

FIRST PRESS



News from First Presbyterian Church of Jamestown, NY

February/March 2018

Winter Grips WNY, AGAIN!

I would like to add to Benjamin Franklin's quote, "Nothing is certain but death and taxes." with **SNOW** in Western New York! We make the most of winter, playing right through it with snow sculpting, skiing, or snuggling



in by the fireplace. We watch the weather, plan trips around the storm fronts, have really good tires, and snow days. We're a hardy lot who plan ahead to enjoy this season. How fitting that

Lent falls in line with this time. As we prepare for Easter, we look deep inside to cleanse the soul before we bloom forth with a fresh start, the Resurrection in Spring.

I wish you safe travels and comfort on your Lenten Labyrinth Journey this year.

Peggy Hallberg



"It seems like everything sleeps in winter, but it's really a time of renewal and reflection."

Elizabeth Camden
Until the Dawn



Hsvall Pixabay 2017

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A Letter from the Pastor

Dear First Pres. Family:

A pilgrimage is a journey to a holy destination. It is often taken with other devoted people. On the way, pilgrims share food, conversation, and silence. On the way, pilgrims walk at different paces, rest in different places, and carry different burdens. Across barriers of age and experience, language and culture pilgrims travel along the same path, toward the same destination.



Lent is a pilgrimage, a time for us to journey together to our center into God. As we travel along the way (toward God), we are already in the way (in God). Or as Catherine of Siena said, "All the way to God is God." This year we are invited to walk the pilgrimage of the

Lenten Labyrinth.

In the Middle Ages labyrinths were used as a way for people to participate in a pilgrimage without the expense or time required in actually going to another place. A labyrinth helps direct our focus toward God. Unlike a maze, which has dead ends and the possibility of getting lost, a labyrinth has a clear path, but it sometimes takes unexpected twists and turns. In this way it resembles the journey of life.

In the labyrinth, as we walk toward the center, we know and are known by Jesus, and we are reminded to center our life on God and God's purposes. As we walk out again toward the edge, we are mindful of following Jesus in our life in the world.

Blessings upon your pilgrimage this Lent.

Bob



Boots, Coats, and all Things that Comfort and Warm!

A Mission Story

Did you know that through our church family, we were able to give out 21 warm winter coats, 11 pairs of waterproof winter boots, 37 pairs of mittens, 13 pairs of gloves, 25 hats, 6 scarves, 28 pairs of warm socks, and 7 warm fuzzy blankets to some of our local Elementary and Middle school children?

This all started with someone noticing a need. Then First Pres, you stepped up and helped. You sent in donations, filled up the Dove Tree, shopped for deals, and reached out to the community.

Did you know that even on the coldest of Sunday mornings, we have a consistent crew that have been coming for breakfasts of hot oatmeal, bagels and sausage, pancakes, and cereal with fruit, juice and coffee? Sometimes, there is something sweet too. Our church family has been stepping up to provide for all of this.

Did you know that we have around 70 people served for our ACP family dinners? This is a great start to our mission of being a **Church of Good Neighbors.**



Thank You!

Thank You!

Thank You!

Lenten Service Schedule

Shrove Tuesday, Feb 13
Pancakes & Music at 5:30
with ACP families

Lenten Wednesday
Noon Services:

Ash Wednesday, Feb 14

Wed, Feb 21st

Wed, Feb. 28

Wed, March 7th

Wed, March 14th

Wed, March 21st

Palm Sunday, March 25

Maunday Thurs. Service
7:00pm Fellowship Hall

Good Friday Service Noon

Cross Walk

April 1st EASTER!
Easter Egg Hunt First.



Take a Walk Through the Lenten Labyrinth in the Cloister!

Just a Closer Walk With Thee

When I think of Lent, I hear the rhythmic brush on a drum, a base, and a soulful trumpet playing this classic song. This year we are walking the Labyrinth both literally on this mat and through the written words of Edward Hays during Sunday School.

Hays writes. "Rejoice! You are about to begin a great adventure and a journey of transformation which holds the power to change-to radically enrich-your way of thinking, loving and believing. Know that as you prepare to make the first step on this journey, you are doing so in the company of many other pilgrims. . . Rejoice also in the companionship of the Communion of Saints. Not only do you walk in faith with others around the world today, you are accompanied in your pursuit of holiness by the holy ones of previous ages. The sound the ancient trumpet call to begin the work of Lent: 'Remember you are dust.' It rings loud and clear: 'Remember how short is life, how close is your death, so do not delay.' Make each of the forty days and nights significant."



There is no right or wrong way to walk the Labyrinth. Every step is as unique as the person making it. Some guidelines have been suggested to help you, a series of three movements.

First, *Purgation*—Walking into the Labyrinth. This is a time to leave behind distractions as you enter this sacred space.

Second, *Illumination*—Resting in the center of the Labyrinth. This is when you remain at the center for a time of openness and receptivity. It is an expectant time in which you anticipate, receive, and rest in that which God has to offer you.

Third, *Union*—Walking out of the Labyrinth. This is the time of walking back into the world in union with God. Having received a gift from God, whatever that may be, you return to the world.

The Labyrinth pictured above will be placed in the Cloister through out Lent so that you can spend a moment or two walking the path. Come and hear the trumpet sound on Shrove Tuesday as we march Dixieland Style to the Labyrinth of Lent!
By Peggy Hallberg

THE LENTEN LABYRINTH



DAILY REFLECTIONS
FOR THE JOURNEY OF LENT

EDWARD HAYS

Upcoming Youth Group Events!

Feb 4 Youth Lead Group Meeting

Feb 10 – 11 Lock In Overnight Event

Feb 13 Shrove Tues. Pancake Party

Feb 18 Youth Group

Feb 25 Laser Tag

Mar 4 Youth Group

Mar 11 Nature Event During Lent

Mar 18 Movie night *The Shack*

Mar 25 Palm Sunday

Mar 29 Maunday Thurs. Service

April 1 Easter Egg Hunt



Luensman's Park Overlook

What's Up With Our Youth?

The kids at 1st Pres are awesome! Let me tell you what a wonderful and varied group of kids we have.

We have athletes that participate in swimming, diving, soccer, track and field, baseball, softball, football, volleyball, basketball, and skiing...the list goes on and on.

We have impressive scholars, artists, musicians, actors, gamers, crafters, videophiles, readers, travelers, homebodies, pet owners...the list goes on and on.

We have truly remarkable kids who are curious, caring, empathetic, compassionate, righteously indignant, stoic, dramatic, boisterous, taciturn, imaginative...the list goes on and on.

We have kids that would give you the shirt off of their back, kids who are always willing to help where needed, kids who want to be challenged and pushed, kids who will push every button you've got and look for new ones! And, we have kids that just need a hug and a kind word...the list goes on and on.

Are they loud? You bet. Are they crazy? Sometimes, yeah. Are they hard to handle? No, not really (but if we are being honest, sometimes, yeah)

Are they worth all the effort and your continued support? Absolutely.

By Greg Kellogg





CHRISTMAS!



Happy Halloween!





WE GATHER TOGETHER

FOR BIRTHDAYS, FOR EATING,

FOR FELLOWSHIP, WORSHIP, AND

ALL THINGS BETWEEN



Birthdays

FEBRUARY

Sharon Weiler	1
Caroline Leenders	2
Gayle Schulte	4
Lydia Kushmaul	5
Gail Gustafson	6
Emylia Hallberg	6
Susan Bentley	8
Lois Galloway	8
Joan Reed	8
Gwynneth Tigner	8
Marge Cochrane	10
Jack Colburn	13
Geof Follansbee	16
Leigh Yates	20
Martha Love	21
Derek Svenson	21
Dick Redington	22
Jack Lingenfelter	24
Caran Redington	25
Kurt Svenson	25
Beth Crist	28
Peggy Hallberg	28
Susan Huther	28

MARCH

Kimberly Sweet	1
Gretchen Alessi	3
Rudy Mueller	4
Skip Lind	7
Meghan Lockwood	7
Susie Stuart	9
Dudley Erieson	10
Peter Sullivan	13
Lee Marshall	15
Sally Lindquist	18
James Dahlie	20
Carol Dixon	21
Daniel Lausterer	22
Joanne Nelson	23
Heidi Marshall	24
Sara DeMink	25
Karen Gould	27
Karl Janish	27
Meredith Wellman	27
Pat Kinney	28
Nancy Price	28



The Sunday School Tour Continues. . .

In our last issue, Debbie Johnston was describing leading her Sunday school class through the history tour of our church last fall. It continues:

Our tour now moved to the top of the basement stairs in the Cloister and to the sign by the cloister entry door. What do you think is under that plaque? "a spare room, a secret compartment, nothing" were some of the guesses. At this point, Pastor Bob came by our group of nine and the children asked him. I told them about the dedication of the Cloister, the gathering of items which were placed in the box, a secret compartment, and time capsule hidden behind the sign there. The children, of course, wanted to open it right then and see what was inside. That occasion is being researched. Some members had forgotten that there was a capsule there, others had forgotten when it was to be opened. What a good reason, to tell our stories to the next generation, so the goodness and wonders are not taken for granted or forgotten.

We continued on, stopping at the Miller windows by the Narthex constructed in the same town, with the same method as the Bellingier windows. There were many fingers touching the glass, sandy cement and scenes portrayed in the windows. "It feels like sandpaper!" Faces were one of the first things found, followed by instruments, and books. We looked in the sanctuary at how different those windows were in color and design. They noticed the ceiling designs, the lights with the decoration signifying the first four new testament gospels.

The tour not only taught our younger generation about the history of our church building, it taught them about the faith of its members. How the design of the church with all the shiny marble, pretty glass, and lights reflects God's love and grace on us. It taught them that each of us plays a part in the life of the church. It taught me that God speaks through even the littlest ones to us...we just have to listen.

By Debbie Johnston

A Christmas Miracle for TON!

It all began at the TON Christmas Party when some of our tutors noticed that 3 children didn't have winter coats. "A buzz went up," reported Judy Kullberg, director of Tutoring Our Neighbors, because we had only two coats provided and time was running out before the storm was going to hit and Christmas break started. "A guest of one our tutors, that I had never met, overheard our discussion," continued Kullberg, "and volunteered to stop and buy another jacket since she had to drive near the Mall."

She returned with not just one jacket, but **21** stating that when she told the store what she intended to do, she got discount after discount as they kept finding coupons to cut the price further. She declined any reimbursement quoting Matthew 25:40, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

On Christmas Eve morning, they met with Patrick Cunningham at Love school. The 3 jackets that started this whole event were delivered Christmas morning with the others being delivered to children in need later.

Thank You God!

Winter Clothes Drive

Our neighborhood children are in great need of waterproof winter boots and gloves as well as snow-pants, and winter coats. When you clear out your closets for Spring and find out-grown instead of worn out snow gear, please think of our Church. If we start now, we can have this ready by November!

Thank you!

First Presbyterian Church of Jamestown, NY A Church of Good Neighbors

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