

February 2023



THE BELL TOWER



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



February 2023 Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I have only a one minute,
sixty seconds in it.
Forced upon me, can't refuse it.
Didn't seek it, didn't choose it.
But it is up to me to use it.

I must suffer if I lose it.
Give [an] account if I abuse it.
Just a tiny little minute,
But eternity can be found in it.

~Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays

About a year or so ago, I was scrolling on Facebook and came across an intriguing quote that said: "Time is like a river. You cannot touch the same water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again." Many times, we as humans are so in a hurry trying to accomplish one thing after another, that we forget to slow down, to pause, to breath and to enjoy the time that we have now.

The time that we have with family, friends, and loved ones is precious. The time enjoying the freedom that we have inherited through our forebears is of the utmost importance. And even the time that we spend enjoying the simple things in life is sacred: like sipping from a warm cup of hot chocolate, on a cold snowy day; like the feeling of the pages between our fingers while reading a good book; like the time spent enjoying the loud silence that hovers over your home during the late nights/early mornings; like the time spent listening to children laugh and play in the grocery store—while their mother shops; and, like the time spent doing absolutely nothing. There is something sacred about these moments.

As you dance across the world's stage in the year 2023, make sure you take time out to slow down, to pause, to breath, and to relish in the present moment. And always keep in mind, "Time is like a river. You cannot touch the same water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again."

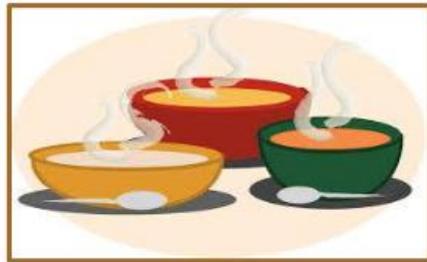
Pastor Michael L. Sloan

February 2023



Join Us After Worship

1/8/23*, 2/5/23 & 3/05/23
Soups, Salad & Bread



COUNCIL AND BOARDS MEETINGS
Tuesday, February 21st @ 6:30 PM
HYBRID: IN-PERSON & ZOOM



**FINANCE BOARD
ZOOM MEETING**

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



Ash Wednesday Worship will be on Wednesday,
February 22nd details to follow.



The Office will be closed on
Monday, February 20th in
observance of the Holiday.



Romans 5:8
But God commendeth
his love toward us, in
that, while we were yet
sinners, Christ
died for us.

February 2023



Join these Sunday for Sondag School!

Upcoming Sunday School Dates:

2/12 Sondag School

2/26 Sondag School



2023 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 at 7:00 pm.

Here are the dates for the Lenten Programs:

Wednesday, March 1st, 2023

Wednesday, March 8th, 2023

Wednesday, March 15th, 2023

Wednesday, March 22nd, 2023

Wednesday, March 29th, 2023

Pastor Michael will lead a deeper discussion on the sermon topic from the previous Sunday.

Reminders will be sent out weekly!

BREAKFAST CLUB



FEBRUARY DATES/LOCATIONS

February 7th – Slayton Place

(26 Slayton Ave. Spencerport)

February 14th – Town & Country

(3205 Chili Avenue)

February 21st – Theo's Restaurant

(1174 Brooks Ave.)

February 28th – Johnny d's Restaurant

(2139 North Union St.)

Thank you



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful Poinsettia. I love them! It was a perfect flower and has lasted 4 weeks as beautiful as the day the girls delivered it. God Bless You All! You made me so happy!

Sincerely,

Carol Gurgel



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!



UPCOMING DATES:

Saturday, February 11th @ 9:30 am: Meeting

Saturday, March 11th @ 9:30 am: Meeting



WOMEN'S GUILD IS HAVING A BOOK SALE!

Women's Guild will be hosting a Book Sale in April 2023 and we would like your books. If you have books you need to clean out to make room for new books you can drop them off at the church Monday thru Friday from 9AM to 2PM or on Sunday morning.

OR

Call the church office (585-352-3448/ M-F 9-2) to arrange to have them picked up.

February 2023



FCC
MUSIC MINISTRY



THURSDAYS @ 7PM
& SUNDAYS @ 9AM

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!)*

Upcoming dates for Sunday School:

2/12 Sunday school

2/26 Sunday school



We continue to search for a Christian Education Coordinator.

In the meantime, the Board of Christian Education to schedule Sunday School for alternating Sundays, 2/12 and 2/26. All children are welcome!

Penny Jar proceeds for January will benefit the Center for Youth in Rochester.

We continue to need adult help in the Sunday School classroom. PLEASE consider volunteering for just one Sunday. Sign-up sheet is on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

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

****** Helpers in Sunday School classroom are needed. If able to help on a Sunday, there is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall******

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 supports 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.](#)
 Hartsfield 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.

February 2023

FEBRUARY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

GREETERS:

- 5 – Pat Witt
- 12 – Bunny Tubbs
- 19 – Sue & Frank Nichols
- 26 –Karen Eysaman

COFFEE HOUR:

- 5 – **Lunch Bunch/** Sue Bagley
- 12 – **TBA**
- 19 – **TBA**
- 26 – **TBA**

USHERS:

- 5 – Jan Elliott
- 12 – Betty Anne Riley
- 19 – Ebony Sloan
- 26 – **TBA**

LAY READERS:

- 5 – Ebony Sloan
- 12 – Ellen M Kern
- 19 – Gwendolyn Tappenden
- 26 – **TBA**

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!

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:

Canned Peas, Chicken, Stew, Chili, Hash, Ramen Noodles, Coffee, Hot Beverages, Hot Cereal, Cookies, Shampoo, Conditioner, Kleenex.

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



February 2023



Please wish a very Happy Birthday To:

17th - Pat Witt

28th - Jesse Diehl

Pat & Jesse, your Church Family wishes you a very Happy Birthday!
Gods Blessings to you both!

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



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



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.

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 22ND

If you would like to submit an article for The December Newsletter, please email the church office at admin@spencerportucc.org,
by February 22ND.
Thank you!

Bernabi Reads 2023



On page 10 is the flyer/form for Bernabi Reads week at Bernabi Elementary School (Spencerport – Dori's School). **The School is looking for community members to come in and read to classes.**

If anyone is interested, you can send the forms electronically to Dori @ dswarhout@spencerportschools.org or you can return them to the office. **Forms need to be submitted to the school by Friday, February 3rd.**



February 2023

Bernabi Reads 2023



Our annual Bernabi Reads Week is March 6th - 10th. During this event our school will invite community members from all walks of life to help promote the importance of reading in our lives. We are very excited to be holding this event again and the students look forward to it every year.

The BPA is asking for some help. If you know of anyone who would like to be a reader (author, artist, athlete, musician, radio/television personality, business owner, doctor, dentist, police or firefighter, military personnel, etc.), please provide us with their information, so we may ask them to come and celebrate this event with us.

Also, if you are interested in helping during Bernabi Reads week, please fill out the form below. We are looking for help with artwork, putting up/taking down decorations, and greeters for our event.

If you are able to refer a reader or volunteer, please fill out the form below and return it to school by **Friday, February 3rd**.

Thank you for your continued support!

Bernabi Reads Committee

Reader Name, Address and Phone: _____

Reader Email Address: _____

Referred By: _____

Phone: _____

I am interested in helping with Bernabi Reads.

Name/Phone/Email: _____

Please return with form by Friday, February 3rd. If you have any questions, please email bernabireads2018@gmail.com

February 2023

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**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SPENCERPORT UCC
FEBRUARY 2023**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Noon – Retired Clergy Meeting – Fellowship Hall	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal		
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am-Worship/Penny Jar/ LUNCH BUNCH		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Slayton Place (26 Slayton Ave.)	7:00 pm – Zoom Finance Board Meeting	7:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal		Women’s Guild – 9:30 am Meeting
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany 12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am-Worship		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Town & Country (3205 Chili Avenue) 	6:30 pm Monthly Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Round Table Meeting	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal		
Transfiguration Sunday 19	20	21	Ash Wednesday 22	23	24	25
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am-Worship	*Office Closed* 	9:00 am– Breakfast Club @Theo’s Restaurant (1174 Brooks Ave.) 6:30/7:00 pm – Council/Boards Meeting	March Newsletter Deadline Ash Wednesday Service 	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal		
First Sunday of Lent 26	27	28				
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am-Worship		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Johnny d’s (2139 North Union St.)				

February 2023

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



**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

