

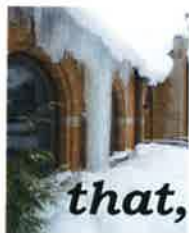
FIRST PRESS

NEWSLETTER FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK

WELCOME TO LENT!

This year's Lenten Season falls late on the calendar, mostly March, with a bit of April in the end. Will it come in like a **Lion** and out like a **Lamb**? This is Western NY. March will do as it pleases.

Hopefully, more of



of

that,



and less

but you never know.

Our Lenten Journey can be the same; you never know what your devotions will reveal and what winding path your journey will take. Regardless of where you end up, as Joyce Eller's song states, *know that the Lord will never leave you. He won't leave you lost and alone, but will guide you and bring you courage. **Don't Be Afraid of the Dark*** (this year's theme).

Peggy Hallberg CCYFM

Go ye now in peace, and know that the love of God will guide you. Feel His presence here beside you, showing you the way. In your time of trouble, when hurt and despair are there to grieve you. Know that the Lord will never leave you. He will bring you courage. Know that the God who sent His son to die that you might live will never leave you lost and alone, in His beloved world.

- Joyce Ellers



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Pastor's Letter

Christian Education

We all have questions.
We all have doubts.
We all have faith.

Dear Friends:

To help us address the many changes in the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church, and to chart a course for the future, the Session has invited Greg Hall, pastor of Clarence Presbyterian Church, to lead a visioning retreat on March 30, 2019. This retreat will require the Session to wrestle with many facts, issues and demographics.

Before the retreat we want to hear from as many of you as possible. On March 3, during worship, we would like to get your input on what are the core values of our particular church. One of the ways that an organization can best be understood is through images. All of these images are mental models. Mental models are deeply ingrained assumptions, generalizations that influence how we understand the world and how we take action. It is important to know our congregation's mental models, for successful planning happens when plans reflect the basic understanding of the church shared by the people of the congregation.

The New Testament has many images (models) of the church. On March 3, I would like to share some of these images and hope to discover those that are most meaningful to you. You will be given a survey with your bulletin and asked to fill out the survey choosing the three images that most speak to you. There are no wrong answers. If you are watching at home, please email your responses to me at pastor@firstpresjamestown.com **no later than March 8.**

The surveys will be reviewed and the images with the most responses will guide the Session's time together.

Please pray for the Session and the entire congregation that we will open our hearts, minds, and spirits as we listen for God's Spirit leading us.

Peace,

Bob

The First Presbyterian Church Confirmation Class invites the members and friends of First Pres to bring your questions, doubts, and faith for a 9 week discussion of the Apostle's Creed **beginning March 3** in Fellowship Hall.

Each session begins with a question and follows a three-part sequence:

Encounter: Gather together to watch a hilarious animated video (I promise it'll make you laugh!)

Engage: Tap into your creativity for activities like doodling, constructing, and journaling that help us dig deeper into our faith

Respond: Share thoughts and ideas about the session's question

Here are some of the topics we will discuss:

- Can it be proven that God exists?
- How can God be "three-in-one"?
- Why did Jesus go to hell?
- Is the Holy Spirit a person or wind or fire or what?





CHORAL AND ORGAN CONCERT IN MAY AT FIRST PRES

This **May 5 at 4:00 p.m.**, the Chancel Choir will present *Georges Bizet's Te Deum* in a joint concert with organist David Horne to celebrate the community of music at First Presbyterian and to kickoff a fundraiser for repair and improvements to the organ. Works for organ by Bruhns, Bach and Saint-Saëns will round out the presentation and, while admission is free, an offering will be taken.

The redoubtable Schlicker organ is in need of urgent attention to save the reservoir and pedal reeds from imminent collapse and to restore full function to the keyboard. Additionally, there are a few new stops needed to complete the tonal palette. While final figures are still pending, we have prioritized the needs and as funds become available, we will begin the work.



To that end, the choir will be rehearsing the *Te Deum* **every Thursday evening from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** **Any singers interested in joining the choir just for the concert are invited and encouraged to attend rehearsals.** If you or anyone you know is interested in performing this magnificent work, composed at the beginning of Bizet's career, *please drop in at 7 p.m. on Thursdays in Fellowship Hall.*

The *Te Deum* is a 4th century hymn of uncertain origin in common use in several Christian denominations and is frequently offered in thanksgiving to God for a special blessing. Bizet's 20-minute rendering, composed in competition for the Roderigo prize and Bizet's only religious composition, is an exuberantly majestic and altogether uplifting work. Please mark your calendars and spread the word to your friends and family to join us at 4pm on the 5th of May!

David Horne, Minister of Music

A Children's Place Daycare presents:



So much more than just Trivia!

BYO Food and Drink (snacks and soft drinks provided)

Proceeds benefit A Children's Place Daycare
\$25 per person or \$200 per team (up to 8 people)

Saturday, March 16, 2019

Crystal Ballroom
110 West Third Street | Jamestown

Prizes!

- Best Costumes
- Best Table Decorations
- Best Food
- Best Signature Cocktail

6:30 Registration
7:00 Trivia Begins

totallytrivialsuperheroes.eventbrite.com | 716.487.2238

There are copies of this year's Lenten Devotional by students and alumni of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary available in the office or visit online www.pts.edu/devotional or follow along on Facebook and Twitter.

Join us for Shrove Tuesday with Razz and the Band and Pancakes!

Tuesday, March 5 at 5:30 pm





Lenten Prayer Service and Luncheon Wednesdays at 12:00

Don't Be Afraid of the Dark

Join First Pres and First Covenant on your lunch break Wednesdays this Lent at noon for our special Lenten services of reflection in the Bellinger Chapel at First Presbyterian Church with a light lunch following in Fellowship Hall.

When we think of darkness, we think of times of confusion, fear, uncertainty, doubts of God. But as we walk in faith through these times, on the other side are Christ's glory, serenity, and union with God.

This year, video liturgy with music and lyrics by *The Brilliance* will focus our reflections on the paradox of life and death, beauty and fragmentation. Through these 40 days of Lent, as we walk through the darkness of temptations taking hold, through the pain and the suffering, through the heartache and trembling of life may we find that there is no need to be afraid of the dark. We are held and loved by God.

Pastor Bob Hagel

Don't Be Afraid of the Dark

March 6

Dust We Are and
Shall Return

March 13

Now and at the Hour
of our Death

March 20

Dayspring of Life

March 27

Does Your Heart
Break

April 3

Holy Communion

April 10

Have You Forsaken
Me?



Patty Watts, Peggy Ambrose and Hannah Lorenc

CONGRATULATIONS to HANNAH LORENC

Recipient of the Robert & Barbara Josephson 2018 First Presbyterian Church Scholarship

At the beginning of the fall 2018, the scholarship committee of the Robert and Barbara Josephson First Presbyterian Church Scholarship held at Chautauqua Region Community Foundation met to go over the applicants for this year's scholarship. Peggy Ambrose, Patty Watts (members of the Josephson family) and Bob Hagel (representing the church) chose Hannah Lorenc as the sixteenth winner of the award.

Hannah graduated from Jamestown High School in 2013 but then took two years off between high school and college due to complications with her health. She then spent her freshman and sophomore years at Jamestown Community College and transferred to Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, as a junior. She is now a senior and will be graduating in May.

Hannah has been studying Industrial and Labor Relations as a major and she has a minor in Law and Society. After graduation, she plans to either work in labor, with unions, or in the public sector, most likely in a research capacity and most likely in DC. Hannah is also considering law school after working a few years first. Hannah is active in campus leadership and is a research assistant for three distinct professors/projects concerning the living wage, conflict resolution and law, and trends in mediation. She is also politically active on campus and plays on the Ultimate Frisbee team. She has also interned for a labor federation and a public interest law firm.

To say the least, Hannah is a most deserving recipient of this year's scholarship! If at any time you would like to honor someone by contributing to this scholarship, you can mail or drop off your donation to CRCF for the Robert and Barbara Josephson First Presbyterian Church Scholarship.

Peggy Ambrose

Miss Catherine's Lenten Challenge

When I was in the 4th grade (a long time ago) some of my religious classmates were required to "give up something" for Lent.

I don't know who established the rules for this custom. Some guidelines were probably established by Bishops but most, no doubt, came from the highly significant arbiter of custom: "We've always don it that way."

These are the rules in 1958:

- 1) You had to like the given-up thing. Brussel sprouts would not qualify. There had to be sacrifice on your part.
- 2) It had to be unnecessary. You couldn't show up at school the Thursday morning following Ash Wednesday and announce, "I'm sorry, Mrs. Volmer, but I've given up spelling tests for Lent."
- 3) Your parents had to agree. (see #2)
- 4) The other kids had to witness your triumph. After all, if you're going to suffer self-sacrifice, wouldn't you want the other kids to say, "Wow! MaryAnn hasn't eaten cookies for 36 days, not even when Tommy brought Oreos for his birthday!"

Probably none of my former classmates (even if they still observe their old religious customs) give up sweets for Lent. Consciousness of good health has caused us to forego good things for non-religious reasons. So, instead of "giving up something" for Lent, why not adopt a new project? You could read some of those odd Bible chapters that never show up in the Lectionary, send cards to friends, or resurrect the habit of grace before meals. Then tell me about it. I promise to be impressed.

Catherine Willard

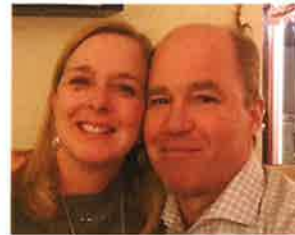




"Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life..."
 -Pope Benedict XVI



Constructing First Sunday of Advent



Christmas Party for the Choir



March Birthdays

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



If we overlooked your birthday, or you would rather we didn't put your birthday in the First Press newsletter, please call the office and let us know.



TON Christmas Party





PAUL JEFFREY/ACT



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

join us!

You
shall be called
repairers
of the breach

— ISAIAH 58

SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH
OUR NEIGHBORS-IN-NEED
AROUND THE WORLD BY
PROVIDING RELIEF FROM
NATURAL DISASTERS, FOOD
FOR THE HUNGRY, AND
SUPPORT FOR THE POOR
AND OPPRESSED.

A Special Offering will be collected Easter Sunday, April 21st. Envelopes are available now .

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First Presbyterian Church

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