

May 2023



THE BELL TOWER



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



May 2023 Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The late Scottish theologian and pastor, William Barclay said, “Endurance is not just the ability to bear a hard thing, but to turn it into glory.” Endurance! It is the power to withstand pain or hardships; the ability or strength to continue despite fatigue, stress, or other adverse conditions.

Let's face it—All of us have experienced the uphill battles of life; and some of you are dealing with them right now. Some of you are dealing with deep loneliness; some of you are dealing with aging (changes in your mind and body that you don't quite understand); some of you are dealing with mental anguish because of the uncertainty of the future; some of you, in your latter years, are still dealing with the residue from your childhood and teenage years; and, still there are others who are concerned for the wellbeing of your children and grandchildren.

Let me simply encourage you with these words:

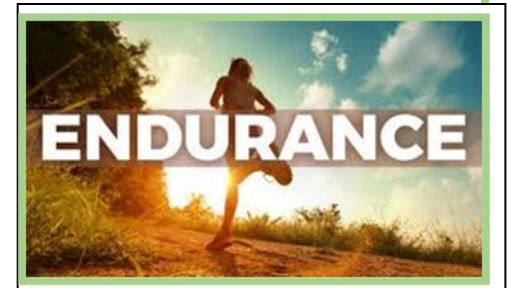
And let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. (Galatians 6:9)

There was a soldier on the battlefield who had grown tired and weary; he put his weapons down on the ground and fell to his knees. With the sound of bombs and explosive devices going off in the background, he wept, cried, and groaned, as he yelled, “Oh, God! Please help me!” It was at that moment that the soldier felt a light touch on his shoulder. When that hand touched his shoulder, he felt power, strength, and renewal that he had never felt before. That hand upon his shoulder is what gave him the endurance to keep going when he wanted to give up. When that soldier stood up and turned around, no one was behind him. He was still there, alone.

Like the young soldier, we all get tired and weary of the burdens that we must bear. But let me encourage you to keep fighting; keep moving forward; keep pressing toward the mark of the high calling. It is only when we endure to the end that we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. And it is only when we endure to the end that we can taste the sweet fruit of victory that we all long for.

Grace & Peace!

Pastor Michael L. Sloan



COUNCIL AND BOARDS MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 16th @ 6:30/7:00 PM

HYBRID: IN-PERSON & ZOOM



May 2023

FINANCE BOARD ZOOM MEETING

Wednesday, May 10th @ 7:00 PM Via



UPCOMING DATES:

Graduation Sunday will be on June 25th. If someone in your **immediate family** is graduating from high school, college, or post – graduate school, please let us know by contacting the church office at (585) 352-3448 or admin@spencerportucc.org. Please share the student's name, school graduating from, and any plans for the future. Thank you and congratulation on this amazing achievement! Deadline: Sunday, May 26th.

Sunday, May 7th – Lunch Bunch Following Worship
Saturday, May 13th @ 9:30 am: Meeting
Sunday, June 4th – Lunch Bunch Following Worship
Saturday, June 10th @ 9:30 am: Meeting

Bible Study for May 2023 via Zoom

*Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023 – 7 p.m.:

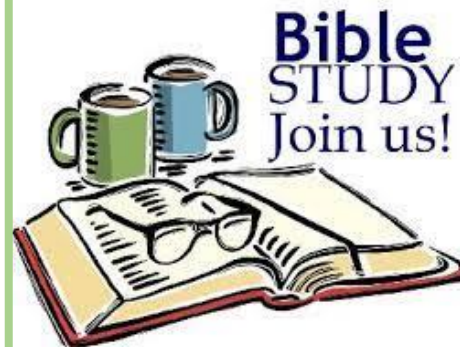
Exploring the Old Testament

**Wednesday, May 10th, 2023 – 6 p.m.:

***Exploring the New Testament

Wednesday, May 24th, 2023 – 7 p.m.: Theme/Topic TBD.

Wednesday, May 31st, 2023 - 7 p.m.: Theme/Topic TBD.



*Exploring the Old Testament: In this Bible study we will survey the five major divisions of the Old Testament (the Law of Moses, the Historical Narratives, the Wisdom & Poetic Literature, the Minor Prophets, and the Major Prophets). This Bible study will be a brief survey, not an in-depth exploration.

**On Wednesday, May 10th, we will have Bible study at 6 p.m. instead of 7 p.m. due to a scheduling conflict. The Finance Team is also meeting that night.

***Exploring the New Testament: In this Bible study, we will survey the major divisions of the New Testament (the Gospels, Acts as Church History, the Letters of Paul, the General Letters, and the Book of Revelation). This Bible study will be a brief survey, not an in-depth exploration.

Join these Sundays for Sunday School!
Upcoming Sunday School Dates:

5/7 Sunday School

5/21 Sunday School

6/4 Sunday School

6/18 Sunday School

- **Last day of Sunday School before Summer break**

BREAKFAST CLUB



Breakfast Club

MAY DATES/LOCATIONS

May 2nd – Town & Country

(3205 Chili Ave.)

May 9th – Slayton Place

(26 Slayton Place)

May 16th – Steve's Original Diner

(3240 Chili Ave)

May 23rd – Johnny D's

(2139 N. Union St.)

May 30th – Blue Ridge Grill

(3400 W. Ridge Rd.)

May 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!



HELLO!
My name is



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!)

PENNY JAR

PENNY JAR FOR MAY

Penny Jar for May will benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities Locally.

***April Penny Jar total so far for Tornado relief in Rolling Fork, Mississippi is \$297. ***

MAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

GREETERS:

7 – TBA

14 – TBA

21 – TBA

28 – TBA

COFFEE HOUR:

7 – Lunch Bunch

14 – TBA

21 – TBA

28 – TBA

USHERS:

7 – TBA

14 – Bunny Tubbs

21 – TBA

28 – TBA

LAY READERS:

7 – TBA

14 – TBA

21 – TBA

28 – TBA

We Need Your Help



May 2023

FCC MUSIC MINISTRY



**THURSDAYS @ 7PM &
SUNDAYS @ 9AM**



NEW CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN BAND

A new **Contemporary Christian band** will have its **first performance on Sunday May 28th** during service. This is pilot program consisting of 7 times that the band will play for First Congregational Church in Spencerport.

The dates the band will play are: **May 28, June 11, June 25, July 9, July 23, August 6, and August 20.**

The band will play contemporary Christian songs, such as those you would hear on **K-Love 104.9 FM** radio station.

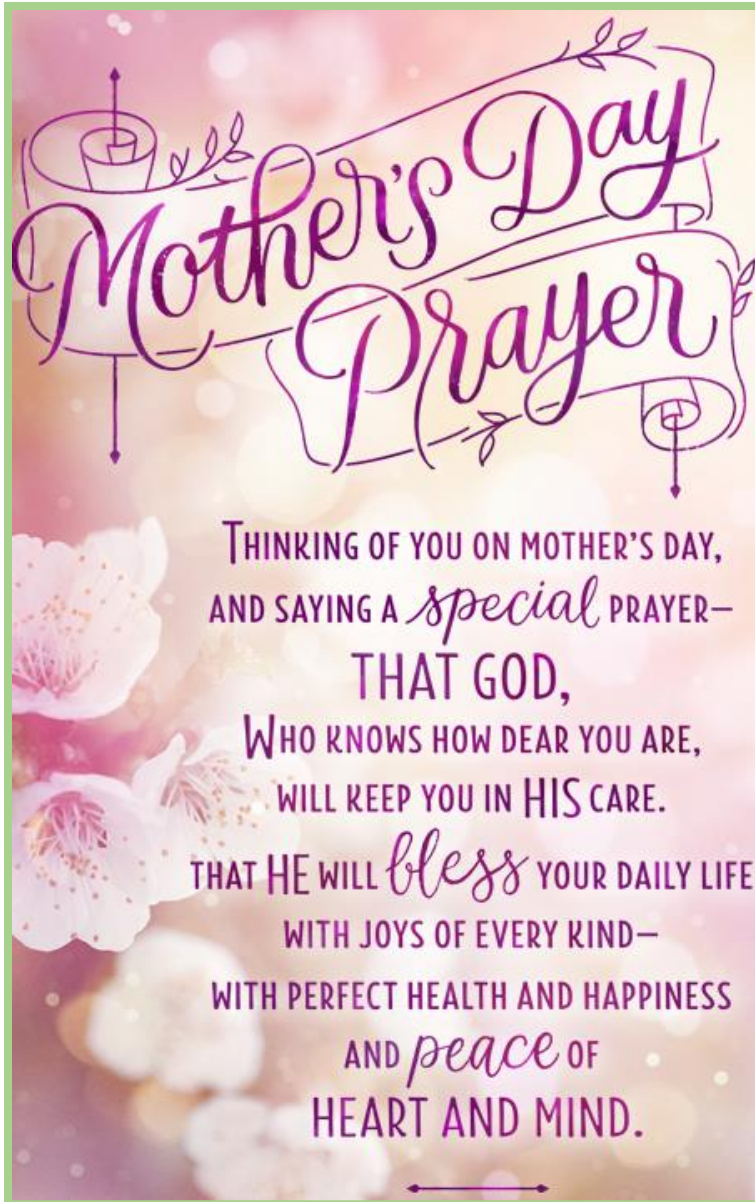
We hope you will enjoy this new variety of music to our services!



May 2023

RACS Partnership Update

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.](#)

Hartfiel's Hometown Garage, [164 Lyell Ave](#)

First Congregational Church wishes our Community God's continued blessings on you and your families.

Upcoming dates for Sunday School:

5/7 Sunday School
 5/21 Sunday School
 6/4 Sunday School
 6/18 Sunday School

Announcements for Christian Education:

Spring is in the air! We hope to see more of you venture out and join us in person for Sunday service and Sunday School.

We will honor our graduates at an upcoming Sunday service in June. If someone in your family is or has already graduated this school year, please contact the church office with the pertinent info about your graduate. Our church would like to acknowledge and celebrate their success.

Church office is 585-352-3448.

Summer Vacation Bible School will be held again in conjunction with Ogden Presbyterian and Ogden Baptist Churches. **Date is July 10-14.** Activities will take place at Ogden Presbyterian as usual. If you have a child or grandchild who would like to attend, please contact Sue Bagley at 585-233-0362 to register.

“Sunday” School school will be on the following dates: May 7, May 21, June 4 and June 18. There will not be Sunday School over the summer, however there will be activity bags available for the children who attend regular service. These can be found at the back of the church.

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

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, Hot Cereal,
 Crackers, Ramen Noodles,
 Baked Beans, Pasta, Rice,
 Hamburger Helper,
 Canned Peas, and Toothpaste.**



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

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!



EASTER FLOWERS 2023

<u>GIVEN IN HONOR OF:</u>	<u>BY:</u>
Jesus	His Church Family
Carol Eichorn	Her Family
My Daughters: Karissa, Shaniah, Rayne & Aryelle, My Mother Patti Cremaldi	Paula Jackson & Family
My Family	Pat Witt
Sara Vonhold, Aubrey Hammond - Children	Wendy Vonhold
Allison Diehl	Jesse Diehl
Emily, Kayleigh & Molly Lowenguth	Chuck & MaryLou Stage
Our Family	Mr. & Mrs. Brenon Caton
Carol Eichorn	Her Family
My Family and also in Honor of all who are struggling through great challenges	Melva Owens

JUNE/JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS MAY 17th.

If you would like to submit an article for The June/July Newsletter, please email the church office at admin@spencerportucc.org, by May 17th.
Thank you!

May 2023

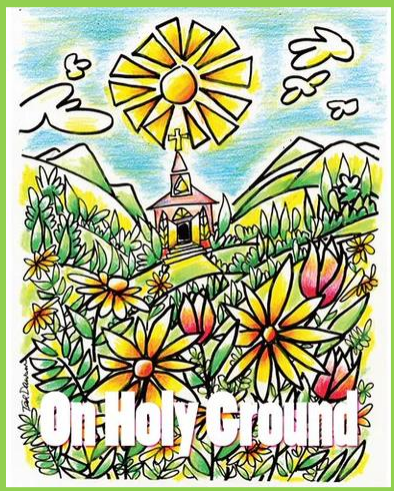


EASTER FLOWERS 2023

<u>GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:</u>	<u>BY:</u>
Todd Saylor – (our son) in Loving Memory	Sandy & Al Saylor
Parents & Grandparents	Len & Melanie Ippolito
Florence & Arthur Pastor	Bunny Tubbs
Tom Schauman	Family
My Father Frank Cremaldi	Paula Jackson & Family
Albert & Hazel Merkel, Fran & Mamie Eichorn, Richard Eichorn	Carol Eichorn & Family
Ross Vasbinder	Julie Nelson
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Rohr, Mr. & Mrs. Forest B Caton & Marie Joy Stewart	Mr. & Mrs. Brenon Caton
John Hannigan	Lori & Family
Collette Colby	Chuck Colby
Frank Hamman, Helen DeVrieze, Bonnie Bauer	Wendy Colby
Warren & Mary Ann Hewes	Frank & Sue Nichols
Mr. & Mrs. C.R. Mosbrugger, Lynn & Baby Ricky Neubauer, Ms. Annabelle Brown	Laurie Neubauer
Daryl Lynn Martin	Darcy Colby
Bud & Norma Bauer, Ray & Edna Burroughs, and Hazel & Chet Crawford	Holly Bauer-Mergen
My Husband Rick, My Parents and Grandparents	Shirley Sherman

May 2023

**2023 - Strengthen the Church Offering
STC offering on Pentecost
Sunday, May 28, 2023.**



The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.



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



SUNDAY, May 28th, 2023

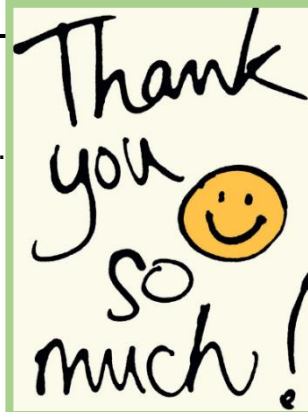
THANK YOU!

Thank you for all the cards and Happy Birthdays!
~Pat Witt~

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls, transportation and support following my surgery and subsequent recovery. Your very generous acts of kindness are much appreciated!!!

Thanks to all who were involved in planning, preparing and distributing the pulled pork dinner. It was delicious!!!!

~Betty Anne Riley~



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!

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.



May 2023



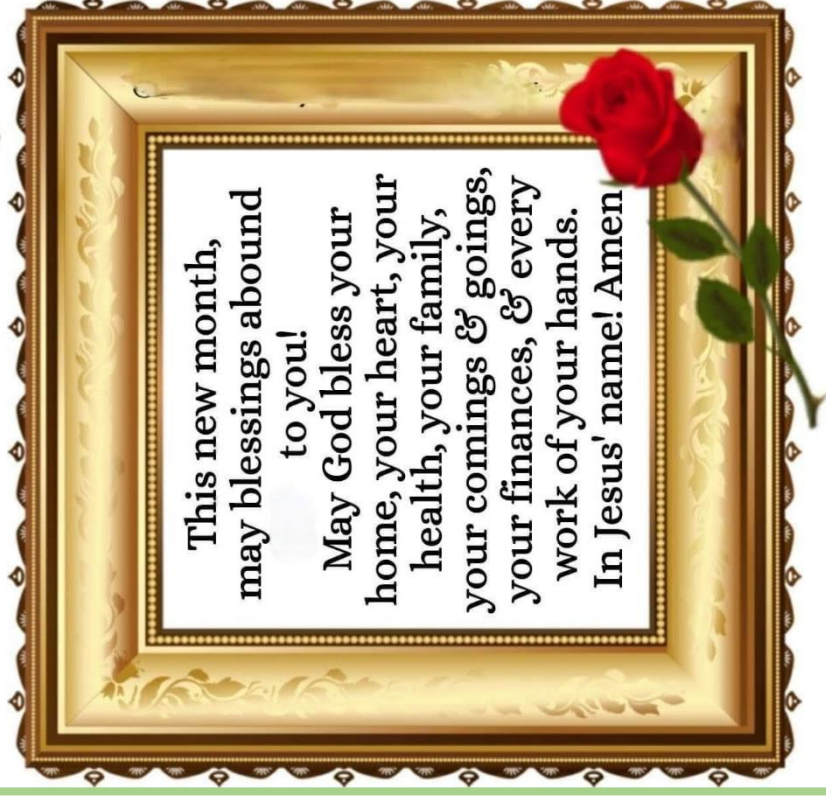
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SPENCERPORT UCC
MAY 2023**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Town & Country (3205 Chili Ave.)	Bible Study - 7 p.m.: Exploring the Old Testament	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal		
Fifth Sunday of Easter 7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am-Worship/ Sunday School/Lunch Bunch		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Slayton Place (26 Slayton Place)	Bible Study - 6 p.m.: Exploring the New Testament 7:00 pm – Zoom Finance Board Meeting	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal		Women's Guild – 9:30 am Meeting
Sixth Sunday of Easter 14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am-Worship 		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Steve's Original Diner (3240 Chili Ave) 6:30/7:00 pm – Council/Boards Meeting	6:30 pm -Monthly Staff Meeting  7:00 pm – Round Table Meeting	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal		
Seventh Sunday of Easter 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am-Worship/Sunday School		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Johnny D's (2139 N. Union St.)	Bible Study - 7 p.m.: Theme/Topic TBD.	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal		
Pentecost Sunday 28	Memorial Day 29	30	31			
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am-Worship/ Communion/ Strengthen the Church Offering 	**OFFICE CLOSED** 	9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Blue Ridge Grill (3400 W. Ridge Rd.)	Bible Study - 7 p.m.: Theme/Topic TBD.			

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

New Month Blessings



This new month,
may blessings abound
to you!
May God bless your
home, your heart, your
health, your family,
your comings & goings,
your finances, & every
work of your hands.
In Jesus' name! Amen!

May 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

