

Midweek Message



Midweek E-mail from First Presbyterian Church of Jamestown, New York
February 20, 2019
The redoubtable Peggy Hallberg
Coordinator of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Communications

After reading David Horne's Midweek Message about the *redoubtable Peggy Hallberg*, you wouldn't believe how burned out I was that day, but I was so burned out that I went home and hung up my "Do Not Disturb!" sign, for a week! Working with people can be exhausting. If you're not careful with your boundaries, you can overextend yourself, and I had. I needed a break and I am thankful to have had a week, before the kids were home on break, to try and put things back into order; no one else was coming in. Door closed.

Don Ray preached a sermon once about going back through journals that were kept while he was going through a hard time. I've been thinking about Don a lot and because I have kept journals since I was old enough to write, this seemed

like a good time to go through them. So I started my Lenten journey early this year. Like a preseason work out, I was going to prepare myself by diving into some darkness I had left behind. Just me, alone.

Adrienne Rich wrote a poem, "Diving into the Wreck," about a person who dives into her past like a scuba diver going deep under the ocean. (I have attached the poem if you'd like to read it. It's one of my favorites)

So, like Adrienne, but with coffee instead of a snorkel, a good chair, and a soundtrack for my adventure, I was ready to go deep into dangerous territory. Don told me I would know when it's time. "Don, I'm going in!" I exclaimed.

Then, as I am prone to do, I took on too much, went too fast, and quickly became overwhelmed. I was furious with people all over again and mad at myself as the oceanic walls of unfulfilled dreams, unresolved issues, frustrating failures, and disappointments came crashing in on me. Making this worse was that we just covered in church Matthew 6:14-15: "If you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you don't forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your sins." The more I struggled with this, the deeper I sank because even though I know forgiveness is for the forgiver so that **you** can move on, I was unable to forgive. How can Jesus demand that I forgive? It's not that easy. I am failing, again, some Lent rehearsal. My burn out that brought me here in the first place, was now amplified, and I couldn't shut it off. Forgiveness is not for me, not yet, not ever! It was a horrible place to be.

I was like Peter who jumped out of the boat to walk on water to Jesus only to find himself sinking below the waves. I was drowning. Then, a familiar voice whispered, as He has done many times before, "You're not supposed to fix this." He reminded me that all things have been forgiven, "I already did this for you on the cross." And now, it is so much easier to love others and to forgive because I have been forgiven! I think I have had this backwards all this time. Grace comes first, then everything else falls into place, not my hard work achieves grace.

Like Peter, Jesus calmed the storm and removed my burden, and I began to rise. Oh how rapturous is Grace! What a feeling to know that even though I don't deserve it, I am forgiven! Praise God!

Now, I'm ready for Lent!

Peggy

REMEMBERING YOU IN OUR PRAYERS:

Lucy Miller's son Paul; Catherine Willard's sister Nancy; Linda Barber and her sister Lorraine; Julie Dudgeon; Don and Karen Ray; Lynda Howard's niece Sarah struggling with a brain tumor; Safe travels and safety for the children on break this week; and thanksgiving for the birth of Liam Griffin Churchill to Susan and Robert Churchill; and for gratitude, just gratitude.

ACP Family for February: Bella and Ayden and their family

Staff Member: Jennifer Poletto

If you need a ride to church or a doctor's appointment, would like a visit from the Pastor, could use support from our Casserole and Cookie Crew, or would like to let us know about a prayer concern, please let the church office know. The Member Care Committee is ready to help you out.

Sunday, February 24th

Sunday School Breakfast 9:00 am

Story time at 9:15, then Sunday school classes at 9:30 am

Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am

Worship is in the **Chapel** at 10:30 am

Worship Leaders for February 24th

Liturgist: Gwynneth Tigner

Greeters: Sandy Love

Ushers: Mark and Jetta Wilson

Worship Leaders for March 3rd

Liturgist: Catherine Willard

Greeter: Barb Potter

Ushers: Holly and Peter Sullivan

Help Wanted:

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We need a few more people to serve as substitutes for our after school tutoring program on Wednesdays from 3:15 – 4:45 pm. With the loss of our “snow birds” until spring, there is a real need. If you have any suggestions of who might be able to help, or if you could help, please call Judy Kullberg before March 2 (708-2061), or you could call the church (487-1984), and the message will be sent over. Thank you.

TO ALL SINGERS

If you love to sing but aren't able to join us regularly for Sunday Worship, how about joining our Concert Choir? The Chancel Choir is accepting volunteers to join them for a May 5th presentation of Georges Bizet's *Te Deum*. Rehearsing Sunday music from 7-8 on Thursdays and the *Te Deum* every Thursday from 8-8:30.

Coming Soon!



Saturday, March 16, 2019
Crystal Ballroom
6:30 pm Registration
7:00 Trivia Begins

BYO Food and Drinks
Prizes: *Best Costume,*
Best Table, Best Food,
Best Signature Drink

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

Reserve your space now. Tables are going fast.
For more information call the office and ask for Bob or Sara.

DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Church Business Hours:

Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

- February 20 – Artist Workshop 6:30 pm
- February 21 – Aging and Saging 12:00 pm
- February 21 – Chancel Choir 7:00 pm
- February 21 – ACP committee 4:00 pm
- February 21 – Personnel Committee 4:30 pm
- February 21 – Society for Creative Anachronism 7:00 pm
- February 21 – Concert Choir (Te Deum for May 5th) 8:00 pm
- February 23 – Koinonia 4:30 pm
- February 26 – Duplicate Bridge 12:30 pm
- February 26 – Barbershoppers 7:00 pm
- February 27 – TON 3:15 pm
- February 27 – Artist Workshop 6:30 pm
- February 28 – Aging and Saging 12:00 pm
- February 28 – Children’s Choir 5:30 pm
- February 28 – Chancel Choir 7:00 pm
- February 28 – Society for Creative Anachronism 7:00 pm
- February 28 – Concert Choir 8:00