United Presbyterian Church believes all people are called to God at some point. We are ready to show God's love through our missionary work in helping our sisters and brothers in the community. We rely on God's strength and love to help us maintain our foundational presence in our community; a community founded in faith, hope, and love.

Session Notes

Session met Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Minutes from the September 2 meeting were approved.

The **treasurer's report** was ACCEPTED as presented.

	For September	Year-to-Date
Revenue	3453.50	43675.87
Expenses for March	5741.32	37534.83

Worship & Music – We are looking into recording the sermon and how we can do that so the message can be shared with people who are unable to attend church and possibly post on the website and/or Facebook. Elected to keep the tradition of Advent in the sanctuary even though the first Sunday of Advent is a fifth Sunday. We have been invited to worship with other Presbyterian churches on the Sunday after Christmas...tabled until more info is gathered by Michael. Further discussions regarding how we will worship during the winter, Advent Sundays, and looking at possible changes to the order of service.

CRE – reported time spent and how which is above the 12 hours a week. Starting to look at the future of the church and excited for 2016.

Other discussions included the starting of the planning of the 2016 budget. Drafted new by-laws to be brought out at the Congregational Meeting. Discussion of Nominating Committee. Reviewed the submission for fundraising and will send back for some updating of information.

Submitted, Dolores Phaneuf, Clerk of Session

Committee Reports

Mission Team

The Mission Team continues to meet once a month - usually on the first or second Monday at the home of Dolores Phaneuf. All of the congregation is invited to attend and/or send their ideas for mission projects, etc. The team just hosted the 5th annual pig roast cooked by Bob & Glenda Wilcox and cleared \$585 to help some of the mission projects of the church. Items for kits for Presbyterian Disaster Relief through Church World Service were collected, sorted and delivered including 1 Clean Up Bucket and contents; 8 Hygiene Kits and 14 School Kits. The youth in FFF helped assemble the kits. We will be collecting items and shoeboxes for Samaritans Purse for the Children's Christmas Shoebox project. Items need to be in by November 15, so they can be delivered to the distribution center the week of 16-20. There is a list of suggested items on the table in the chapel. Our final fundraiser will be the annual Christmas Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 12 and we will be looking for bakers to make a variety of cookies. This is not only a fundraiser, but a FUN raiser and a great time of fellowship, not only with the workers but with those that come to purchase the great selection of cookies and other sweets.-----Dolores Phaneuf, Secretary/Treasurer

Christian Nurture/Faith Filled Friday's

We've had a wonderful start to FFF. We've seen the return of our kids from last year along with some new faces. We explored what it means to be living in God's love (thus the poster and self-portraits in our hallway). That among the turmoil and craziness that life throws at us, God's love is unending and constant. We've also been focusing on service projects. The children have added the final decorating touches to the sanctuary, helping create a wonderful fall harvest theme. They have also helped set-up for the pig roast, decorated the tables, cooked up wonderful brownie sundaes for the dessert, and took down all tables and chairs afterward. We took time to say thank you to the congregation for supporting our program by creating candy corn treat bags, followed by some crazy games of Halloween bingo, enjoyed by both adult volunteers and kids alike. We're looking forward to carving our pumpkins to round out the month of October. This year's theme is "God's Light Is Love" and will be lit up for all of Salem to see. What a perfect message for a great group of kids to be sharing with the community! — Amy Thetford

Preservation & Restoration

Who knew that basements could be exciting! With the mold remediation done, we are excited to have a healthy building, with a clean basement area. Thanks to all who helped get this project done, with donations of time and money, and the excellent work of Jeff Gerber's crew.

We won't rest here, but will rather turn out attention to more projects. Planning is underway to help eliminate ground water infiltration into the wonderful new basement area. We will be looking into possibilities to save, restore or replace damaged windows throughout the building.

We prayerfully seek God's will as we pursue future projects. Help us by praying for wisdom and guidance so we will accomplish what is best for our building and grounds.

Amy Thetford and Marie Bell

Announcements

Mug sales still continue. There is a blue sheet to complete and give to Amy Thetford or Marie Bell. Next month we will give a total so far and include something for outside orders.

The Thanksgiving Ecumenical service will be held on Sunday, November 22, 2015 at 4 pm at Holy Cross in Salem. Herb Arnold will be delivering the message this year. Join your brothers and sisters in Christ this Thanksgiving season.

Sunday, November 29, 2015 – The annual Advent Lessons & Carols will be hosted at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Time will be announced.

Be sure to check out our FaceBook page, First United Presbyterian Church, Salem, NY. You can get updates and current announcements as well as inspirational thoughts and motivations. Ask Dave Mears for more info.

Prepare and look forward to our Advent Season to begin Sunday, November 29th.

Join to help raise funds for the Shushan/Salem Fuel Fund on November 12th, hosted by the Rotary Club of Salem held here in the chapel, time to be announced.

Newsletter Articles

Deadline for Alive! articles is the 20th of the month! Please email any and all information either to holly.keys@aol.com, firstunitedpresbychurch@gmail.com. Or call 854-3975 and leave a message (before 8pm please).

Birthdays/Anniversaries

November Birthday's

5th Peggy Grover
13th McKayla Barrett
15th Jean Baylor
17th Debby Moore, Mackenzie Barrett
20th Dave Mears
25th Sylvia Graham
26th Travis Keys
27th David Simmons

November Anniversaries

23rd Dave & Debby Moore
30th Dave & Ireleen Mears

If you would like a birthday or anniversary published in the Alive!, Please contact the church office at 854-9471

Fifth Sunday Announcements

This month we will be celebrating the fifth Sunday of the month in the traditional way. Be sure to keep watch out for the next time we gather in fellowship in a more non-traditional format on a Fifth Sunday. We hope you can back it no matter what way fellowship is conducted.

Prayers & Concerns

Those in our prayers during the last month:

Nate Holmes	Dave Mears
Pauline Beverage	Scott Thetford
Faith Filled Fridays	
The Moore Family	Helen Simmons
Paul	Anna
Wayne Rizzo	Holly Couse
Helen	Laurie Little
Matt Wilbur	David Wright
Family of Michael Phillion	Leona Adams
Family of Michael Guido	Casey Cisen
David Vilmar	Family of Frank Greene

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
Jordan Bardwell	Sasha Blake
For those battling addictions	Homeless men, women, and children
Emergency Services Workers	All the Armed Forces

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.**

In Nursing homes

Roberta "Bert" Moore

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): _____

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Savings Ends (Turn Clocks Back)	2 6 pm - Cub Scouts 7 pm - Boy Scouts	3	4 Election Day 8:30 am - Bible Study 10am-3pm Last Craft Day	5 9:30 am - Line Dancing	6 2:30 pm - Faith Filled Fridays	7
8 10 am - Worship	9 6 pm - Cub Scouts 7 pm - Boy Scouts	10	11 Veteran's Day 1pm Women's Club	12 9:30 -Line Dancing Rotary Hosting Dinner for Shushan/Salem Fuel Fund time TBD	13 2:30 pm - Faith Filled Fridays	14
15 10 am - Worship	16 12:30 pm Deacon's Meeting 6 pm - Cub Scouts 7 pm - Boy Scouts	17	18 11:30 - 1:00 - Soup & Sandwich Luncheon	19 9:30 am - Line Dancing 7pm - Session	20 2:30 pm - Faith Filled Fridays	21
22 10 am - Worship 11:30 am - Worship & Music Committee 4 PM - Ecumenical Thanksgiving service (Holy Cross)	23 6 pm - Cub Scouts 7 pm - Boy Scouts	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 10 am - Worship Time TBA - Advent Lessons and Carols (St. Paul's)	30 6 pm - Cub Scouts 7 pm - Boy Scouts					

Church Address:
13 West Broadway
Salem, NY 12865
Email:
salemfirstunitedpresbychurch@gmail.com

Church Phone Number:
854-9471

Worship Leader: Michael Barron, CRE
518-338-9492

Pastoral Care: Rev. David Simmons, HR
518-692-7859

Clerk of Session: Dolores Phaneuf
518-854-7275

First United Presbyterian Church:

Foundational in Community, Foundational in Faith,
and

Foundational in God's Love .

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 November 2015

Elder of the Month:

Helen Simmons

Sunday, November 15

Reader: Neal Rea

Coffee Time: David & Helen Simmons,
Arna Tribeau

Sunday, November 1

Reader: Deborah Borthwick

Coffee Time: Irleen & Dave Mears, Kim Skellie

Sunday, November 22

Reader: Jane Barron

Coffee Time: Alberta Munn, Sylvia Graham

Sunday, November 8

Reader: Sylvia Graham

Coffee Time: Valerie Roche

Sunday, November 29

Reader: Nancy Bardwell

Coffee Time: Ruth Ihne, Marie Bell