

HAVE A
BLESSED
September

THE BELL TOWER



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

Make it a
September
to
remember

September 2023 Newsletter



From the
Pastor's Heart



"Never give up on something that you can't go a day without thinking about."

~Winston Churchill

Mrs. Craddock was a faithful churchgoer. She took her children to church almost every Sunday. Because of all her church activities, on most Sunday afternoons, her husband would often complain about Sunday dinner being late. One day, the minister of the church called to speak with Mrs. Craddock. But Mr. Craddock answered the phone.

Mr. Craddock responded to the minister's request by saying, "I know what the church wants. Church doesn't care about me. Church just wants another name, another pledge, another name, another pledge. Isn't that the name of the game, Reverend?"

This was not just a one-time conversation; this was every time the minister called to speak with Mrs. Craddock. Whenever the church would have a revival or some sort of conference, Mrs. Craddock would always find herself in the church kitchen preparing meals for parishioners. But Mr. Craddock despised it. Mrs. Craddock would walk through the front door on pins and needles because she knew Mr. Craddock would be waiting on the sofa for her with a can in his hand wearing a white T-shirt with the same frown and verbal spill every time. "At that church again, huh! They just want another name, another pledge, another name, another pledge. That's the name of the game, dear."

One of their sons, Fred, said he must have heard it a thousand times throughout his childhood and young adult years. But there was one time when

Mr. Craddock did not say it. He was in the veteran's hospital, and he was down to about 73 pounds. They'd taken out his throat; put in metal tubes; and the X rays had just about burned him to pieces. His son, Fred, who was now an adult, had flown back home to visit with his dad. Mr. Craddock could not speak, nor could he eat. When Fred arrived at his dad's hospital room, he opened the door. When he opened the door...the smell...the aroma...the scent that smacked him in the face could only be compared to walking into flower shop. Fred looked around the room and there were plants, freshly cut flowers all on the windowsill and next to the bed. There was also a stack of sympathy cards about 20 inches deep next to his bed. Even on that food tray in front of Mr. Craddock, there was a little rose and a card with a handwritten message on it. Every card, every rose, and every arrangement in that room were from persons or groups from the church.

Mr. Craddock—being hooked up to all those machines, opened his eyes and saw his son, Fred (standing next to the bed), reading one of the cards. Mr. Craddock could not speak at all; so, with his trembling hands he took a Kleenex box (and a pen) and wrote on the side of it a line from Shakespeare. He wrote: *In this harsh world, draw your breath in pain to tell my story.* Fred (with tears welling up in his eyes) looked at his dad and said, "What is your story, daddy?"

And he wrote again three words that caused his son's heart to drop from his chest into the pit of his stomach; he wrote: *I was wrong.*

As people of faith, as parents, as spouses/partners, employees/employers, and as citizens of the earth, sometimes we may feel like our work is in vain. This is especially the case when, week after week, month after month, year after year, and in some cases, decade after decade, we are working toward something that yields little to no fruit. Sometimes it can feel as if our deeds are misunderstood, overlooked, unappreciated, and/or ineffective. I'm sure that's how some of the parishioners, Mrs. Craddock, and her minister felt (in the story above). But I want to remind you of the words of the first century theologian and philosopher Paul. He said in his letter to the churches in the region of Galatia, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up."

So, let me encourage you to never ever give up. Never ever give up on a wayward child that seems to continue to be lured off the straight and narrow path. Never ever give up on a relative that is struggling with an addiction or bad habit. Never ever give up on a spouse or partner—even if it appears that their love has grown cold. Never ever give up on your attempt to create a *just world for all*. Because at the proper *God-ordained* time, you will reap a harvest, if you don't give up. Amen!

Pastor Michael L. Sloan



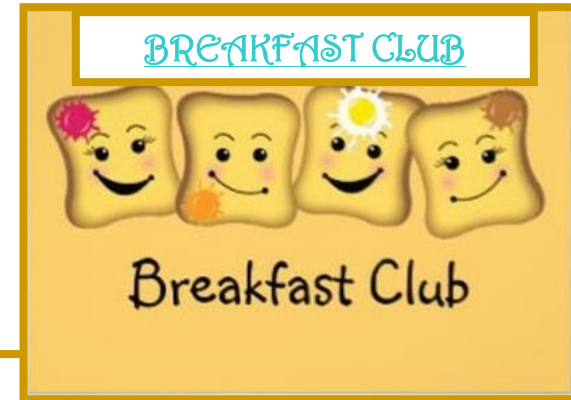
September 2023

FINANCE BOARD ZOOM MEETING

Wednesday, October 11th
@ 7:00 PM Via Zoom

COUNCIL AND BOARDS MEETINGS

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



SEPTEMBER DATES/LOCATIONS

September 19th - Steve's Original Diner (3240 Chili Ave)
September 26th - Johnny D's (2139 N. Union St.)



UPCOMING DATES:

Sunday, October 1st Lunch Bunch:
- First Anniversary Following
Worship Service (2-Soups & 1-Salad)

Saturday, October 14th @ 9:30 am: Meeting

Sunday, November 5th Lunch Bunch following worship service

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



Office Hours
Monday – Friday
9 am – 2 pm

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 20TH.

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

Special Thank You!
Hello everyone, Thank you all for your patience and my apologies that the Newsletter this month is later than normal. We are all reminded at times that the life we live is in the Lords hands and not our own. 😊
~ With Blessings & Love~
Paula



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!

SEPTEMBER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

September 2023

SEPTEMBER:

GREETERS:

17 – Sandy Saylor
24 – TBA

COFFEE HOUR:

17 – TBA
24 – TBA

USHERS:

17 – TBA
24 – TBA

LAY READERS:

17 – Ginny Worden
24 – Gwendolyn Tappenden

****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****

COOKIE THANK YOU FROM WOMEN'S GUILD!

Women's Guild would like to thank anyone that brought in or baked cookies for coffee hour. The freezer is full, and we appreciate you all!



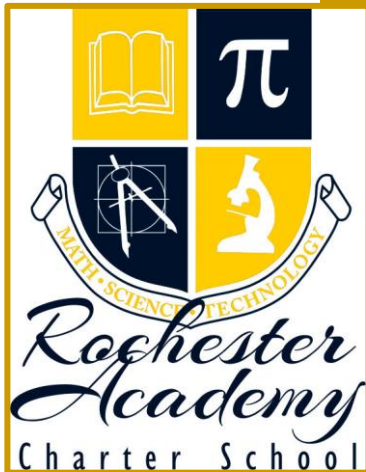
THANK YOU!

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!)*



RACS Partnership Update



In our continuing support, RACS received a check for \$1500 to be used to buy school supplies for the students.

Cindy Belfield, Principal, was most appreciative for the donation. The faculty packed book bags with the supplies for the first day of school.

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.



September 2023

FCC MUSIC MINISTRY

FCC CHOIR PRACTICE

September Choir Practices are Thursday, September 7th. & 21st.
@ 7:00 pm. Choir Practice will continue every other Thursday @ 7:00 pm.



PRAISE BAND

The Contemporary Christian band will continue to play at First Congregational Church of Spencerport, UCC, every other Sunday starting September 17th. Alternating Sundays of the Choir.

The members of the band include:

Mark Schott, guitar
Mark DiNitto, bass

Frank Holderfield, drums
Darcy Colby, vocals

MONTHLY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

September 2023

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

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.



UPDATES FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Money from the August Penny Jar plus a donation from Gobel Zabel fund enabled us to purchase 24 backpacks for the children at Willow House.

Also planning will begin shortly for adult programming that we will offer on topics of current interest. More details to follow.



Please wish a
Happy Anniversary To:

25th - Alison & Jesse Diehl – 41 YRS

Alison & Jesse, your Church Family
Wishes you a very Happy Anniversary!
Gods Blessings to you both!

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

FINANCE BOARD FINANCIAL REVIEW RESULTS

Our Financial Review Panel has completed their task of examining the records of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer finding everything in perfect order.

Kim Mowers, Don Darrohn, Char Schurkamp and Roger Schurkamp analyzed all income and outgo of monies, checked receipts and vouchers, verified bank deposits, transfers, and reconciliations with monthly financial reports filed.

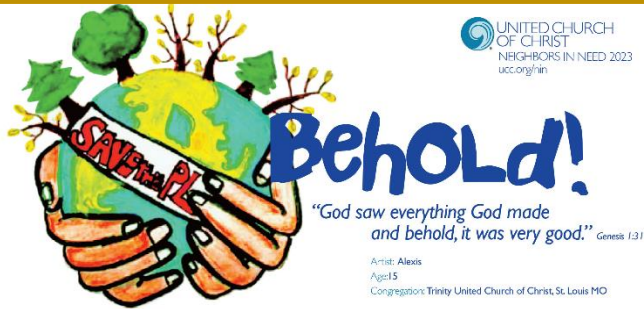
The panel made recommendations regarding financial document storage that our board is now working to implement.

A huge "Thank You"!
To these folks who worked so hard to get this done.

September 2023

CHRISTIAN ACTION

Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering



The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 1, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through our national Justice and Local Church Ministries office, <https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/justice-local-church-ministries/>, you can find resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Behold! With your assistance, we together can help our Neighbors in Need. Please give generously. And remember, contributions to Neighbors in Need can be made online at anytime: ucc.org/nin

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 Fruit, Canned Veggies, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Chunky soups, Stew, Hash, Chili, Boxed Potatoes, Boxed Stuffing, Jello, Coffee, Cold Drinks, Shampoo 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

September 2023



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SPENCERPORT UCC
SEPTEMBER 2023**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 3	Labor Day 4	OFFICE CLOSED 5	Office Hrs.: 9:30 – 2:30 6	Office Hrs.: 9:30 – 2:30 7	8	9
10:00 am-Worship/ Lunch Bunch		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Town & Country (3205 Chili Ave.) 7 pm - ALANON		7:00 pm Choir Practice		9:30 am – Women's Guild Prep Day for Pastoral Installation
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10	Office Hrs.: 9:00 – 2:00 11	Office Hrs.: 9:00 – 2:00 12	Office Hrs.: 9:00 – 2:00 13	Office Hrs.: 9:00 – 2:00 14	15	16
10:00 am-Worship Choir Singing 3:00 pm – Pastoral Installation Service- Rev. Sloan		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Slayton Place (26 Slayton Place) 7 pm - ALANON	7:00 pm – Zoom Finance Board Meeting			
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:00 am- Worship CC Band Playing	6-8 pm Rotary Meeting – Fellowship Hall	9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Steve's Original Diner (3240 Chili Ave) 6:30/7:00 pm – Council/Boards Meeting 7 pm - ALANON	September Newsletter Deadline 1:00 pm Ad Hoc Committee Meeting to plan homecoming. 6:30 pm -Monthly Staff Meeting 7:00 pm –Round Table Meeting	7:00 pm Choir Practice		
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:00 am-Worship Choir Singing	Happy Anniversary To: Alison & Jesse Diehl – 41 YRS	9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Johnny D's (2139 N. Union St.) 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
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**



September 2023