

March-April
2020



GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

Leslie's Musings

Leslie's Musings

March-April 2020

Forgiving God—

Empty me of my self-sufficient ways and hopes and pour into me your spirit of repentance. Create within me the unquenchable desire to forgive even as I have been forgiven by you. Lead me to the depths of my heart, where I can ponder the nature of your holy love and the unbelievable happiness of freedom from sin. ~ From An Improbable Gift of Blessing, by Maren C. Tirabassi & Joan Jordan Grant

Lent is very tidy this year, starting on March 1. Well, that's not true. The date is correct, but Lent is never tidy. It's a time of deep contemplation and sacrificial living, and there's nothing tidy about that. As I mentioned recently, I force myself to confront my resentment every year. As I've aged, it has lessened, but really? Why won't Jesus just excise that black spot out of my heart, like a skilled surgeon who cleans out a tumor? Why do I hold onto that particular sin so tightly?

It might be that sin is quite a bit like cancer cells—they are pernicious and often return, sometimes after years of clean scans. But at least I as a sinner have a choice of *how* I can deal with my sin. I choose to pray, contemplate, and confront. Sometimes my reaction is grace—toward the object of my resentment and myself. I have to lean on Jesus and follow where he leads me.

What do you need to sacrifice this Lent? Perhaps a fast from the usual suspects—chocolate, social media, or coffee—is helpful. But what really gets in the way of your discipleship? Maybe one of the seven deadly sins is your obstacle to God's grace. Take time, every day if you can, for quiet contemplation and prayer. Use a devotional first thing in the morning.

Lent allows us to face sin fearlessly. Although we must confess, when we repent God's grace allows us a fresh start. Isn't that amazing? Our sin, unless we reach back to take it up again (why do we do this?), is cleared away, just like dirty dishes after dinner. The Table is ready for another delicious meal to nourish us.

Like any transitional time, the work can be unpleasant, but necessary. We grow by looking fearlessly at our mistakes, repenting, moving on. Holy Week may be the hardest of that time, but without crucifixion, how can we receive the joy of Easter?

Our Wednesday soup and studies in the parlor will aid this journey, as we read the revised version of a beloved Presbyterian classic: ***Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life***. I hope you'll join us at 6 each week, and sign up to make your favorite soup, as we learn and grow together.

Know how very much you are loved, beloved children of God. A blessed Lent (and Easter) to you.

Love, Leslie

Words from the Worship Ministry Team

“And be sure of this:

I am with you always, even to the end of age.” Matt.28:20b

March Worship 11AM

**Morning LENTEN Worship with Communion,
including Palm Sunday, in the Parlor at 8:30a.
All are welcome!**

Sun, Mar 01st 11a - 1st Sunday in Lent - Worship with Pastor Leslie;

Communion by Intinction; Congregational Annual Meeting to follow

Daylight Savings in effect! Sun, Mar 08th 11a - 2nd Sunday in Lent - Worship with Pastor Leslie; Stay for a Pot Luck Lunch/PuttPutt

Sun, Mar 15th 11a - 3rd Sunday in Lent - Worship with Pastor Leslie

Wed, Mar 18th 6:30p - Healing Worship Service with Pastor Leslie

Sun, Mar 22nd 11a - 4th Sunday in Lent - Worship with Pastor Leslie

Sun, Mar 29th 11a - 5th Sunday in Lent – “Worship focus on The Lord’s Prayer”
with Pastor Leslie

April Worship 11AM

Sun, Apr 05th 11a – PALM SUNDAY - Worship with Pastor Leslie; Communion by Intinction

Thurs, Apr 09th 7:15p - Maundy Thursday Worship/Communion following Pot Luck dinner at 6p

Sun, Apr 12th 10a- EASTER SUNDAY - Worship with Pastor Leslie; Communion by Intinction

Wed, Apr 15th 6:30p – Healing Worship service with Pastor Leslie

Sun, Apr 19th 11a – “Holy Humor” Worship with Pastor Leslie

Sun, Apr 26th 11a - Worship with Elder Mark Aquino

**Reminder: Sunday, March 1st
Annual Congregational Meeting
Right after worship**



PLEASE: The WMT needs **YOUR** help! Please consider learning how to set up for **COMMUNION**. It's very easy. It takes only a short amount of time/effort. Contact Shirley Hagle, Jane Crossan, Pat Loeswick or Janet Haacker for the instructions and/or shadowing opportunity. Please help!

****PLEASE 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 of the month. Check the bulletin for the date!**

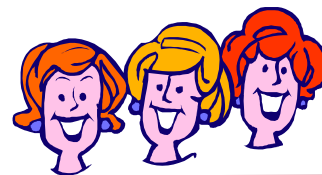
All **AGES** are welcome to become an
ACOLYTE.



Check with Janet Schurr for more information.

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



“Welcome Spring Sale”

Wednesday, April 1, from 10am-1pm

Lunch 11am-12:30pm

Sloppy Joe, Fresh Baked Pie and Beverage

Cost: \$6.00 (Takeout \$6.50)

Proceeds to benefit local charities.

Mark your Calendar:

“Month of May Sale”

Wednesday, May 6

10am-1pm

Lunch 11am-12:30pm

Stay tuned for more details

Church Women United Of the Tonawandas

“World Day of Prayer Celebration”

Friday, March 6 at 1pm

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

61 Payne Avenue, N. Tonawanda

Topic: “Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk”

In Honor of the country of Zimbabwe

All women are invited to attend.

Contact Donna Blinston with questions.

Mark your Calendar:

Presbyterian Women's

Spring Gathering

Saturday, May 2 at 10am

Deerhurst Presbyterian Church

257 Deerhurst Blvd, Ton.

Topic:

“Restorative Justice”

Cost: \$7.00 for lunch

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

Please no electronics.

Reminder: Daylight Savings Time

Begins on Sunday, March 8th

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead



Deacon's Notes



Memorial Easter Flowers

The Deacons will be selling assorted Easter plants to honor loved ones again this year before and after worship on March 8 and 15. The cost per plant is \$10.00.

Hunger Sunday: March 15 & April 19

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. There is a list posted in the Narthex of the items that the food pantry is in need of. Many thanks to Donna and Bruce Blinston for delivering the food to the food pantry every month.



Tonawanda School Mission Project

The Deacons are continuing to provide much needed clothing to needy children in the Tonawanda Schools. The schools have expressed an extreme need for underwear—sizes are listed below.

Either a monetary donation or clothing donation is acceptable. There is also a tote in the Narthex located under the sign-up chart for Flowers. Thank you for your continued support for our ongoing mission. Please see Jane Crossan or Leslie Dugan with any questions you may have.

- Boys and Girls underwear: size 6 and size 8 @ one school
- Boys underwear 6-8, 10-12, 14-16 @ second school

Maundy Thursday Potluck Dinner and Worship:

On Thursday, April 9th there will be a Potluck Dinner at 6pm followed by worship with communion at 7:15pm. Bring a dish to share.



**MAUNDY
THURSDAY**

Tonawanda Schools Holiday Party

Once again, the Deacons will be participating in the 2020 holiday party in December. Thank you all for your generous donations for the past two years. As we receive more information from the schools, we will pass it on. We look forward to your participation in this year's party.

A STEPHEN MINISTRY MESSAGE

by Janet Haacker



With all that goes on in our church; with all the various teams, committees, & programs; with all the busy "outside church" lives we lead, your **STEPHEN MINISTERS** are still active in new ways to offer compassionate care to those in need.

The **STEPHEN MINISTRY PROGRAM** has been available here at First Presbyterian Church since 2000. Although the original concept for a one-on-one relationship has not been requested in some time, we have found another way to use our training. This involves joining with others to work in various activities with our Memory Lane guests.

The Stephen Ministers have the desire & willingness to serve you & those who need ***"love from Christ's heart to their heart through a STEPHEN MINISTER."***

Contact Pastor Leslie (490-0420) or Janet Haacker (694-4290) for a confidential conversation.

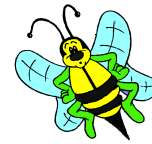


POTLUCK & PUTT PUTT LUNCHEON: Sunday, March 8

There will be a Potluck Luncheon on Sunday, March 8 right after worship in Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish or dessert to share and your own place setting. Then have some fun playing putt putt on our 9 hole indoor course at

"THE LINKS AT 1st PRES."

Bring a friend or better yet, a foursome!



Worship Circle: Sunday, April 5 at 9:30am

All the Sunday School kids are invited to attend the Worship Circle. Meet in the parlor at 9:30am with Nancy Bassett; we'll celebrate Palm Sunday!

Easter Eggstravagansa: Sunday, April 26 from 9am-10:30am

Come to this intergenerational event in Fellowship Hall. We will explore the symbols of Easter, make some crafts, have refreshments, play games, and sing songs. This event is for all ages, so everyone in the church is invited!

No Sunday School on April 12

Christian Education Meeting:

Monday, March 16 - 6pm

Monday, April 14 - 6pm

(Parents & Teachers are always welcome)

Adult Bible Study meets the 3rd Sunday of the month right after worship. All are welcome to join the class: Sunday, March 15 & Sunday, April 19.

Adult Sunday School meets every Sunday at 9:45am. All are welcome to come & join the class.

Happy Birthday to all the kids who celebrate their birthday in March and April!

March

4 Adam Liberti
20 Charles Erikson



April

7 Nathan Harrington
12 Gianna Gately
18 Morgan Vittum

Mission and Outreach Team

Service Trip to VIVÉ: Saturday, March 28 at 9:30am

The Mission and Outreach Team will be visiting VIVÉ and doing odd jobs to help support this mission. Everyone is invited to come along and help. Meet in the church parking lot. For more details, contact Betsy Crocker.

The Basket Raffle that was scheduled for March 21 has been postponed at this time.

Watch for details as to the new date and time.

New Town Hall Meeting Dates

Watch for upcoming dates and times for more Town Hall Meetings.

Music Notes - March and April



Hearts4Worship Rehearsal:

6:30pm

March: 5,12,19,26

April: 2,16, 23, 30

Choir Rehearsal: 7:30pm

March: 5,12,19,26

April: 2,16, 23, 30

As always, new members (or even sporadic drop-ins) are always most welcome!



Happy Birthday to our Church Family who celebrate their birthday in March and April.

Thank GOD For You!

March

6 Diane Eshelman
10 Kevin Martinelli
10 Hannah Vecchio
19 Doris Carlson
20 Janet Haacker
22 Mary Ferro

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

April

2 Mike Nolan
3 Tony Liberti
10 Karen Bennett
11 Walter Benzino
11 Theresa Rayner
14 Doris DeCillis
15 Jackie Rexford
16 Zachary Nolan
27 Nancy Rolando
28 Sue Schurr

Worship Assistants

Greeters: March

1 Diane & Bob Eshelman
8 Jane Crossan
15 Shirley Hagle & Bonnie Zimmer
22 Bonnie Sibley
29 Ina Charsley

Greeters: April

5 Nancy Dietrich
12 The Schurr Ladies
19 Steve & Joya Palermo
26 Bonnie Sibley

Liturgists: March

1 Tom Dugan
8 Sue Schurr
15 Billy Welch
22 Nancy Rolando
29 Nathan Harrington

Liturgists: April

5 Nancy Bassett
12 Sue Schurr
19 Marilee Mathias
26 Diane Charsley

Coffee Hour: March

1 Janet Haacker
8 No Coffee Hour
15 Bill & Janet Bearfield
22 Jane Crossan & Nancy Dietrich
29

Coffee Hour: April

5 Judy Winters & Jane Crossan
12 No Coffee Hour
19 Joya Palermo
26 Laura & Alvin Marohn & Nathan H.

Communion Servers: March 1st - 11am

Laura & Alvin Marohn & Nathan Harrington

Pew Server:

Communion Servers: April 5th - 11am

Mary Ferro, Linda Barry

Pew Server:

Easter Sunday: April 12th - 10am

Sue Schurr, Linda Barry, & Shelby Bearfield

Pew Server:

Ushers: March

1 Team 1
8 Team 2
15 Team 3
22 Team 4
29 Team 1

Ushers: April

5 Team 2
12 Team 3
19 Team 4
26 Team 1

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

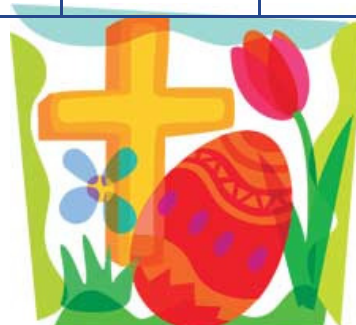
March 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Lenten Communion Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Annual Meeting after worship	2 AA 9a	3 Deacons 1p	4 Circle II 9a Soup & Studies 6p	5 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p Worship Team 6p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	6 UFO 7p Church Women United – 1pm	7
8 Lenten Communion Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Potluck Luncheon & Putt Putt 12:15p	9 AA 9a	10	11 Circle II 9a Soup & Studies 6p	12 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	13 UFO 7p	14
15 Lenten Communion Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	16 AA 9a CE 6p Session 7p	17 Memory Lane 10:30a	18 Circle II 9a Soup & Studies 6p Healing Service 6:30p	19 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	20 UFO 7p	21
22 Lenten Communion Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	23 AA 9a	24	25 Circle II 9a Soup & Studies 6p	26 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	27 UFO 7p	28 Mission & Outreach Service Trip To Vivé – 9:30a
29 Lenten Communion Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	30 AA 9a	31	*Daylight Savings Starts Sunday, March 8			

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, 2020

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.

April 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Circle II "Welcome Spring Sale" 10a-1p Soup & Studies 6p	2 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p Worship Team 6p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	3 UFO 7p	4
5 Lenten Communion Worship 8:30a Worship Circle 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	6 AA 9a	7 Deacons 1p	8 Circle II 9a	9 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p Maundy Thursday Potluck 6p Worship 7:15p	10 Good Friday	11
12 Easter Sunday Worship 10a No Sunday School	13 AA 9a Office Closed	14	15 Circle II 9a Healing Service 6:30p	16 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	17 UFO 7p	18
19 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	20 AA 9a CE 6p Session 7p (Date & Time TBD)	21 Memory Lane 10:30a	22 Circle II 9a	23 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	24 UFO 7p	25
26 Easter Eggstravagansa 9a-10:30a Worship 11a	27 AA 9a	28	29 Circle II 9a	30 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p		





Elders

Class of 2020

Tom Dugan, Elizabeth Crocker

Class of 2021

Laura Marohn, Mary Ferro

Class of 2022

Diane Charsley, Patricia Loeswick

Deacons

Class of 2020

Judy Geerkin, Alvin Marohn, Marlene Tyrrell

Class of 2021

Lynn Hyland

Class of 2022

Jane Crossan, Donna Blinston, Leslie Dugan

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