

# THE RAPPORTEUR

"Where Faith and Family Come Together"  
First Presbyterian Church, Olean, NY  
April, 2017

## Pastor's Thoughts...

Wow - the year is racing by. We are moving swiftly through Lent and are almost to Holy Week and Easter. I invite you to join us for the three important worship experiences during Holy Week.

As preparation for these services, you might want to join us for the celebration of a traditional Jewish Passover service followed by a pot luck dinner. We will gather for this on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. On Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup> we will gather for Maundy Thursday at 6:45pm in the chapel. This event commemorates the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples. We remember that he took bread and wine and declared them to be his body and his blood given for our redemption.

On Friday April 14<sup>th</sup> GOAC will hold the 20<sup>th</sup> Walk the Way of the Cross where various churches and pastors will host people as they recall that sacred day of Jesus on the cross based on readings from the Gospel of Matthew. The walk begins at noon starting at Bethany Lutheran church. The full schedule appears below. Our church will host a stop at about 2pm and will also serve as a water stop for the walkers.

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at 11:00am. This sacred day reminds us of the new life given us through God's conquering of sin and death in the raising of Jesus from the death. In the senseless execution and torture of Jesus by Imperial Rome, we see the worst humanity can do. But in response to our worst, God offers redemption and forgiveness and new life.

I hope you will take some time to join us for these sacred days.

On another subject on Friday March 17<sup>th</sup>, we learned that Saint Mary of the Angels was declared a Basilica. Congratulations to the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels. Pope Francis bestowed

this title of honor of historical and spiritual importance. We rejoice with this great blessing to our community and its recognition of the work the Church and Father Greg have done to make the church a pillar of our community. They both serve as a beacon to our community not only in architecture, but more importantly in spirituality and service. We can praise God for their honor and thank God that they are here with us.

Peace, *Pastor Bruce*

STOP	End TIME	SCRIPTURE
1 Bethany Lutheran	12:10	Mat 26:36-46
2 African Amer Ctr <i>Water Stop</i>	1:05	Mat 26:47-56
3 Trinity	1:42	Mat 26:57-67
4 First Presbyterian <i>Water Stop</i>	2:12	Mat 26:69-27:10
5 St Mary of the Angels	2:44	Mat 27:11-26
6 1 <sup>st</sup> Baptist	3:01	Mat 27:27-44
7 St Stephens	3:15	Mat 27:45-56



Our custodian, Don, is in the process of preparing the old baby room on the first floor to be ready for Interfaith Care Givers to occupy it by the first of May 2017. He has been painting, stripping floors and refinishing, sealing off a door entrance, replacing locks, plumbing, and many other things to have the room ready to go. Many thanks to Don for all he does.

Our fire inspection revealed we had two alarms that needs to be addressed, so Simplex will replace these.

Gary Gruver, Property Chair

## CE Corner

In Sunday School, we have been discussing the season of Lent and how we should prepare for Easter. We are excited to celebrate the upcoming holiday. It is our most important day - the day on which we were granted salvation and eternal life. Happy Easter to one and all!

Our Sunday School has continued to support FLY (Focused Learning for Youth)! It is an organization that is overseen by Jericho Road, a ministry that our church has chosen to support. The FLY program supports middle school-aged ESL students (English as Second Language) in their education. Thank you to all who donated water bottles/bottle slips for the students. We collected over 40 water bottles! We collected supplies to support their art classes for the month of March. Their director specifically requested drawing pencils, medium size canvasses, mat board for framing, and wire for wire sculpting. We will also be holding our annual Book Sale on the first two Sundays in April. All proceeds will be going towards field trips for students in the FLY program. Thanks in advance for purchasing books and/or donating any books you may have for the sale!

The students will also begin preparations for Youth Sunday, which will be held on June 11, during the worship service. The students are excited to show you what they've been working on this year!

May you enjoy Holy Week and Easter with friends and family. See you on Sunday!

Carol McClellan, CE Director



**Book Sale**

**April**

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>**



## April Birthdays

- 4 ~ Gene Wascher
- 7 ~ Sean Carr
- 8 ~ Matt Isenberg
- 12 ~ Kristie Price-Lindhome
- 21 ~ Jan Comstock
- 23 ~ Dave Shults,  
Rip Smith
- 24 ~ Tony Evans,  
Kimberley Smith
- 28 ~ Michelle Braymiller
- 29 ~ Mark McGonnell

## April Anniversaries

- 5 ~ Rick & Brenda Snyder
- 21 ~ Brian & Carol McClellan

## APRIL CELEBRATIONS



## April Calendar Highlights

Sunday, April 2nd ~ First Sunday Pot Luck Lunch after Worship

Monday, April 3rd ~ 7pm Session Meeting

Friday, April 7th ~ 6pm Seder Meal followed by Pot Luck

Monday, April 10th ~ 7pm Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, April 12th ~ 4:30pm Communications Meeting  
5:30pm CE Meeting  
7pm MEF Meeting

Thursday, April 13th ~ 6:45pm Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 14th ~ Walk the Way of the Cross  
(see Pastor's Thoughts for more information)

Sunday, April 16th ~ Easter Sunday

Wednesday, April 19th ~ Noon PW Meeting  
5pm Burt Meeting

Monday, April 24th ~ 6pm Book Club at Perkins



## Book Club

The book selected for March was Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult. It is a highly emotional story about an African-American nurse who is working in labor and delivery and is present at the death of the newborn son of a white-supremacist couple. She is charged with murder and the author skillfully addresses the many facets of the racial issues in our country while telling a meaningful story that would be captivating even without the race topic.

In April, the club will meet on the 24<sup>th</sup> at Perkins at 6pm. The discussion will focus on Firefly Lane by Kristen Hannah. Two girls, each with her own personal challenges, meet and become friends during their eighth grade year and continue to support each other well into adulthood.

Anyone interested in an “up close and personal” look at the book club is welcome to attend any meeting (6pm at Perkins the fourth Monday of most months). It is not necessary to have read the selected book to participate. Each person buys his/her own dinner to enjoy during the discussion.



## WHO'S READY FOR CAMP?

Camp Duffield is now accepting applications for summer camp. For more information, visit:  
[www.campduffield.net/summer-camps.html](http://www.campduffield.net/summer-camps.html)

If you would like to apply for a campership to help with the cost, please write a letter to Heather McDivitt, CE Chair, identifying which camp you would like assistance attending. If you're curious about what going to Camp Duffield is like, talk with long-time camper Alexis Fisk.

## SESSION UPDATE

Actions taken by Session at the 2/13/17 meeting:

- Approved wedding to be performed in the chapel on May 13 by Tony Evans.
- Approved use of a room by the Olean VA Clinic for weekly meetings.
- Approved financial assistance for Alexis Fisk to attend Camp Duffield.
- Viewed thank-you notes from Interfaith Caregivers, HomeCare and Hospice, Duffield Camp and Retreat Center, and Theological Education Fund.
- Learned of \$4,500 spent to repair and update the heating boiler.
- Learned that Don Mallory has begun preparing the room that Interfaith Caregivers will be renting (one of the nursery rooms). The work needed includes sealing off a doorway to another room, painting the walls and radiators, putting a lock on the door and moving the monitoring system currently in the OCDC office to the room.
- Learned that Foundation for Change will tour the building to assess the possibility of renting some rooms.
- Approved a \$600 Burt Fund payment to the Allegany Public Library Summer Reading Program.
- The Christian Education Committee will continue meeting the second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. The scholarships are being announced in the worship bulletin.
- MEF – see the MEF report in this Reporter.
- Communications – Lanna will be meeting with this committee to plan ways to expand the committee's responsibilities.
- OCDC – Most of the items are out of the building.
- GOAC – Our church may be hosting a GOAC meeting, possibly in May. African American Heritage Week, partially sponsored by GOAC, was successful.

(Session Update Continued)

- It was suggested that when there is a guest in church, someone near introduce themselves and, with the guest's permission, introduce the guest to the congregation during announcements. MEF will work on this. There was discussion about the possibility of becoming a sanctuary church. Diane Trippany will research the responsibilities and ramifications of being a sanctuary church and report back to Session.

The next meeting will be April 3, 2017 at 7 pm.

### **Stewardship Committee**

The Stewardship Committee is sponsoring the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering during Lent. Gifts, which will support programs addressing hunger, injustice and impacts of natural disasters locally, nationally and internationally, may be made any time during March and April with the official collection being Easter Sunday.

Gifts may be made by check with "One Great Hour of Sharing" on the memo line or in cash by using a standard envelope or a contribution envelope from a pew rack. Envelopes should be labeled with "One Great Hour of Sharing." Checks and envelopes may be placed in the offering plate during any service.

### **ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!**

Three different scholarships are offered to high school seniors belonging to Olean First Presbyterian Church. For application information please contact Heather McDivitt, Christian Education Chair, at 307-8748.

## **MEF**

Several recent events were well attended and successful. They included dinner at Napoli, Ash Wednesday service and fellowship time, March's First Sunday Potluck Lunch, and dinner at Hammerback.

Upcoming events:

April 2 – First Sunday Potluck Lunch

April 7 - Seder at 6pm followed by a potluck dinner. A Seder is a symbolic meal celebrated by the Jewish people to honor Passover.

April 11 - Bach's Lunch Concert at St. Mary's Church at 11:30am followed by a fellowship lunch at the Beef 'n' Barrel.

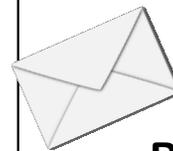
April 14 - Our church will be a water stop on the Walk of the Cross. Volunteers needed.

May 7 - First Sunday Potluck Lunch

May 24 - Dinner at the Woodside Restaurant, 3319 West River Road at 6 pm.

June 4 - Festival of Music. No First Sunday Potluck Lunch as there will be a hot dog roast the following Sunday.

June 11 - Hot Dog roast after worship. MEF will provide the hot dogs, rolls, condiments and beverages. Participants may bring a vegetable dish, a salad, or a dessert. Other possible contributions are sturdy paper plates or bowls, sturdy plastic forks, paper napkins, or a bag of sugar.



### **Important Reminder**

Please be sure to use  
**PO Box 1608, Olean, NY 14760**  
when sending the church mail

