



# FIRST PRESS!

Newsletter from First Presbyterian Church  
Jamestown, New York (716)487-1984

## Breaking Headline News: He is Not Here!

**Mary Magdalene** reported this morning to her associates that she arrived at the tomb of her dear friend, Jesus from Nazareth, only to find that the



stone had been rolled away from the entrance. A mysterious man dressed in white told her, "He is not here." Terrified, she ran to tell Peter and the

Disciples what the man had said to her. Later investigation revealed that not only was the stone rolled away, but Jesus was no longer inside, his linen wrappings folded and left behind.



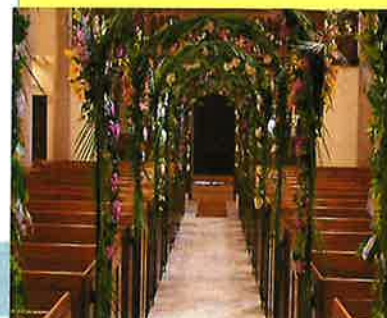
**PLEASE JOIN US  
THIS EASTER  
APRIL FIRST**

**EASTER EGG HUNT 9:15**

**LIGHT CONTINENTAL-  
BREAKFAST FOLLOWS**

**WORSHIP**

**IN THE SANCTUARY 10:30**





Easter is hard to believe if we define believing as accepting the resurrection of Jesus to be truth. The religious thing to do is to just believe in Jesus' resurrection. No need for proof to satisfy sense and mind. But for many, believing requires evidence. Having no experience with someone who has died being restored to life, the Easter story is a puzzle. To simply say, "I believe in Jesus' resurrection" as opposed to those who may not see the evidence they require to be convinced, misses the point of Easter.

John concludes his Gospel which tells of the "God-acting" signs Jesus did; *These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.* (John 20:31 MSG) There are variations of the stories of Jesus' resurrection in the Gospels. For John, writing much later, it isn't about believing the story to be true—it's about living life like Jesus did because it's the way of God. If we believe in Easter, we commit to loving, forgiving, serving as the Christ who lives beyond death.

Don

*"You reveal yourself and your love, reminding me that you are always with me. May I hold onto that promise as I am sent to share the good news I have discovered. He is risen!"*



Dear Friends,

I am sorry, but I do not have a very joyful Easter message right now. You see, sometimes I have trouble believing in resurrection. Sometimes it is difficult for me to see any signs of new life. Sometimes God feels a million miles away. Sometimes I wait and silence is all there is. "Alleluia!" has no meaning, it is just a hallow word.

And so with the first followers, I wait with trust and hope in God's love that I have known because of Jesus. Jesus, who offers his peace and his presence; Jesus, who calls me and you by name. For now this is enough. So, it is in trust and hope that I continue to sing "Alleluia!" and I pray:

*Risen Lord, I give you thanks that you come to me; when I am least expecting it, when I have trouble believing, when I am deeply saddened or afraid, and all times in between. Though I often forget to turn to you first in these moments, you reveal yourself and your love, reminding me that you are always with me. May I hold onto that promise as I am sent to share the good news I have discovered: He is risen! He is risen indeed! Amen.*

In Christ,

Bob

## A LETTER TO OUR FIRST PRES FAMILY

My husband, Bruce, and I were neophyte members of First Presbyterian back in the early 1990's. Less than a year after our joining the congregation, I was, to my disbelief, invited to join Session. "Why me?" I thought. What attributes did I possess that I should be asked to sit on this board amongst community members whom, I felt, were vastly more knowledgeable and skilled than I? What did Nominating see in me that I did not see in myself?

I remember the first time I was asked to serve communion - a much more formal ritual and a bit more complicated than it is today. I was terrified I would go the wrong way or worse slip and drop a communion tray! Our recently departed, Sherry Cadwell, was Clerk then. Although I grew up knowing him as a family friend, he carried a position within the church that left me awestruck. On this day (and countless thereafter) he was so kind and reassuring, guiding me through my first communion experience. Little did I know I would one day be asked to follow in his footsteps. If someone suggested to me back then that I might also become Clerk, I would surely have been incredulous!

On February 28, after ten years in office, I retired as Clerk of Session. How my tenure elapsed so quickly, I will never know. Election to the position of elder was, and still is an honor and requires, from my experience, dedication and sometimes sacrifice to a greater mission. The Clerk's position heightened those requirements but I am forever enriched and changed by those years!



**“Experiencing joys and learning from adversity enabled me to grow exponentially as a person.”**

While unquestionably the richest and most rewarding experience of my life, being Clerk presented some great challenges, as well. Experiencing joys and learning from adversity enabled me to grow exponentially as a person. Additionally, doors were opened to relationships with people I might otherwise never have known and I am extremely grateful for their presence in my life.

I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Pastor Wendy Heinz who guided and directed me through a particularly difficult period in our congregational life. Most people do not realize a Clerk's responsibilities go well beyond being a writer of minutes and keeper of records, although both are certainly necessary and very important. Wendy taught me being a pastoral partner, assistant, and congregational advisor are clearly functions of a good Clerk. The scope of my job was revealed to me through her guidance and grace. Thank you, Wendy!

Pastor Bob Hagel came to our church four years ago, bringing with him new energy and sense of purpose. He is transitioning First Presbyterian from a church "on hold" to a church "on the move." I believe he is leading our congregation down a wonderful spiritual pathway to fulfillment, showing us what it means to be good neighbors, not only in this community, but in this world. Supported by your talents and generosity, he can complete his Doctor of Ministry

and fulfill his dreams for us. Thank you, Bob, for your leadership and vision!

I want to thank you, the congregation, for your thoughtful insights and for putting up with my emotional side - which regularly sneaks up on me much to my embarrassment! I was so blessed to be able to know and work closely with many of you. I also want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our wonderful staff: Peggy Ambrose, Peggy Hallberg, Cindy Lind Hanson, Pastor Don Ray, Claud Schuckers, and Sara Zampogna, who provided me with continuous support and made my job easier. You are amazing!

Merrilee Harrington is succeeding me as Clerk and I know she will do a fantastic job. As a member of the congregation for many years, she served as elder, worked on various committees, and was most recently, an interim staff member. She brings a wealth of experience, energy, and insight to the Clerk's position.

Life is changing for both my husband and me. We are taking a short hiatus to rest up and re-evaluate before we embark on new adventures. Whatever the future has in store, First Presbyterian will always hold a special place in our hearts. Thank you again for the privilege of being your Clerk - Blessings to all!

Julie Dudgeon, former Clerk of Session



# BIRTHDAYS

## APRIL

Verna Krudys	1
Nancy Bargar	2
Rick Erickson	2
Kyle Dudgeon	3
Judy Young	3
Jean Lloyd	4
Stan Gallup	5
David Josephson	6
Richard Slater	6
Kirstie Hanson	7
Heidi Mueller	11
LeAnn Love	12
Sue Schiavone	12
Don Harrington	14
John Lloyd	14
Christine Voty	17
Madeleine Leenders	18
Carling Lockwood	18
Betsy Shults	19
Lucille Short	20
Karen Schiavone	21
Kara Schutte	21
Pamela Wilson	22
Kristen Kreinheder	25
Robert Hagel	29
Kimberly Lindquist	30



Help us Celebrate  
**Lucille Short's 100th Birthday**  
 Sunday, April 15th 2-4pm  
 The Warner Place, 155 Aldren Ave.  
*If you would like to send along cards, letters, or a box of chocolates,  
 Send them to the church office, we'll take them with us when we go!*

**Totally Trivial Edition** **GAMES**

Test Your Gaming & General Trivia Knowledge!

A FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT  
 A Children's Place Daycare  
 Jamestown, NY

*Get Ready For A Great Night!*

Grab 7 of your friends, choose a game-related team name, come in game themed attire with table decorations, food & drink ... this is a BYOB event so perhaps a team cocktail is in order?

PRIZES AWARDED for Best Themed Food, Drink and Table Decorations!

ONLY \$25 EACH (\$200/Team of 8)  
IF YOU DON'T HAVE A COMPLETE TEAM, WE CAN HELP YOU PUT ONE TOGETHER

SCAN FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION or visit [www.firstpros-jamestown.com/acp](http://www.firstpros-jamestown.com/acp)  
 Please call or stop by First Presbyterian Church 509 Prendergast Avenue for in-person registration or to pay by check.

Saturday, April 14, 2018 • TEAM CHECK-IN BEGINS AT 6:30 PM  
 TRIVIA BEGINS AT 7:00 PM SHARPLENDS AT 10:00 PM  
 Crystal Ballroom, 110 W. 3rd Street, #210, Jamestown, NY

# April 2018




April 2018

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2018

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Apr 1</b> Easter Day (United) 9:00am Angel Ringers 9:30am Easter Egg 9:45am Chancel Choir 10:30am Worship	2 Business Office Closed 9:30am Healthy Bones Class (SJM Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm Choral Society (SJM Fellowship Hall)	3 12:30pm Duplicate Bridge Club (SJM Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm Barbershoppers (Fellowship Hall)	4 9:30am Healthy Bones Exercise Class (SJM) 10:15am Staff meeting (Pastor's Office) 6:30pm Artist Workshop	5 12:00pm Aging & Saging (SJM) 7:00pm Society for Creative Anachronism 7:00pm Chancel Choir	6 	7:00pm ACP Fundraiser (Crystal Ballroom)
8 9:00am Breakfast 9:45am Chancel Choir 10:30am Worship 11:30am Mission 11:30am Coffee Hour 12:00pm Bible drama	9 9:30am Healthy Bones Class (SJM Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm Choral Society (SJM Fellowship Hall)	10 12:30pm Duplicate Bridge Club (SJM Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm Barbershoppers (Fellowship Hall)	11 9:30am Healthy Bones 10:15am Staff meeting 10:30am Alpha Circle 3:15pm TON 6:30pm Artist Workshop	12 12:00pm Aging & Saging (SJM) 6:00pm Southwest Branch 7:00pm Society for C.A. 7:00pm Chancel Choir	13	14
15 9:00am Breakfast 9:45am Chancel Choir 10:30am Worship 11:30am Coffee Hour 12:00pm Bibliodrama 2:00pm Lucille Short Story	16 Tax Day (United States) 9:30am Healthy Bones Class (SJM Fellowship Hall)	17 12:30pm Duplicate Bridge Club (SJM) 12:30pm Christian Ed Committee (Pastor's) 7:00pm Barbershoppers	18 9:30am Healthy Bones Exercise Class (SJM) 10:15am Staff meeting 3:15pm TON 6:30pm Artist Workshop	19 12:00pm Aging & Saging (SJM) 5:30pm ACP Family Dinner 7:00pm Society for C.A. 7:00pm Chancel Choir	20	21
22 9:00am Breakfast Christian Education 9:45am Chancel Choir 10:30am Worship 11:30am Coffee Hour	23 9:30am Healthy Bones Class (SJM Fellowship Hall)	24 12:30pm Duplicate Bridge Club (SJM) 4:00pm Presbytery meeting 7:00pm Barbershoppers	25 Administrative ACP Day 9:30am Healthy Bones 10:15am Staff meeting 2:00pm Hospitality 3:15pm TON 7:00pm Session	26 12:00pm Aging & Saging (SJM) 7:00pm Society for Creative Anachronism 7:00pm Chancel Choir	27	28
29 Bob Hagel Birthday 9:00am Breakfast 9:45am Chancel Choir 10:30am Worship 11:30am Coffee Hour 5:00 Youth Group	30 9:30am Healthy Bones Class (SJM Fellowship Hall)					



As I prepare to leave First Presbyterian in my role as business manager, I want to thank everyone, members and staff members over the years, for the support, love and kindnesses that have been given to me. I return them to you with this Irish Blessing.

Peggy Ambrose

May the blessing of light be on you,  
light without and light within.

May the blessed sunlight shine upon you and warm your heart  
til it glows like a great fire  
and strangers may warm themselves as well as friends.

And may the light shine out of the eyes of you,  
like a candle set in the window of a house,  
bidding the wanderer to come in out of the storm.

May the blessing of rain be on you, the soft sweet rain.  
May it fall upon your spirit so that little flowers may spring up  
and shed their sweetness on the air.  
And may the blessing of the great rains be on you,  
to beat upon your spirit and wash it fair and clean;  
and leave there many a shining pool where the blue of heaven shines,  
and sometimes a star.

May the blessing of the earth be on you, the great round earth;  
may you ever have a kindly greeting for people  
as you're going along the roads.

And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. Amen



PLEASE

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