

August 2023



THE BELL TOWER



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



August 2023 Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

“Come follow me; and I will make you fishers of men!”

~Jesus

When I was a junior in high school, I'll never forget, I was at my locker getting my books for my next class—and my best friend, Tony Ruffin, walked up to me and said, “Mike? Would you be interested in visiting my church on Sunday morning?” I responded, with no hesitation, “Sure! I'd love to visit your church on Sunday morning.” And sure enough, I kept my promise, and I visited his church on the following Sunday morning. That one visit to his church transformed the trajectory of my life and my personal walk with Christ. Several years later, I became a

deacon in that same church. Six years after that I became an associate minister.

Then I went on to enroll in seminary at Lincoln Christian University to earn a Master of Divinity. And as they say, the rest is history. I went on to become a pastor and an avid Bible reader and (with all humility) a Bible scholar. However, it all started with an invitation from a friend who I saw every day at school; from a friend with whom I ate (the not so



tasty) school lunch with, regularly, in the cafeteria; from a friend whose house I spent the night at almost every weekend.

Research has shown that people are more likely to visit a church if they are invited by a close friend or family member than by any other method. We are quickly approaching September—when people begin to return to church after Labor Day weekend. It is imperative that we realized that we are called upon to be good stewards not only of our time, our money, and our talent; but also, of the church that God has blessed us with.

I want to encourage all of you to become good stewards of God's church. There are four ways in which you can become a good steward. First, you can become a good steward by pledging a financial gift to the church weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or even quarterly. The financial gifts that are given to church are used to support our local ministry; to support ministries in the Greater Rochester area; and, to support our denomination (the United Church of Christ). Second, you can become a good steward by volunteering. There are countless ways you can serve in the church; and there are countless committees that are looking for new innovative talent (i.e., the Board of Christian Education, the Board of

Christian Action, the Finance Committee, the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Board of Religious Service, and so many others.). If you are interested, just call the church office and we will be able to direct you to the right committee. Finally, you can become a good steward by inviting your friends and family members to our services on Sunday mornings. This last area is one that I am going to recommit myself to doing in the upcoming year and beyond. I am going to commit myself to becoming a better steward by inviting people I meet out in the community and in the Greater Rochester area to our church, just like my friend Tony Ruffin did for me. You never know—inviting someone to church on Sunday morning could possibly transform the trajectory of their life and their personal relationship with Christ. So, if you have been wrestling with trying to find out what you can do for your church, you can start by simply extending an invitation to your friends and family.

In conclusion, keep in mind what Jesus said to Peter and Andrew as they were standing in their boats, fishing in the Sea of Galilee. Jesus said to them, “Come follow me; and I will make you fishers of men!”

Pastor Michael L. Sloan



August 2023

**FINANCE BOARD
ZOOM MEETING**

Thursday, August 10th
@ 7:00 PM Via Zoom

COUNCIL AND BOARDS MEETINGS

Tuesday, August 15th.
@ 6:30/7:00 PM
HYBRID: IN-PERSON & ZOOM

UPCOMING DATES:

Sunday, August 6th – Lunch
Bunch Following Worship

Sunday, September 3rd – Lunch
Bunch Following Worship



PASTORAL NEWS:

"Pastor Michael will be away on vacation and engaging in self-care for the entire month of August. He will spend the first two weeks of August reading, resting, and reflecting as a spiritual practice. Pastor Michael and Ebony will spend the last two weeks on a cruise to the Caribbean; Jamaica, Mexico & The Cayman Islands."

WHATS NEW?



Church Summer Office hours:
Tuesday - Thursday: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

*Sept. 11th Regular Office hours will resume.
Monday – Friday 9 am – 2 pm

BBQ FUNDRAISER

HOMEMADE TANGY PULLED PORK BARBECUE, FRESH
COLESLAW, SALT POTATOES, ROLL AND DESSERT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12TH

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

CHURCH

65 CHURCH STREET
SPENCERPORT, NY

TO PROVIDE ONGOING SUPPORT
FOR STUDENTS AT ROCHESTER
ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL K-5TH

DRIVE THRU ONLY

****NOON TILL SOLD OUT****

TICKETS \$13.50

****ADVANCE TICKETS RECOMMENDED****

AVAILABLE BY CALLING

CHURCH OFFICE AT 585-352-3448



Join Us!!!





AUGUST DATES/LOCATIONS

- August 1st – Town & Country (3205 Chili Ave.)
- August 8th – Slayton Place (26 Slayton Place)
- August 15th – Steve's Original Diner (3240 Chili Ave)
- August 22nd – Johnny D's (2139 N. Union St.)
- August 29th – Blue Ridge Grill (3400 W. Ridge Rd.)

SEPTEMBER DATES/LOCATIONS

- September 5th – Town & Country (3205 Chili Ave.)
- September 12th – Slayton Place (26 Slayton Place)
- September 19th – Steve's Original Diner (3240 Chili Ave)
- September 26th – Johnny D's (2139 N. Union St.)

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS AUGUST 16TH.

If you would like to submit an article for The September Newsletter, please email the church office at admin@spencerportucc.org, by August 16th.

August 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!



NEEDED

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!)

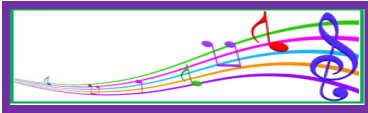


KNITTERS/CROCHETERS WANTED!!

Submitted by Holly Bauer-Mergen

Needles Mission Club would like to invite you to join our efforts in making blankets for Wilmot Cancer Center and the local dialysis center. We are a small but hardy group. We currently have 2 people making full blankets by themselves (crocheted and knitted); 1 person knitting squares and crocheting full blankets; 1 person knitting squares; 1 person crocheting the edges; and 1 person sewing squares together. **We could really use help from someone to knit squares.** (8" garter stitch; we supply the yarn). Every little bit helps, so if you only have time for a few here and there, that would still be wonderful. If you have any questions, please contact Holly or Gwen.





August 2023

AUGUST MINISTRY SCHEDULE

FCC MUSIC MINISTRY



NEW CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN BAND

The new Contemporary Christian band will play at First Congregational Church in Spencerport.

The upcoming dates the band will play are: August 6, and August 20.

The members of the band include:

Ezra Bogmis, guitar
Frank Holderfield, drums
Mark DiNitto, bass
Darcy Colby, vocals

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. Thank You!



AUGUST:

GREETERS:

6 – TBA
13 – TBA
20 – TBA
27 – TBA

COFFEE HOUR:

6 – Lunch Bunch
13 – Karen Eysaman
20 – TBA
27 – TBA

USHERS:

6 – Karen Eysaman
13 – TBA
20 – Karen Eysaman
27 – TBA

LAY READERS:

6 – TBA
13 – Carolyn Mazzota
20 – Karen Eysaman
27 – Gwendolyn Tappenden

****IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP WITH ANY OF THE WEEKENDS LABELED TBA PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN FELLOWSHIP HALL OR CONTACT THE OFFICE @ (585) 352-3448 OR admin@spencerportucc.org.****

RACS Partnership Update

In our continuing support of RACS we will be collecting school supplies for the month of August.

There is a collection box in the Fellowship Hall





**KEEP
CALM
AN UPDATE IS
COMING
SOON!!!**



MONTHLY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Let's celebrate each other!
We would like to include 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.

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:



Chunky soups, Hot cereal, Pancake mix, Muffin mix, Jelly, Canned chicken, Baked beans, Canned fruit, Coffee, Cold drinks, Toothpaste and shampoo.

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



August 2023

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SPENCERPORT UCC
AUGUST 2023**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Office Hrs.: 9:30 – 2:30 1	Office Hrs.: 9:30 – 2:30 2	Office Hrs.: 9:30 – 2:30 3	4	5
		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Town & Country (3205 Chili Ave.) 8 pm - ALANON				
6	7	Office Hrs.: 9:30 – 2:30 8	Office Hrs.: 9:30 – 2:30 9	Office Hrs.: 9:30 – 2:30 10	11	12
10:00 am-Worship/ Lunch Bunch (CC Band Playing) Guest Pastor: Rev. Peg Williams		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Slayton Place (26 Slayton Place) 8 pm - ALANON		7:00 pm – Zoom Finance Board Meeting		BBQ Fundraiser – Noon – 4 pm
13	14	Office Hrs.: 9:30 – 2:30 15	Office Hrs.: 9:30 – 2:30 16	Office Hrs.: 9:30 – 2:30 17	18	19
10:00 am-Worship Guest Pastor: Rev. Konrad Emmert	6-8 pm Rotary Meeting – Fellowship Hall	9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Steve’s Original Diner (3240 Chili Ave) 6:30/7:00 pm – Council/Boards Meeting 8 pm - ALANON	September Newsletter Deadline 6:30 pm -Monthly Staff Meeting 7:00 pm –Round Table Meeting			
20	21	Office Hrs.: 9:30 – 2:30 22	Office Hrs.: 9:30 – 2:30 23	OFFICE CLOSED 24	25	26
10:00 am- Worship (CC Band Playing) Guest Pastor: Rev. Konrad Emmert		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Johnny D’s (2139 N. Union St.) 8 pm - ALANON				
27	28	OFFICE CLOSED 29	Office Hrs.: 9:30 – 2:30 30	Office Hrs.: 9:30 – 2:30 31		
10:00 am-Worship Guest Pastor: Rev. Konrad Emmert		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Blue Ridge Grill (3400 W. Ridge Rd.) 8 pm - ALANON				



BIBQ FUNDRAISER

HOMEMADE TANGY PULLED PORK BARBECUE, FRESH COLESLAW, SALT POTATOES, ROLL AND DESSERT

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Rochester Academy
Charter School



Join Us!!!



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

welcome
AUGUST

MAY YOU FIND REFUGE UNDER THE
SHELTERING TREE OF GOD'S PRESENCE,
PROTECTED AND COMFORTED BY HIS
UNWAVERING LOVE.

THINKABOUTSUCHTHINGS.COM

August 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

