



January 2024



# THE BELL TOWER



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

January 2024 Newsletter

*"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness."*

— John Steinbeck

## How to Stay Warm in the Cold Months

I have to be honest—Winter is my least favorite season. I love outdoor activities—such as jet-skiing, parasailing, lying on the beach, swimming in the ocean, taking a late-night stroll in the car, wearing shorts, t-shirts, and sandals. I have seen, felt, and driven in more than enough snow to last a lifetime. I have been snowed in, blocked in, and locked in all because of cold weather and snow-filled roads. As the winter months drew close late last year, I began to dread them—wishing that I could escape for a few months to Florida.

About a month or so ago, a strange thought popped into my head: *Instead of complaining about the winter months, why not find activities to make them more enjoyable?* From that point on, I began thinking and reflecting about all the indoor and outdoor activities to make the winter months more enjoyable. Some of the activities that I reflected on are as follows: snowmobiling, skiing, sledding, ice skating shooting pool, watching hallmark movies, keeping the Christmas tree (and decorations) up longer than usual, reorganizing the parsonage, playing boardgames, reading a good book, and the list goes on and on. Believe it or not, this list of activities totally changed my perspective on the winter months and has given me something to look forward to.

Furthermore, if you are like me—someone who used to dread the winter months, feel free to use my list to keep yourself occupied until Spring. Here are a few more ideas that may be beneficial:



- Knitting
- Trying new recipes
- Taking up a new hobby
- Bowling
- Trying at least 10 different kinds of hot chocolate
- Painting
- Reorganizing your home
- Creating a Zoom Family Reunion with distant relatives

I have already begun doing some of the things on my list above. For those of you like me, I hope you will join me in finding creative activities to make the winter months more enjoyable. These activities will help you to stay warm during the cold winter months.

Finally, I am going to leave you with a quote from George R.R. Martin: "Summer friends will melt away like summer snows, but winter friends are friends forever."

*Pastor Michael L. Sloan*



**FINANCE BOARD ZOOM MEETING**

**Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>  
@ 7:00 PM Via Zoom**



*January 2024*

**COUNCIL AND BOARDS MEETINGS**

**Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>  
@ 6:30/7:00 PM  
HYBRID: IN-PERSON & ZOOM**

**BREAKFAST CLUB**



**Breakfast Club**

**JANUARY DATES/LOCATIONS**

- January 16<sup>th</sup> – Slayton Place (26 Slayton Ave.)**
- January 23<sup>rd</sup> – Johnny D's (2139 N. Union St.)**
- January 30<sup>th</sup> – Blue Ridge Grill (3400 W. Ridge Rd.)**



**UPCOMING DATES:**

**Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> - Lunch Bunch  
Following Worship Service**

**LENTEN**



**STUDY GROUP**

**LENTEN GROUP STUDY 2024**

**-Information and 1/28 Deadline for count needed to order books  
Zoom/Facebook Live**

**Dates/Times:**

1. Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 7 p.m.
2. Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 7 p.m.
3. Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 7 p.m.
4. Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6 p.m.\*\*
5. Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 7 p.m.

**By vote book option 3: Lent in Plain Sight book by Jill J Duffield (thriftbooks.com), was selected for the Lenten Group Study.**

**Please contact the office @ (585) 352-3448 or [admin@spencerportucc.org](mailto:admin@spencerportucc.org) by **Sunday, January 28th** so we can get a count of the books needed for the group.**

**ARE YOU A WIDOW? OR, DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO IS A WIDOW?**

**On Thursday, Jan. 11th, 2024, at 12 Noon**, Pastor Michael will be meeting with widows in the Fellowship Hall at the Church for a light luncheon and a brief conversation on widowhood. Please bring a small dish to share. Please contact the office by ph.# (585) 352-3448 or [admin@spencerportucc.org](mailto:admin@spencerportucc.org) by Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> so we can get a count of how many will be in attendance. The group is open to anyone that is a widow. Members can attend as a support person in the group if needed. Pastor Michael would like the Meetings to continue the second Thursdays of the month through May.

January 2024



**Office Hours**

**Monday – Friday**

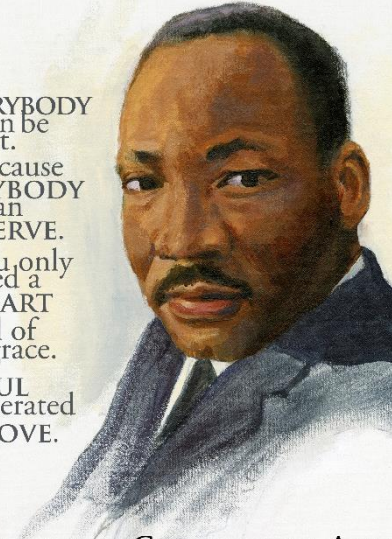
**9 am – 2 pm**

**Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**

**for the Holiday.**

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
HOLIDAY**

EVERYBODY  
can be  
great.  
Because  
ANYBODY  
can  
SERVE.  
You only  
need a  
HEART  
full of  
A grace.  
SOUL  
generated  
by LOVE.



**REMEMBER! CELEBRATE! ACT!**

# THESE DAYS

Daily Devotions for Living by Faith

## THESE DAYS DEVOTIONALS

These Days Devotionals for January, February & March are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary or by the elevator. If you would like it mailed to you, please call the office @ 585-352-3448 or email: [admin@spencerportucc.org](mailto:admin@spencerportucc.org)

**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS  
JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>.**

If you would like to submit an article for The February Newsletter, please email the church office at [admin@spencerportucc.org](mailto:admin@spencerportucc.org), By January 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!



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!



January 2024

# JANUARY MINISTRY SCHEDULE



## COMMUNITY

Please  
join us!

### **SEM CONGREGATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED**

We need a Congregational Representative (Lay Person) to represent the First Congregational Church, Spencerport UCC with SEM, Spencerport Ecumenical Ministry. SEM is an ecumenical group in Spencerport made up of Clergy and Non-Clergy to address the needs of the Spencerport Community as a whole. If you would like to represent the First Congregational Church as a Congregational Representative, please contact Pastor Michael or contact the Office.

Thank you!

### GREETERS:

14 – TBA  
21 – TBA  
28 – TBA

### COFFEE HOUR:

14 – TBA  
21 – TBA  
28 – TBA

### USHERS:

14 – TBA  
21 – TBA  
28 – Karen Eysaman

### LAY READERS:

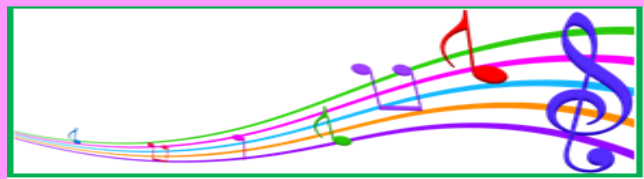
14– Gwendolyn Tappenden  
21 – Ellen M Kern  
28 – TBA

**\*\*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](mailto:admin@spencerportucc.org).\*\***



January 2024

**FCC MUSIC MINISTRY**



*Praise Band*



**FCC CHOIR PRACTICE'S AND SUNDAY'S IN JANUARY**

Choir Practices are Thursdays,  
**January 11<sup>TH</sup> & 18<sup>TH</sup> @ 7:00 pm.**

The Choir will perform during worship service on  
**Sunday, January 14<sup>TH</sup> & 21<sup>ST</sup>.**

\*The Choir will alternate Sundays with the Praise Band. Rehearsal will be 7 pm the Thursday prior to the Sunday performance and 9 am on the Sunday of performing.\*

**PRAISE BAND SUNDAY'S IN JANUARY**

The Praise Band will perform during worship service on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> and every other Sunday alternating with the Choir.

The members of the band include:

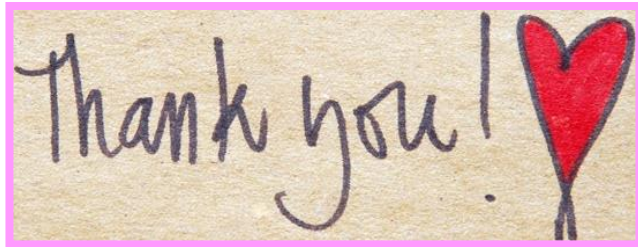
Mark Schott, guitar  
Mark DiNitto, bass

Doug Schott, drums  
Darcy Colby, vocals



## THANK YOU

January 2024



Thank you to all who were involved in the Christmas Brunch – from planning to clean up. The food was delicious, and the table decorations were beautiful. Your time and talents are greatly appreciated.

~Betty Anne Riley



THANK YOU ALL FOR THE BEAUTIFUL POINSETTIA PLANT!

~Joan Bennett-Wyland

## 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:

Coffee and Cocoa, Hot Cereal, Baked Beans, Pasta Sauce, Rice, Hash and Chili, Chunky Soups, Hamburger Helper, Canned Peas, Boxed Potatoes, and Toothpaste.



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.

Happy New Year!



## MONTHLY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

January 2024

First Congregational Church,  
Spencerport UCC  
January



Anniversaries  
and Birthdays

Please wish a  
Happy Birthday To:  
7th – Jan Elliott  
29th - Ellen M Kern

Jan & Ellen, your Church Family Wishes you a very  
Happy Birthday!  
Gods Blessings!

\*\*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.

### 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.**

January 2024

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA PLANTS 2023



### GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:

Our Parents: Don & Roberta Darrohn & Walter & Doris Boess

Richard, Lynn & Baby Ricky Neubauer  
Mr. & Mrs. C.R. Mosbrugger & Annabelle Brown

John Hannigan

Laural Bridge – Robins (Daughter)

Daryl Lynn Martin (Sister)

Lloyd K. Swisher

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Frisch & Mr. & Mrs. William Lenz

Our Parents

Mary Ann & Warren Hewes

Bud & Norma Bauer, Hazel & Chet Crawford,  
Ray & Edna Burroughs

Von Hardman

Ross Vasbinder & Lewie & Claire Stody

Richard Eichorn, Albert & Hazel Merkel,  
Fran & Mamie Eichorn

My Parents & My Husband, George

Tom Schauman

Florence & Arthur Pastor

### BY:

Don & Mickey Darrohn

Neubauer Family

Lori Hannigan

Olive Simons

Darcy Colby

Bev Swisher & Family

The Lenz Family

Rob & Marion Morton

Friends & Family

Holly Bauer-Mergen

Lyn & Ginny Worden

Julie Nelson

Carol Eichorn & Family

Karen Eysaman

His Family

Bunny Tubbs

### GIVEN IN HONOR OF:

Alison Diehl

Our Children & Grandchildren

Our Family

Frank & Sue Nichols

Carol Schauman

### BY:

Jesse Diehl

Rob & Marion Morton

Sandy Saylor

Friends

Lori Hannigan

Poinsettia  
symbolism

The Shape = The Star of Bethlehem  
The Red Leaves = The Blood of Christ  
The White Leaves = Purity







January 2024

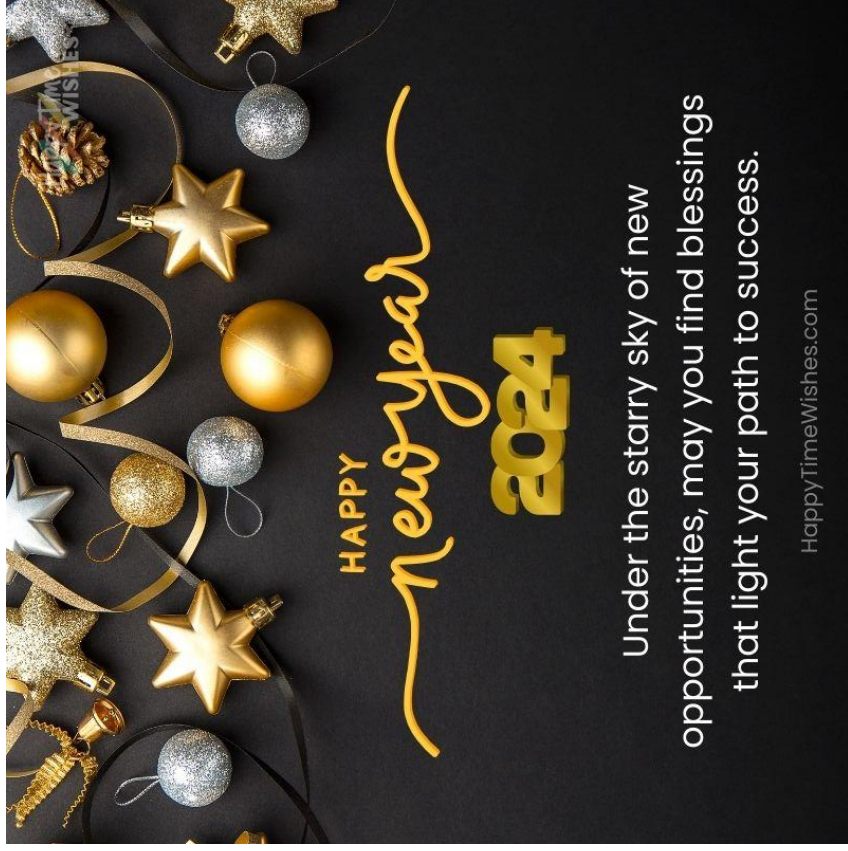
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
SPENCERPORT UCC  
JANUARY 2024**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	New Years Day! 1	2	3	4	5	6
10:00 am-Worship Praise Band Performing	*Office Closed for Holiday*	9:00 am- Breakfast Club @ Town & Country (3205 Chili Ave.) 7 pm - ALANON				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00 am – Choir Rehearsal 10 am-Worship / Choir Singing Lunch Bunch Following Worship	6-8 pm Rotary Meeting -Fellowship Hall	7 pm - ALANON	7 pm – Zoom Finance Board Meeting	Noon – Conversation/ Meeting about Widowhood 3pm – SEM @ Wesleyan 7 pm-Choir Practice		
14	**Office Closed** 15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00 am – Choir Rehearsal 10 am-Worship / Choir Singing		9:00 am- Breakfast Club @ Slayton Place (26 Slayton Place) 7 pm – ALANON 6:30/7pm – Boards & Council Meeting	FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 	7 pm-Choir Practice		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 am – Choir Rehearsal 10 am-Worship / Choir Singing		9 am- Breakfast Club @ Johnny D's (2139 N. Union St.) 6:30/7 pm – Council/Boards Meeting 7 pm - ALANON	6 pm – Staff Meeting 7 pm – Round Table Meeting			
28	29	30	31			
10:00 am-Worship Praise Band Performing Deadline to Order Lenten Group Study Book – Contact Office		9 am- Breakfast Club @ Blue Ridge Grill (3400 W. Ridge Rd.) 7 pm – ALANON				



**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](http://www.spencerportucc.org)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SpencerportUCC](https://www.facebook.com/SpencerportUCC)**

**Pastor: Rev. Michael Sloan (1-309-262-6543 - cell)**

**E-mail: [pastor@spencerportucc.org](mailto:pastor@spencerportucc.org)**

**Administrative Assistant: Paula Jackson**

**Office Hours: 9:00 am-2:00 pm – Monday-Friday**

**E-mail: [admin@spencerportucc.org](mailto:admin@spencerportucc.org)**

**Music Director: Darcy Colby**

**E-mail: [musicdirector@spencerportucc.org](mailto:musicdirector@spencerportucc.org)**

**Accompanist: Lindsey Williams**

