



THE BELL TOWER

The First Congregational Church, Spencerport UCC
65 Church Street Spencerport, NY 14559



From the Pastor's Pen

The Power of Baptism

*Through water and the word you have become a child of God and are sealed as Christ's own forever.
~Unknown*

Pastor Michael L. Sloan:

Do you remember the day you were baptized? I have to be honest for a moment—I don't remember what day of the week it was; I don't remember how old I was (maybe 7 or 8); I don't remember what I was wearing that day; nor, do I ever remember receiving an actual baptismal certificate. But I do remember being immersed into the baptismal pool at Prayer Wheel Church of God in Christ (by the large hand of an older preacher by the name of Rev. Farries Morrison; his hair on top had thinned out...and it was thicker on the sides with a salt and pepper look). I remember him. I remember hearing the splashing of the water as I was dunked under and brought back up. I remember my late grandmother standing there (on the outside of the pool) with a towel and the biggest smile that I had ever seen on her face. I remember seeing the beloved community standing around smiling and waiting for me to come out of the baptismal pool—so that they could grab me and wrap me into their arms. I remember the congregation singing,

Jesus loves the little children;
all the children of the world;
red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight;
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

I remember that. And I remember what Rev. Morrison said, when he pulled me up out of the water. While smiling, he looked at me, and said, "My dearly beloved son; in whom I am well-pleased."

Baptism plays a significant role in the life of not only the individual, but the entire Christian community. Baptism is a sign of new life; a sign of renewal, of hope, of something new happening within the community. Baptism is also symbolic. It symbolizing the old person being buried with Christ and the new person being raised to new life with Christ.

Furthermore, over the past three months, I've had a handful of people come to me about either renewing their baptism or having their children/grandchildren baptized. Let me also say, it doesn't matter how young or old a person is; nor does it matter if a person is intellectually capable of understanding baptism (e.g., infants, etc.)—anyone (either by their own desire or by the desire of a guardian of some sort), can be baptized.

Finally, if you feel the Spirit leading you to either be baptized, renew your baptism, confirm your baptism, or guide an infant through that baptism process, please contact the church office to have your name placed on this list.

Once we have a completed list of everyone, a Zoom meeting will be scheduled for us to have a discussion on baptism and to set a date where the baptisms can take place.

I eagerly wait for you to respond to the call of baptism!

Grace. Peace. And New Life.

Pastor Michael



**2022
LENTEN PROGRAMS**

We will be continuing our church tradition of having our Wednesday evening Lenten Programs during Lent this year. All

Wednesday evening programs will be virtual on Zoom and Facebook Live, ONLY at 7:00 pm.

Here are the dates for the Lenten Programs:

- Wednesday, March 9th, 2022; Temptation – Led by Jessilou
- Wednesday, March 16th, 2022; Parable of the 10 Virgins – Led by Pastor Michael
- Wednesday, March 23rd, 2022; Go & Sin No More – Led by Jessilou
- Wednesday, March 30th, 2022; A Poor Widows Offering – Led by Pastor Michael
- Wednesday, April 6th, 2022; The Anointing of Jesus – Led by Jessilou

A deeper discussion on the sermon topic from the previous Sunday.

Reminders and Zoom link will be sent out weekly!



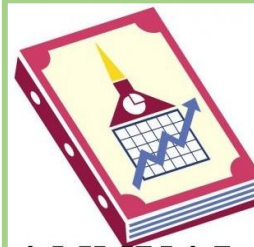
**COUNCIL AND BOARDS
MEETINGS**
March 15th
@ 6:30 PM



**ZOOM FINANCE
BOARD MEETING**
Wednesday, March 9th
@ 7:00 PM

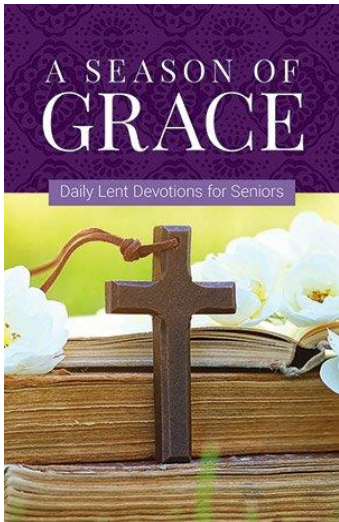
**ASH WEDNESDAY
Worship**

Ash Wednesday Worship will be on
Wednesday, March 2nd at 7:00 pm.
We hope you can join us!



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2021 Annual Reports are Available. Copies are available in the back of the sanctuary. If you would like one mailed to you please contact the office at (585) 352-3448 or admin@spencerportucc.org.



LENT DEVOTIONALS

"A SEASON OF GRACE"
Lent Devotionals are available. They are located by the elevator on the first floor and on the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you would like a copy sent to you, please contact the church office @ admin@spencerportucc.org or call at (585) 352-3448.



WOMEN'S GUILD KITCHEN CLEANING, ORGANIZING AND INVENTORY

Saturday, March 5th at 9:30 am.
Lunch will be provided.
ALL Women are Welcome!
The Women's Guild Meeting
will be held during lunch @ 12/12:30 pm.



EASTER PLANTS 2022

Easter Plants available this year are Easter Lilies, Tulips, Reiger Begonias and Hyacinths. All plants are in 6" pots and are \$12 each. Orders will be taken through March 27th. Please see Marylou Stage or call the office @ 352-3448. An order form is included for your convenience and can be mailed into the office. Please make checks payable to: First Congregational Church.





MARCH GLUE AND SCISSORS MONTH

The Board of Christian Education is launching a new program for 2022. We would like to help families in our local community by providing school supplies and backpacks to those in

need. Each month from February to August, we will be collecting specific school supplies to fill backpacks and then distribute these much-needed supplies in new backpacks to students before the 2022-2023 school year begins.

March will be "GLUE STICKS AND SCISSORS" month. Please consider donating Glue Sticks and Scissors and place them in the designated box downstairs. Once these backpacks are filled, they will be blessed by Pastor Michael and given to those in need. Please help us support our neighbors in Spencerport with this important project.

Thank you, from the members of the Board of Christian

BREAKFAST CLUB

Please join us every Tuesday!

Hope to see you there!

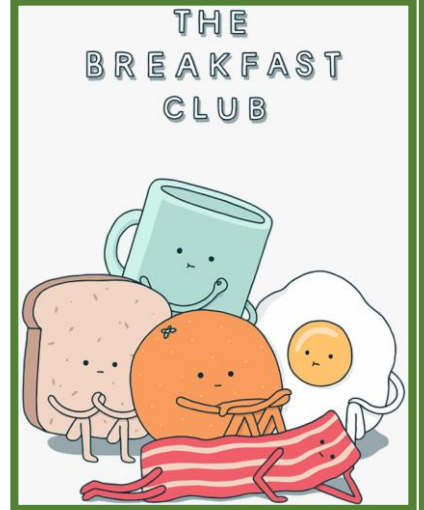
March 1st – Slayton Place
(26 Slayton Ave. Spencerport)

March 8th – Panorama
(730 Elmgrove Rd.)

March 15th – Theo's Restaurant
(1174 Brooks Ave. Across from the Airport)

March 22nd – Johnny d's Restaurant
(2139 North Union St. Spencerport)

March 29th – Blue Ridge Grill
(3400 W. Ridge Rd.)



SPRING FORWARD

change your clocks
March 13th



MONDAY – FRIDAY
9 AM – 2 PM



Please call or email the office if you would like to include any information, special news, or occasions into the weekly FlockNote or our monthly newsletter. A big hello to our friend Melva Owens!

March 2022

FCC
MUSIC MINISTRY



Choir Rehearsal
THURSDAYS @ 7PM
& SUNDAYS @ 9AM



*Make a joyful noise
unto the Lord*
Psalm 100:1



TO ALL PRESENT AND PAST CHOIR MEMBERS:

On June 26th, 2022, present and past choir members will be recognized for their years of service singing in the choir. Each person will be given a certificate and other special events are planned during the service and during coffee hour to honor those who have served the church with their vocal talent. Please pass the word along to all past choir members about this event, or pass along their contact information so that they can be contacted directly with an invitation. Music is such a vital part of our church service, and a heartfelt thanks will spotlight those that have given of their time for this service. Make plans to join in the fun on June 26th!

March 2022

CHRISTIAN ACTION

ONE GREAT HOURS OF SHARING



During our worship on **March 27th**, we will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. The theme for this year's OGHS offering is: **“Love Responds.”**

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

Spencerport Ecumenical Food Shelf

Thank you for your continuing and generous support to the Spencerport Ecumenical Food Shelf.

This month the following items are especially needed: Cookies and Crackers, Pasta Roni, Soups, Muffin Mix, Canned Chili and Hash, Toilet Paper and Kleenex.

Cash donations are always welcome and contribute to the Tops gift cards provided to clients to purchase perishable items such and produce and meat. Cash donations can be sent to Dick Gallagher, the Food Shelf Treasurer at: 425 Ogden Parma Townline Road, Spencerport, NY, 14559.

A bin is available in the Fellowship Hall to drop off your donations.

If you know of anyone residing in the Spencerport School District, in need of food, they can call 397-0290.

Questions or concerns: contact Melanie Ippolito at 352-3891

THANK YOU!

Thank you!!! Two little words that can't begin to convey how much I have appreciated your prayers, cards, phone calls, concern, food, baked goods, visits, rides to appointments, pick up library books, support, encouragement and so many offers to help. This has been a much longer recovery than I ever anticipated with complications along the way. One of these days, I will show up in church -- just not sure when.

Mike and Karen thank you as well. Betty

Betty Anne

MARCH
MINISTRY SCHEDULE

GREETERS:

6 – Jan Elliott
13 – Karen Eysaman
20 – Bunny Tubbs
27 – Frank & Sue Nichols

LAY READERS:

6 – Kim Mowers
13 – Gwendolyn Tappenden
20 – Carolyn Mazzota
27 – Ellen M Kern

USHERS:

6 – Karen Eysaman
13 – Carol Schauman
20 – TBD
27 – TBD

COFFEE HOUR:

6 – TBD
13 – TBD
20 – TBD
27 – TBD

HELPING HANDS:

6 – TBD
13 – TBD
20 – TBD
27 – TBD



**USHERS, GREETERS, LAY READERS,
HELPING HANDS AND COFFEE HOUR
HELP NEEDED:**

**If you are interested in volunteering
your time, there is a sign-up sheet on
the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or
you can call the office at 352-3448.
Thank You!**

LOOKING AHEAD

April 3 rd	9:00 am 10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal Worship/Penny Jar
April 5 th	9:00 am	Breakfast Club- TBA
April 6 th	7:00 pm	Zoom Lenten Program
April 7 th	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
April 10 th	9:00 am 10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal Worship
April 12 th	9:00 am	Breakfast Club- TBA
April 14 th	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
MAUNDAY THURSDAY		
April 15 th	GOOD FRIDAY	
April 17 th	9:00 am 10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal Worship
EASTER SUNDAY		
April 19 th	9:00 am 7:00 pm	Breakfast Club- TBA Council/Boards Meetings
April 20 th	May Newsletter Deadline	
April 21 st	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
April 24 th	9:00 am 10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal Worship
April 26 th	9:00 am	Breakfast Club- TBA
April 28 th	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal

March 2022

CE DIRECTOR JESSILOU IS AVAILABLE!

.... *In person or by phone or email as needed:*
church office 585-352-3448
cell phone or text: 585-397-8766
office hours by appointment
email: christianeducation@spencerportucc.org

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



FAMILY SNOW DAY It's been a glorious snowy winter, so we enjoyed another sledding party on February 13th! A big hello to our friend Kiley Gordon! We had a great lunch at the Colby's farm with pizza and popcorn, and then headed to the hill at Northampton Park. Kids and teens brought sleds and saucers, and we discovered a little creek at the bottom of the hill (the hard way!) Afterward we shared hot chocolate & cookies!

MAILINGS & ZOOM RESURRECTED for LENT

Starting in March, Jessilou hopes to provide a Lenten zoom program for our Teens. The weekly online gatherings will explore the five senses of the Lenten journey: smell, touch, taste, sight, and sound. Materials will be mailed weekly to the Teens ahead of the scheduled 30-minute meetings. Currently we are trying to schedule these zooms at a convenient time for all our teens - who have incredibly busy schedules! For more information, please contact Jessilou.



PENNY JAR NEWS

In January and February, we accepted donations for the RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE. In March, we ask for contributions to the **Rochester Animal Services** on Verona Street to coincide with the children's efforts to raise funds for homeless animals. Thank you in advance for your continued support!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR FOR EASTER SUNDAY!



As we have in previous years, the Sunday's Cool children will be sharing a special song with the congregation on Easter. Lyrics and music will be sent to the families ahead of time and we will have practices during Sunday's Cool. Children who attend the Easter service will receive a basket of goodies!

SUNDAY'S COOL FUNDS FOR ANIMALS

For two Sundays in February the children in the Sunday's Cool class participated in a fund-raising project for homeless animals. They were inspired by the commercials on TV showing pets shivering in the cold. With each donation, the donor got to choose a Valentine candy. **The children raised \$150!** Great job!!

SPPT COMMUNITY TEEN PROGRAM?

In response to the recommendation of our task force the Board of Christian Education will be contacting local churches to create a combined Spencerport Youth Group. This group will meet monthly to work on projects or missions, talk about what it means to be Christian, and maybe go on some field trips. We hope to start this program by May. Please join us! Contact Jessilou for more information!

NEWSLETTER CHALLENGE UPDATE!!!!

One of our winners, Dorothy Eroh, contacted the office for her prize in February. Thank you so much Dorothy!

MARCH NEWSLETTER CHALLENGE

For March we will continue our challenge with 2 more winners. Remember to read everything! If you find **your name**, [A big hello to our friend (Your Name Here)], Please contact the office, (585) 352-3448 or admin@spencerportucc.org. Happy Looking, May Luck be with you! 😊

When the first light of sun,
bless you.
When the long day is done,
bless you.
In your smiles and your tears,
bless you.
Through each
day of your years,
bless you.
An Irish Blessing

©EveryDaySpirit.net

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

If you would like to submit an article for the APRIL Newsletter, please email the church office at admin@spencerportucc.org

before March 16th.

Thank you!

March 2022

FAMILY SNOW DAY! February 13, 2022








March 2022



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, SPENCERPORT UCC

MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		9:00 – Breakfast Club @ Slayton Place (26 Slayton Ave)	7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship 	7:00 Choir Rehearsal		9:30 – Women’s Guild Kitchen cleaning, organizing and inventory. 12/12:30 Meeting
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:00 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 -Worship/ Penny Jar		9:00 – Breakfast Club @ Panorama Restaurant (730 Elmgrove Rd)	7:00 pm – Zoom Finance Board Meeting 7:00 pm Lenten Zoom Program	7:00 Choir Rehearsal		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:00 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 -Worship		9:00 – Breakfast Club @Theo’s Restaurant (1174 Brooks Ave.) 7:00 pm – Council/Boards Meeting	April Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm Lenten Zoom Program	 7:00 Choir Rehearsal		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 -Worship		9:00 – Breakfast Club @ Johnny d’s (2139 North Union St.)	7:00 pm Lenten Zoom Program	7:00 Choir Rehearsal		
27	28	29	30	31		
9:00 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 -Worship EASTER PLANT ORDER DEADLINE	8:00 pm – Monthly Task Force Meeting		7:00 pm Lenten Zoom Program			



EASTER PLANTS for 2022

ORDER FORM

Please circle your choice and the quantity - \$12 EACH PLANT

Easter Lilies

Tulips

Reiger Begonia

Hyacinths



This plant is given IN HONOR OF:

This plant is given IN MEMORY OF:

Given By: _____
Name

Address Phone Number

Please make checks payable to:
First Congregational Church



Completed form can be given to Marylou Stage
or mailed to the church office.



DEADLINE FOR ORDERING
March 27th

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
65 Church Street
Spencerport, NY 14559-1311

MARCH
Newsletter

Challenge



****LOOK INSIDE FOR DETAILS****

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am
Telephone: (585) 352-3448
Web site: www.spencerportucc.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SpencerportUCC

Pastor: Rev. Michael Sloan (1-309-262-6543 - cell)
E-mail: pastor@spencerportucc.org

Administrative Assistant: Paula Jackson
Office Hours: 9:00 am-2:00 pm – Monday-Friday
E-mail: admin@spencerportucc.org

Director of Christian Education: Jessilou Vaccarelli
E-mail: christianeducation@spencerportucc.org

Music Director: Darcy Demmin
E-mail: musicdirector@spencerportucc.org

