

April 2023



THE BELL TOWER



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



April 2023 Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Bible Reading: A Journey Worth Taking

When I was a little boy, every Saturday night my grandmother would sit me down at the kitchen table and read to me the various stories of the Bible. With my feet barely touching the ground, I would sit there, mesmerized. I don't know exactly when, but overtime I grew to have a deep appreciation, for the stories of the Bible. If you were to ask me what my favorite Bible stories were, I would not be able to answer that question. I have too many favorites to name. I love the stories of Adam & Eve, Cain & Abel, the Tower of Babel, the Life of Moses, the Life of King David, the Book of Ruth; as well, the Birth Narratives of Jesus, the Parables of Jesus, and the Passion Narratives. Lately, I have been focusing on the women of the Bible. Women like Miriam (Moses' Sister), Hagar (Abraham's Mistress), Rahab, Queen Esther, Mary Magdalene, and Lydia (A Successful Businesswoman). Sometimes, these powerful women can seem like Hidden Figures in the background; but their stories are extremely powerful and should not be ignored. What are some of your favorite Bible stories/characters? And why? In addition to sensing a call from God, it was my love for the Bible that led me to divinity school.

Moreover, some of you have expressed a deep interest in learning more about the Bible. So, I want to share with you two resources that may help you on your journey:

- *Understanding Your Bible in 15 Minutes a Day* by, Daryl Aaron
- *Life Application Study Bible* Publisher: Tyndale House

When I first began trying to get a better grasp on the Bible, the two resources above served as crucial aides to my journey. If you choose to purchase them, I believe they will prove to be an asset, as you begin your journey of reading the Bible.

Finally, many people wonder: "So, where do I begin? The Bible is such a large *library*..." My suggestion is simple, begin where the *library* begins. Begin with Genesis and read it like a book.

After reading Genesis, read Exodus. After reading Exodus, read Leviticus. And after reading Leviticus, read Deuteronomy. These first five books (known as *The Pentateuch*) are foundational to understanding the rest of the books. Keep these little nuggets in mind while reading:

- Not everything in the Bible is to be taken literally; but should be taken, seriously. The ancient peoples had a unique way of writing to communicate their history and to communicate their interpretation of past events.
- The Bible is like a vast library full of various genres, such as historical narratives, fables, tales, laws/legal documents, genealogies, riddles, parables, prayers, songs, poems, biographies, and so much more. The Bible is also full of hyperbole, symbolism, numbers (with hidden meanings), metaphors, similes, idioms, etc.
- On Reading Genesis 1-11: Try not to read it with modern eyes; but attempt to view it from an Ancient Near Eastern Perspective. Keep in mind that there are doublets (e.g., two creation stories and two accounts of the flood) in the text.
- Don't be afraid to ask the really hard questions: Like, did a man really get stuck in the belly of a fish for three days/nights? Or did God really create the world in 6 days? Keep in the mind—the ancient peoples were not as sophisticated as we are, in the areas of astronomy, geography, and/or technology. As you begin your journey of reading the Bible, let me encourage you to be free. Be free to explore, think, pray, laugh, cry, doubt, believe, and to question, wonder and wander (through the text). Because reading the Bible will lead you to do all these things.

Keep in mind, that reading the books of the Bible is not a small undertaking. You may want to carve out a reading plan. It will take you some time to get through it. But also remember that *the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step*.

Let the journey begin!

Pastor Michael L. Sloan



April 2023



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday
Service
Sunday, April 2nd
@ 10 am

Maundy Thursday
Service,
Thursday, April 6th
@ 7 pm

Good Friday
Service, Friday
April 7th @ Noon
Union
Congregational
Church
14 N Main St,
Churchville, NY

Easter Sunday
Worship,
April 9th @ 10 am



COUNCIL AND BOARDS MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 18th @ 6:30/7:00 PM
HYBRID: IN-PERSON & ZOOM

FINANCE BOARD ZOOM MEETING

Wednesday, April 12th
@ 7:00 PM Via Zoom



First Congregational United Church of Christ

Easter Sunday Worship
April 9th
10:00 am

Rev. Michael L. Sloan
65 Church St., Spencerport N.Y. 14559
(585) 352-3448

www.spencerportucc.org
www.facebook.com/SpencerportUCC



Join these Sunday for Sondag School!

Upcoming Sunday School Dates:

4/9 – Easter Sunday Family Service

4/23 Sondag School

5/7 Sondag School

April 2023

BREAKFAST CLUB



Breakfast Club

APRIL DATES/LOCATIONS

April 4th – Town & Country

(3205 Chili Ave.)

April 11th – Slayton Place

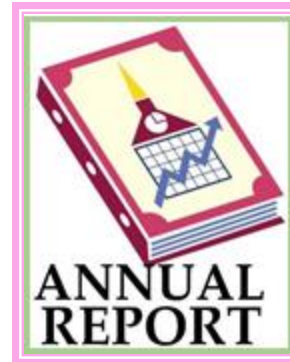
(26 Slayton Place)

April 18th – Steve's Original Diner

(3240 Chili Ave)

April 25th – Johnny D's

(2139 N. Union St.)



2022 Annual Reports will be Available on April 9th. Copies will be 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT NAME TAGS

PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR **NAME TAGS**. WE ARE PLEASED TO BE WELCOMING NEWCOMERS TO OUR SERVICES AND THEY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHO WE ARE. (AND PLEASE REACH OUT AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF – SINCE WE'RE STILL DOING 'PASSING OF THE PEACE' FROM OUR SEATS, THERE ISN'T THE SAME OPPORTUNITY TO SAY HELLO!)



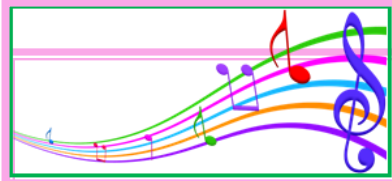
PENNY JAR



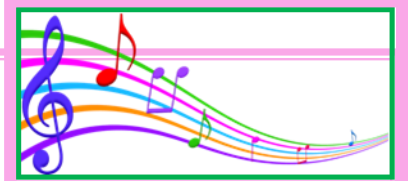
PENNY JAR FOR APRIL
Tornado Devastation in Rolling Fork, MS



April 2023



**FCC
MUSIC MINISTRY**



UPCOMING DATES:

Saturday, April 15th @ 9:30 am: Meeting

Sunday, May 7th – Lunch Bunch Following Worship

Saturday, May 13th @ 9:30 am: Meeting

Sunday, June 4th – Lunch Bunch Following Worship

Saturday, June 10th @ 9:30 am: Meeting

HARPSICHORD CONCERT

On Saturday, April 1st at 2pm, Lindsey Williams (Our Church Accompanist) will perform a harpsichord concert in the Sanctuary in an effort to raise funds to purchase a harpsichord.

She will perform and give a short presentation of the difference between the harpsichord and the piano. The concert will be free and open to the public, but free-will donations towards the harpsichord fund will be welcomed.



**THURSDAYS @ 7PM
& SUNDAYS @ 9AM**

HANDBELL PRACTICES

Sunday, April 2nd After Coffee Hour
3rd Practice, If Needed, TBD



CrossCards

April 2023

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



Upcoming dates for *Sunday School*:

4/9 – Easter Sunday
(Family Service)

4/23 Sunday School

5/7 Sunday School

Announcements for Christian Education:

Sunday School class 4/23 and 5/7.
All children are welcome!

Helping Hands sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. **PLEASE** consider signing up for just one Sunday.

Search continues for a Christian Education Coordinator.

Board of Christian Education
Marion Morton, Len Ippolito and Sue Bagley

RACS Partnership Update

RACS Partnership Update/Snack Pack Program

First Congregational Church - UCC Spencerport is engaged in an ongoing effort to support the needs of students in K-5 at Rochester Academy Charter School (RACS).

The School was so thankful for all the donations of Warm Winter Gear and School supplies from our Congregation, Community Partners, and Local Community. The group delivering the goods also had a tour of the school and got to see for themselves, the good work that is being done there.

Heather Eysaman, Elementary school Principal, indicates many of the children attending this school need nutritious single serving snacks on weekends and long school breaks.

In response to this need, First Congregational Church is pleased to announce our community-wide collection of Nutritious Individual Snacks for a take home snack pack program for RACS Students in Need.

Suggested Items are:

Individual Fruit Cups	Fruit Chews	Cereal Bars
Individual Applesauce Cups	Granola Bars	Cheese Sticks
Cracker Packets	Pretzels	Snack Mix
Individual bags of Goldfish/Animal Crackers		

We will continue our efforts to support students needs by placing the collections boxes out at the following businesses in the Spencerport area:

Aire Serve, [14 Amity St.](#) Tops Friendly Markets, [27 Slayton Ave. Union St.](#)
Coffee House, [123 So. Union St.](#) M&T Bank of Spencerport, [39 Slayton Ave.](#)
Hartfiel's Hometown Garage, [164 Lyell Ave](#) Wolf Mechanical, [5353 W. Ridge Rd.](#)
Mary Lobene Hunt Realty, [85 So. Union St.](#)

First Congregational Church wishes our Community God's continued blessings on you and your families.

April 2023

APRIL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

GREETERS:

2 – Pat Witt

9 – TBA – Easter Sunday

16 – TBA

23 – TBA

30 – TBA

COFFEE HOUR:

2 – Lunch Bunch

9 – TBA – Easter Sunday

16 – TBA

23 – TBA

30 – TBA

USHERS:

2 – Youngjohns

9 – TBA – Easter Sunday

16 – TBA

23 – TBA

30 – TBA

LAY READERS:

2 – Sue Bagley

9 – TBA – Easter Sunday

16 – Gwendolyn Tappenden

23 – TBA

30 – TBA



CHRISTIAN ACTION

*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: **Cold Beverages, Hot Cereal, Crackers, Ramen Noodles, Jell-O, Pudding, Baked Beans, Canned meats (not Tuna), Canned Peas, Sloppy Joe/ Manwich, and Toothpaste.**

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



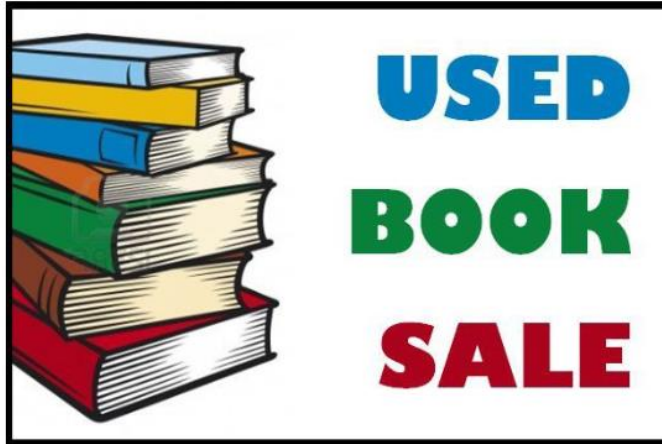
USHERS, GREETERS, LAY READERS, HELPING HANDS AND COFFEE HOUR HELP NEEDED:

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!

April 2023

Soft Cover Books \$2
3 for \$5



Hard Cover Books \$4
3 for \$10

Friday and Saturday

APRIL 21st 10AM – 6PM
and
APRIL 22nd 10AM – 3PM

Your next
favorite book
awaits



First Congregational UCC
65 Church St.
Spencerport, NY
(585)-352-3448

Refreshments
available





April 2023

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SPENCERPORT UCC
APRIL 2023**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						BBQ – Fundraiser Noon – 4 pm Harpicord Recital – 2 PM
Palm Sunday 2	3	4	5	Maundy Thursday 6	Good Friday 7	8
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am-Worship/ Round Table Meeting Handbell Choir Practice – After Coffee Hour	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Town & Country (3205 Chili Ave.)		7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service	NOON – Good Friday Service Union Congregational Church 14 N Main St, Churchville, NY	
Easter Sunday 9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am-Worship 		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Slayton Place (26 Slayton Place)	7:00 pm – Zoom Finance Board Meeting	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal	6 pm – 8 pm – Dori's Music School Recital	Women's Guild – 9:30 am Meeting
Second Sunday of Easter 16	17	18	19	20	WG – Book Sale 21	WG- Book Sale 22
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am-Worship/		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Steve's Original Diner (3240 Chili Ave) 6:30/7:00 pm – Council/Boards Meeting	6:30 pm Monthly Staff Meeting 7:00 pm –Round Table Meeting 	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal	Book Sale: 10 am – 6 pm 	Book Sale: 10 am – 3 pm 
Third Sunday of Easter 23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am-Worship		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Johnny D's (2139 N. Union St.)		7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal		
Fourth Sunday of Easter 30						
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am-Worship						

April 2023

COOKIES NEEDED FOR FELLOWSHIP/COFFEE HOUR

For the Sundays that no one signs up for Coffee Hour we are in need of COOKIES to have available. If you are so inclined to make or purchase any, please label them as COFFEE HOUR and put them in the kitchen. Thank you!



Church Office hours:

Monday- Friday: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Pastor: Rev. Michael L. Sloan, D. Min.

Office Hours:

Tuesday –Thursday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS APRIL 19th

If you would like to submit an article for The May Newsletter, please email the church office at admin@spencerportucc.org, by April 19th. Thank you!



MONTHLY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Let's celebrate each other! We would like to start including special dates in The Bell Tower Monthly Newsletter. Please send us your Anniversary or Birthday (without year) to be included in the monthly newsletter, please contact the office at (585) 352- 3448 or admin@spencerportucc.org.

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



April 2023

**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

Music Director: Darcy Colby

E-mail: musicdirector@spencerportucc.org

Accompanist: Lindsey Williams

