

June/July 2022



THE BELL TOWER



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



June/July 2022

To Thine Own Self Be True
~Shakespeare

It was the 13th Century in Assisi, Italy when Francesco (a young man in his early 20s) found himself standing before the bishop, in a cathedral, naked, pleading his case. In that large cathedral with large ceilings and stain-glass windows with the faces of the patristic fathers painted on them, a large crowd stood around and pointed at him and scoffed at him and mocked him for being in the nude. Francesco was standing before the bishop with his father, Pietro, who had taken him to what we would call nowadays, “Court.”

His father, Pietro, was a very wealthy affluent merchant in the small city of Assisi. Francesco—being born into privilege and wealth had a radical religious experience after becoming a prisoner of war. And it was that religious experience that led him to renounce his wealth and his affluent lifestyle to follow in the footsteps of Christ by serving the poor. Therefore, he took a boat load of his father’s cloth, mounted his horse, and rode through the village to the market where he sold it, with the intent to give the money to the poor. Once his father, Pietro, caught wind of it, he went and found the boy, dragged him through the streets of Assisi and brought him inside of the cathedral, before the bishop (who was acting as judge), and before a crowd of onlookers.

And upon hearing the case, the bishop demanded Francesco to give the money back to his father. Being vexed and perplexed, by his father’s actions and his lack of compassion for the poor, Francesco took the money and threw it at his father’s feet. Then, he unzipped his garment and began removing his clothes little by little until he was totally naked, and he threw his clothes at his father’s feet as well. The crowd gasped in unison.

While covering his mid-section with only his hands, Francesco walked up to his father and said, “No longer will I call you father. Now I will only say, ‘My Father in heaven.’” This man went on to lead an entire movement of individuals who were dedicated to Christ through lives of solitude, minimalism, and serving the poor. On July 16th, 1228, Francesco was canonized by Pope Gregory IX as a saint. The young man became known as Saint Francis. To date, his work and his life is still singing a tune of its own...and many people all over the globe have been inspired by Saint Francis’ life and writing, including our current pope, who took the name Pope Francis. But all of this was only because of one man’s determination to be true to his own convictions.

I leave you with this: It is only when we become determined to be true to our own convictions that we can leave our imprint on those around us.

Pastor Michael

GRADUATION SUNDAY, JUNE 19TH



Isabella Ellsworth will be graduating from Rush Henrietta Senior High School.

Camille Colby will be graduating in June.

Michelle G. Fields recently graduated from GCC and will be attending LIM in New York City in the Fall.

Mary Sieper's Grand-daughter, **Victoria Thornton**, is graduating from Georgia Law School and will be going to work for a law firm in Kansas City. Mary's Great-Grand-daughter, **Sierra Lansberry** is graduating from Fairport High School and will be attending SUNY Brockport College. Mary's Great-Grand-son, **Joshua Smith**, will be graduating from Chili High School and will be attending RIT.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH CELEBRATION OF 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MERGER OF BRIGHTON UCC AND FCC, UCC OF SPENCERPORT!



COUNCIL AND BOARDS MEETINGS

Tuesday, June 21st @ 6:30 PM IN PERSON NO COUNCIL MEETING IN JULY. Next will be August 16th.



FINANCE BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, June 8th @ 7:00 PM Via Zoom



PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH

SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM WOMEN'S GUILD: Thank you to all the women involved in the Women's Sunday! Your participation was greatly appreciated!

WOMEN'S GUILD UPCOMING DATES:

MEETING:

Saturday, June 11th @ 9:15 am

SET-UP & PREP:

For Choir Appreciation Sunday
Saturday, June 25th @ 9:30 am

EVENT FOR CHOIR:

Sunday, June 26th @ 9:00 am

WOMEN'S GUILD PICNIC: TBD



BREAKFAST CLUB

Please join us every Tuesday!
Hope to see you there!

JUNE DATES/LOCATIONS

June 7th – Slayton Place
(26 Slayton Ave. Spencerport)

June 14th – Panorama
(730 Elmgrove Rd.)

June 21st – Theo’s Restaurant
(1174 Brooks Ave.)

June 28th – Johnny d’s Restaurant
(2139 North Union St.)

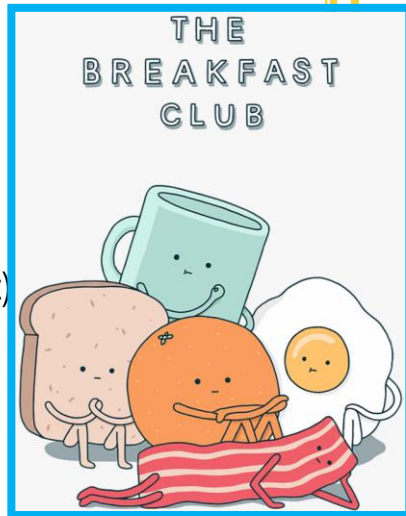
JULY DATES/LOCATIONS

July 5th – Slayton Place
(26 Slayton Ave. Spencerport)

July 12th – Panorama
(730 Elmgrove Rd.)

July 19th – Theo’s Restaurant
(1174 Brooks Ave.)

July 26th – Johnny d’s Restaurant
(2139 North Union St.)



JUNE/JULY SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION MONETARY DONATIONS

The Board of Christian Education Has launched program for 2022 to support the needs of local migrant families with school aged children. We are collecting school supplies throughout the next several months with the intent to fill as many backpacks as possible to give to needy kids.



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.

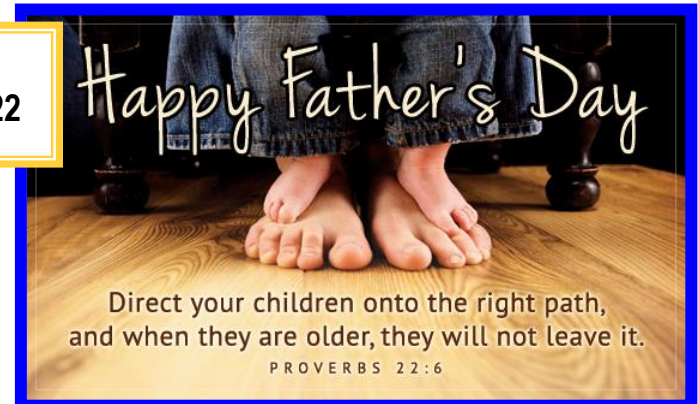
For June and July, we are asking for monetary donations so we can purchase any materials we may be short of. Please contribute to this month Penny Jar fund. Once these backpacks are filled, they will be blessed by Pastor Michael and given to those in need.

you, from the members of the Board of Christian Education

**FATHER’S DAY
SUNDAY, JUNE 19TH 2022**

AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE JULY 13TH

If you would like to submit an article for The August Newsletter, please email the church office at admin@spencerportucc.org, by July 13th. A big hello to our friend Bill Revelle! Thank you!



Direct your children onto the right path,
and when they are older, they will not leave it.

PROVERBS 22:6

My Younger Days

When I was in my younger days,
I weighed a few pounds less,
I needn't hold my tummy in
to wear a belted dress.

But now that I am older,
I've set my body free;
There's the comfort of elastic
where once my waist would be.

Inventor of those high-heeled shoes
My feet have not forgiven;
I have to wear a nine now,
But used to wear a seven.

And how about those pantyhose-
They're sized by weight, you see,
So how come when I put them on
The crotch is at my knee?

I need to wear these glasses
As the print's been getting smaller;
And it wasn't very long ago
I know that I was taller.

Though my hair has turned to gray
and my skin no longer fits,
On the inside, I'm the same old me,
It's the outside's changed a bit.

Maya Angelou



The
Journey
Home



END OF SCHOOL BONFIRE

Sponsored by the Sppt UCC on behalf of the

SPENCERPORT YOUTH

MINISTRY

FRIDAY JUNE 17TH

7PM

COLBY FARM

669 COLBY ROAD, SPENCERPORT

(NEAR SPRINGDALE FARM, watch for signs)

*Hot dogs, s'mores, music, scavenger hunt,
Native American prayer sticks....*

RSVP text Jessi at 585 397 8766

*Dress for the weather, consider bringing insect repellent, mat, or chair, bring a friend!



2022 Vacation Bible School

Ogden Presbyterian Church

2400 South Union Street, Spencerport

July 11th through 15th

Monday through Friday

9am to 12noon

Ages 4+, teens invited to be Assistants

*Songs, stories, crafts, games, snacks!
Permission slips required,
transportation available.*

June/July 2022

CHRISTIAN ACTION

thank you

THANK YOU, LETTER, FROM THE NATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

First Congregational has received a Thank You letter from the national United Church of Christ which is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Our Board of Christian Action sent the \$500.00 donation stated to support aid projects in the Ukraine as those people continue their fierce struggle there.

Be sure to thank the members of that board for their very generous gift of support of a worldwide mission effort.

Spencerport Ecumenical Food Shelf

Thank you for your continuing and generous support to the Spencerport Ecumenical Food Shelf. Items especially needed this month are - **Cake Mix, Muffin Mix, Soup, and Ramen Noodles.**

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

Saturday, May 14th was the annual Post Office Food Drive that didn't happen for two years because of the Pandemic. Everyone involved was happy to see it come back. It was a great success. Four SUV's full of food were taken to and unloaded at the Food Shelf. Thank you to all who contributed.

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

Needles Mission Club

Submitted by Holly Bauer-Mergen

If anyone is cleaning out their attic, closets, or the like and finds unwanted yarn this summer, your Needles Mission Club would be happy to take it off your hands. Our small but dedicated group of knitters, sewers and crocheters continue to make lap robes/blankets and hats for the cancer and dialysis centers. If you have any questions (or need someone to pick up the yarn or if you'd like to join us), please feel free to call me. Thanks.



Strengthen the Church Offering **Sunday, June 5th**

ALL TOGETHER!

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

JUNE MINISTRY SCHEDULE

GREETERS:

5 – Karen Eysaman
12 – Lyn & Ginny Worden
19 – Karen Eysaman
26 – Carol Schauman

COFFEE HOUR:

5 – Lyn & Ginny Worden
12 – TBD
19 – Christian Ed.
26 – TBD

HELPING HANDS:

5 – TBD
12 – TBD
19 – TBD
26 – TBD

LAY READERS:

5 – Gwendolyn Tappenden
12 – TBD
19 – Ellen M Kern
26 – TBD

USHERS:

5 – Betty Anne Riley
12 – TBD
19 – TBD
26 – Lyn & Ginny Worden

JULY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

GREETERS:

3 – TBD
10 – TBD
17 – TBD
24 – TBD
31 – TBD

COFFEE HOUR:

3 – TBD
10 – TBD
17 – TBD
24 – TBD
31 – TBD

USHERS:

3 – TBD
10 – TBD
17 – TBD
24 – TBD
31 – TBD

HELPING HANDS:

3 – TBD
10 – TBD
17 – TBD
24 – TBD
31 – TBD

LAY READERS:

3 – TBD
10 – Gwendolyn Tappenden
17 – TBD
24 – TBD
31 – 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.



Starting Tuesday, July 5th, (Office closed Monday July 4th for the Holiday) the Church Office will be on summer hours and be open:

Tuesday: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Wednesday: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Thursday: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Thank you!



MONDAY – FRIDAY
9 AM – 2 PM
(Until Summer hours begin on 7/5)

June/July 2022

NEWSLETTER CHALLENGE UPDATE!!!!

Our 2 winners for the Month of May were Carol Gurgel and Caleb Wilson. They enjoyed their gift cards, and we are thankful that they won the Newsletter Challenge for the Month of May!

JUNE/JULY NEWSLETTER CHALLENGE

For June and July 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. 😊



MONTHLY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Let's celebrate each other! We would like to start including special dates in The Bell Tower Monthly Newsletter. If you would like your Anniversary or Birthday (without year) included in the monthly newsletter, please contact the office

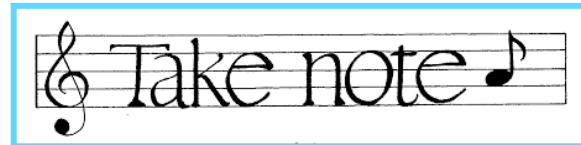
at (585) 352- 3448 or admin@spencerportucc.org.



FCC
MUSIC MINISTRY



Choir Rehearsal
THURSDAYS @ 7PM
& SUNDAYS @ 9AM



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!

June/July 2022

HEAVENLY FATHER

We pray for the victims of the recent mass shooting. Guide the victims and their families through these dark days and bring Your light so they may know Your goodness, even in their mourning. We ask that You place Your healing on those who are injured, and our nation as we desperately need this violence to end.

AMEN.



Buffalo 5/14 Survivors Fund Donation Information

Donate online at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/buffalo-survivors-fund>

Donate by Check

Payable to: National Compassion Fund. In memo line, write "Buffalo"

Mail to:

National Compassion Fund
1450 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Wire/ACH Information

Please email Buffalo@NationalCompassion.org

Here's how to help Uvalde School shooting victims, survivors, and their families:

Donate online at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/c/act/donate-to-texas-elementary-school-shooting-relief>

verified fundraisers put together by family members of shooting victims and nonprofit organizations.

The City of Uvalde set up a separate fund to which people can **mail checks payable to the "Robb School Memorial Fund"** to P.O. Box 799, Uvalde, Texas 78802.



Please call or email the office if you would like to include any information, special news, or occasions in the weekly FlockNote or our monthly newsletter. Thank You!

June/July 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



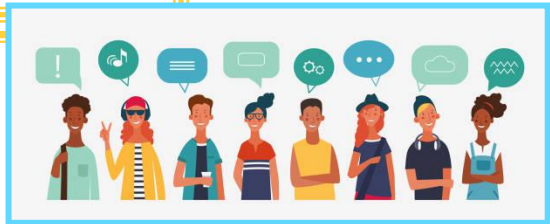
SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR BACKPACKS!

The Board of Christian Ed has been collecting school supplies with the intent to fill as many backpacks as possible to give to as many needy migrant kids. For June and July, we are asking for monetary donations so we can purchase any materials we may be short of. Please contribute to this month's Penny Jar fund. Thank you in advance!



SPPT COMMUNITY TEEN PROGRAM (Spencerport Youth Ministries)

Jessilou has contacted local Representatives from area churches invited to meet again on Saturday June 11th for coffee and donuts at Spencerport UCC to continue planning monthly Teen events. The next event is an end of school Bonfire at the Colby Farm! See other page for more info!



ANNUAL SUNDAYS COOL FAMILY PICNIC 6/25

Join us at Pineway Ponds Park AT 11AM for sandwiches, fruit, and cookies! Scavenger hunt, splash park, craft project! Mark your calendars AND BRING A FRIEND!

SONSHINE CLUB OUTDOOR SUNDAY'S COOL

Sunday's Cool will continue this summer with a special Sonshine Club every Sunday morning during worship focused on our planet and its animals through the Noah's Ark story!

TEEN ZOOM SERIES: COMPARATIVE RELIGION

Beginning in July, teens will be invited to participate in a 6 week zoom program on the top 6 religions in the world, one each week! Once again, there will be incentives for joining the discussion and prizes offered at its end. **FIRST MTG: MONDAY JULY 18TH 7PM: ISLAM**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 11-15 OPC

MONUMENTAL: Celebrating God's Greatness

Monday thru Friday, 9am to 11am!

A special hello to Breanna Gordon!

Find more information in this newsletter!

PENNY JAR NEWS



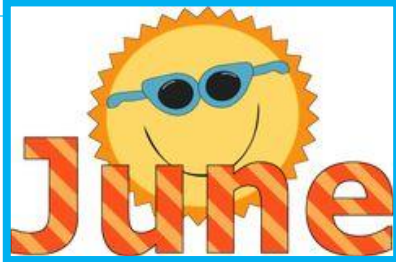
In May we collected \$317 for ROCMAIDAN, the charitable arm of the Ukrainian Cultural Center of Rochester – thank you for your support! In June and July, we are asking for support for our Backpack Campaign. Monies collected will be used to purchase additional school supplies. We're hoping to present the filled back packs to students in August, prior to the school year.

PLASTIC LAKES PROJECT 2022!

Another Success! 25 people from Sppt UCC and Ogden Pres gathered on May 14th and after enjoying a pizza lunch, we picked up trash at Ontario Beach Park. A total of 41 pounds of trash was collected – which included 25 pounds by our teens! GREAT JOB!



June/July 2022



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SPENCERPORT UCC
JUNE 2022**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				7:00 pm- Choir Rehearsal		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 - Worship/ Penny Jar/Pentecost Sunday/Strengthen the Church Offering/ Communion/ Celebrate 10 th Anniversary of Brighton UCC & FCC UCC Merger	8:00 pm – Monthly Task Force Meeting	9:00 – Breakfast Club @ Slayton Place (26 Slayton Ave)	7:00 pm – Zoom Finance Board Meeting	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal		9:15 – Women’s Guild Meeting
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 -Worship		9:00 – Breakfast Club @ Panorama Restaurant (730 Elmgrove Rd)		7:00 pm- Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm – End of School Bonfire – CE Event	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 -Worship/ Graduation Sunday/ Father’s Day 		9:00 – Breakfast Club @Theo’s Restaurant (1174 Brooks Ave.) 6:30 pm – Council/Boards Meeting	6:30 p.m. Monthly Staff Meeting	7:00 pm- Choir Rehearsal		9:30 – Women’s Guild Set-up and prep for Coir Appreciation Sunday
26	27	28	29	30		
9:00 – Women’s Guild-Choir Event 9:00 - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 -Worship/Choir Appreciation Celebration	8:00 pm – Monthly Task Force Meeting	9:00 – Breakfast Club @ Johnny d’s (2139 North Union St.)				

June/July 2022

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**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SPENCERPORT UCC
JULY 2022**



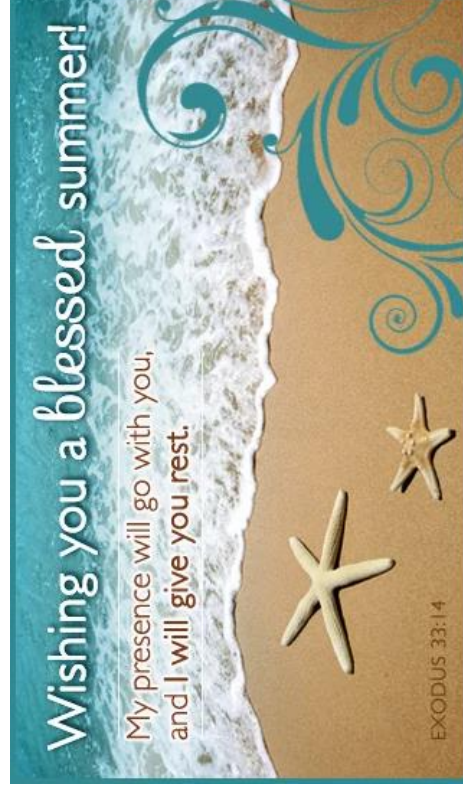
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:00 -Worship/ Penny Jar	**Office Closed** 	**Office Closed** 9:00 – Breakfast Club @ Slayton Place (26 Slayton Ave)	Summer Office hours Begin: Tues, Wed, Thurs 9 am – 2 pm			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00 -Worship	VBS – 11 th – 15 th 9:00 – Noon, @ OPC See info on previous page for details	9:00 – Breakfast Club @ Panorama Restaurant (730 Elmgrove Rd)	August Newsletter Deadline			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:00 -Worship/ Communion		9:00 – Breakfast Club @Theo's Restaurant (1174 Brooks Ave.) NO JULY COUNCIL MEETING				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:00 -Worship		9:00 – Breakfast Club @ Johnny d's (2139 North Union St.)				
31						
10:00 -Worship						

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

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 Colby

E-mail: musicdirector@spencerportucc.org



June/July 2022