

March-April
2019



GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

Leslie's Musings

Leslie's Musings

March-April 2019

Let the kindness of our Lord God be over us.

Make the work of our hands last! Psalm 90:17, Common English Bible

Forbearance and kindness. Excellent words for Lent, I believe. Lent is a season of fasting—either actual physical refraining from particular foods (coffee or chocolate), or from particular acts, as we enter into a time of introspection. God help me, every year, I choose a fast from resentment. God willing, every year it's better, but still that nasty sin creeps into my life. It did just today, now that I think about it. Stupid.

But forbearance, our Fruit of the Spirit for March, means patient self-control or restraint. Maybe Lent is not only a time to fast from our sins, but a time of being a little less hard on ourselves—so that we have more joy and love to offer the world? But forbearance also carries a tone of tolerance toward others. I've thought a lot about why people lash out at others, and often the reason is that they're experiencing pain. If we can forbear from resentment or indignation, maybe we can ask a couple gentle questions that might help someone excavate their pain, and start on the road to healing. Will it work every time? Of course not. But what if it does, just once?

Which of course leads right into kindness, the Fruit for April. The word in Hebrew, *chesed* (חֶסֶד) carries deep meaning—lovingkindness, steadfastness, mercy, grace, loyal love—they are all wrapped up into those three Hebrew letters that exhibit the fullest nature of God's love for the world. Kindness is allowing another driver to turn, but kindness is more like refraining from all evil—exemplifying Jesus Christ in every aspect of our lives. As I think about Lent's command to examine our lives—inner and outer—that thought makes me flinch a bit. Kindness is not always my first reaction; sometimes it takes a real effort. The more we practice, the easier it comes. If we look at the verse from Psalm 90: when we allow God's kindness to guide us, our impact of kindness grows deeper. Thanks be to God!

The Book of Psalms is a wonderful repository of the depths of human emotion: from joyous exuberant praise to loathing and outright hatred (sometimes in the period of a few verses). During Lent, on Wednesday evenings we'll delve into some of the psalms, and learn to use them more effectively in our prayer lives as well as our daily lives. We gather at 6 for some delicious soup and a little dessert, then we spend about an hour in our talk and study. I hope you'll join us, starting on March 13 until April 10. It's a drop-in class, so come when you can.

So March with forbearance, and when April arrives, exhibit as much Christly kindness as ever you can. Don't flinch, but examine your inner self boldly and with grace toward yourself. Meanwhile, I'll see you in church.

Love, Leslie

Words from the Worship Ministry Team

March Worship 11AM

“He will teach us His ways, & we shall walk in His paths.” Micah 4:2

Sun, Mar 3 - 11a - “Transfiguration Sunday”; Worship with Pastor Leslie;

- Communion by Intinction

Wed, Mar 6 - 7:15p - Ash Wednesday; Worship with Pastor Leslie;

- Communion by Intinction/Ashes

****Sundays in LENT - 8:30am Short Lenten Worship/Communion-Parlor**

Sun, Mar 10 - 11a - *DAYLIGHT SAVINGS! Worship with Pastor Leslie;

- Congregational meeting

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

Wed, Mar 20 - 6:30p - Healing Worship Service with Pastor Leslie

Sun, Mar 24 - 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie

Sun, Mar 31 - 11a - “Many Shades of Healing” Worship with Pastor Leslie

April Worship 11AM

“Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you & gave Himself up for us.” Eph 5:2

****Sundays in LENT - 8:30am Short Lenten Worship/Communion-Parlor**

Sun, Apr 7 - 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie; Communion by Intinction

Sun, Apr 14 - 11a - PALM SUNDAY; Worship with Pastor Leslie;

Wed, Apr 17 - 6:30p - Healing Worship Service with Pastor Leslie

Thurs, Apr 18 - 7:15p - Maundy Thursday; Worship with Pastor Leslie

- Communion by Intinction

Sun, Apr 21 - 10a - EASTER Worship with Pastor Leslie; Communion by Intinction

Sun, Apr 28 - 11a - “Holy Humor Sunday”; Worship with Pastor Leslie

Forbearance

**Reminder: March 10
Annual Congregational Meeting
Right after worship**

Kindness



Please join the WMT on March 24th for a POT LUCK Dinner directly after worship for a fun review of all the various ministry gifts we share as Greeters, Liturgists, Ushers, Acolytes, Communion Servers. Bring your favorite "Shareable" pot-luck concoction & place setting! Beverages, bread/butter provided.



****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 March 7TH AT 6PM**



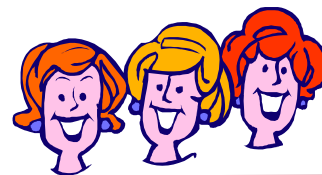
In order that our "Continuing Prayers" list in the bulletin is current, each 1st Sunday of the month it will be blank – waiting to receive your requests for that month. This way we will have an update on who & how our prayers are needed.

WMT Members:

Co-Chairs: Elders Mary Ferro and Pat Loeswick;

**Members: Jane Crossan, Kurt Ebsary, Janet Haacker,
Shirley Hagle, and Janet Schurr.**

Spiritual Advisor: Pastor Leslie Latham



**Presbyterian Women's
Bread & Soup Luncheon
Sunday, March 10
Following the Annual Meeting**

If you bring a crockpot of your special recipe, your meal is free.

Adults: \$5.00

Youth: (8-13) \$3.00

Kids 7 & under: Free

Sign-up sheet in
the Narthex

**"Welcome Spring Sale"
Wednesday, April 2, 2019**

10am-1:30pm

Lunch 11am-12:30pm

Ham Noodle Casserole

Fresh Baked Pie and Beverage

Cost: \$6.00 (Takeout \$6.50)

**Church Women United
World Day of Prayer Celebration:
Friday, March 1 @ 1pm
Salem United Church of Christ
149 Morgan Street, Tonawanda**

Program - Honoring Women of Slovenia,
"Come, Everything is Ready"

**Church Women United
May Friendship Breakfast
Friday, May 3 @ 9:30am
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
3921 Mapleton Road
N. Tonawanda**

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

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

March

4 Adam Liberti
6 Diane Eshelman
10 Kevin Martinelli
10 Hannah Vecchio
19 Doris Carlson
20 Janet Haacker
20 Charles Erikson
22 Mary Ferro



April

2 Mike Nolan	12 Gianna Gately
3 Tony Liberti	14 Doris DeCillis
7 Nathan Harrington	15 Jackie Rexford
10 Karen Bennett	16 Zachary Nolan
11 Walter Benzino	18 Morgan Vittum
11 Theresa Rayner	27 Nancy Rolando
	28 Sue Schurr

Memory Lane Respite Program

If you've wondered exactly what we've done in this ministry, here is some info you:

Therapy animals: a terrier, a poodle, a black lab, a stubby-tailed cat, a golden retriever

Games: pool noodles/balloons (everyone really loves this one!), bean bag tosses, lawn darts, lawn bowling, sensory bags

Crafts: decorate pumpkins, make prayer beads, decorate picture frames, make turkeys, decorate Christmas cookies, complete photos & frames and wrap as Christmas gifts for family, make pine cone bird feeders (really messy with the peanut butter!)

Special guests: painting with Janet Bearfield, chair exercise with Carolyn Zimmermann (the Thursday night yoga teacher), a barbershop quartet

Bingo: standard boards, Thanksgiving boards, Christmas boards (this activity is a favorite with everyone!)

Chair exercise: driving a car, cooking, participating in the Olympics, "staying flexible" workout, yoga/tai chi

Lunch: pasta salad, chicken ala king, lasagna, turkey dinner, beef stew, penne pasta with sauce, meatloaf

Singing: old favorites, dance music (yes, there is sometimes dancing!), "what's the next word in the first line of lyrics?", Christmas carols, "what's your favorite song?" (with Alexa),

Be creative and keep your mind active: word searches, coloring, painting, dominoes, Play-Doh

There was a worship service on February 24th in which the Memory Lane gang provided more information and insight into this quiet little ministry that is making a BIG impact on the lives of its participants – guests, caregivers and volunteers alike!!

This is just a brief idea of the types of things we do at the program. We always try to provide a variety of activities for our guests so they have fun and their minds and bodies are engaged. There are lots of smiles and hugs and even tears sometimes. Those of us who volunteer have just as much fun as our guests! We would encourage anyone to come and observe (and maybe help out a bit, if you want). If you want more info or have questions, please speak with someone on the organizing team – Kathy Greenawalt, Judy Winters, Janet Haacker, Pastor Leslie, Marilee Mathias.

Kindness

Shrove Tuesday: Tuesday, March 5 - 6pm

Pancake Dinner and Burning of the Palms

On Fat Tuesday, we burn last year's palms to make Ash Wednesday's ashes. If you'd like to participate, dress warm because we will be outside first and then we'll come inside and have some delicious pancakes and breakfast meat. All are welcome.



Deacon's Notes

Memorial Easter Flowers

The Deacons will be selling assorted Easter plants to honor loved ones. Orders will be taken on March 24, March 31 & April 7. Further details will follow.



Ash Wednesday Potluck Dinner and Worship:

On Wednesday, March 6, there will be a Potluck Dinner at 6pm followed by worship with communion at 7:15pm. Bring a dish to share.

Lenten Soup & Study Series: The Book of Psalms

Starting on Wednesday, March 13, there will be a Soup & Study time in the parlor every Wednesday during Lent beginning at 6pm. Sign-up in the Narthex to bring a soup or bread to share and plan to come for fellowship and Lenten study.



Maundy Thursday Potluck Dinner and Worship:

On Thursday, April 18, there will be a Potluck Dinner at 6pm followed by worship with communion at 7:15pm. Bring a dish to share.

Hunger Sunday: March 17 and April 21

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

Thank you for your continued support with this ongoing mission project. The Deacons are continuing to provide much needed clothing to needy children in the Tonawanda Schools. 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.



New Beginnings Worship Circle - Palm Sunday

On April 14, we will meet in the parlor once again for a fifteen minute Worship Circle before Sunday School class begins. See you there.

**No Sunday
School on
April 21.**



Christian Education Meeting:

Monday, March 18 - 6pm

Monday, April 15 - 6pm

(Parents & Teachers are always welcome)

Bible Study Class: 12:15pm

March 31 & April 28

“God’s Promise, I Am With You”

The Confirmation Journey Begins

A group of young people have begun their exploration into what it means to be a faithful baptized member of the particular body of Christ: First Pres Tonawanda. Each confirmand has a mentor, with whom they meet, talk about faith, and build bonds. The group meets most Sundays after church, first gathering around a meal, and then delving into the Big Questions of baptism. The curriculum is focused on preparing youth to authentically answer the traditional membership questions:

- Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?
- Who is your Lord and Savior?
- Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple obeying his word and showing his love?
- Will you devote yourself to the church’s teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?

The students, mentors and teachers ask you to please pray for all of us during this journey. Additionally, if you would like to provide a meal (generally for 18 people), please let Pastor Leslie know. Thanks!

Mission and Outreach Team

Distinguished Speaker Series: Wednesday, March 27 at 7pm in the Parlor

Leeland Jones, MD has been invited to speak about addiction. He is a psychiatrist and founder of Crossroads Wholeness.

The Mission and Outreach Team would like to thank everyone for their support in the way of basket donations, monetary donations, raffle gifts, baked goods, crockpots of chili, etc. for the Basket Raffle. Many thanks to all the hard working volunteers. The event was a huge success and raised \$1,500 for the Puerto Rican Mission.

Music Notes—March and April

Choir Rehearsal: 7:30pm

March	7, 14, 21, 28
April	4, 11, 25

Hearts4Worship Rehearsal: 6:30pm

March	7, 14, 21, 28
April	4, 11, 25

A Stephen Ministry Message by Janet Haacker



The STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE STILL AROUND !

Although we haven't had many one-on-one requests, the Stephen Ministers are continuing to share their training & experience with our *MEMORY LANE* program.

"Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you & gave Himself up for us." Ephesians 5:2

"God has not designed us to live like hermits in a cave. He has designed us to live in friendship & fellowship & community with others.

That's why the church, the body of Christ, is so very important, for it is there that we are drawn together in love & mutual encouragement.

We're meant to be a part of one another's lives!" Charles Swindoll

It is through our calling to be God's comfort to others, that we have moved into a new dimension of our ministry. However, we are **ALWAYS** ready to be **your** personal companion to again find God's love in difficult times. Just place a confidential call to either Pastor Leslie at (490-0420) or Janet Haacker at (694-4290)

Safe Church Training: Saturday, March 16 from 10am-3pm

Session is offering this program and it is recommended that the following people attend this training who:

- work with children (teacher, volunteer, mentor or advisor)
- Work with vulnerable people (Memory Lane volunteers)
- Are concerned about the safety of children and vulnerable people in our church.

This program is being offered free to anyone who wishes to come. Registration is required by March 11 - lunch will be provided. There will be a free will offering. Contact Pastor Leslie with questions.

Worship Assistants

Greeters: March

3 Jane Crossan
10 John Faux
17 Ina Charsley
24 Shirley Hagle & Bonnie Zimmer
31 Pat Loeswick & Ryan Tasevski

Greeters: April

7 Cheryl Yurek & Family
14 Nancy Dietrich
21 Laura & Alvin Marohn
28 Mary Ferro

Liturgists: March

3 Alvin Marohn
10 Tom Dugan
17 Diane Charsley
24 Bonnie Zimmer
31 Nancy Bassett

Liturgists: April

7 Billy Welch
14 Janet Haacker
21 Mackintosh Barker
28 Marilee Mathias

Coffee Hour: March

3 Diane & Bob Eshelman
10 Jane Crossan & Nancy Dietrich
17
24 Potluck Luncheon
31

Coffee Hour: April

7 Cheryl Yurek
14
21 No Coffee Hour
28

Ushers: March

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

Ushers: April

7 Team 1
14 Team 2
21 Team 3
28 Team 4

Usher Teams

-Team 1

William Welch, Jessica Schurr, Alvin & Laura Marohn, Nathan Harrington, and Mary Ferro

-Team 2

Tom & Leslie Dugan, Jeremy Bearfield, Ryan Yurek, Shelby Bearfield, and Pat Loeswick

-Team 3

Randy Marohn, John Greth, J. William Haley, Linda Barry, Joya Palermo, and Ryan Tasevski

-Team 4

Brian Burns, Kelsey Burns, Kaitlyn Burns, Diane Charsley, John Faux, and Bonnie Zimmer

March 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 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner & Burning of the Palms	6 Ash Wednesday Circle II 9a Potluck Dinner 6p Communion Worship 7:15p	7 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p Worship 6p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	8 UFO 7p	9
10 Daylight Savings Time Lenten/Communion Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Annual Meeting 12p PW Soup & Bread Luncheon following Meeting	11 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p	12	13 Circle II 9a Lenten Soup & Study 6p	14 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	15 UFO 7p	16 Safe Church Training: 10a-3p
17 Lenten/Communion Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	18 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p CE Mtg 6p Session 7p	19 Memory Lane 10:30a-2:30p	20 Circle II 9a Healing Service 6:30p Lenten Soup & Study 6p	21 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	22 UFO 7p	23
24 Lenten/Communion Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Potluck Meeting 12:15pm	25 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p	26	27 Circle II 9a Lenten Soup & Study 6p Distinguished Speakers Series: 7p Dr. Leeland Jones	28 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	29 UFO 7p	30
31 Lenten/Communion Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Bible Study 12:15p	Reminder: Daylight Savings time begins on Sunday, March 10. Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour.					



April 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p	2 Deacons 1p	3 "Welcome Spring Sale" 10:a-1:30p Lenten Soup & Study 6p	4 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p Worship 6p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	5 UFO 7p	6
7 Lenten/Communion Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship/Communion 11a	8 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p	9	10 Circle II 9a Lenten Soup & Study 6p	11 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	12 UFO 7p	13
14 Lenten/Communion Worship 8:30a Palm Sunday Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	15 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p CE Mtg 6p Session 7p	16 Memory Lane 10:30a-2:30p	17 Circle II 9a Healing Service 6:30p	18 Maundy Thursday AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p Potluck Dinner 6p Communion Worship 7:15p	19 UFO 7p	20
21 Easter Sunday Worship 10a	22 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p Office Closed	23	24 Circle II 9a	25 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	26 UFO 7p	27
28 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Bible Study 12:15p	29 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p	30				

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.

May-June Newsletter Articles DUE: April 15, 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.



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

First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, NY 14150-2111

Phone: (716) 692-1319

E-mail: church@firstprestona.org

Web address: www.firstprestona.org

DATED MATERIAL
Good News Gazette
March-April 2019
