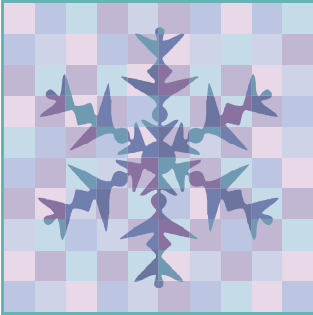


January -
February 2019



GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

Leslie's Musings

Leslie's Musings

January-February 2019

*For thus says the Lord:
I will extend prosperity to her like a river,
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream;
and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm,
and dandled on her knees. Isaiah 66:12 NRSV*

The hymnals are here! The new *Glory to God* hymnbooks, given in memory of Marla Maertin and other saints who have gone before, have arrived. One of my favorite features is that each includes the story of the hymn. For instance, the description for #623, says, "In the King James Version, the promise of 'peace like a river' is twice mentioned in Isaiah (48:18; 66:12) as a blessing that comes from doing God's will. The water imagery of this African American spiritual also provides reminders of Christians' baptismal identity." I love these little stories! It is my prayer, as we learn new hymns and relocate old favorites (for some of those cherished songs are also back) that you will find blessing and PEACE.

Peace, indeed, is our word for January (do you remember my newsletter article from way back in November? I'm reminding us of the various words that are the Fruit of the Spirit). Peace like a river—think of the mighty Niagara, with its vicious undertow, or the River Ganges, one of the most polluted places in the world. Peace—an absence of war or malice? Not in this lifetime, apparently. Peace—freedom from distress? Not among my circle of friends. Yet there it is: peace is a gift from the Spirit, raining down upon our lives, if we are willing to accept it. Not as a guarantee that God will "protect" us from all harm, but that God's presence, Emmanuel, God-with-us, will never forsake us.

Perhaps harder is February's word: patience. I learned long ago to never pray for patience, because that was surely a way for God to send obstacles my way! Honestly, I believe in practicing patience, just as I practice yoga: not so much that I'll ever perfect it, but that I will continue to learn new pathways to flexibility, strength, acceptance, and even love. So have patience when we're learning a new and maybe challenging hymn out of *Glory to God*; you may find, as many of us did with *Here I Am, Lord* a few years back, that YOU have a new favorite! (My most beloved 'new' hymn is *Come! Live in the Light/We Are Called*, #749, because it's based on Micah 6:8. And it's fun to sing.)

Remember, beloveds, that neither Peace nor Patience means that we become doormats, allowing others to trample us. Rather, we are better equipped to carry out the ministry that God has set forth for us, able to continue in the face of adversity and failure. Let me know what your experiences are with these two Fruit, and how they may be helpful to your faith journey.

And yes, I have some personal news to share as well. Last fall, I began dating Mike Donovan, our former custodian, and on Christmas Eve, after nearly all of you had gone home, in the quiet of the sanctuary, he asked me to be his wife. And so I will—next fall! We will keep you posted on details. Meanwhile, guard your peace, practice patience, and I will see you in church.

Love,

Leslie

Words from the Worship Ministry Team

January Worship 11AM

Sun, Jan 06 - 11a – “Epiphany of the Lord”; Worship with Pastor Leslie;

Sun, Jan 13 - 11a – “Baptism of the Lord”; Worship with Pastor Leslie;
-Communion by Intinction

Sun, Jan 20 - 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie;

Wed, Jan 16 - 6:30p - Healing Worship Service with Pastor Leslie

Sun, Jan 27 - 11a – Worship with Pastor Leslie

February Worship 11AM

Sun, Feb 03 - 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie;
-Communion by Intinction

Sun, Feb 10 - 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie;

Sun, Feb 17 - 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie;

Wed, Feb 20 - 6:30pm - Healing Worship Service

Sun, Feb 24 - 11a - Worship with Guest at the Pulpit



Memorial Flowers

Starting on January 1, 2019, the cost of the memorial flower arrangements has increased to \$35.00. This is due to the rising cost of materials.

Contact Laura Marohn for details or to schedule a date for your memorial flower arrangement.



****Come & join the Worship Ministry Team! A great way to use your gifts behind the scenes! We need your input! Informal! Usually the 1st or 2nd Thursday just before choir! Next meeting is JANUARY 10TH AT 6PM**



In order that our "Continuing Prayers" list in the bulletin is current, each 1st Sunday of the month it will be blank – waiting to receive your requests for that month. This way we will have an update on who & how our prayers are needed.

USHERS!

We are reviewing the TEAMS, looking for more volunteers and will have a planned date (with food) to go over the responsibilities. Please consider sharing this gift of service with your church family.

See Janet Haacker to sign up and for more details!

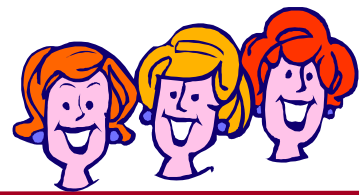
WMT Members:

Co-Chairs: Elders Mary Ferro and Pat Loeswick;
Jane Crossan, Kurt Ebsary, Janet Haacker, Shirley Hagle, and Janet Schurr.

Spiritual Advisor: Pastor Leslie Latham

MANY THANKS to the many donors who supported our efforts to get new *very comfy* chairs for the parlor, and new hymnals for the sanctuary.

All to the Glory of God!



Upcoming Circle II Sales

- "Welcome Spring Sale" - Wednesday, April 3, 2019**
- "Month of May Sale" - Wednesday, May 1, 2019**
- "Joyful June Sale" - Wednesday, June 5, 2019**
- "Early Autumn Sale" - Wednesday, September 4, 2019**

Please remember items you no longer need are still accepted. Please be sure they are in reusable and in clean condition. Please no electronics.

Presbyterian Women's Winter Gathering

February 2, 2019

Orchard Park Presbyterian Church

10:30am-1:00pm

"When We are Powerless"

(A look at gun violence and schools)

Cost - \$7.00

Sign up in the Narthex

Happy Birthday to our Church Family who celebrate their birthday in January and February.
Thank GOD For You!

January

- 5 Kevin Donovan
- 5 Ryan Barry
- 10 Larry Rayner
- 12 Alaric Hankinson
- 14 Ryan Tasevski
- 19 Kathy Evans
- 20 Marilee Mathias
- 24 Alice Ennis
- 27 John Faux
- 31 Katie Welch



February

- 7 Bob Eshelman
- 12 Nicholas Nolan
- 14 Wilma Bender
- 22 Juliana Haacker
- 28 Ann Drapo
- 28 David Charsley

Memory Lane Respite Program

As of this newsletter, the volunteers who participate in the Memory Lane Dementia Respite Program are old pros! We've met many wonderful people and experienced many different activities. We thought maybe our church family might be interested in exactly what our volunteers do each month. Perhaps this information might encourage others to get involved in this ministry.

- Greet at the parking lot and front door, helping with the elevator as needed
- Man the registration table and greet guests and caregivers
- Chat with the guests as they come in, along with their 1-to-1 companions
- Help set up and break down activities such as the craft, the games, bingo
- Participate in those same activities: make the craft, play the game, play bingo, sing in the sing-along, interact with the therapy animal, do the chair exercises
- Help serve lunch, eat with the guests, help clean up after lunch
- Help clean up and return the kitchen, parlor and dining room to their usual state
- Help the guests get ready to leave and speak with caregivers as they arrive

In other words, interact with the guests in all their activities to provide them mental and social stimulation, and lend a hand wherever it is needed.

Volunteering for the program is very rewarding. You are helping to provide a much-needed rest for the caregivers, and providing social and mental stimulation for the guests. If you could hear the gratitude of the caregivers, you would realize how valuable and much-needed this ministry is. One of the caregivers told us that her husband likes the church programs the best because he feels welcome and cared for. God calls us to love and serve one another, and this program is just one of many ways we are answering that call. All are blessed who share their gifts of time, talent and treasure. And, as always, your prayers and monetary donations to help defray the cost of food and supplies are greatly appreciated.



patience



Deacon's Notes

Tonawanda Schools Holiday Party Food Drive

The Deacons would like to thank everyone who donated food, money or their time to the Holiday Party Food Drive. Your donations are much appreciated. We were able to provide 75 bags of food. Thank you for making this event a success.

Charlie Brown Mitten Tree

The Deacons would like to thank all those crafty people who generously donated handmade and purchased hats, scarves, and mittens for the kids in the Tonawanda School District. Your help is much appreciated.

Hunger Sunday: January 20 and February 17

Don't forget that the third Sunday of the month is **Hunger Sunday**. Food and cash donations are welcome and proceeds are donated to the Twin Cities Community Outreach. Thank you for your support! Many thanks to Donna and Bruce Blinston for delivering the food to the food pantry every month.



Tonawanda School Mission Project

School is back in session after the holidays and the Deacons are teamed up with the Tonawanda Elementary Schools again to provide much needed clothing to needy children. Either a monetary donation or clothing donation is acceptable. A list of needed clothing items is posted in the Narthex. There is also a tote in the Narthex where you can drop off any donations. Please see Jane Crossan or Leslie Dugan with any questions you may have. Thank You For Your Continued Support!

ADOPT-A-CHAIR

The church is collecting funds to purchase new, comfortable folding chairs to be used in the parlor with the round tables. The cost is \$20.00 each and checks can be made payable to 1st Presbyterian Church and indicate on the memo line, "chairs." Tom and Leslie Dugan have graciously offered to pick up the chairs at Sam's Club. Any questions, see Laura Marohn or Leslie Dugan.



January New Beginnings Worship Circle

On January 6 at 9:30am, we will meet in the parlor once again for a fifteen minute Worship Circle before Sunday School class begins. See you there.

Christian Education Meeting:

Monday, January 28 - 6pm

Monday, February 11 - 6pm

(Parents & Teachers are always welcome)

Youth Usher:

January 13

February 10



Youth Group Events

February 16 - February 19

Youth Group Mission Trip to Philadelphia - See Billy Welch for details.

Bible Study Class

“God’s Promise, I Am With You”

Join our Bible Study on the 4th Sunday of each month, from October - June. Each lesson is complete in the one day. If you missed the first lesson, it does not matter. Just join us the next month. You may want to bring a sandwich because we meet right after the worship service. Any questions, contact Nancy Bassett.

Mission and Outreach Committee

Distinguished Speaker Series: Wednesday, January 23 at 7pm in the Parlor

Come and meet Amy Betros from St. Luke’s Mission in Buffalo. She will talk about her faith journey and how she came to start her mission at St. Luke’s.

Basket Raffle and Chili Sale: Saturday, February 23 from 12pm-3pm

There will be a Basket Raffle and Chili Sale to benefit the mission trip to Puerto Rico. Mission and Outreach Committee is asking for people to donate baskets that can be raffled that day. In order to make this event a success, it is important that we receive a number of baskets and that you tell your friends/relatives about this event. Further details will be forthcoming. Betsy Crocker can be contacted for further information. Please help make this event a success.

Music Notes ~ January and February

Annual Epiphany Concert - Dedicated to the memory of Marla Maertin

Join us for an evening of vocal and instrumental music from our choir and hand bell choir, along with other musical ensembles from local churches. This is a free concert and open to the public.

Sunday, January 6 at 6pm
St. Francis of Assisi Church
150 Broad Street, Tonawanda

Choir Rehearsal: 7:30pm

January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
February 7, 14, 21, 28

Hearts4Worship Rehearsal:

6:30pm

January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
February 7, 14, 21, 28

A Stephen Ministry Message by Janet Haacker



“Be tenderhearted, be courteous....that you may inherit a blessing.

1Peter 3:8-9

“Inevitably, when we stand strong, & alone like a steer in a blizzard, looking like we can make it on our own, we easily forget that each life – sustaining beat of our hearts is a gift from God – we’re really not that independent after all.

We not only need the Lord, we need each other. That need only intensifies when the barometer of life drops to the bottom of the gauge – when the winds of adversity blow hard against our souls. We cannot make it on our own!” Charles Swindoll

Rather than face the “cold hard wind” alone, please consider allowing a Stephen Minister to “warmly wrap” you in God’s love & promises.

For a confidential conversation and more information, please contact Pastor Leslie at (490-0420) or Janet Haacker at (694-4290).

Worship Assistants

Greeters: January

6 Laura Marohn & Nathan Harrington
13 Bob & Diane Eshelman
20 Ina Charsley
27 John Faux

Greeters: February

3 Nancy Dietrich
10 John Faux
17 Cheryl Yurek & Family
24 Tom & Leslie Dugan

Liturgists: January

6 Sue Schurr
13 Billy Welch
20 Nancy Rolando
27 Tom Dugan

Liturgists: February

3 Joya Palermo
10 Diane Charsley
17 Nancy Bassett/Pat Loeswick
24 Nathan Harrington

Coffee Hour: January

6 Nancy Dietrich
13 Joya Palermo
20 Laura Marohn & Nathan Harrington
27 Cheryl Yurek

Coffee Hour: February

3
10
17 Cheryl Yurek
24

Ushers: January

6 Team 4
13 Team 1
20 Team 2
27 Team 3

Ushers: February

3 Team 4
10 Team 1
17 Team 2
24 Team 3

Usher Teams

-Team 1(Youth)

William Welch, Jessica Schurr, Kelsey Burns

-Team 2

Mary Ferro, Tom Dugan, Leslie Dugan, John Faux,
Linda Barry

-Team 3

Randy Marohn, Bill Haley, Bonnie Zimmer, John
Greth, Larry Rayner

-Team 4

Brian Burns, Diane Charsley, Alvin Marohn,
Laura Marohn

January 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Office Closed	2	3 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p Worship 6p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	4 UFO 7P	5
6 Sunday School 9:30a New Beginnings Worship in Parlor Worship 11a Epiphany Concert 6p St. Francis Church	7 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p	8 Deacons 1p	9	10 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	11 UFO 7P	12
13 Sunday School 9:30a Worship/Communion 11a	14 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p	15 Memory Lane 10:30a	16 Healing Service 6:30p	17 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	18 UFO 7P	19
20 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	21 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p Office Closed	22	23 Distinguished Speakers Series 7p Amy Betros from St. Luke's Mission	24 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	25 UFO 7P	26
27 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Bible Study 12:15p	28 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p CE Mtg 6p Session Mtg 7p	29	30	31 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p		

Ministry Team Chairs, Deacons, Church School, Presbyterian Women & Circle groups – it is your responsibility to submit announcements and/or information on events or meetings to the office by the following date if you wish them to be published.

March-April Newsletter Articles DUE: February 17, 2019

Announcements for the weekly bulletin must be submitted to the office by Tuesday before Noon, preferable by email, to be included in the following Sunday's bulletin.



February 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 UFO 7p	2
3 Sunday School 9:30a Worship/Communion 11a	4 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p	5 Deacons 1p	6	7 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p Worship 6p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	8 UFO 7p	9
10 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	11 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p CE Mtg 6p Session 7p	12	13	14 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	15 UFO 7p	16 Youth Group Mission Trip to Philadelphia
17 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	18 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p Office Closed	19 Memory Lane 10:30a-2:30p	20 Healing Service 6:30p	21 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	22 UFO 7p	23 Basket Raffle & Chili Sale 12pm-3pm
24 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Bible Study 12:15p	25 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p	26	27	28 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p		

REMINDER: All church groups, ministry teams and deacons need to complete a Year-end report and submit it to the church office no later than Sunday, February 3, 2019.





Elders

Class of 2019

Linda Barry, Diane Charsley, Pat Loeswick,
Nancy Rolando

Class of 2020

Tom Dugan, Betsy Crocker

Class of 2021

Laura Marohn, Mary Ferro

Deacons

Class of 2019

Donna Blinston, Jane Crossan, Leslie Dugan,
Lynette Ryan

Class of 2020

Judy Geerkin, Alvin Marohn, Marlene Tyrrell

Class of 2021

Lynn Hyland

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January-February 2019
