

December 2023



December 2023 Newsletter

THE BELL TOWER



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



**“Time is like a river. You cannot touch the same water twice because the flow that has passed will never pass again.
Enjoy every moment in your life.” ~Unknown**

In the late 60s, in the Midwest, sometime after Thanksgiving, there was a little girl by the name of Pam—who had finally saved up enough money, in her piggy bank, to open a savings account. Her parents had spent all summer and the entire fall season teaching her about the value of a dollar, about saving, and even about the importance of interest. So, when Pam’s piggy bank was full, her dad put her in the car, and drove her to the local bank to open a savings account.

When they arrived, the president of the bank was waiting for them with the necessary paperwork. After they filled out the paperwork, the proud little girl placed her large piggy bank on the counter. The president took the coins, counted them, and then reached down over the counter (with a smile), and gave Pam a receipt.

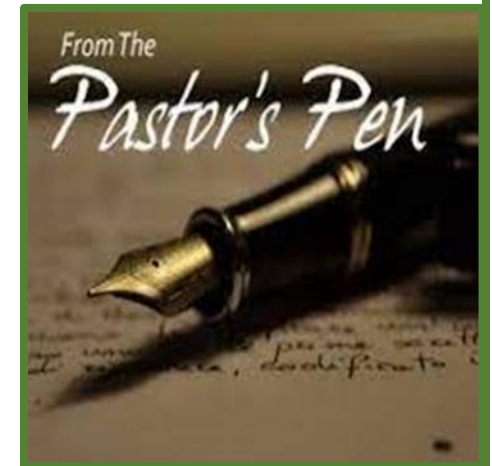
Barely able to see over the counter, Pam smiled back, and said, “Thank you!” But she did not move. She just stood with a receipt in one hand and the other hand extended towards the counter—as if she was waiting to receive something else.

Finally, the president of the bank, looked back down over the counter and said, “Is there something else that I can help you with?”

With the most innocent and gullible look written all over her face, Pam looked up, extending her little arm out a little further, and said, “Yes! I want my interest! My dad said that if I save enough money over a period of time, I could gain interest.”

The president of the bank chuckled and then explained to her that interest is not something that you earn, immediately, but it is something that is earned over an extended period of time. Then he went on to explain to her that she would have to be patient and wait for the money to gain interest. The excitement that the little girl walked into the bank with was not the same excitement that she walked out of the bank with.

If you really think about it, most of our lives seem to be spent waiting. Waiting for Christmas; waiting for the New Year; waiting for a check to come in the mail; waiting for someone to change their ways; waiting at a red light. Waiting! Waiting! Waiting! Waiting can cause us to become irritated and irate; but waiting is necessary. You’ve heard it before: “Good things come to those who wait!” “Patience is a virtue.” During this Advent season, I encourage you to slow down, breathe, and enjoy every moment leading up until Christmas. Because you know what they say about *time*, “Time is like a river. You cannot touch the same water twice because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment in your life.”



Pastor Michael L. Sloan



FINANCE BOARD ZOOM MEETING

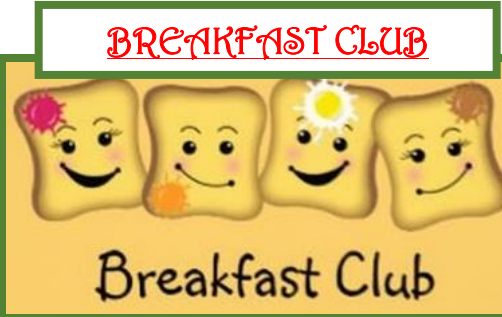
Wednesday, December 13th @ 7:00 PM Via Zoom



December 2023

COUNCIL AND BOARDS MEETINGS

Tuesday, December 19th
@ 6:30/7:00 PM
HYBRID: IN-PERSON & ZOOM



BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club

DECEMBER DATES/LOCATIONS

- December 5th - Town & Country (3205 Chili Ave)
- December 12th - Slayton Place (26 Slayton Ave.)
- December 19th - Johnny D's (2139 N. Union St.)
- December 26th - *No Breakfast Club Today



UPCOMING DATES:

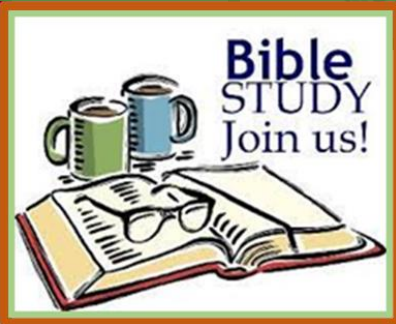
Sunday, December 17th - All Church Christmas Brunch- Following Worship

Sunday, January 7th - Lunch Bunch Following Worship Service



ANNUAL REPORTS DUE 12/15

Annual Reports are due to the office by December 15th



Join us for Zoom/Facebook Bible Study on:

Wednesday, December 13th @ 6:00 pm



CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Sunday, December 17th Following worship will be the Church Christmas Brunch.

December 2023

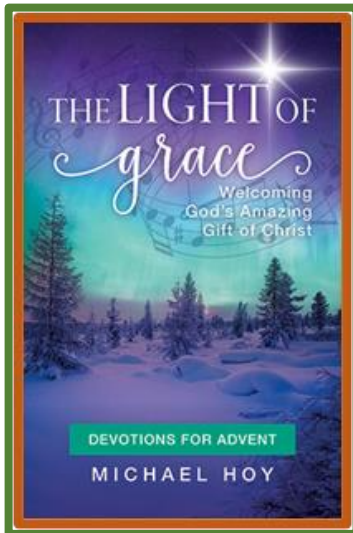


Office Hours

Monday – Friday

9 am – 2 pm

The Office will be closed on Monday,
December 25th and Monday, January
1st for the Holiday's.



ADVENT BEGAN
DECEMBER 3RD.

2023 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL:
"The LIGHT of Grace" by Michael Joy
Will be available on Sunday, November
19th on the table in the back of the
Sanctuary or by the Elevator. If you
would like one mailed to you, please
contact the office @
admin@spencerportuucc.org or call
(585) 576-2136



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!

A Christmas Prayer

*May the blessing of joy abide within you;
May the blessing of peace rest upon you;
May the blessing of love flow out through
you; May all the blessings of the Lord be
yours at Christmas and in the new year.*



HIGHCLAP.COM

“WARM FUZZY TREE”



Help decorate our “**WARM FUZZY TREE**” with hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, long underwear and slippers for all ages and sizes (Please No Wrapping). We will be collecting these items to help others in our area who because of your giving will be warmer.



December 2023

DECEMBER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

GREETERS:

3 – TBA
10 – TBA
17 – TBA
24 – Karen Eysaman (10 am Service)
24 – TBA – (7 pm Service)
31 – Karen Eysaman

COFFEE HOUR:

3 – Lunch Bunch
10 – Ginny Worden
17 – TBA
24 – TBA – (10 am Service)
24 – TBA – (7 pm Service)
31 – TBA

USHERS:

3 – Karen Eysaman
10 – Char Schurkamp
17 – TBA
24 – Karen Eysaman (10 am Service)
24 – TBA – (7 pm Service)
31 – Karen Eysaman

LAY READERS:

3 – Ellen M Kern
10 – Gwendolyn Tappenden
17 – Holly Bauer-Mergen
24 – Karen Eysaman (10 am Service)
24 – Ellen M Kern – (7 pm Service)
31 – Karen Eysaman

****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.****

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 20TH.

If you would like to submit an article for The January Newsletter, please email the church office at admin@spencerportucc.org,
By December 20th. Thank you!



December 2023

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

FCC MUSIC MINISTRY



FCC CHOIR PRACTICE'S AND SUNDAY'S IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

Choir Practices are Thursdays, December 14th. & 28th @ 7:00 pm & Thursday, January 4th. @ 7:00 pm.
The Choir will perform during worship service on Sunday, December 17th & Sunday, January 7th

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

The Church Hand Bell Choir and a group from Dori's Music Studio will be performing for Christmas Eve Services.

PRAISE BAND SUNDAY'S IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

The Praise Band will perform during worship service on Sundays, December 10th & 31st & Sunday, January 28th

The members of the band include:

Mark Schott, guitar
Mark DiNitto, bass

Doug Schott, drums
Darcy Colby, vocals

Many people have been asking me if we are doing the shoe box collection this year. The Board of Christian Education has decided that instead of individual shoe boxes, we will support the wish list of Willow House. Willow House is a center for victims of domestic violence that provides emergency shelter, counseling services, support groups and even allows victims to bring their family pets with them into the safety of the shelter. We will use our Penny Jar donations in December to support Willow House financially but there will also be a box in the Fellowship Hall where you can place those items specifically requested by Willow House, if you so wish. **Please have any donations in the box by Sunday December 17th. Thank you for your support.**

The following is the list of requested items. **We have been asked NOT to include travel size items.**

- Body lotion
- pull up style diapers in sizes 2T, 3T, and 4T
- Body wash for babies, children, women & men
- footed baby sleepers in sizes: 12 months to 3T
- New boxes of crayons, markers, and colored pencils
- Disposable razors baby wipes
- Hair brushes and combs dry or canned dog or cat food

Thank you for your care and concern for those in our community who need assistance.
~Marion Morton, and the Board of Christian Education.

December 2023

CHRISTIAN ACTION

THE CHRISTMAS FUND SPECIAL OFFERING

CHRISTMAS FUND SPECIAL OFFERING WILL BE ON CHRISTMAS EVE:

The **Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross** is an annual UCC offering that expresses our thanks to retired and active UCC pastors and lay church workers and their families facing financial need, providing direct assistance to supplement pensions, help with the cost of medical insurance, a thank you gift at Christmas, and funds to meet emergency needs.

This year's Christmas Fund theme is "Grace upon grace," from John 1:16:

"From Christ's fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."

Join with others in the United Church of Christ to help return "Grace upon grace" to those who have given so much to each of us and to our churches by encouraging your congregation to give generously to the Christmas Fund this year.



Spencerport Ecumenical Food Shelf

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

The Thanksgiving program was a great success. Sixty-six families participated. Thank you to all who donated a total of ten turkeys!



This month, the following items are especially needed:

Cold Beverages, Coffee, Hot Cereal, Ramen Noodles, Baked Beans, Pasta Sauce, Rice, Hash and Chili, Soups, Hamburger Helper, Rice a Roni, Canned Peas, Canned Meats, and Boxed Potatoes.

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 - or if you would like to make a monetary donation: contact Melanie Ippolito at 352-3891.

Merry Christmas!



MONTHLY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

December 2023

THANK YOU'S



Please wish a
Happy Birthday To:

14th - Dorothy Eroh (88th)
24th - Kim Mowers

Dorothy & Kim, your
Church Family
Wishes you a very
Happy Birthday!

Please wish a
Happy Anniversary To:

27th - Rev. Frank & Sue Nichols

Rev. Frank & Sue, your
Church Family
Wishes you a very Happy
Anniversary, Gods Blessings
& Many More Happy Years!

****Please send Paula your Birthdays and Anniversaries
so, we can celebrate together! (information below) ****



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.

My heartfelt Thank You to all of you who remembered my birthday with cards, calls and good wishes. You really helped make this year special.

~Gwendolyn Tappenden



(A card sent by Sue Bagley – on bulletin board in hallway)

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you for the beautiful flowers and good wishes as I relocate to Charlotte. You have become my second family, and I will miss you.

I will see you off and on throughout the year.

God bless you all!

Love,

Sue

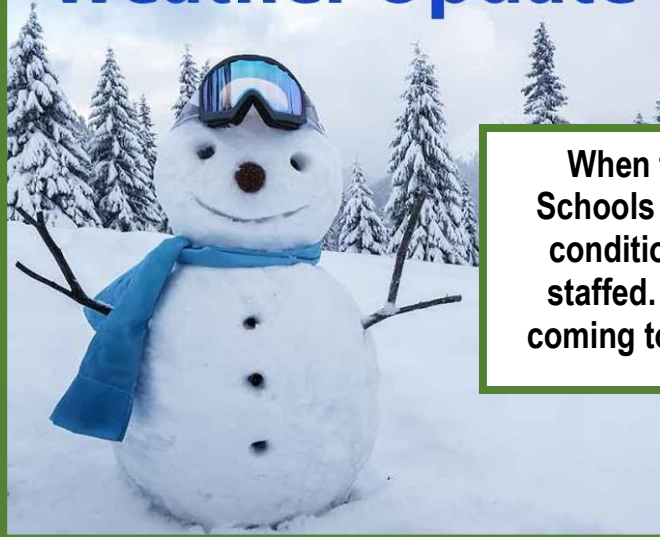
KNITTERS/CROCHETERS WANTED!!

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.



Weather Update



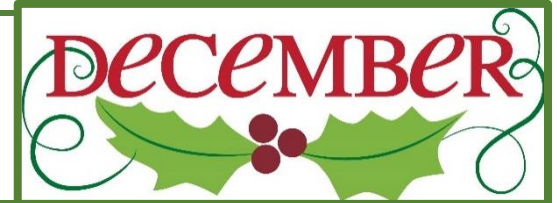
When the Spencerport Central Schools are closed due to weather conditions, the office may not be staffed. Please call ahead before coming to be sure someone is here.



December 2023

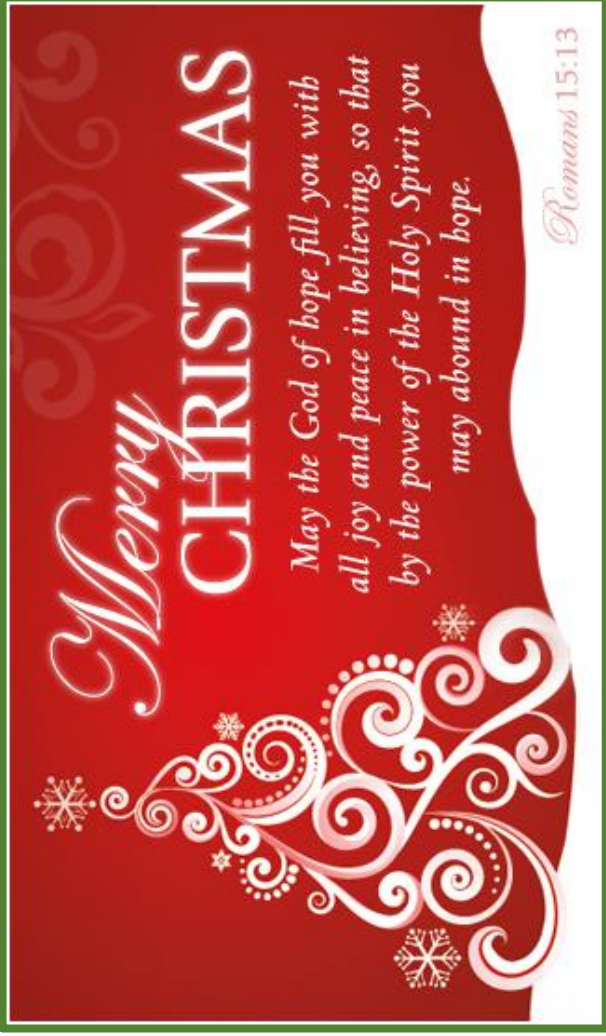


**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SPENCERPORT UCC
DECEMBER 2023**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						11 am - Dori's Music Studio Christmas Recital WG - Christmas Party & Meeting @ Johnny D's - Noon
1st Sunday of Advent 3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 am – Choir Rehearsal 10 am-Worship / Choir Singing	6-8 pm Rotary Meeting -Fellowship Hall	9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Town & Country (3205 Chili Ave.) 7 pm - ALANON	7 pm – Zoom & Facebook Bible Study			
2nd Sunday of Advent 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00 am-Worship Praise Band Performing	6-8 pm Rotary Meeting – Fellowship Hall	9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Slayton Place (26 Slayton Place) 7 pm - ALANON	6 pm – Zoom & Facebook Bible Study 7 pm – Zoom Finance Board Meeting	7 pm-Choir Practice		
3rd Sunday of Advent 17	18	19	January Newsletter 20	21	22	23
9:00 am – Choir Rehearsal 10 am-Worship / Choir Singing WG- All Church Christmas Brunch	6-8 pm Rotary Meeting – Fellowship Hall	9 am– Breakfast Club @ Johnny D's (2139 N. Union St.) 6:30/7 pm – Council/Boards Meeting 7 pm - ALANON	DEADLINE 			
4th Sunday of Advent 24	Christmas Day 25	26	27	28	29	30
10 am-Christmas Eve Worship 7 pm – Christmas Eve Service **Christmas Fund Offering**	*Office Closed for Holiday*	No Breakfast Club Today 7 pm – ALANON		7 pm Choir Practice		
First Sunday After Christmas 31						
New Year's Eve 10 am-Worship Praise Band Performing						

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



December 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

