

March 2023



THE BELL TOWER



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



March 2023 Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"Sometimes the quieting of one's spirit in prayer exposes the area of sensitiveness to God's spirit which is submerged by much traffic."

~Howard Thurman

What exactly is Lent all about? Lent is a forty-day journey from Ash Wednesday until Easter (excluding all Sundays because they are considered celebration days). Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season. The Lenten season is a special time in the life of the church, not just locally, but globally. During Lent, Christians all over the globe fast, pray, hold a posture of humility and self-denial, as well as exercise self-examination and extraordinary generosity. The forty days of Lent on the Christian calendar echoes Jesus' forty days in the wilderness, immediately after his baptism. The practice of Lent is just about as old as our faith tradition itself.

Furthermore, it is also during the Lenten season that people *give up* something. People give up many different things during this time. Some give up smoking, alcohol, chocolate, sweets, social media, etc. Or, in other cases, people don't give up anything at all. But they begin new practices. New practices like creating an exercise routine, eating healthier, restoring a broken relationship, going to therapy, etc.

Moreover, if you have not already made a Lenten commitment, first, let me tell you that it is not too late. Second, let me encourage you to consider practicing silence. It is usually during silence that we can reflect; that we can declutter our minds; and that we can practice what I call *listening prayer*. Listening prayer is when you listen to the voice deep within your own heart. That voice deep within your heart serves as a compass, a guide, a light when you find yourself on a dark path, and as spiritual presence. I strongly encourage you to listen to it. Obey it. Follow it. It will never steer you in the wrong direction.

Finally, this process of practicing silence is a lot easier than you may think. Seeing that we observe Lent six days per week, here is a simple schedule that you can follow. Monday through Saturday at a specific time—for example at 6 a.m.—you can practice fifteen minutes of silence. If you are not a morning person, then you can practice silence at night when your house is quite—for example at 8 p.m. This is a simple practice that you can follow. Give it a shot. It may just be the Lenten practice that will change your life.

Blessings upon your Lenten journey!

Pastor Michael L. Sloan



Join these Sunday for Sunday School!

Upcoming Sunday School Dates:

3/12 Sunday School

3/26 Sunday School

4/9 – Easter Sunday Family Service



**PENNY JAR FOR MARCH:
Cameron Community Ministries**

A non-profit urban outreach center providing food, clothing and K-6 after school programs in the Lyell-Otis neighborhood. This is a culturally diverse community of low-income families, 97% of whom are below the poverty line.

March 2023



COUNCIL AND BOARDS MEETINGS
Tuesday, March 21st @ 6:30/7:00 PM
HYBRID: IN-PERSON & ZOOM



**FINANCE BOARD
ZOOM MEETING**

Wednesday, April 12th
@ 7:00 PM Via Zoom
(No March Meeting)



Join Us After Worship

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



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 online at 7:00 pm.

Here are the dates for the Lenten Programs:

Wednesday, March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th

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

Reminders and link information will be sent out weekly!

March 2023

BREAKFAST CLUB



MARCH DATES/LOCATIONS

March 7th – Slayton Place

(26 Slayton Ave. Spencerport)

March 14th – Town & Country

(3205 Chili Avenue)

March 21st – Theo's Restaurant

(1174 Brooks Ave.)

March 28th – Johnny d's Restaurant

(2139 North Union St.)

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) 2023 Special Offering

IT'S TIME TO SHARE

March 19, 2023

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.



Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

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:

Sunday, March 5th – LUNCH BUNCH

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

Saturday, April 1st @ 9:30 am: Meeting



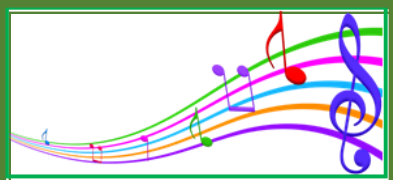
**WOMEN'S GUILD IS HAVING
A BOOK SALE!**

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.

March 2023



**FCC
MUSIC MINISTRY**



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

Monday, March 27th @ 6 pm
Sunday, April 2nd After Coffee Hour
3rd Practice, If Needed, TBD

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!)



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

March 2023

RACS Partnership Update

Upcoming dates for Sunday School:

3/12 Sunday School
3/26 Sunday School
4/9 – Easter Sunday
(Family Service)



Announcements for Christian Education:

Sunday School class 3/12 and 3/26.
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/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.](#)
Hartsfiel'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.



March 2023

MARCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

GREETERS:

5 – Pat Witt
12 – Bunny Tubbs
19 – Melonie & Len Ippolito
26 – Jan Elliott

COFFEE HOUR:

5 – Lunch Bunch
12 – TBA
19 – Bunny Tubbs
26 – TBA

USHERS:

5 – Karen Eysaman
12 – Karen Eysaman
19 – TBA
26 – TBA

LAY READERS:

5 – Ellen M Kern
12 – Gwendolyn Tappenden
19 – TBA
26 – Carolyn Mazzota

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!**

We Need Your Help



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, Coffee, Jams & Jellies, Peanut Butter, Hot Cereal, Crackers, Ramen Noodles, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Toothpaste, Shampoo & Conditioner, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, and 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



APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS MARCH 22ND.

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

March 2023



Please wish a very Happy Birthday To:

10th - Wendy Vonhold

15th – Melva Owens, 90 Years Young!

Wendy & Melva, 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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

MARCH 3, 2023

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 2023

SPECIAL THANK YOU
FROM RACS

On behalf of you, I would like to take a moment and thank all the members of the White Church (First Congregational Church of Spencerport, UCC). for the beautiful donations.

This was Absolutely WONDERFUL!

Just a sincere thanks to everyone with beautiful hearts



Zehra Ercan

Admissions Officer

Community Outreach Coordinator

[Rochester Academy Charter School](#)

310 Hinchey Rd

Gates NY 14624

Office :(585) 621-2969

The FCC Knights of the Round Table (Task Force) Delivering very much needed and appreciated school supplies and winter gear for the students of RACS. (Picture)



St. Patrick's Day Coloring Page



EASTER PLANTS for 2023

ORDER FORM

Please circle your choice and the quantity - \$10 EACH PLANT

Easter Lilies

Tulips

Daffodils

Hyacinths



This plant is given IN HONOR OF:

This plant is given IN MEMORY OF:

Given By: _____
Name

_____ Address Phone Number

Please make checks payable to:
First Congregational Church



Completed form can be given to Marylou Stage
or mailed to the church office.



DEADLINE FOR ORDERING
March 20th


March 2023

March 2023



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SPENCERPORT UCC
MARCH 2023**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	World Day of Prayer 3	4
				7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal		
Second Sunday in Lent 5	6	7	8	9	Happy Birthday Wendy! 10	11
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am-Worship/ LUNCH BUNCH Round Table Meeting		9:00 am- Breakfast Club @ Slayton Place (26 Slayton Ave.)	7:00 pm – Zoom Lent Series	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal		Women's Guild – 9:30 am Meeting
Third Sunday in Lent 12	13	14	Happy 90 th Birthday Melva! 15	16	St. Patrick's Day 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 – Zoom Lent Series	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal		
Fourth Sunday in Lent 19	20	21	April Newsletter Deadline 22	23	24	25
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am-Worship/ One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	**Easter Flower Order Deadline**	9:00 am- Breakfast Club @Theo's Restaurant (1174 Brooks Ave.) 6:30/7:00 pm – Council/Boards Meeting	7:00 pm – Zoom Lent Series 	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal		
Fifth Sunday in Lent 26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am-Worship	Handbell Choir Practice - 6 pm	9:00 am- Breakfast Club @ Johnny d's (2139 North Union St.)	7:00 pm – Zoom Lent Series	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal		

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

May the road rise up to meet you,
may the wind be ever at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face
and the rain fall softly on your fields,
And until we meet again,
may God hold you in the hollow of His hand.

-Irish Blessing-

**Happy
St. Patrick's
Day**



**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



March 2023